



# BISHOP DOUGLASS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Part of the Cardinal Hume Academies Trust

## SIXTH FORM OPTIONS

### 2019 - 2020

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In Pursuit of Excellence

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# SIXTH FORM COURSES AT BISHOP DOUGLASS

Inside this booklet you will find information about the courses we hope to offer to year 12 students at Bishop Douglass School in September 2019.

Students will make their final choices from the given option blocks. They will be given guidance in choosing the most appropriate courses and the most suitable number of subjects to take. Please note that courses will only run if there are a sufficient number of students opting to take them.

Some subjects may decide to enter students for the AS award at the end of the first year. This is at the discretion of those subject areas.

Note that all students take Religious Education, are expected to attend private study sessions and have the opportunity of recreational physical education sessions.

# Contents: Courses in Alphabetical Order

## **LEVEL 3 COURSES**

### **Subjects offered at A Level**

Applied Science BTEC Level 3 National Certificate and Extended Certificate  
Art (Fine Art)  
Biology  
Business Studies  
Business Studies BTEC Level 3 National Certificate and Extended Certificate  
Chemistry  
Design Technology  
Drama and Theatre Studies  
Economics  
English Literature  
French  
Geography  
Health and Social Care BTEC Level 3 National Certificate and Extended Certificate  
History  
Information Technology BTEC Level 3 National Certificate and Extended Certificate  
Mathematics  
Media Studies  
Music Performance BTEC Level 3 National Certificate and Extended Certificate  
Physical Education BTEC Level 3 National Certificate and Extended Certificate  
Physics  
Politics  
Psychology  
Sociology  
Spanish  
Theology

## **LEVEL 2 COURSES**

### **These include GCSE re-sits**

English GCSE  
Business Studies BTEC First Award  
Health and Social Care OCR Tech Award  
IT BTEC First Award  
Maths GCSE

# Applied Science BTEC Level 3



## Entry Requirements:

Four GCSEs graded at 9-5, including two 9-5 grades in Science.



## Exam Board:

Edexcel

## Grading:

Distinction\* - Pass grade.



## Career Pathways:

Level 3 BTEC qualifications will qualify students for a wide range of courses and universities.

## Course outline:

The BTEC National Certificate in Applied Science acquaints learners with the specific vocational skills, understanding and knowledge required to enter employment within the science industry or organisations that use Science.

## Units studied:

- Unit 1 Principles and Applications of Science  
Written exam - Set and marked externally
- Unit 2 Scientific Practical and Techniques  
Assignment - Set and marked internally
- Unit 3 Science Investigation skills  
Task - Set and marked by Pearson covering 120 GLH

One additional Optional Unit of 60 GLH to be decided by the school.

## Course structure

The course is designed to enable you to study other subjects alongside your BTEC National Certificate. The structure of the course gives you a broad foundation as well as allowing you to focus on your interests, and choose new areas to explore, such as environmental science, forensic science applications or anatomy and physiology.

The achievement of the BTEC Level 3 National Certificate has the equivalence of one AS Level A-E. The BTEC Level 3 Extended National Certificate is broadly equivalent to one GCE A Level.

# Art and Design (Fine Art) A Level



## Entry Requirements:

A Design GCSE Level 5 in Art.



## Exam Board:

AQA

## Grading:

A\*-E



## Career Pathways:

Art can be great preparation for any career that involves drawing or presentation skills, an eye for aesthetics and creative thinking. Examples include: fine artist; architect; animator; illustrator; concept artist; photo journalist and fashion or special effects designer.

## Course outline:

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of fine art media, processes and techniques. For example, drawing, painting, mixed-media, printmaking and photography.

## Units studied:

### Component 1:

- Personal Investigation
- 96 marks, 60% of the A Level

### Component 2:

- Externally Set Assignment
- 96 marks, 40% of the A Level

## Course structure

For component 1, students are required to conduct a practical investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

For component 2, students will select their own starting point from a list of 8 possible options, and then develop preparatory work that culminates in 15 hours of supervised time to produce a finished outcome.

# Biology A Level



## Entry Requirements:

6 in Maths and English,  
6/6 in Combined Science,  
6 in Triple Biology.



## Exam Board:

Edexcel

## Grading:

A\* - E



## Career Pathways:

A variety of careers in the  
science and health sectors.

## Course outline:

This course enables students to develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of Biology starting with fundamental areas such as cells, biological molecules, transport and classification.

## Units studied:

An appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods is developed. Students will understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues.

- Biological Molecules; Cell; Viruses and Reproduction of living things; Classification and Biodiversity; Exchange and Transport.
- Energy for Biological Processes; Microbiology and Pathogens; Modern Genetics.
- Origins of Genetic variation; Control systems; Ecosystems.

## Course structure

Students study the first four topics in their first year, and may then sit two exams for an AS qualification. Six additional Topics are studied in the second year. There are 3 final exams, one of which concentrates on the applied practical and mathematical skills gained during the course.

A Field course in the summer of year 12 allows students to gain skills and knowledge through ecological studies. This includes 2 of the 16 core Practical's which cover a wide range of skills. This is teacher-assessed throughout the course. This will appear as a separately reported result on students' certificates.

# Business Studies A Level



## Entry Requirements:

5 GCSEs at grades 9 - 5 with at least a grade 4 in Business/English.



## Exam Board:

AQA

## Grading:

A\*-E



## Career Pathways:

Suited to those who wish to study Business at university or pursue a related career. There are many related degrees such as Law, Economics, Accounting and Finance.

## Course outline:

This is a two year course with examinations taking place at the end of the second year. Students will complete assessments at the end of each topic.

## Units studied:

1 What is business?; 2 Managers, leadership and decision making; 3 Decision-making to improve marketing performance; 4 Decision-making to improve operational performance; 5 Decision-making to improve financial performance; 6 Decision making to improve human resource performance; 7 Analysing the strategic position of a business (A-level only); 8 Choosing strategic direction (A-level only); 9 Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies (A-level only); 10 Managing strategic change (A-level only).

## Course structure

Paper 1 33.3% of A-level 2 hours

**Questions** - Three compulsory sections: Section A has 15 multiple choice questions (MCQs) worth 15 marks.

Section B has short answer questions worth 35 marks. Sections C and D have two essay questions (choice of one from two and one from two) worth 25 marks each.

Paper 2 33.3% of A-level 2 hours

**Questions** - Three data response compulsory questions worth approximately 33 marks each and made up of three or four part questions

Paper 3 33.3% of A-level 2 hours

**Questions** - One compulsory case study followed by approximately six questions.

# Business Studies BTEC Level 3



## Entry Requirements:

GCSE grade 4 in English Language and Maths.



## Exam Board:

Edexcel

## Grading:

Distinction\*-Pass



## Career Pathways:

Suited to those who wish to study Business at university or pursue a related career. There are many related degrees such as Law, Economics, Accounting and Finance.

## Course outline:

Assessments include projects; assignments; production of reports; case studies; coursework; and presentations. There are 3 mandatory units and one optional unit. All units are externally assessed. Students must achieve at Pass grade or above in all the units.

## Units studied:

Unit 1: Exploring Business  
Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign  
Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance  
Unit 8: Recruitment and Selection Process

## Course structure

### Unit 1: Exploring Business

Students study the purposes of different businesses, their structure, the effect of the external environment, and how they need to be dynamic and innovative to survive.

### Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign

Students will gain skills relating to, and an understanding of, how a marketing campaign is developed.

### Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance

Students study the purpose and importance of personal and business finance. They will develop the skills and knowledge needed to understand, analyse and prepare financial information.



# Chemistry A Level



## Entry Requirements:

Minimum of 5 GCSEs at 9-5 with at least a grade 7 (double award) in Science.

It is strongly recommended that you achieve a grade 7 before opting to take this course.



## Exam Board:

Edexcel

## Grading:

A\*-E



## Career Pathways:

Chemistry is considered a pivotal A Level for a large number of Further and Higher Education courses, including the Life Sciences, such as Biochemistry and Medicine, as well as for Chemical Engineering.

## Course outline:

The teaching programme is composed of lessons on the principle and scientific models upon which Chemistry is based. This theory is punctuated with practical work, demonstrations and videos, which bring these ideas to life and help to develop practical skills.

## Units studied:

Paper 1 30% of A-level Inorganic and Physical Chemistry  
Written Paper 1hr 45 min

Paper 2 30% of A-level Organic and Analytical Chemistry  
Written Paper 1hr 45 min

Paper 3 40% of A-level Synoptic Paper and Practical Techniques  
Written Paper 2hr 30 min

## Course structure

Quality of written communication will be assessed in the three examinations.

### Practical Work

Students' laboratory skills will be tested in core practicals throughout the two years and examined in paper three.

The whole laboratory skills assessment will cover the areas of physical, organic and inorganic chemistry.

# Drama and Theatre Studies A Level



## Entry Requirements:

GCSE pass in Drama. At least a 4 in GCSE English is required. Experience of performing. Teamwork skills, creative thinking and ability to perform on stage.



## Exam Board:

Edexcel

## Grading:

A\*-E



## Career Pathways:

Some of the careers open to Drama students include: actor; agent; arts administrator; broadcaster; community arts worker; designer; director; drama therapist; lawyer and media consultant.

## Course outline:

You will work in groups to create drama, perform scenes, discuss theatre, as well as develop your independent voice. You will see plays, take part in workshops and study theatre.

## Units studied:

Component 1 - Devise your own play as a group from a stimulus and influenced by a practitioner  
Written portfolio about the above process.

Component 2 - Group performance of a play and individual performance of a monologue.

Component 3 - Written Exam: evaluating a piece of live theatre, how you would perform/design a play (Machinal) and how you would direct a play (Woyzeck) influenced by a practitioner.

## Course structure

### A Level Term 1:

C1 Devising performance and writing the portfolio  
C3 Studying Machinal and Woyzeck with a practitioner

### A Level Term 2:

C2 Performance of group play and monologue to examiner  
C3 Studying a piece of Live Theatre, Machinal and Woyzeck with a practitioner

### A Level Term 3:

C3 Written Exam

# Design Technology (Product Design) A Level



## Entry Requirements:

It is expected that candidates will have achieved qualifications equivalent to Level 2 at key stage 4. Skills in numeracy, Maths, literacy, English and ICT will provide a good basis for progression.



## Exam Board:

WJEC Eduqas

## Grading:

A\*-E



## Career Pathways:

Product design careers cover an extremely broad spectrum of industries. Consequently, the emphasis on technical or aesthetic design expertise can vary from role to role.

## Course outline:

This specification encourages students to use creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs, to design and make prototypes that solve real world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values.

## Units studied:

- Designing and innovation
- Materials and components
- Processes
- Industrial and commercial practice
- Product analysis and systems
- Human responsibility
- Public interaction – marketing and research.

## Course structure

### Component 1: A written examination: 3 hours 50% of qualification

The examination includes a mix of structured and extended writing questions. The questions assess students' knowledge and understanding of technical, designing and making principles along with their ability to analyse and evaluate wider issues in design and technology.

### Component 2: Design and make project, a non-exam assessment 50% of qualification

A sustained design and make project based on a brief developed by the candidate. This assesses the candidate's ability to identify, investigate and outline design possibilities, design and make prototypes, analyse and evaluate design decisions and outcomes including for prototypes made by themselves.

# Economics A Level



## Entry Requirements:

Minimum of 5 x GCSE 9 - 5 with at least a grade 5 in Business, English and Mathematics.



## Exam Board:

Edexcel

## Grading:

A\*-E



## Career Pathways:

Students who wish to pursue a career in the business environment. It is also suitable for those who wish to study Economics at a higher level or even a business related course such as Law, Accounting, Finance, Management and Politics.

## Course outline:

This is a two year course with examinations taking place at the end of the second year. Students will complete assessments at the end of each topic.

## Units studied:

- Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure (Microeconomics)
- Theme 2: The UK economy - performance and policies (Macroeconomics)
- Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market
- Theme 4: A global perspective.

## Course structure

### **Paper 1 Markets and Business Behaviour 2 hours 35% of A Level**

The paper comprises three sections. Students answer all questions from Section A and Section B, and one from Section C.

### **Paper 2 National and Global Economy 2 hours 35% of A Level**

The paper comprises three sections. Students answer all questions from Section A and Section B, and one from Section C.

### **Paper 3 Microeconomics and Macroeconomics 2 hours 30% of A Level**

The paper comprises two sections.

# English Literature A Level



## Entry Requirements:

Minimum of 5 x GCSE 9-5 with at least a grade 5 in English and grade 6 in English Literature.



## Exam Board:

Edexcel / Pearson

## Grading:

A\*-E.



## Career Pathways:

Universities like students to have studied English at A-Level for courses such as Law, Politics, etc. Past students who studied English at university went on to become journalists, UN Aid workers, barristers and even stockbrokers!

## Course outline:

A passion for Literature is essential for this course! The study of a range of literary texts - from contemporary American plays to classic Shakespearean ones, poems through the ages and novels from a variety of periods, are the building blocks of this course.

## Units studied:

- Drama: "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "Hamlet"
- Poetry: A range of contemporary poetry, Keats, Unseen poetry across the ages.
- Prose: "Wuthering Heights" and "Mrs Dalloway".
- Coursework unit: (20%) - Free choice of texts

## Course structure

Currently, the course is taught as an AS year (Year 12) followed by A2 Year (Year 13). The content is linked and progressive.

AS Year: "A Streetcar Named Desire", modern poetry, "Wuthering Heights" and "Mrs Dalloway".

A2 Year: All of the above texts are revisited and students develop mastery over them. In addition the poetry of Keats, Shakespeare's "Hamlet" and a range of unseen poetry are studied.

# French A Level



## Entry Requirements:

GCSE French grade 6 and above  
To have a good understanding of the language  
To be able to write with a high degree of accuracy



## Exam Board:

AQA

## Grading:

A\*-E



## Career Pathways:

Language Teacher  
Translator  
Interpreter  
Language Analyst  
Broadcast journalist

## Course outline:

2 year linear course, exams take place at the end of the A level course.

## Units studied:

1. Social issues and trends
2. Political and artistic culture
3. Grammar
4. Works: Literary texts and films

Paper 1: Listening, Reading, Writing (2h30)

Paper 2: Writing (2hours)

Paper 3: Speaking

## Course structure

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where French is spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in French. Students following this specification will develop their language knowledge, understanding and skills through: using language spontaneously to initiate communication; ask and answer questions; express thoughts and feelings; present viewpoints; develop arguments; persuade; analyse and evaluate in speech and writing, including interaction with speakers of French. Applying knowledge of pronunciation, morphology and syntax, vocabulary and idiom to communicate accurately and coherently, using a range of expression – including the list of grammar.

# Geography A Level



## Entry Requirements:

Students do not need a GCSE in geography but should be ready to commit to significant reading, research and the application of mathematics skills to geographical problems.



## Exam Board:

Pearson

## Grading:

A\*-E



## Career Pathways:

These are numerous and include: politics (the Prime Minister is a geography graduate!), environmental protection, academic work, market research, teaching, construction and urban planning.

## Course outline:

The course is divided into three units as well as one piece of coursework (called a non-examined assessment). The three units are assessed through an examination at the end of the Year 13.

## Units studied:

- Unit 1: Tectonic processes and hazards, landscape systems, the water cycle and water insecurity, the carbon cycle and energy security
- Unit 2: Globalisation, human rights, migration, sovereignty and regeneration
- Unit 3: A synoptic investigation into players, attitudes, futures and uncertainties.
- Unit 4: A fieldwork-based piece of coursework where the student defines a piece of geographical research to investigate.

## Course structure

In Year 12 students focus on Units 1 and 2 before broadening their knowledge and skills in Year 13 with the synoptic investigation and coursework.

Fieldwork is a popular aspect of the A Level geography course and has taken place in London, the Suffolk Coast and the Derbyshire Peak District in recent years. The school benefits from good transport links and a strong partnership with other schools across the Cardinal Hume Academies Trust that allow a sharing of resources and expertise to benefit its geography students.

# History A Level



## Entry Requirements:

Students do not need a GCSE in History but should have a pass in English. History requires students to undertake significant reading and essay writing.



## Exam Board:

AQA

## Grading:

A\*-E



## Career Pathways:

These are numerous and include: journalism; politics; law; curating; media; business and education.

## Course outline:

The course is divided into two areas of content: Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy 1603-1702 and Democracy and Nazism: Germany 1918-1945. Students study these topics chronologically with two separate teachers.

## Units studied:

Stuart Britain is a fascinating course that considers the nature of 17th century monarchy and government. It includes the Gunpowder Plot, English Civil War, regicide of Charles I and Glorious Revolution.

Democracy and Nazism allows students to explore a seminal period of European history through the eyes of sources from the time. Students study the creation of the Weimar Republic, its people and challenges. Students look at how the Great Depression accelerated the decline of democracy. The course then considers the terror of life in Nazi Germany and the descent from persecution through to the Holocaust.

## Course structure

In Year 12 the students spend half of their time on Stuart Britain and the other half on Democracy and Nazism in Germany.

In Year 13 students spend 40% of their time on these two aspects and the remaining 20% on their coursework (called the Non Examined Assessment). For the coursework students work relatively independently on a historical investigation of their choosing. The study is around 3,000 words long and students are able to choose their own topic under the guidance of their teacher. Students develop their skills of research, analysis and extended writing that will serve them well at university and beyond.



# IT BTEC Level 3



## Entry Requirements:

There are no formal entry requirements. We expect students to have:

- Five GCSEs at good grades
- BTEC qualification(s) at Level 2
- English and Mathematics GCSE



## Exam Board:

Pearson (Edexcel)

## Grading:

P-D\*



## Career Pathways:

Students can progress to a degree or job sector in an information technology discipline or a degree where information technology related skills and knowledge may be advantageous.

## Course outline:

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology  
Equivalent in size to one A Level.  
4 units

## Units studied:

YR12  
Unit 3 Using Social Media in Business  
Unit 2 Creating Systems to Manage Information  
  
YR13  
Unit 6 Website Development  
Unit 1 Information Technology Systems

## Course structure

YR12  
Business use of social media (Understanding social media tools, implementing in a business environment)  
Managing data for business use, using Microsoft Access (Database).

YR13  
Website development for a business  
Fundamentals of IT (theory).

# Mathematics A Level



## Entry Requirements:

Minimum of 5 x GCSE 9-4 with at least a grade 7 in mathematics.



## Exam Board:

Edexcel

## Grading:

A\* to E



## Career Pathways:

A Level mathematics is widely regarded as required to study: Engineering; Medicine; Biological sciences; Physics; Economics; Business Studies; Architecture; Chemistry etc.

## Course outline:

A level mathematics is a level 3 linear qualification.

## Units studied:

### Pure Mathematics:

1. Proof
2. Algebra and functions
3. Coordinate geometry
4. Sequences and series
5. Trigonometry
6. Exponentials and logarithms
7. Differentiation

### Statistics & Mechanics:

1. Statistical sampling
2. Data presentation and interpretation
3. Probability
4. Statistical distributions
5. Hypothesis testing
6. Quantities and units in mechanics
7. Kinematics

## Course structure

A level Mathematics consists of three externally-examined papers. Pure Mathematics 1, Pure Mathematics 2 and Mechanics & Statistics. Each paper is a two hour written examination and counts for 33.3% of the qualification. Total mark for each paper is 100. Paper 1 and paper 2 may contain questions on any topics from the Pure Mathematics content. Paper 3 consists of two sections. Section A is Statistics and section B is Mechanics. Calculators may be used for all three papers.

# Media Studies A Level



## Entry Requirements:

Minimum of 5 x GCSE 9-5 with at least a grade 5 in English.



## Exam Board:

OCR A level (H409)

## Grading:

A\* - E are pass grades



## Career Pathways:

Media Studies complements a range of career options. These include Advertising & Marketing, Art & Design, Film and Television, Journalism, Business, I.T, Web Contents management, Events Management and PR.

## Course outline:

Media Studies is the study of a variety of media forms using the media analytical framework: audience, representation, media language and institutions. You will analyse how media influences, defines and shapes us.

## Units studied:

3 Components  
2 x equally weighted exams (35% each)  
1 x NEA component (30%)  
Exam 1: 2 hours  
Section A: Print and Online Newspapers (2 in-depth studies) (45 marks)  
Section B: Media Language and Representation – Ad & Marketing, Music Videos and Magazines (25 marks)  
Exam 2: 2 hours  
Section A: Media Industries and Audiences-Video games, Radio and Film (30 marks)  
Section B: TV Long Form Drama (1 in-depth study) (40 marks)

## Course structure

A Level Media is divided into two exam papers, each with two sections. There is also a creative NEA (non-examined assessment) with a design brief that changes every academic year. This ranges from music videos, websites, radio shows, documentary extracts and print advertising.

A range of media theory is applied to all the media products in order to add increased academic rigour to the units. This range from Barthes, Todorov, Mulvey, Goodwin and Hooks.

# Music Performance BTEC Level 3



## Entry Requirements:

GCSE 4-9. ABRSM/Rock School Grade 3 or above.



## Exam Board:

Pearson

## Grading:

Distinction – Merit – Pass



## Career Pathways:

Freelance Musician, Live Band, Recording Engineer, Composer, Songwriter, Music Producer, Arts Management.

## Course outline:

A vocational course that focuses on key skills required to pursue a career in the music industry. The course develops performing, composing and listening skills. Instrumental lessons are integrated into the course of lessons.

## Units studied:

- Ensemble Music Performance (120 credits)
- Solo Performance (60 credits)

## Course structure

Autumn Term: Forming and developing as an ensemble. Students identify key qualities and skills needed to form a functioning musical ensemble.

Spring Term: Performing. Students develop their ensemble skills by hosting and performing in a range of settings. Students also develop as solo performers through a series of concerts and recitals.

Summer Term: Assessment. Students are set assessment tasks by the examining body.

# Physical Education BTEC Level 3



## Entry Requirements:

Students applying for the course will have achieved 4 x 9-5 grades at GCSE.



## Exam Board:

Edexcel

## Grading:

Extended Certificate 2 Year course Pass - Merit - Distinction - Distinction\*



## Career Pathways:

- Exercise physiologist
- Fitness centre manager
- Personal trainer
- Secondary school teacher
- Sports administrator
- Sports coach
- Sports development officer
- Sports therapist

## Course outline:

A broad basis of study for the sport sector. This qualification 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.

## Units studied:

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 Anatomy and Physiology  | Exam - Year 1        |
| 2 Sports Performance  | Portfolio assessment |
| 3 Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being | Exam - Year 2        |
| 4 Professional Development in the Sports Industry                   | Portfolio assessment |

## Course structure

Pupils will be expected to complete the two years in this course in order to obtain an Extended Certificate grading in BTEC Level 3. Pupils must achieve a minimum of a PASS in their final exam in year 1 in order to progress to year 2. Examinations will take place in January of each academic year with a further exam opportunity in June. The highest grade is carried forward to the second year. If a pupil does not achieve a Pass as a minimum in their exam, then they do not progress to the second year.

# Physics A Level



## Entry Requirements:

7 in Maths, 6/6 in Combined Science 6 in Triple Physics.



## Exam Board:

AQA

## Grading:

A\* - E



## Career Pathways:

Engineering  
Mathematics  
Economics  
Computing and Software  
Engineering  
Medicine

## Course outline:

The course is designed to give students a sound basis in a multitude of physical principles and develop their understanding of the physical world. Students will be trained to be good experimental physicists and are assessed accordingly through practical tasks.

## Units studied:

Particles, Quantum Phenomena and Electricity  
Mechanics, Materials and Waves  
Fields and Further Mechanics  
Nuclear Physics, Thermal Physics  
Plus one Optional Topic: Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Engineering Physics, Turning Points in Physics, Electronics.

## Course structure

Students study the first six units in their first year, they then sit two exams in which they will answer a combination of short and extended answer, followed by a series of multiple choice questions. The remaining units are covered in the second year at which time they will choose from one of five optional topics to be assessed in their final exam. They complete three exams at the end of the second year in much the same format as the first year. Throughout the course the students are assessed on their practical skills, some of the experiments they complete will be referenced in their final exams.

# Politics A Level



## Entry Requirements:

Students should have a pass in English. Politics requires students to undertake significant reading, form frequent opinions that they can explain and justify eloquently in addition to essay writing.



## Exam Board:

EDEXCEL

## Grading:

A\*-E



## Career Pathways:

As a bridge between a humanities and social science subject, the opportunities are wide and varied. These include politics; diplomatic and security services; journalism, media; law and business.

## Course outline:

The course is divided into four areas of content: Politics of the UK; Government of the UK; Ideologies; and Politics in the USA.

## Units studied:

Politics of the UK looks at the conventions and concepts of politics and how they work specifically in the UK. For example, British democracy, elections and voting behaviours. Government of the UK studies the structure and organisation of British government; looking at the differences between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. The course then looks at the ideologies underpinning the UK's political system, such as conservatism, liberalism and socialism. The elective ideology will also include feminism. Lastly, Politics in the USA is taught as a comparative topic, providing perspectives on the similarities and differences between the two systems.

## Course structure

In Year 12, the students spend half of their time on Politics of the UK and the other half on Government in the UK.

In Year 13, students spend half of their time learning ideologies and applying them to the politics and government content previously learned. The last half of the content teaches American politics as a comparative study. These units should be completed by Easter of year 13, leaving plenty of time for further revision ahead of the A-Level examinations.

# Psychology A Level



## Entry Requirements:

A minimum of grade 4s at GCSE in: English, Science and Mathematics.



## Exam Board:

AQA

## Grading:

A\*-E



## Career Pathways:

Clinical Psychology, Educational Psychology, Health and Sport Psychology, Advertising, Human resources, Nursing, Social services etc. Related fields of medicine and law.

## Course outline:

In the first year we cover the content of the AS equivalent (and first half of the whole A level course). In the second year we continue with the additional content belonging to the A level.

## Units studied:

### AS Subject content:

1 Social influence 2 Memory 3 Attachment 4 Approaches in Psychology 5 Psychopathology 6 Research methods.

### A-level Subject content:

The AS content, plus - Biopsychology, Issues and debates in Psychology, Cognition and development, Schizophrenia, Addictive Behaviour.

## Course structure

Paper 1 and Paper 2 for the year one/AS content.

For the whole A level, all the content studied across the two years will be examined in Paper 1, Paper 2 and Paper 3.



# Sociology A Level



## Entry Requirements:

Minimum of 5 x GCSE 9-5 with at least a grade 5 in English.



## Exam Board:

AQA A level 7192

## Grading:

A\* - E are pass grades



## Career Pathways:

If you are interested in careers in government and politics; police; law; medicine; social work; public services; advertising; personnel and other people orientated areas, then the study of Sociology would be invaluable.

## Course outline:

Sociology is the study of society. You will study how society influences and shapes us and how individuals choose to behave in response. You should be interested in current affairs and have an inquisitive and evaluative mind.

## Units studied:

### Unit 1 – 33.3% of A-level

Education, Methods in Context, Theory & Method

### Unit 2 - 33.3% of A-level

Families & households, Beliefs in Society

### Unit 3- 33.3% of A-level

Crime & Deviance with Theory & Methods

All written papers are 2 hours

## Course structure

In year 12 Sociology, students will focus on the substantive topics of Education and Families & Households. Research methods is both a stand-alone topic and with application to the topic of Education.

A-level Sociology is more challenging and combines the topics learnt at AS level with the new topics of Crime & Deviance and Beliefs in Society. In the A-level, students will also make developed links to sociological theory. The A-level assessment is more rigorous than the AS therefore, students must draw their knowledge from both year 12 and 13 in order to make the synoptic links necessary to succeed at A level.

# Spanish A Level



## Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 and above in GCSE Spanish  
To be fairly fluent  
To have a good understanding of the language  
To be able to write with a high degree of accuracy



## Exam Board:

AQA

## Grading:

A\*-E



## Career Pathways:

Language Teacher  
Translator  
Interpreter  
Language Analyst  
Broadcast journalist

## Course outline:

2 year linear course/ exams take place at the end of the A level course.

## Units studied:

Paper1: Listening, Reading, Writing (2h30)  
Paper 2: Writing (2hours)  
Paper 3: Speaking  
1. Social issues and trends  
2. Political and artistic culture  
3. Grammar  
Options  
4. Works: Literary texts and films

## Course structure

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where Spanish is spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in Spanish. Students following this specification will develop their language knowledge, understanding and skills through: using language spontaneously to initiate communication; ask and answer questions; express thoughts and feelings; present viewpoints; develop arguments; persuade; and analyse and evaluate in speech and writing, including interaction with speakers of Spanish . Applying knowledge of pronunciation, morphology and syntax, vocabulary and idiom to communicate accurately and coherently, using a range of expression.

# Theology and Religious Studies A Level



## Entry Requirements:

Minimum of 5 x GCSE  
9-5 with at least a grade 6 in  
English and RE.



## Exam Board:

Edexcel

## Grading:

A\*-E



## Career Pathways:

Teaching  
Business Management  
Project Management  
Social work  
Law  
Religious vocation  
Academia  
Journalism

## Course outline:

The course gives students the opportunity to explore the ethical and philosophical aspects of the Christian religion, deepening their understanding of Christian faith and belief and the strengths and weaknesses of philosophical and ethical concepts, persuasion.

## Units studied:

Unit 1  
The Philosophy of Religion  
Unit 2  
Religion and Ethics  
Unit 3  
Study of Christianity

## Course structure

**The Study of Philosophy of Religion** – A study of philosophical arguments of the existence of God including the Ontological, Cosmological and Design Argument. A study of the problem of evil and suffering. A study of life after death.

**Religious Ethics** – A study of the relationship between religion and morality. A study of ethical theories including Utilitarianism and Situation Ethics. A study of applied ethics.

**Christianity** – Religious belief, values and teaching such as the Trinity and the role of the Church. Comparative Studies of two scholars. Practices that shape and express religious identity such as the Eucharist. Sources of wisdom and authority.

**LEVEL 2 COURSES**  
**These include GCSE**  
**English and Maths re-sits**



# Business Studies BTEC First Level 2



## Entry Requirements:

You do not need any qualifications before registering. However, you are expected to be fluent in English. Students who do not qualify for level 3 courses can take this course.



## Exam Board:

Edexcel

## Grading:

Level 2  
Distinction\*-Pass



## Career Pathways:

Suited to those who wish to study Business at Level 3 or pursue a related career.

## Course outline:

Assessments include projects; assignments; production of reports; case studies; coursework; and presentations. There are 3 mandatory units and one optional unit. All units are externally assessed. Students must achieve at Pass grade or above in all the units.

## Units studied:

Unit 1: Introduction to Business  
Unit 2: Finance for Business  
Unit 3: Enterprise in the Business World  
Unit 6: Recruitment, Selection and Employment

## Course structure

### Unit 1: Introduction to Business (internal coursework)

- Students will explore why businesses carry out market research to gain a better understanding of the market.

### Unit 2: Finance for Business (external exam)

- Students explore the ways in which businesses measure success and identify areas for improvement.

### Unit 3: Enterprise in the Business World (internal coursework)

- Students will explore enterprise ideas including the trends and the factors that influence their success.

### Unit 6: Recruitment, Selection and Employment (internal coursework)

- Students will consider how to prepare for interview and produce employment documents

# Health and Social Care OCR Tech Award Level 2



## Entry Requirements:

Students who do not qualify for level 3 courses can take this course.



## Exam Board:

Edexcel

## Grading:

Pass - Merit - Distinction - Distinction\*



## Career Pathways:

HSC workers practise in a wide range of settings, including: community-based offices; residential care; day care; hospitals; health centres; prisons; probation and schools.

## Course outline:

The course develops understanding of health and safety within a health and social care environment, the factors which affect our health and wellbeing and how to support service user needs.

## Units studied:

### Mandatory Units:

- Unit 1 Communication in Health and Social Care
- Unit 2 Individual Rights in Health and Social Care
- Unit 3 Individual Needs in Health and Social Care
- Unit 4 Ensuring Safe Environments in Health and Social Care

## Course structure

To achieve this qualification, candidates must complete four units in year 12 consisting of four mandatory units.

All units are internally assessed and externally moderated by OCR.

# IT BTEC First Award



## Entry Requirements:

You do not need any qualifications before registering. However, you are expected to be fluent in English. Students who do not qualify for level 3 courses can take this course.



## Exam Board:

Pearson (Edexcel)

## Grading:

Level 2 Pass - Level 2  
Distinction\*



## Career Pathways:

Graphics editing, video and more. Additionally, progression to level 3 qualifications, A-levels.

## Course outline:

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Information and Creative Technology.

## Units studied:

Unit 1 The Online World (External)

Unit 3 A Digital Portfolio

Unit 6 Creating Digital Graphics

Unit 7 Creating Digital Video

## Course structure

\*This course will help you understand the main technologies and processes behind the Internet and investigate how they come together to let you view websites and send information across the world.

\*You will learn how to use graphic editing tools to edit Vector and Bitmap images (Photoshop etc.)

\*You will learn how to edit and develop your own video (Adobe Premiere).