

# BARR BEACON SIXTH FORM



PROSPECTUS 2021



**MATRIX**  
ACADEMY  
TRUST



# OUR VISION

“ I am **proud of them** from the moment they walk in the door in September, not wearing identical school uniforms but expressing their **individuality** with a colourful range of different suits.”

**I am always very proud of our Sixth Formers.**

I am proud of them from the day they walk in the door in September, not wearing identical school uniforms but expressing their individuality with a colourful range of different suits. What they have in common is how smart they all look.



I am proud of our Sixth Formers when the new Year 7s mistake them for staff. It is small wonder this happens when so many of our Sixth Formers choose to help out in lower school lessons. It is just one of the many little things that makes Barr Beacon so special – the selflessness of our students.

Pride in our Sixth Formers continues well after they leave us. We regularly welcome back alumni of all kinds through our doors. From Oxbridge graduates to entrepreneurs, they all started their journeys at Barr Beacon.

This is a very interesting time for Year 11. The sheer amount of choice can be overwhelming. But it is also very exciting because there are some big decisions to make.

Is Barr Beacon Sixth Form for you? It is not for everyone. We have the highest of expectations, in terms of attendance, uniform and academic effort. This ensures you will be sitting in classes with people who want to learn.

Which courses should I take? This is the really exciting part. We offer a wide range of A levels and BTECs. All of our courses carry significant currency with universities and apprenticeship providers.

This prospectus has been designed to guide you through the first stage of the decision-making process. The next stage is the personalised interview with a member of the Sixth Form Team.

The time between then and that first day in **September 2021** is going to fly. I look forward to seeing you in your smart suits.

Yours sincerely

Ms L Draycott



**YOUR  
JOURNEY  
STARTS HERE.**

# JOIN US

## TO JOIN US YOU WILL NEED:

**GCSE Mathematics** at Grade 5 or above.

**GCSE English** (*Language or Literature*) at Grade 5 or above.

**4 other subjects** at Grade 4 or above (*this includes BTECs at Merit or Distinction*).

There are also course suitability and individual subject criteria requirements for some courses. See the course pages in this prospectus for more information.

## EXPECTATIONS

To be successful, Sixth Formers need to be working extensively outside lesson time. For every 1 hour lesson they have, they need to be working for 1 hour independently. All Sixth Formers are issued with a planner so they can effectively manage their time.

Whilst we encourage volunteering and relevant work experience, Sixth Formers must not take on many hours of paid work.

Students are expected to attend school every day for the whole day (*8.45am until 3.00pm*). Students whose attendance falls below 95% will be interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.



# WORKING TOGETHER

TO MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S **PROGRESS**

Although Sixth Formers are expected to work very independently, we never underestimate the important role parents and carers continue to play in the academic success of their children. The homework may be harder than it was in Year 11, but that does not mean you won't be wanting to continue doing everything you possibly can to support them.

You will be expecting the same from us as well – and that is exactly what you will get. All of our students are carefully monitored. Your child's well-being is of paramount importance to us, both personally and academically. It is highly likely that your child will find the jump to Sixth Form study a challenge and they will need support and guidance to adjust to the increased demands on them.

If we become concerned that your child is at risk of underperforming, we will be in touch – and we expect you to get in touch with us if you have similar concerns.

# MEET THE SENIOR FIVE





## HEAD BOY | I. Sohail



Since starting at this school in 2014, saying that I have changed from that shy and timid boy to who I am today is a bit of an understatement! This change I can only attribute to this school. Over the years, Barr Beacon School has given me countless amounts of opportunities to participate in, such as the Erasmus trip to Sweden and a residential at the University of Exeter. Experiences like this have aided in my character development and if you had asked Year 7 Ibrahim whether he'd see himself as Head Boy, he would have told you it was never going to happen! I know now that nothing is impossible, and my story can show you that anyone can dream BIG and achieve. With the staff support, you can excel in not only academics but with your skills and character development too. Barr Beacon School will prepare you for life beyond Year 11 or Year 13, so whatever route you may take, it will be perfect for you.

I am humbled to hold the prestigious role of Head Boy at Barr Beacon School.

## HEAD GIRL | H. Kumar-Mehay

Being able to say “Yes” and taking advantage of all the opportunities that have been given to me by Barr Beacon School is a privilege that I have never taken for granted. Since joining the school in 2014, not only have I seen myself grow academically, I have seen growth within myself as I have developed numerous invaluable personal skills from the many opportunities that I said “Yes” to. Being part of a school that has provided me with a plethora of exciting opportunities, which have helped mould me into the young woman I am today, is something for which I am truly grateful. Due to the school, I have been able to take part in my Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, partake in a student exchange project in Sicily, gain valuable volunteering experience within the school and in the community, obtain three different healthcare related work experience weeks and gain interview skills with the University of Birmingham, thus providing me with support for my future after Sixth Form. These are only some of the opportunities that the school provides to unleash the true potential of its students, and as Head Girl, I hope to bring many more.

I hold the utmost pride at being part of a school which values its students and their self-growth. Thus I am beyond humbled to be the Head Girl for a school that helps to pave the path not just for a journey of academia but a journey that will ignite the start of the rest of our futures.



## J. Anderson | Deputy Head Boy

I feel extremely privileged to be Barr Beacon's Deputy Head Boy. After being in the school since Year 7, I have always sought after responsibility and now I will do my best to represent everyone in the school and the wider community. I was selected to be a Prefect in Year 11 and in this role I looked after numerous new Year 7 pupils and helped them settle into their Barr Beacon journey. Since joining Sixth Form, I have been given once-in-a-lifetime opportunities that will help me succeed in my future both in and outside of school. For example, I went to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in February where I witnessed first-hand the reminders of the horrors of the Nazi regime. I am extremely humbled to be representing a prestigious school like Barr Beacon.

Since 2014, when I first started at Barr Beacon, I have been provided with a welcoming, happy, safe and supportive environment where everybody's achievements are celebrated and where everyone is treated equally. Throughout my journey at Barr beacon, I have been gifted with endless opportunities and experiences which have allowed me to blossom into the individual I am today. Throughout, with the constant help and support that has been provided to me, I have been able to accomplish more than I ever hoped I would. The incredible Sixth Form team is always there to provide an amazing support system and all staff go above and beyond in order to create the best environment for all students. Some of the experiences I have had included travelling to foreign destinations such as Iceland and Germany, representing the school in sporting events, and being selected to be Head Prefect and now Deputy Head Girl. This would not have been achievable without the incredible encouragement from all staff at Barr Beacon and therefore I am extremely proud to be a member of this school.



## E. Allen | Deputy Head Girl

## M. Hill | Deputy Head Boy



Barr Beacon School has presented me with a plethora of opportunities that have not only helped to shape my individuality, they have allowed me to build resilience and discover my true academic potential. With encouragement from teachers and a strive to ensure we are all 'Proud to Succeed', the school has persistently proffered various challenges to all students, allowing them to question their preconceptions and develop their ability to adapt to uncomfortable situations. Throughout my journey at Barr Beacon, I have been able to find myself as a person with the rigorous support and encouragement provided by the versatile teachers, career advisers and all other staff members. For this, I am more than grateful to be a member of this school, and I am proud to represent Barr Beacon as Deputy Head Boy. I will be forever grateful for my experiences at Barr Beacon as they have inevitably shaped me into the young adult I am today, and will hopefully have shaped me into the successful adult I strive to be in the future.

# DRESS CODE

Certain expectations still exist in professional workplaces. For instance, it is still more common for men to wear ties to work. This is the only gendered difference you will find in our uniform policy. Women are welcome to wear ties as well if they wish. And, of course, students can dress according to whichever gender they identify as.

## MEN & WOMEN

- Two-piece matching suit
- Shirt/blouse with collar
- Smart shoes
- V-neck jumper can be worn under jacket in cold weather
- Studs in ear lobe(s) only. No more than two studs in each ear lobe.
- Compulsory for men: Tie/bow-tie

## NOT PERMITTED

- Nose/visible body-piercings
- Visible tattoos
- False eyelashes
- T-shirts
- Polo necks
- Leggings
- Boots



# CHOOSING THE RIGHT SUBJECT.

When exploring your subject choices for Sixth Form, it is important to keep your plans for the future in mind. If there is a specific career or university course you are interested in applying for, then researching the entry requirements now will help you in making those decisions. For example, if you want to study Medicine at university then one of the essential requirements is to take A level Chemistry. As entry requirements for each university course vary, it is essential that you complete your own detailed research before making your final decision.

The UCAS website offers a comprehensive [Search Tool](#) that allows you to explore every UK university course, including their most recent entry requirements. With thousands of courses available at hundreds of universities, your search can be filtered by subject interest and location to narrow them down.

For a quick idea of which subjects you may need to study in the Sixth Form, please take a look at the [Informed Choices](#) tool from the Russell Group Universities.

For those who wish to apply to apprenticeships, this is a little more complicated, as opportunities arise as and when companies have them. Creating an account with the [National Apprenticeship Service](#) helps to keep you informed.

# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applied Law	As high a grade as possible in GCSE English Language or English Literature is indicative of future success.
Art and Design	To have studied Art, Textiles or Product Design in Year 11 and achieved at least a Grade 4 OR at least a Pass in the externally examined component of a relevant BTEC.
Business	You do not need to have studied Business previously BUT if you did take BTEC Business in Year 11 then you need to have achieved at least a Pass in the externally examined component.
Creative Media	You do not need to have studied Media previously BUT if you did take BTEC Media in Year 11 then you need to have achieved at least a Pass in the externally examined component.
Health and Social Care	It would be beneficial to have studied Health and Social Care in Year 11 but this is not essential. If you did take BTEC Health and Social Care in Year 11 then you need to have achieved at least a Pass in the externally examined component.
Information Technology	Experience in Key Stage 4 qualifications in Media, Business, ICT or Computer Science would be beneficial.
Performance (Acting)	Previous experience of BTEC or GCSE Drama in school or other acting/drama/theatre qualifications outside of school are required. An audition may be required to assess your suitability for this course.
Performance (Dance)	Previous experience of BTEC or GCSE Dance in school or other dance qualifications outside of school is required. A dance audition may be required to assess your suitability for this course.
Sport and Exercise Science	If you did take BTEC Sport in Year 11 then you need to have achieved at least a Pass in the externally examined component. A strong track record of attendance at extra-curricular sporting activities is also required.

**Standard Entry: GCSE Grade 5 or above in Mathematics and English (Language or Literature) plus 4 other GCSEs at Grade 4 or above (this includes BTECs at Merit or Distinction).**

Biology	At least 2 Grade 6s in GCSE combined Science OR 2 Grade 6s in GCSE triple award with one of these in Biology.
Chemistry	At least 2 Grade 6s in GCSE combined Science OR 2 Grade 6s in GCSE triple award with one of these in Chemistry. A minimum of a Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.
Computer Science	A minimum of Grade 5 in GCSE Computer Science. A minimum of Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.
English Language	A minimum of Grade 6 in GCSE English Language.
English Literature	A minimum of Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature.
English Language and Literature	A minimum of Grade 6 in either GCSE English Language or Literature and a Grade 5 in the other. NOTE: If you choose this option you cannot opt for English Language or English Literature separately.
Further Mathematics	Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics with significant exposure to Grade 9 questions as these are the foundation for each unit. NOTE: You must be studying A Level Mathematics in order to study Further Mathematics.
Geography	A minimum of Grade 5 in GCSE Geography.
History	A minimum of Grade 5 in GCSE History.
Mathematics	A minimum of Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.
Modern Foreign Languages: French or German	A minimum of Grade 6 in the chosen language at GCSE.
Philosophy and Ethics	You do not need to have studied this subject at GCSE. A minimum of Grade 5 in GCSE Philosophy and Ethics if taken.
Physics	At least 2 Grade 6s in GCSE combined Science OR 2 Grade 6s in GCSE triple award with one of these in Physics. A minimum of a Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.
Psychology	You do not need to have studied this subject at GCSE. A minimum of Grade 5 in GCSE Psychology if taken. A minimum of Grade 5 in GCSE Biology/Science.
Sociology	You do not need to have studied this subject at GCSE. A minimum of Grade 5 in GCSE Sociology if taken.
Statistics	You do not need to have studied this subject at GCSE. A minimum of Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.



# CHOOSING A COURSE

Every student will be studying 3 A levels or BTECs across 2 years. All of our courses are offered as 2 year courses.

YOU COULD BE STUDYING 3 A LEVELS...

A level  
History

A level  
French

A level  
Maths

...OR STUDYING 3 BTECs

BTEC  
IT

BTEC  
Law

BTEC  
Business

SOME BTECs ARE AVAILABLE AS DOUBLE OPTIONS COUNTING AS 2 WHOLE QUALIFICATIONS

BTEC  
Health & Social

BTEC  
Health & Social

BTEC  
Law

MANY STUDENTS WILL CHOOSE TO STUDY A COMBINATION OF A LEVELS AND BTECs. HERE ARE TWO EXAMPLES:

EXAMPLE 1

BTEC  
Health & Social

BTEC  
Health & Social

A level  
Statistics

EXAMPLE 2

BTEC  
Health & Social

A level  
Philosophy  
& Ethics

A level  
Maths

There are many different combinations. The most difficult (and exciting!) decision is choosing which courses to take. It is easier if you have a specific destination in mind (a particular degree, apprenticeship or career).

If you don't know what to choose, our advice will always be to go with what you think you will enjoy. But don't let that put you off choosing something you haven't studied before. There are plenty of courses which don't require you to have studied the subject at GCSE. Check the course pages in this prospectus carefully.

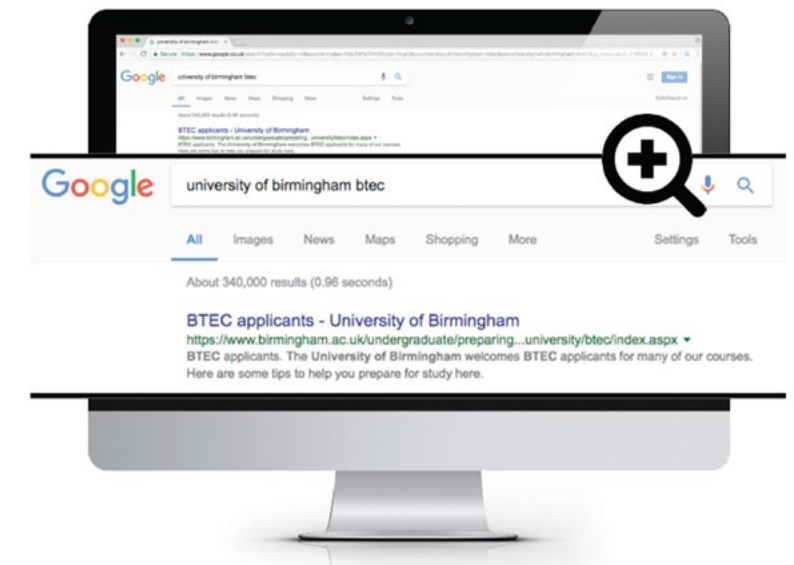
# BTEC

Modern BTECs are very different from the old style qualifications. One of the most significant differences is that they all have an externally-assessed examination unit. Because they are more rigorous and intellectually-demanding, the modern BTECs have considerable currency with universities, apprenticeship providers and employers.

Over 95% of universities accept students with BTECs, including those that belong to the prestigious Russell Group, such as the University of Birmingham.

Some universities have even set up special sites to make it clear how much they want students with BTECs. Try Googling the name of a university you might be considering attending + 'BTEC' to see for yourself.

Higher Apprenticeship and Degree Apprenticeship providers are eager to take students with A levels, BTECs or combinations of A levels and BTECs.



See what is available at:

[www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk](http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk) or [www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk).

See our 'University or Apprenticeship?' section on the next page for more information.



# UNIVERSITY OR APPRENTICESHIP?

On finishing Year 13, the majority of our students progress to either university or apprenticeships (see the Destinations page for details). Whilst it is never too early to start looking ahead, most people keep their options open at this stage, especially if they don't have a firm idea of what they want to do as a career.

We provide personalised, impartial guidance for every student throughout their entire time at Barr Beacon. If you want to start taking a look for yourself, we recommend the following website as a starting point - [www.matrixacademytrust.co.uk/careers/useful-websites](http://www.matrixacademytrust.co.uk/careers/useful-websites)

## DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

Another option that is becoming increasingly popular is a Degree Apprenticeship. They are similar to Higher Apprenticeships but differ in that they provide an opportunity to gain a full Bachelor's degree (Level 6) or Master's degree (Level 7).

Designed in partnership with employers, part-time study takes place at a university or college, with the rest of your time being with your employer. They can take between three to six years to complete, depending on the course level.

For more information visit: [www.ucas.com/degree-apprenticeships](http://www.ucas.com/degree-apprenticeships)

# DESTINATIONS 2020

## UNIVERSITY

Aston University, Birmingham  
Bangor University  
Birmingham City University  
Cardiff University  
Coventry University  
De Montfort University  
Durham University  
Keele University  
Leicester University  
Liverpool Hope University  
Liverpool John Moores University  
Manchester Metropolitan University  
Nottingham Trent University  
Swansea University  
The University of Law  
University of Birmingham  
University of Chester  
University of Chichester  
University of Derby  
University of Leeds  
University of Leicester  
University of Liverpool  
University of Nottingham  
University of Plymouth  
University of Reading  
University of Sheffield  
University of South Wales  
University of St Andrews  
University of Wolverhampton  
University of Worcester

## DEGREE & HIGHER LEVEL APPRENTICESHIPS IN

Accounting  
Administration  
Charity Support  
Construction & Management  
Digital Marketing  
Marketing & Communications  
Nursery Leadership  
Policing

CARDIFF  
UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



The University of  
Nottingham

Durham  
University



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

University of  
St Andrews



BMI Healthcare  
Sandwell  
Metropolitan Borough Council

# 16-19 BURSARY FUND

## WHAT IS THE 16 TO 19 BURSARY FUND?

Students in the Sixth Form who are in need of some minor financial support for purchasing books, transport, meals and equipment can apply for our 16 to 19 Bursary Fund. We are committed to distributing bursaries to those students with the greatest need.

## I THINK I'M ELIGIBLE.

### WHAT WILL I NEED TO DO?

Complete the Bursary Fund Application Form which can be found on the school website. Paper copies are available from the Sixth Form Office. Complete the application as soon as possible. This will need to be submitted by the end of September to guarantee you will receive your first payment. However, you can apply at any point for subsequent payments.

Therefore, if your circumstances change please complete this form as soon as you become eligible so you don't miss out.

**If your personal circumstances change during the year you **MUST** notify the Sixth Form Team immediately. All applications are strictly confidential.**

## HOW WILL I RECEIVE THE PAYMENTS?

Payments will be paid directly into your bank account. Therefore, make sure you complete these details on the Bursary Application Form carefully.

## WHEN WILL I RECEIVE THE PAYMENTS?

Payments will be made three times during the year. You will receive the first payment in the Autumn term, the second in the Spring term and the third in the Summer term.

# OUR COURSES.







# A LEVEL BIOLOGY

## OVERVIEW

The course consists of 8 modules at A level, starting with biological molecules where students explore the biochemistry of living things and understand the fundamental chemical components of life. Then students develop knowledge and understanding of the different types of cells and how these cells have been studied over time to understand the complexities of their functions. Exchange and transport is where students spend time understanding larger physiological processes, and then students learn through dissections and explore how processes such as circulation and gas exchange differ in different classes of organisms.



## OVERVIEW

In year two, students get to further explore the biochemical processes of respiration and photosynthesis, linking these to the idea of energy flows in organisms and through the environment. They develop a deeper understanding of evolution and how this links to genetics and inheritance. The final module allows students to explore the developments in DNA technology and how these developments can help us to understand and treat illnesses such as cancer or genetic diseases.

## CAREER PROGRESSION

Careers in Medicine, Biochemistry, Biotechnology and many lab-based areas will require A level Biology. Animal science careers including Veterinary Science, Zoology and Marine Zoology along with animal behaviour and animal husbandry are also areas of study which students with Biology A level move into. Biology is also recommended for nursing and other health based occupations.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You need to have achieved at least **2 grade 6s in double award Science**, or **2 grades 6s in triple award**, with one of these in Biology.

## ASSESSMENT

### 100% Exam

**Exams** (Each exam is 120 minutes)

**Paper 1:** Based on 4 topics including relevant practical skills. 91 marks. Includes short and long answer questions and a 15 mark extended response question. (35%)

**Paper 2:** Based on 4 topics including relevant practical skills. 91 marks. Includes short and long answer questions and a 15 mark comprehension question. (35%)

**Paper 3:** Based on all 8 topics including relevant practical skills. 78 marks. Includes structured questions on practical technique, critical analysis of given experimental data and 25 mark essay questions from a choice of 2 titles. (30%)

## IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Yes, if you have a passion for the subject, you're interested in exploring how the human body works, how human physiology compares to that of other organisms and how these organisms develop over time and interact within the environment they live in. Good mathematical skills are important if you are intending to study a variety of sciences further at degree level. A level Biology is essential for students intending to study Biology and the various biological sciences at degree level. It is also essential to Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences.





## A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
100% exam plus practical skills endorsement.



### OVERVIEW

Chemistry helps us to understand the world in which we live and underpins a wide range of science-based degree courses and careers. The course is designed to be stimulating, enjoyable and challenging. We will inspire you to develop a passion for the subject and understand its practical relevance to the world we live in. The course is split into three different sections: organic, physical and inorganic, and there are now 12 required practicals that you must complete and can be assessed on. In all these topics, you will need to learn facts and build a body of knowledge but also understand and apply the ideas. Many topics include calculations and so you should feel comfortable rearranging equations and using numbers.

Importantly, Chemistry is a hands-on science and you will carry out experiments on a regular basis. This is to consolidate your theory work, but also provide you with the opportunity to use new apparatus and build your skills and confidence to complete safe and accurate practical work.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You need to have achieved at least **2 grade 6s in double award Science**, or **2 grades 6s in triple award**, with one of these in Chemistry. A minimum of a 6 in GCSE Maths is also required.

### CAREER PROGRESSION

Chemistry A level is on the Russell Group's list of facilitating subjects, with its broad variety of tested skills, and it is a respected choice for many degrees and careers. Chemistry has been described as the 'central science' and is often combined with either Physics or Biology. However, it is a compulsory choice for anyone wishing to pursue Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science, as well as Chemistry-based degrees, such as Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Biochemistry.

### ASSESSMENT

**3 Exams** (Each exam is 120 minutes)

**Paper 1:** Inorganic and Physical including relevant practical skills. 105 marks. Includes short and long answer questions. (35%)

**Paper 2:** Organic and Physical including relevant practical skills. 105 marks. Includes short and long answer questions. (35%)

**Paper 3:** Any content from the specification. 90 marks. Includes structured questions on practical technique, critical analysis of given experimental data and 30 marks of multiple choice questions. (30%)

### IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Yes, if you have good mathematical skills and are considering studying sciences further at degree level. Chemistry is a required subject for admission to medical school and is valuable to students intending to study all aspects of Biology and Biomedical Sciences. Chemistry also supports students who intend to study most aspects of Engineering and forms a good fit with Physics in this regard. It is a rigorous A level subject and will require a lot of commitment.





## A LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
20% coursework/ 80% exam.



### OVERVIEW

The Computer Science qualification will, above all else, be relevant to the modern and changing world of computing, and will also be relevant to the higher education community. Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learnt in the classroom to real-world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement; it can look at the natural world through a digital prism.

The Computer Science qualification will value computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

This course will be the best preparation for students who want to go on to study Computer Science at a higher level and will also provide a good grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills. The new qualifications are focused on programming which will build on GCSE Computer Science and emphasise the importance of computational thinking as a discipline. There will be an expanded Maths focus, much of which will be embedded within the course.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of a **Grade 5 in GCSE Computer Science**.  
A **Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics** is also required.

### ASSESSMENT

This course consists of three components, two of which are written exam papers (40% each) and a programming project (weighted at 20%).

### IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

This course is for people who have a keen interest in programming and understanding how computers work, enjoy creating digital products, and have a good understanding of Mathematics and how it can be used to solve problems.

### CAREER PROGRESSION

Software Engineer, Computer Programmer, Web Developer, Network Administrator, Database Administrator and Systems Analyst.





## A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
20% Coursework, 80% exam.



### OVERVIEW

“Language, never forget, is more fashion than science, and matters of usage, spelling and pronunciation tend to wander around the hemlines,”

*Bill Bryson, Mother Tongue.*

In this course you will learn about how the English language has evolved over time and the influences which have moulded the English language into the language we recognize and use today.

Just think, would your grandma be able to summarise their day in 140 characters or know what ‘totesemosh’ means? Then again, how often do you use the ‘forgotten English’ words ‘opscheplooper’ and ‘bloacher’? This course equips students with the skills to be critical readers of language, encouraging them to use academic principles when exploring all forms of written and spoken communication.

Students will also cover a range of theories linked to language acquisition, gender, accents and dialects and language diversity.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Grade 6 in English Language.

### CAREER PROGRESSION

English Language at A level equips students with knowledge, understanding and a range of skills useful in a variety of analytical and communication-centered subjects and professions. Possible career paths may lead to law, teaching, advertising, speech and language therapy, journalism and other media and communications industries.

### ASSESSMENT

**Component 1:** Focuses on analysis of spoken language and language issues. (30%)

**Component 2:** Focuses on language change over time and how this has forged the language of the twenty-first century. (30%)

**Component 3:** Focuses on creative writing and critical commentary. (20%)

**Component 4:** An individual study, 2500-3000 words in length, investigating a topic related to language and identity. Some issues that students may choose from include: language and self-representation; language and gender; language and culture; or language diversity. (20%)

### IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Are you prepared to complete research and create transcripts for a variety of topics? Do you have an inquisitive mind? Do you constantly ask questions about meanings and do you want to understand the English language in more detail? Do you want to know when language is being used to influence you and how you can use it to influence others? If you are naturally analytical and have an enquiring mind, this could be the right course for you.





## OVERVIEW

If you are passionate about reading prose, poetry and drama and find succumbing to the power of a writer's imagination a thrilling experience, then Literature is an ideal choice of subject. You will be immersed in Webster's seventeenth century world of Jacobean intrigue, corruption and nightmarish tragedy then swiftly transported to the French Quarter in New Orleans where you will experience the volatile relationship between Blanche and Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. And if that's not enough excitement for you, you will also encounter writers such as: Christina Rossetti, Carol Ann Duffy, Phillip Larkin and The Bard himself - Shakespeare.

During this course you will engage critically and creatively with set texts, exploring alternative opinions and approaches as well as making connections across texts from the same and differing periods.

## CAREER PROGRESSION

English Literature is a prized qualification and is viewed as an indicator of excellence by employers and universities. You will be taught to think analytically, to synthesise information and to develop excellent written and verbal communication skills that are a prerequisite for a wide range of career paths. These may include journalism, advertising, teaching, law, media and communications industries.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE **Grade 6** in English Literature.

## ASSESSMENT

### Component 1: Poetry (30%)

Section A: Poetry pre - 1900

Section B: Poetry post - 1900

Tested by open book examination.

### Component 2: Drama (30%)

Section A: Shakespeare

Section B: One post-1900 & one pre-1900 play.

Tested by examination.

### Component 3: Unseen (20%)

Unseen poetry and unseen prose.

Tested by examination.

### Component 4: NEA (20%)

Prose study comparative coursework of 2500-3500 words. Students study a post 2000 novel and compare it to a pre-1900 novel. The texts may be linked by genre or theme and students can choose to pursue a topic which interests them.

## IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Are you willing to spend your spare time reading the great works of the world? Do you have an inquiring mind? Are you always looking for hidden meanings and do you think outside the box? Do you like lively debate and sharing your opinions? If so, this could be the course for you. Students must enjoy reading and considering the wider contextual influences of literary works.

## A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

### COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:

20% Coursework, 80% exam.





# A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
20% Coursework, 80% Exam.



## OVERVIEW

A fully integrated course which links directly to the skills learned at GCSE, you will draw on the established academic fields of stylistics, linguistics, narratology and creative writing through a contemporary approach to studying a range of literary and non-literary discourses and texts with emphasis on precise linguistic analysis.

You will explore point of view and genre in prose fiction; voice and identity in poetry; interaction and conflict in drama. You will study the representation of place in an anthology of non-literary texts (including spoken language, media texts and new technologies) and develop your own writing through textual intervention work.

## CAREER PROGRESSION

English Language and Literature at A level equips students with knowledge, understanding and a range of skills useful in a variety of analytical and communication-centered subjects and professions. Possible career paths may lead to law, teaching, advertising, speech and language therapy, journalism and other media and communications industries. Essentially any career where you might wish to convince someone, persuade them or even interest and excite them.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE **Grade 6** in either English Language or Literature and **Grade 5** in the other.

## ASSESSMENT

### Paper 1

40% of overall qualification:  
Telling Stories: 3 questions, one on each of the anthology (non-literary texts), prose (open book) and poetry (open book)

### Paper 2

40% of overall qualification:  
3 questions - creative writing, critical commentary (open book) and a drama text (open book)

### Non-Exam Assessment (Coursework)

20% of overall qualification:  
A personal investigation that explores a specific technique or theme in both literary and non-literary discourse (2500 - 3000 words).

## IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Are you interested in how language and literature shape us culturally and developmentally and how they are both used to demonstrate, exert and call out power and influence? Are you curious as to what makes great writers great?

**NOTE:** If you choose this option you cannot opt for English Language or English Literature separately.





## A LEVEL FRENCH

### COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:

Speaking coursework: 30% / Reading, listening and translation: 50% / Critical and analytical response in writing: 20%.



## OVERVIEW

The following topics will be studied:  
Social issues and trends. Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture.

This includes the themes:

Being a young person in a French-speaking society, diversity and difference and understanding the French speaking world.

France between 1940 and 1950. The occupation and post-war years.

Students will also have to study 2 pieces of literary text or a piece of literary text and a film.

## CAREER PROGRESSION

Teaching, Translator, Interpreter, Tour guide, Journalist, Air Pilot, Flight Attendant, Working for the government, International Business and International Law.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a **Grade 6** in GCSE French.

## ASSESSMENT

Students will have to sit three components.

**Component 1:** Is a non-exam assessment that lasts between 21 and 23 minutes. Students present a research project they carry out independently and then discuss the content with the examiner. They will also have a short discussion based on a stimulus card.

**Component 2:** Is an exam with listening, reading and translation tasks based on unseen, selected authentic texts.

**Component 3:** Is an exam requiring two essays to be written based on two literary works or one literary work and a film chosen from a prescribed list.

## IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Yes if you want to develop an interest in, and an enthusiasm for, language learning and would be excited about developing understanding of the language in a variety of contexts and genres. Students will need to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language for a range of purposes and develop their awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of countries or communities where the language is spoken.





## A LEVEL FURTHER MATHS

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
100% Exam.

### OVERVIEW

The course is designed to encourage students to:

- develop abilities to reason logically and recognise incorrect reasoning, to generalise and to construct mathematical proofs.
- extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques and use them in more difficult, unstructured problems.
- recognise how a situation may be represented mathematically and understand the relationship between 'real-world' problems and other mathematical models and how these can be refined and improved.
- use mathematics as an effective means of communication.
- develop an awareness of the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study, to the world of work and to society in general.

You will study series, complex numbers, numerical solutions to equations, coordinate systems, matrix algebra, proof, inequalities, first and second order differential equations, hyperbolic functions and further vectors. In addition you will further your study of Applied Mathematics.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a **Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics** with significant exposure to Grade 9 questions as these are the foundation for each unit.

### CAREER PROGRESSION

Further Mathematics equips students with the skills necessary for a wide variety of careers and higher education courses from medicine to the social sciences. It will be particularly valuable to anyone considering studying Mathematics or Engineering at university.

### ASSESSMENT

There will be three written exam papers which will cover the content studied. Two areas out of Statistics, Mechanics and Discrete Maths will be studied and examined.

### IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Yes if you have a true passion for Mathematics and an interest in the further study of Mathematics and recognise the value and importance of 2 A level Mathematics qualifications.

### NOTE:

**You must be studying A Level Mathematics in order to study Further Mathematics.**





## A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
20% NEA Assignment and 80% Exam



### OVERVIEW

A level Geography offers a natural progression from GCSE. Geography is a subject which allows those who study it to bridge the two concepts of human behaviour and the natural world by investigating the causation between them. If you want to be part of a subject which can take you across the world on fieldwork, help curb the effects of human pollution or study the patterns of this planet we call home, then consider choosing Geography.

This engaging and flexible subject gives students the opportunity to:

- engage with the relationship of human populations to each other, over space and time;
- study the relationship between human populations with their physical environment at a variety of scales from the local to the global;
- consider their own role in relation to themes and issues being studied and the roles, values and attitudes of others including decision makers.

Geography involves a **mandatory 4 day fieldwork excursion**. In the past this has been to the Dorset Coast at an approximate cost of £200 per student. This is a fantastic opportunity to develop the skills you acquire in the classroom and see Geography in a completely different way.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Grade 5 in GCSE Geography.

### ASSESSMENT

NEA Assignment of 3,000-4,000 words.  
60 marks. (20%) Internally assessed -  
Moderated by the exam board.

**Component 1: Physical Geography.**  
Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes.  
120 marks. (40%)

**Component 2: Human Geography**  
Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes.  
120 marks. (40%)

### CAREER PROGRESSION

Cartographer, Surveyor, Environmental  
Consultant, Geographical Information  
Systems Officer, Planning and  
Development, Teacher, Town Planner

### IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Geography is a dynamic and relevant subject for all young people. Studying Geography gives students the opportunity to travel the world both inside and outside the classroom, learning about both natural and social sciences along the way. If you are inquisitive, enjoy learning about people and their societies, economies, cultures and the environment and especially like to explore the world in which you live, then Geography could be for you.





# A LEVEL GERMAN

## COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:

Speaking coursework: 30%

Reading, listening and translation: 50%

Critical and analytical response in writing: 20%



## OVERVIEW

The following topics will be studied:

Social issues and trends.

Political and and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture.

This includes the themes:

Being a young person in a German-speaking society, diversity and difference and understanding the German speaking world.

The making of modern Germany - 1989 onwards.

Students will also have to study two pieces of literary texts or a piece of literary text and a film. They will also complete an independent research project.

## CAREER PROGRESSION

Teaching, translator, interpreter, tour guide, journalist, air pilot, flight attendant, working for the government, international business, international law.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a **Grade 6** in GCSE German.

## ASSESSMENT

Students will have to sit three components.

Component 1 is a non-exam assessment that last between 21 and 23 minutes. Students present a research project they carried out independently and then discuss the content with the examiner. They will also have a short discussion based on a stimulus card.

Component 2 is an exam with listening, reading and translation tasks based on unseen, selected authentic texts.

Component 3 is an exam requiring two essays to be written based on two literary works or one literary work and a film chosen from a prescribed list.

## IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Yes if you want to develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language learning and can develop understanding of the language in a variety of contexts and genres. Students will need to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language for a range of purposes and develop their awareness and understanding of the contemporary society and the cultural background and heritage of countries or communities where the language is spoken.





## A LEVEL HISTORY

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
20% coursework and 80% exam.



### OVERVIEW

History A level is made up of three components, each one helping students to develop a different skill and a passion for different periods of history.

Component 1 is the breadth study focusing on the Tudors and England from 1485-1603. This involves the study of different social, economic and political changes in England from Henry VII to Elizabeth I. It looks at significant events and interpretations of key historical developments in this period.

Component 2 is the depth study focusing on Democracy & Nazism from 1918-1945. This looks in depth at the journey of Germany from a democracy under the Weimar Republic to a dictatorship under the Nazis. It is investigated using primary sources and will build on the skills students developed at GCSE.

Finally, component 3 is the non examined assessment which is an Historical Enquiry into Crime and Punishment from 1829-1929.

It is essential that students can express themselves well in written form. They need to be able to read and analyse texts as well as express opinions and be coherent with a line of reasoning. Above all, an enthusiasm for the subject is key to doing well at A level.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students need a **Grade 5** or above in GCSE History.

### ASSESSMENT

Unit 1 Exam - 40%

Unit 2 Exam - 40%

Unit 3 Historical Enquiry - 20%

### CAREER PROGRESSION

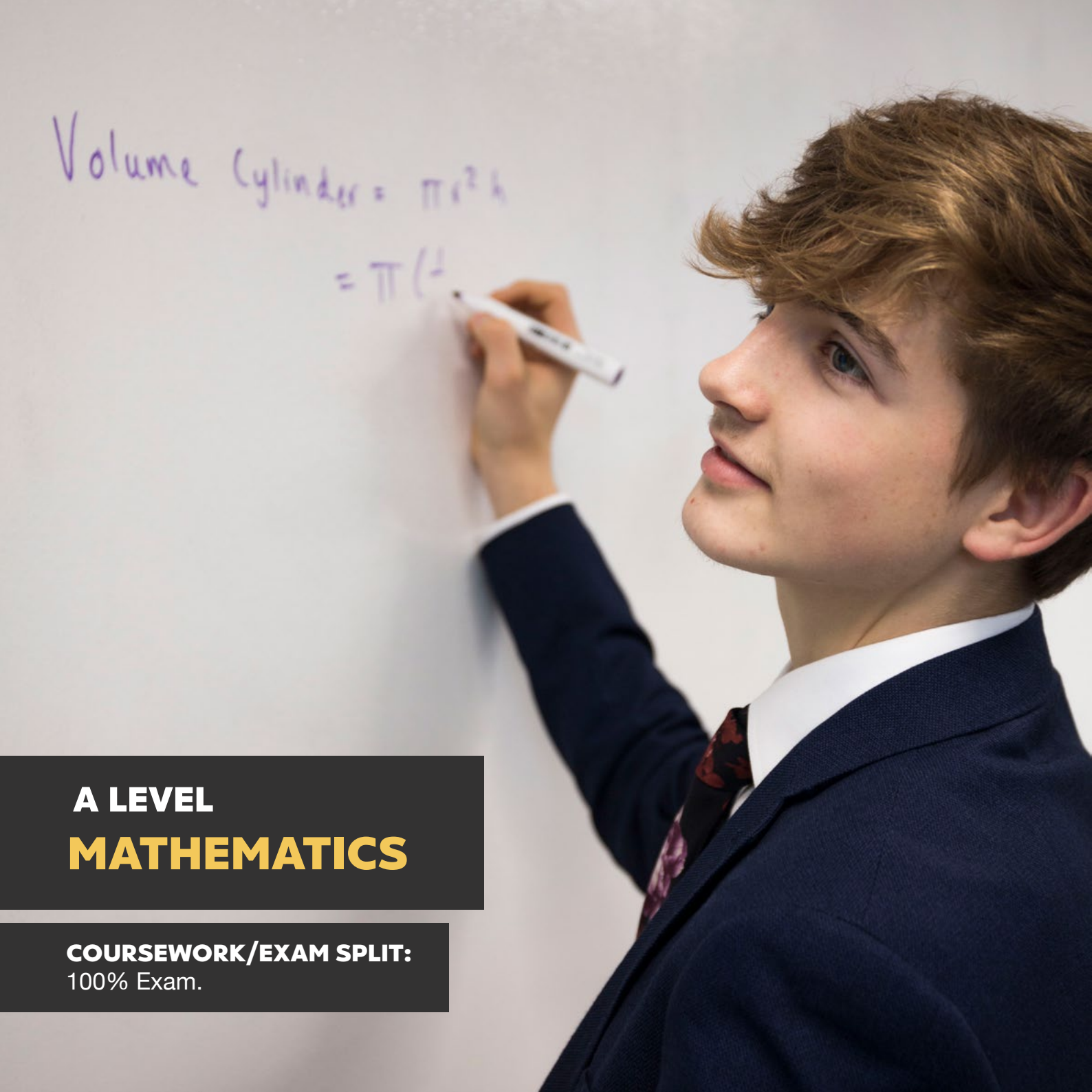
There are certain areas for which History has a particular relevance, especially in the fields of journalism and law where research, debate and analysis are key skills. However, people with a qualification in the subject can be found in all walks of life: industry, commerce, teaching and even jobs in the media.

For many, History is an interest that is life-long and skills such as communication, research, interpretation and analysis help in most career choices made by students after completing their A level.

### IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

History helps us to assess and understand the world we live in today by studying developments and the impact that they have had on us. People who can make decisions, who can debate, make judgements and explain their ideas would be suited to History. Communication, reasoning and analytical skills will also help, as will the ability to argue a point and express themselves.





Volume Cylinder =  $\pi r^2 h$   
 $= \pi r^2 h$

## A LEVEL MATHEMATICS

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
100% Exam.

### OVERVIEW

This A level is designed to produce mathematicians that are resilient, rigorous, independent, accurate and good problem solvers. The course is linear with two-thirds covering Pure content, the remaining third being split between Mechanics and Statistics, which includes the study of a large data set. The course is designed to encourage students to:

- develop abilities to reason logically and recognise incorrect reasoning, to generalise and to construct mathematical proofs.
- extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques and use them in more difficult, unstructured problems.
- recognise how a situation may be represented mathematically and understand the relationship between 'real-world' problems and other mathematical models and how these can be refined and improved.
- use mathematics as an effective means of communication.
- develop an awareness of the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study, to the world of work and to society in general.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a **Grade 7** in GCSE Mathematics is required.

You will study algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane, sequences and series, differentiation, integration, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, numerical methods, proof and vectors.

In Statistics you will learn about sampling, representation and summary of data, probability, distributions and hypothesis testing.

In Mechanics you will learn about mathematical models in mechanics, vectors, kinematics and dynamics of a particle, moments, forces and Newton's Law.

### ASSESSMENT

There will be three written exam papers which will cover the content studied. There will be sections on Mechanics and Statistics, which will require studying a large data set in advance.

### CAREER PROGRESSION

This course equips students with the skills necessary for a wide variety of careers and higher education courses from Medicine to the Social Sciences. Popular careers are engineering, computer science, business and those with high science content.

### IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Yes if you excelled at and enjoyed GCSE Mathematics and relish the challenge of unfamiliar problems. You must be passionate about Mathematics and be resilient when faced with a challenge.





## A LEVEL PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
100% Exam.



### OVERVIEW

Philosophy is the study of the big questions in life: it is a study into different ways of looking at the world around us and questions knowledge, reality and existence. For example, what is the meaning of life? What happens to us after we die? Ethics is a study into how we should behave: we consider theories and attitudes in deciding what is morally right and wrong. Students engage in many ethical dilemmas such as euthanasia, adultery and premarital sex. In Ethics, students enjoy getting involved in deep ethical debates and develop their skills of persuasive arguments, useful for many careers such as Law.

Some of the concepts we look at are quite abstract to encourage you to engage in critical discussions before looking at the theories of key ancient and world philosophers. Philosophy and Ethics is rooted in the study of history, society, law, current affairs, religious and cultural beliefs and morality. Therefore, as a humanities subject, it complements a range of other subjects such as History, English, Sociology, Psychology and Law. Philosophy and Ethics is a well-established academic subject, highly thought of by universities and employers from a range of disciplines.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

If you studied Philosophy and Ethics at GCSE we ask for at least a **Grade 5**. However, you do not have to have studied it previously.

### IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

This course is perfect for those who like to have their views and beliefs challenged. Socrates said, “The unexamined life is not worth living”. Philosophy and Ethics is a subject for those students who enjoy thinking about key problems in life and can think critically about their own views and the views of others. This subject allows you to discuss key ideas and answer interesting questions such as ‘How do we know we exist?’, ‘Why are we here?’, ‘Is it ethically correct to...?’ It is an academically rigorous subject but one which helps people to develop skills that are transferrable to a wide variety of future occupations.

### CAREER PROGRESSION

Studying Philosophy and Ethics will give you a wide range of skills that are applicable to most university courses and job roles. This includes problem-solving, critical thinking, persuasive writing, confidently and coherently explaining your views and ideas, analytical thinking, presenting innovative ideas and being open-minded.

Employers look for Philosophy and Ethics students because they are able to apply these skills in a range of situations and contexts. Students who have studied this subject go into a number of different areas of further study and employment. Popular jobs that use skills and subject knowledge from Philosophy and Ethics are: law, teaching, media, journalism, social work, business management, medicine, nursing, accounts, business, hospitality, child care, healthcare professions – and many more.

### ASSESSMENT

Exams: Philosophy (33.3%), Ethics (33.3%)  
Religious Thought (33.3%).





## A LEVEL PHYSICS

### ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: 120 minutes, 34% of A level marks covering modules 1-5 and 6.1 including 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content. Paper 2: 120 minutes, 34% of A level marks covering modules 6.2, 7 & 8 including 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content. Paper 3: 120 minutes, 32% of A level marks including 45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis plus 35 marks of short and long answer questions on the option topic.

### COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:

100% exam plus practical skills endorsement

## AQA

### OVERVIEW

At A level, the course consists of 8 compulsory modules plus one optional module that will enable students to take a deeper look at one specialist topic. In Mechanics, students explore the interaction of forces and look at how forces can be explored in real life, for example in the analysis of collisions or the characteristics of materials. In the topic Particles and Radiation, students will explore the strange and exciting world of Quantum Physics. Students will delve into the realm of Particle Physics and learn about what really makes up the matter we see, and look at the evidence for the existence of the matter we can't see. The extensive electricity topic builds on what students know of circuits and allows them to investigate the properties of components and power supplies, with a focus on practical applications.

Students will explore forces that act only within the limits of the nucleus, Einstein's most famous formula applied to nuclear power, and learn what powers the stars. In addition, the topic of Fields and their consequences will allow students to understand the forces that govern the universe on a large scale. Students will also learn about Materials, Thermal Physics, and how magnetic fields are used to generate electricity.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You need to have achieved at least 2 Grade 6s in double award Science, or 2 Grades 6s in triple award, with one of these in Physics. A minimum of a 6 in GCSE Maths.

The compulsory modules are:

1. Measurements and their Errors
2. Particles and Radiation
3. Waves
4. Mechanics and Materials
5. Electricity
6. Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics
7. Fields and their Consequences
8. Nuclear Physics

The option choice includes: Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Engineering Physics, Turning Points in Physics and Electronics.

### IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

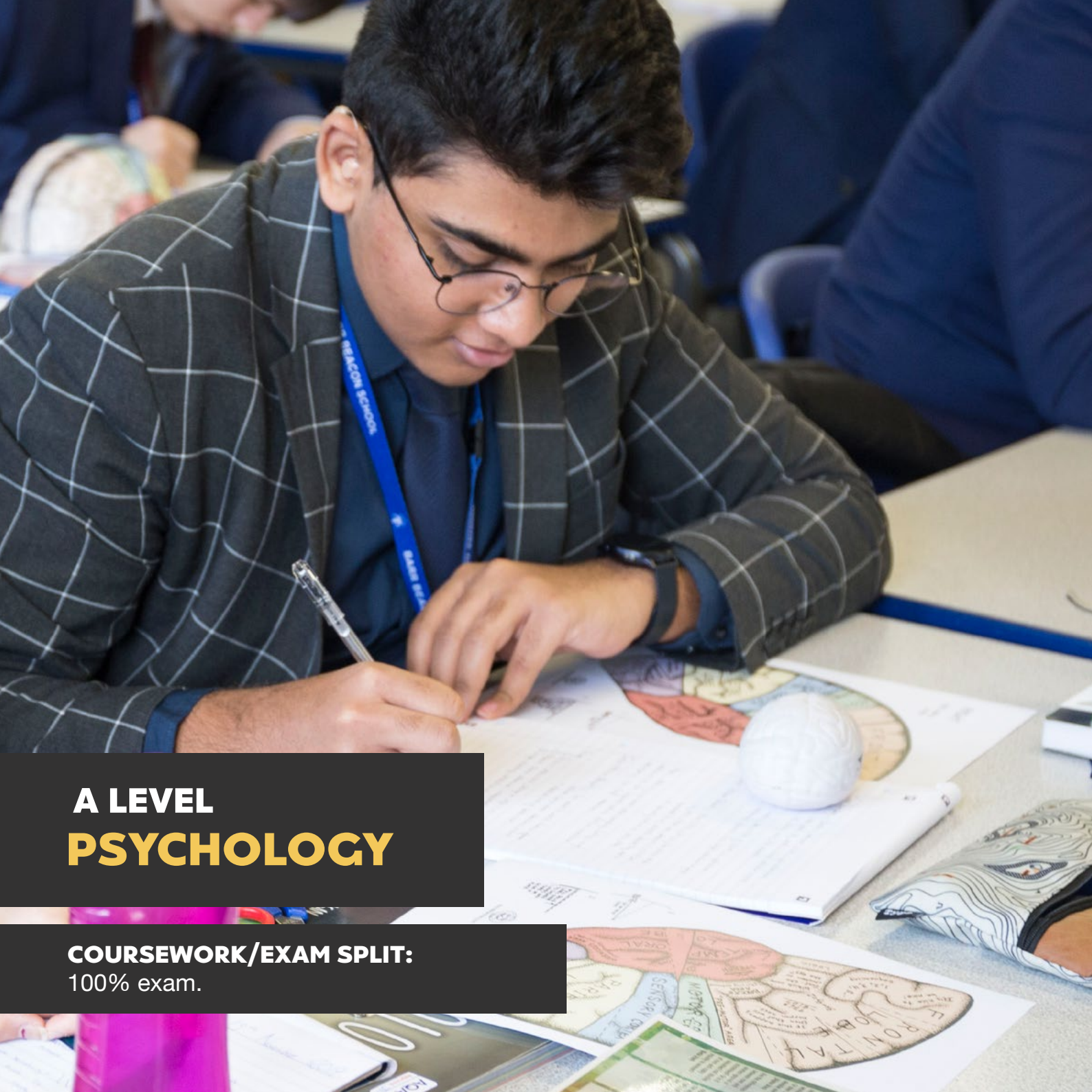
Yes, if you are someone who is interested in exploring how the laws of Physics are observed and applied in everyday life, how developments in our knowledge of the universe allow us to develop theories of how the universe evolves over time and how forces we can't see affect everything we perceive.

Excellent mathematical skills are important if you are intending to study Physics or Engineering further at degree level. A level Physics is essential to students intending to study Physics or Engineering at degree level, and is helpful to those interested in computer game development, Medical Physics or Mathematics.

### CAREER PROGRESSION

In addition to being essential to the study of all branches of Physics, A level Physics is important for successful entry to and completion of all branches of engineering. The subject is also useful for mathematical modelling of the real world and has applications in the computer game industry and in risk analysis in finance.





## A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
100% exam.



### OVERVIEW

Psychology is the 'study of the mind'. The course is designed to help you understand human thinking and behaviour.

Paper 1 consists of Introductory Topics in Psychology, including Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology.

Paper 2 is designed to look at Psychology in Context. Areas covered include Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods. Although Research Methods is a standalone topic, Research Methods questions can be imbedded in any of the above topics covered.

Paper 3 is studied during the second year of the course and covers Issues and Options in Psychology. Content includes topics such as Issues and Debates, Gender, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology.

### IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Yes if you want to learn more about the human mind and how our decisions are shaped by our interactions with those around us.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a **Grade 5** in GCSE Science/Biology.  
A minimum of Grade 5 in GCSE Psychology (if taken)

### ASSESSMENT

The course is 100% exam. There are three papers (Paper 1, Paper 2 and Paper 3) each worth 33.3% of the A level qualification. Each section has 24 marks worth of questions except for Research Methods which is 48 marks. The papers are 2 hours long and include a range of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

### CAREER PROGRESSION

Psychology opens the door to many job opportunities, not solely working as a psychologist. Most Psychology graduates go onto graduate schemes in large companies, as this subject helps you understand how to work with others. Common types of employment for Psychology graduates are: management in any company, sports coaching, training and human resources, police, probation, prison service, nursing or care worker, hospitals, clinical psychologist, social worker, teachers, lecturers and researchers.

You will be required to write essays, analyse statistics and understand many biological concepts. If you studied Psychology at GCSE we ask for at least a Grade 5. However, you do not have to have studied it previously in order to choose this subject at A level.





## A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
100% exam.



### OVERVIEW

Have you ever wondered 'Why are we fixated with celebrities?', 'What makes someone a criminal?', 'Does social class matter anymore?' or 'What makes people behave like that?'. Sociology looks at how we experience life and how sociological research can help inform new sociological policies that can be implemented in society today. It is the scientific study of human social behaviour and its origins, development and structure. We look at how human beings flourish in a society and how society is organised. At A level you will study a wide range of topics including education, the family, research methods, crime and deviance and beliefs in society.

### ASSESSMENT

100% Examination  
Paper 1 (33.3%)  
Paper 2 (33.3%)  
Paper 3 (33.3%)

You would benefit greatly from having studied GCSE Sociology. However, you do not need to have studied it previously to take this subject at A level.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 in Sociology (if previously studied).

### IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

This course is suitable for people who are intrigued by the behaviour of others. It allows you to study key theories and ideas on why society functions the way it does and challenge these ideas with your own. Sociology is an academic subject which is constantly being updated as new theories and ideas are accepted. This subject would suit students who are excited by thinking through their own ideas and debating key ideas in society with others.

It is suitable for students who are open minded and willing to accept the views of others and think critically about them. Sociology is suitable for students who are committed to doing well and want to gain skills in a subject that is relevant for a wide area of future career choices.

### CAREER PROGRESSION

People who study Sociology go into a wide variety of jobs. You will gain a range of very valuable skills that will give you a variety of future career options. You will learn how to work independently. You will learn how to find information, extract what is important from it and turn it into an argument. You will learn to think critically and analyse arguments. It will give you the ability to think clearly and deliver a viewpoint coherently. Employers agree Sociology students have skills that make them very valuable in the workplace.

Jobs and fields that use sociological skills and subject knowledge include: professional sociologist, social work, business person, lawyer, medicine, teaching, criminal justice, journalism, human resources, environmental studies, public relations, politics and many others.





# A LEVEL STATISTICS

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
100% exam.



## OVERVIEW

A level Statistics offers students who have a good understanding of Mathematics at GCSE level the chance to study the statistical element, focusing on how statistics are applied to make sense of the world around us. The specification focuses on using and applying statistics to a wide variety of real life situations, including situations from a Biology, Geography, Economics and Psychology background.

The course is designed to encourage students to:

- understand the application of techniques within the framework of the statistical enquiry cycle and the research methodologies used in experiments and surveys.
- apply statistical techniques to data sourced from a variety of contexts, appreciating when samples or population data could be used and applying appropriate sampling techniques.
- generate and interpret the diagrams, graphs and measurement techniques used in performing statistical investigations.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a **Grade 5** in GCSE Mathematics

## IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Yes if you excelled at and enjoyed GCSE Statistics or GCSE Mathematics, especially the statistical elements and relish the challenge of unfamiliar problems. You must be passionate about Mathematics and be resilient when faced with a challenge.

## CAREER PROGRESSION

Statistics can be useful for students who need the skills and techniques for the study of and careers related to: Biology, Medical Science, Sports Science, Economics, Geography, Psychology and Business Studies. Many subjects at degree level require the ability to work confidently with data. A level Statistics will be very useful in both assisting you in these courses, as well as demonstrating your ability to process and analyse data.

## ASSESSMENT

100% Examination. There will be two written exam papers which will cover the content studied.





## **BTEC** **APPLIED LAW**

### **COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**

58% externally assessed set task in controlled conditions, 42% internally assessed coursework.



### **OVERVIEW**

Applied Law is a course, equivalent in size to one A level, which would suit those interested in pursuing a career in a professional setting where they are dealing with the public.

It allows pupils to examine a range of interesting issues such as criminal law and the legal system, along with looking at the laws that affect the family and everyday life. It includes the opportunity to develop the research, communication and critical-thinking skills valued by higher education and by employers.

Law is a demanding subject discipline that will provide pupils with a broad knowledge of issues in society, history and in law. It would be of interest to pupils who wish to follow law into higher education.

### **IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?**

This qualification is designed for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning, progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the legal sector. It aims to give a coherent introduction to the legal sector.

### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

As high a grade as possible in English Language or English Literature is indicative of future success.

It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTECs or A levels. It provides the basis of an excellent route for learners to pursue a career in the legal sector. This can be through higher education (degrees in Business and Law) or through an advanced apprenticeship in legal services.

### **CAREER PROGRESSION**

The criminal justice system, police, journalism, criminologist, social work. Employers confirm that this qualification will provide learners with the relevant knowledge at this level, whilst giving opportunities to develop the skills and behaviours that employers in the industry are looking for, and to enable progression into employment directly, or via higher education.

### **ASSESSMENT**

4 units in total (Units 1-3 are mandatory)

**Unit 1** - Dispute solving in civil law  
(external assessment)

**Unit 2** - Investigating aspects of criminal law and the legal system (internal assessment)

**Unit 3** - Applying the law (external assessment)

**Unit 4** - Aspects of family law  
(optional unit internally assessed)





# BTEC

## ART AND DESIGN

### COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:

100% coursework, 58% of which is externally assessed.



Pearson

### OVERVIEW

Are you interested in starting a career within the creative industry? Are you keen to develop your practical skills in the exciting field of Art and Design, ready for a higher level apprenticeship or education? Do you dream of being a fashion designer? Are you always looking at the next trends and catwalk shows? Through a combination of practical units and stimulating assignments you will acquire a range of practical and creative skills through the introduction of a number of ambitious and exciting projects to prepare you for Britain's expanding design industry. You will be given the freedom to experiment and develop your own particular areas within Art and Design. You will explore materials, techniques and processes and be pushed for a high level of skill by passionate teachers of Art and Design. You will also be encouraged to find your own methods of expression throughout the innovative units, culminating in a large scale exhibition to show off your work.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To have studied Art, Textiles or Product Design in Year 11 and achieved at least a GCSE Grade 4 or at least a Pass in the externally examined component of a relevant BTEC.

### IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

This course is for anyone who has a passion for Art, Design, Fashion and Photography and wants to be prepared for careers in the creative industry, people who are imaginative, artistic and keen to improve their practical skills and those who are engaged in the design world.

### CAREER PROGRESSION

BTEC Art and Design is widely recognised by industry as a course that supports learners to progress to employment or higher education. Some of the employers and higher education settings include:

- B-Side by Wale
- Burkes Werks
- Candelabra Wedding Stationery
- Carter Wong Design
- Design Museum
- Milo Creative
- Kingston University
- Leeds Beckett University

Possible career choices include; artist, photographer, interior designer, fashion, textile designer, costume designer, graphic designer, stylist, garment technologist or teacher.

### ASSESSMENT

Unit 1 - Visual Recording and Communication (externally assessed)

Unit 2 - Critical and Contextual Studies in Art and Design (externally assessed)

Unit 3 - The Creative Process

Unit 15 - Fashion Materials, Techniques and Processes





# BTEC BUSINESS

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
100% coursework, 58% of which is externally assessed.



Pearson

## OVERVIEW

There is a very real chance that in the future you will be working for a business or even be running your own. Whether you are a budding entrepreneur or want to complement another course, Business makes sense. Due to the variation in content taught, it links well with many other subjects such as Media, Statistics, Maths and many more. The course allows learners to develop their knowledge and skills that will be used in the world of work. With practical elements as well as assignments, tasks and an exam, this gives learners the flexibility to demonstrate their skills across a variety of key assessments.

## ASSESSMENT

Compulsory Units:

Unit 1 – Exploring Business

Internal Unit

Unit 2 – Developing a Marketing Campaign

External Unit

Unit 3 – Personal and Business finance

External Unit

Plus one optional internal unit chosen to match the strengths and needs of our students.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You do not need to have studied Business previously to take this course but if you did take BTEC Business in Year 11 then you need to have achieved at least a Pass in the externally examined component.

## IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Yes, if you are considering employment in the business sector and you want to develop personal skills and attributes for a successful working life. This is the ideal course if you intend to progress to degree courses at university in Business, Accounting, Economics or Management, as well as more specialised degrees in Marketing, for example. There are many degree courses which combine Business or Management with other subjects. Business is very useful for accessing apprenticeships too.

## CAREER PROGRESSION

Careers options include business management (as an employee or entrepreneur), banking and finance, including accountancy, sales and marketing, human resources and customer service. Specialist areas such as marketing, finance and human resources can also be studied at university, or the subject can be combined with a variety of subjects for a joint honours degree.





**BTEC**

**CREATIVE MEDIA  
PRODUCTION**

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**

100% coursework, 33% of which is externally assessed.



Pearson

**OVERVIEW**

Would you love a career in media, broadcasting, journalism or video production?

This is a practical course which will give you technical skills in media production. You will gain knowledge and skills in areas such as single camera techniques, film production, sound recording and editing. Media is an enjoyable and 'hands on' course in which you will engage with practical equipment and specialized software in order to produce creative work.

**ASSESSMENT**

Available as a single or double qualification

Single option:

- 5 units to be completed of which 2 are mandatory and one is externally assessed.
- Internal assessment (66.6%)
- External assessment (33.3%)

Double option:

- 10 units to be completed of which 4 are mandatory and two are externally assessed.
- Internal assessment (66.6%)
- External assessment (33.3%).

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

You do not need to have studied Media previously. If you did take BTEC Media in Year 11 you need to have achieved at least a Pass in the externally examined component.

Examples of units include:

- Film Production (Fiction) – Learn how films are produced and then plan and produce your own short film.
- Single Camera Techniques – Explore a range of single camera productions in preparation for planning and shooting your own drama.
- Digital Media Skills – An externally assessed brief in which you are given a series of tasks to complete in a given time frame.

**IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?**

Yes if you:

- want to join an interactive course in which work is completed in an industry context
- build and develop links to industry professionals and develop a growing portfolio
- watch films and TV programmes and want to learn about how they are made
- enjoy practical work and the chance to be creative
- want the chance to be completely creative and would like to try something that doesn't involve too many extensive writing tasks.

**CAREER PROGRESSION**

This will prepare you for a career in many different media industries. Some examples include: Film or TV Production, Marketing and Promotion, Journalism, Animation, Photography.





**BTEC**

**HEALTH AND  
SOCIAL CARE**

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**

Single qualification: 54% internal assessment, 46% external assessment.

Double qualification: 42% internal assessment, 58% external assessment.



Pearson

**OVERVIEW**

The course is designed for students who have an interest in Health and Social Care, and have an interest in entering into a caring profession such as nursing, midwifery, social work or the probation service.

The course content looks at many aspects of Health and Social Care including human lifespan development, which explores the different stages of life. The course also looks at working in Health and Social Care where pupils will explore the roles and responsibilities of a variety of workers and organisations. Unit 5: Meeting individual Care and Support Needs, looks into the core principles and practices that underpin Health and Social Care delivery.

Students will develop a variety of skills including independent learning, investigation and research skills as well as data handling and analysis.

**IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?**

You should have:

- Excellent communication and listening skills
- Excellent problem solving skills
- The ability to use your own judgement to make decisions
- The ability to self-motivate and work independently

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

It would be beneficial to have studied Health and Social Care in Year 11, but this is not essential. If you did take BTEC Health and Social Care in Year 11 you need to have achieved at least a Pass in the externally examined component.

**CAREER PROGRESSION**

A wide range of careers within the community, hospitals, clinics, dental clinics, pharmacies, schools and universities.

**ASSESSMENT**

Unit 1: Human Lifespan and Development. This is a written external examination that lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Unit 2: Working in Health and Social Care. This is a written external examination that lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs. This is a teacher assessed unit.

Unit 12: Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs. This is a teacher assessed unit.

In addition to the above units, pupils opting for the double qualification will also complete:

Unit 4: Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care. This is a set task externally assessed by Pearson.

Unit 7: Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care. This is a teacher assessed unit.

Unit 8: Promoting Public Health. This is a teacher assessed unit.

Unit 19: Nutritional Health. This is a teacher assessed unit.





**BTEC**  
**IT**

#### **COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**

58% exam, 42% coursework which is externally assessed.



## **OVERVIEW**

The objective of this qualification is to give learners the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in IT systems, systems management and social media in business. This will enable learners to progress to further study in the IT sector or other sectors. Learners will study four mandatory units.

## **ASSESSMENT**

**Unit 1: Information Technology Systems** - 2 hour written exam on the role of computer systems and the implications of their use in personal and professional situations.

**Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information** - 10 hour externally set task on the design, creation, testing and evaluation of a relational database system to manage information.

**Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business** - Internal assignment that explores how businesses use social media to promote their products and services. Learners also implement social media activities in a business to meet requirements.

**Unit 6: Website development** - Internal assignment that explores website development. Learners will review existing websites, and then use scripting languages such as HTML, CSS and JavaScript to produce a website and finally test the website produced.

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Experience with KS4 qualifications in Media, Business, IT or Computer Science would be beneficial.

## **IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?**

It is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT.

Careers options include business management (as an employee or entrepreneur), banking and finance, including accountancy, sales and marketing, human resources and customer service. Specialist areas such as marketing, finance and human resources can also be studied at university, or the subject can be combined with a variety of subjects for joint honors degrees.

## **CAREER PROGRESSION**

As the content is equivalent in size to one A level, higher education representatives have confirmed that it is appropriate to allow learners to choose their optional units from a wide range so that they can explore their own choice of areas for further study. The qualification supports entry to, for example:

- HND in Business
- BA (Hons) in Computer Arts
- BSc (Hons) in Fashion Buying Management
- BSc (Hons) in Software Development for Animation
- BA (Hons) in Accounting and Finance

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.





## **BTEC**

### **PERFORMANCE (ACTING)**

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
40% Internal Performance, 60% External Assessment



### **OVERVIEW**

- Would you like to pursue a career in theatre and television?
- Would you like to train to become a better actor?
- Can you see yourself as a director or as a performer?
- Would you like to teach drama to others?

Then this is the qualification for you!

This qualification offers an engaging programme to support learners who want to pursue a career in Drama or Performing Arts. It can prepare learners for a range of apprenticeships in performance-related areas and it also supports access to a range of higher education courses in the Performing Arts sector.

You will carry out case study investigations into the work of leading practitioners in the field of Drama. You will also undertake mandatory units designed to develop acting skills and your understanding of techniques that are utilised in live performances. A key component mandatory unit is the design and execution of a live group performance.

### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Previous experience of BTEC or GCSE Drama in school or other acting/drama/theatre qualifications outside of school are required. An audition may be required to assess your suitability for this course.

### **IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?**

This qualification is designed for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning, progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the Performing Arts sector. It aims to give a coherent introduction to the Performing Arts sector.

It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTECs or A levels. It provides the basis of an excellent route for learners to pursue a career in Performing Arts. This can be through higher education (degrees in performing arts).

### **CAREER PROGRESSION**

The Performing Arts sector, theatre, teaching and theatre in education, media, television, hospitality, events and the entertainment industry. Employers confirm that this qualification will provide learners with the relevant knowledge at this level, whilst giving opportunities to develop the skills and behaviours that employers in the industry are looking for, and to enable progression into employment directly, or via higher education.

### **ASSESSMENT**

- Equivalent in size to one A level.
- Five units, of which two are mandatory and three are external.
- Mandatory units are Group Performance Workshop, Developing Skills and Techniques for Performance.
- External units are Theatre Directing, Acting Styles and a choice between interpreting Classical text for performance or Screen Acting.





# BTEC

## PERFORMANCE (DANCE)

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
80% Internal Assessment, 20% External Assessment



Pearson

### OVERVIEW

This qualification offers an engaging programme to support learners who want to pursue a career in Dance, Performing Arts or Health and Fitness. It can prepare learners for a range of apprenticeships in performance-related areas and it also supports access to a range of higher education courses in the Performing Arts sector.

You will undertake mandatory units designed to develop dance skills and your understanding of techniques that are utilised in live performances. A key component mandatory unit is the design and execution of a live group performance.

In addition to this, you will undertake units in group performance workshops as well as dance technique in two different styles of dance. You will also complete a unit where you will study how to be a healthy dancer.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Previous experience of BTEC or GCSE Dance in school or other dance qualifications outside of school are required. An audition may be required to assess your suitability for this course.

### IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

This qualification is designed for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning, progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the Performing Arts sector. It aims to give a coherent introduction to the Performing Arts sector.

It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTECs or A levels. It provides the basis of an excellent route for learners to pursue a career in Performing Arts. This can be through higher education (degrees in performing arts).

### CAREER PROGRESSION

The Performing Arts sector, theatre, teaching and health and fitness industry. Employers confirm that this qualification will provide learners with the relevant knowledge at this level, whilst giving opportunities to develop the skills and behaviours that employers in the industry are looking for, and to enable progression into employment directly, or via higher education.

### ASSESSMENT

- Equivalent in size to one A level.
- Five units, of which two are mandatory and one is external.
- Mandatory units are Group Performance Workshop and Developing Skills and Techniques for Performance.
- The external units are Group Performance Workshop.





## **BTEC**

### **SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE**

**COURSEWORK/EXAM SPLIT:**  
42% Coursework, 58% Exam.



Pearson

#### **OVERVIEW**

When playing sport or taking part in some form of exercise have you ever wondered ‘What makes my body systems work together to make me perform effectively in different conditions?’, ‘How does my body generate movement during sport and exercise to enable me to make the correct decisions?’, or ‘How does managing my thoughts during sport and exercise impact on the way that I perform?’.

Sport and Exercise Science plays an important role in today’s society, benefitting those who take part at recreational and elite level sport and fitness. Taking part in the course will help learners develop their knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin the sport and exercise science sector in a variety of contrasting areas.

The BTEC Sport and Exercise Science is more relatable to sports studies at higher education than the BTEC Sport qualification as you will study topics featured on degree courses including Functional Anatomy, Sport and Exercise Psychology, Coaching for Performance and Fitness and Biomechanics.

#### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

A Pass in BTEC Sport (if taken). Students must have achieved a Pass in the externally assessed component (Unit 1). A strong track record of attendance at extra-curricular sporting activities is also required.

#### **IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?**

Yes, if you:

- enjoy all aspects of physical education, sport science or exercise
- perform regularly in extra-curricular PE/sport either in school or out of school
- have a keen interest in a variety of sports and/or exercise
- would like to pursue a career in the sports industry in a variety of roles including education, physiotherapy, biomechanics, sport psychology and coaching (including gym based activities) and/or fitness.

#### **CAREER PROGRESSION**

This is excellent preparation for students wishing to continue studying to diploma or degree level in Sport and Exercise Science.

It provides students with a variety of key skills which can be transferrable to the world of work including critical thinking, creative solutions, communication, self-management, resilience and many more. It will adequately prepare students for careers in the sports science industry.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

Learners are assessed in modular fashion completing 1 unit at a time. Learners are assessed through a combination of coursework activities and exams. Learners will sit only 1 exam in each year.

Unit 2 – Functional anatomy (25% of overall course) - Exam sat in Y12

Unit 7 – Biomechanics (17% of overall course) - Coursework completed in Y12

Unit 3 – Sport and Exercise Psychology (33% of overall course) - Exam sat in Y13

Unit 6 – Coaching (25% of overall course) - Coursework completed in Y13



# APPLICATION

## PROCESS

### BARR BEACON PUPILS

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020** Applications open

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021** Deadline for applications

**February 2021** Interviews begin for successful applicants

**April 2021** Provisional offers made subject to GCSE results

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021** Sixth Form Induction Day

### WHAT IF I AM JOINING BARR BEACON FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL?

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020** Applications open

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021** Deadline for applications

**February - March 2021** Your school will be contacted for a reference

**April 2021** Provisional offers made subject to GCSE results  
and an outstanding reference from your school

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021** Sixth Form Induction Day

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021** If you wish to take up your place, bring proof of your results  
into school, along with your passport or birth certificate