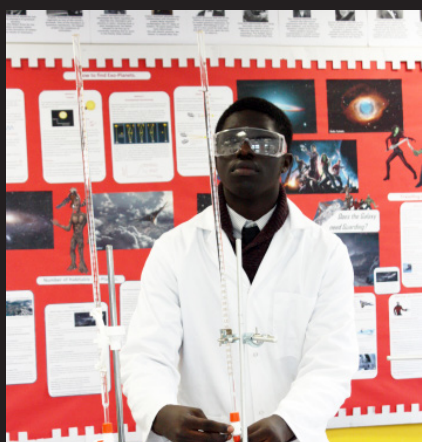


# Edmonton County School

## *Sixth form subject information*



September 2022 Entry



# ART - A Level

## Examboard

AQA - Art, Craft and Design

## Why Study Art?

If students are creative, persistent and can use their initiative, A Level Art is a practical course that can open up the students' potential. Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of two-dimensional and/or three dimensional processes and techniques, online portfolios and digital media. Students must show evidence in two or more of the areas of study (Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Textile Design, 3D and Photography).

## Content of Course

A Level Art is designed to encourage a broad approach to art. Work produced will demonstrate the use of formal elements, creative skills and give visual form to individual thoughts, feelings, observations and ideas. At the start of Year 12, students will complete a number of satellite projects. In February, Yr 12 students will decide to focus on their chosen area/personal project that continues until the start of their exam preparation in Year 13. Students will be expected to visit galleries on their own or with the school.

### Component 1:

Flesh project 30% of AS  
Conflict of Space project 30% of AS

### Component 2:

Students choice of one starting point question (choice of 5)  
40%

## Assessment

**AS Art Component 1:** Portfolio of work  
Project times set by centre;  
96 marks (4 Assessment objectives)

**Component 2:** Externally set assignment  
preparatory period + 10 hours supervised time  
96 marks (4 Assessment Objectives)

**Alevel Art Component 1:** Personal project  
and 3,000 words essay 60%

**Component 2:** Exam 40%

## Entry Criteria

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Art or Textiles or Photography or Product Design

## Progression

Complete a Foundation Art course before commencing onto a full Art degree course. Art can lead to a variety of careers in the creative Industries.

## Student Comments

"Art gives you the chance to be able to be individual and guides you to explore the different areas within art and design. My interest for Art developed through opportunities I was given throughout the course, such as trips to different galleries. The art teachers are experts at what they do and I can definitely rely on their opinions." **Year 13 student**



# BIOLOGY - A Level

## Examboard

AQA

## Why Study A Level Biology?

A-Level Biology

It will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Biology literally means the study of life and if that's not important, what is? Being such a broad topic, you're bound to find a specific area of interest, plus, it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

## Content of Course

AS and first year of A-level

**1.** Biological molecules **2.** Cells **3.** Organisms exchange substances with their environment **4.** Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.

Second year of A-level

**5.** Energy transfers in and between organisms **6.** Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments **7.** Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems **8.** The control of gene expression

## Assessment

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practicals will be assessed. There are three exams at the end of the two years for A-level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A-level Biology are based on what you learned in your practicals.

The AS has two exams at the end of the year. Both are 1 hour 30 minutes long.

## Entry Criteria

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology or Grade 6/7 or above in GCSE Combined Science, **and** a Grade 5 or above in both GCSE English and Maths.

## Progression

Possible degree options are:

Biology, Psychology, Sport and Exercise Science, Medicine, Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology, Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmacy, Chemistry

## Student Comments

"I chose Biology as I enjoyed it at GCSE, and it was my best subject so I knew Biology at A level would be a good choice. I like studying Biology as a subject because it helps me to understand the make-up of my body, which is really interesting."

**Year 13 student**



Biology Field Trip to Epping Forest

# CHEMISTRY - A Level

## Examboard

AQA

## Why Study A Level Chemistry?

A Level Chemistry

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

## Content of Course

**AS and first year of A Level** - Atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibrium, Le Chatelier's principle, periodicity, Group 2 the alkaline earth metals, Group 7(17) the halogens, introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes, halogen alkanes and alkenes.

**Second year of A Level** - Thermodynamics, rate equations, the equilibrium constant, electrode potentials and electrochemical cells, properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides, transition metals, reactions of ions in aqueous solution, optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and derivatives, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, NMR spectroscopy and chromatography.

## Assessment

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practicals will be assessed. There are three exams at the end of the two years for A-level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A-level Chemistry are based on what you have learned within your practicals. The AS has two exams at the end of the year. Both are 1 hour 30 minutes long.

## Entry Criteria

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry or Grade 67 or above in GCSE Combined Science and a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Maths and a Grade 5 or above in GCSE English

## Progression

Possible degree options are:  
Chemistry, Biology, Pre-clinical Medicine, Mathematics, Pharmacology.

## Student Comments

"I chose A Level chemistry because it is interesting as well as challenging which makes me think outside the box, also it is a subject which is needed to get many successful jobs. I like studying chemistry as it is a very hard subject so therefore understanding the subject helps me to accomplish a lot of learning which is used in everyday life"

Year 13 student





# COMPUTER SCIENCE - A Level

## Examboard

AQA

## Why Study Computer Science?

Computer Science will give learners an understanding of, and the ability to apply, the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation, the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs and the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.

## Content of Course

Students will study the following topics: Fundamentals of programming, Fundamentals of data structures, Fundamentals of algorithms, Theory of computation, Fundamentals of data representation, Fundamentals of computer systems, Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture, Consequences of uses of computing, Fundamentals of communication and networking, Fundamentals of databases, Big Data, Fundamentals of functional programming, Systematic approach to problem solving and Non-exam assessment - the computing practical project

## Assessment

**Paper 1** - On-screen exam: 2 hours 30 minutes 40% of A-level

**Paper 2** - Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes 40% of A-level

Non-exam assessment 20% of A-level

## Entry Criteria

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Computer Science, if studied, and Grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths also prior experience with computer programming..

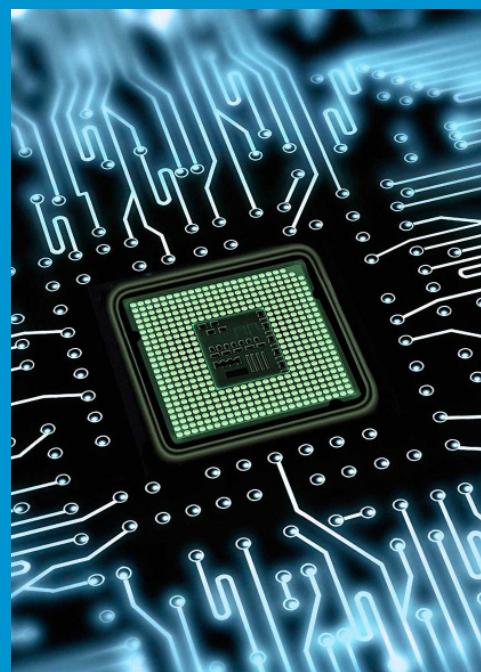
## Progression

A-level Computer Science is accepted as an appropriate qualification for entry to many degree courses and gives a very good start to students wishing to take Computer Science at degree level. It is also well thought of by employers for students wanting to go straight into employment

## Student Comments

"I have always been interested in computing and programming, but this course has really inspired me to apply for university courses in Computer Science."

Year 12 student



# ECONOMICS - A Level

## Examboard

Edexcel

## Why Study Economics?

Trade and poverty. Economists are often in healthy debate with each other over these issues. It is this controversy which makes Economics lively and interesting and which allows you the opportunity to make your own judgements and form your own opinions.

## Content of Course

**Theme 1:** Introduction to markets & market failure. This gives a general introduction to the nature of economics and how prices are determined in the real world and what can be done when things go wrong with the price mechanism.

**Theme 2:** The UK Economy - Performance & Policies. This unit gives a general introduction to the key measures of economic performance which appear in our papers and on the news every day and what we can do to influence them.

**Theme 3:** Business behavior & the Labour Market. Looks at both of these operate and how the Government can influence them.

**Theme 4:** A Global Perspective. Students will develop an understanding of economics, poverty and inequality, emerging and developing economies and the financial sector.

## Assessment

**Paper 1:** Markets and Business Behaviour: Multiple choice questions with a short data response questions, worth 35%

**Paper 2:** The National and Global Economy: Multiple choice questions with a short data response questions, worth 35%

**Paper 3:** Microeconomics and Macroeconomics: Data response questions with a choice of extended open-response questions, worth 30%

## Entry Criteria

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Maths and GCSE English Language

## Progression

Economics is a versatile subject that can help you in a number of careers. You could find yourself working for big corporations, banks or the government but also it would be valuable in careers like journalism, law or marketing.

## Student Comments

"I have really enjoyed this subject... Economics has helped me gain offers from five Russell group universities" **Year 13 student**

"Economics has been an interesting and relevant course, I feel like I understand why things are happening in the world now" **Year 12 student**

"Supply and demand is the basis of EVERYTHING" **Year 12 student**



# ENGLISH LITERATURE - A Level

## Examboard

AQA

## Why Study English?

The course will broaden your knowledge and understanding of both modern and traditional literature, and aims to encourage you to read as widely as possible. You will study novels, plays and poems and analyse them in depth. English Literature is a facilitating subject and is highly valued by universities irrespective of your chosen area of study.

## Content of Course

A-Level English Literature is a two-year course examined at the end of year 13. During year 12 you will study 'Love through the Ages.' You will read one Shakespeare play and an anthology of love poetry. Additionally, you will study one prose fiction text and a variety of unseen poetry.

During year 13, you will develop your understanding of 'Love through the Ages, with a greater focus on pre-1900 literature. Much of the year you will study a variety of texts related to World War One and its aftermath, and, complete an extended essay, comparing two texts, one of which will be pre-1900.

## Assessment

A Level English Literature is comprised of two units - Love through the Ages (A-Level Year 1) and WW1 and its Aftermath (A-Level year 2), students will be examined on these units at the end of year 13 via two external A-Level exams collectively worth 80%. The remaining 20% will be assessed through a Non-Exam Assessment in the form of an independent project. Teachers will set progress exams throughout the two years to assess your strengths and weaknesses and to ensure that you are on track to succeed.

## Entry Criteria

At least a Grade 5 and Grade 6 in English Language and Literature (or vice versa).

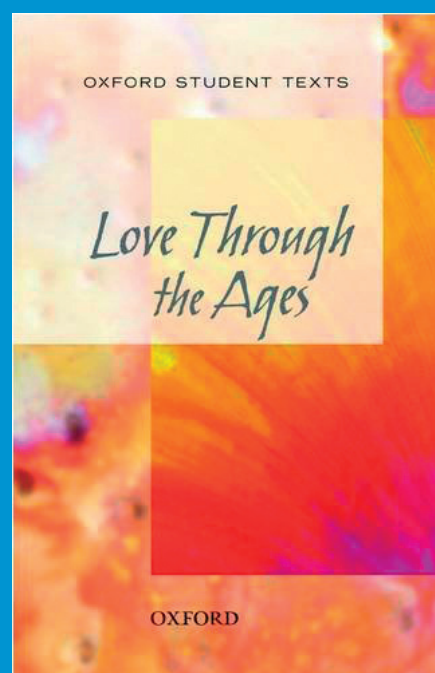
## Progression

English Literature will allow further progression in any area which requires analytical skills or the ability to communicate with detail and precision

## Student Comments

"English Literature has helped me to structure my essay writing in a really useful way" **Year 12 student**

"Studying English has broadened my vocabulary and allowed me to express myself much more precisely" **Year 13 student**



# EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ) - one year only

## Examboard

AQA

## Why Study EPQ?

EPQ offers you a unique opportunity to carry out an independent research project in an area of your choice, that will provide invaluable preparation for university. It encourages students to acquire many transferable skills such as dissertation-writing, project-management, time-management, evaluation and reflection. This level of choice and flexibility means you are engaged and motivated, and gain valuable skills along the way.

## Content of Course

The Extended Project Qualification will develop and extend from one or more of the learner's study areas or from an area of personal interest outside of subjects of study. EPQ students will decide on their topic of interest and formulate a specific research question based on this topic that they wish to investigate the answer to. Regular meetings will be held with their EPQ supervisor who will guide students through their project from the formulation of their topic question, research into this question and the write-up of the project itself. The course will also focus on how to correctly reference sources and will explore how to select appropriate resources to use in research.

## Assessment

Students will be assessed through their completed dissertation-style project, a presentation of the project to the Extended Project Class and teacher, and completed planning, meeting and evaluation sheets. It is worth half of an A-level.

## Entry Criteria

5 GCSE Grades at 5/B or above **including** English Language at a Grade 5 or above.

## Progression

Skills gained from the Extended Project Qualification such as planning, critical-thinking and project-management will be essential to all university and career choices.

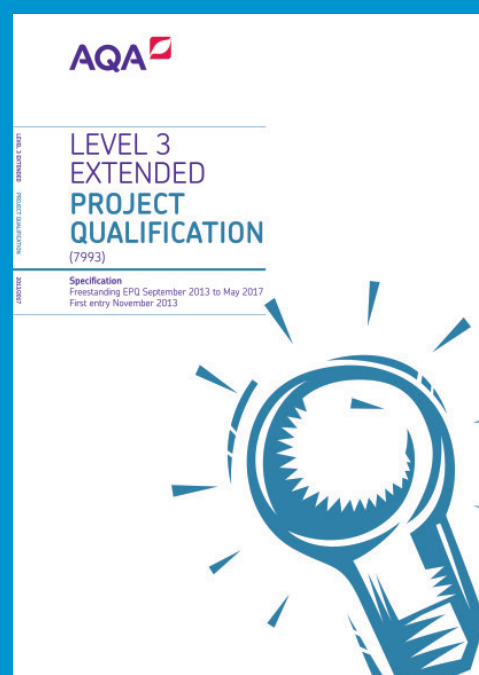
## Student Comments

"The course really builds your independent study skills. You are treated like a University student"

"I chose this course because I know it will really help with my University applications"

"I get the freedom to choose my own topic and research it in detail"

**Year 12 students.**





# FRENCH - A Level

## Examboard

AQA exam board

## Why Study French?

You will be able to develop and build on the skills you have acquired at GCSE to become near fluent in French by the end of the course. It will enhance your employment prospects as well as facilitate foreign travel.

## Content of Course

You will improve your knowledge of the French language, developing and extending your competence in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will learn about current affairs in France, studying a range of contemporary issues, all from the French perspective.

## Assessment

### AS

**Paper 1:** listening, reading, writing. 1 hour 45 mins

**Paper 2:** writing. Translation and essay writing on the film 1 hour 30 mins

**Paper 3:** speaking 12-14 mins plus 15 mins preparation time

### A Level

**Paper 1:** listening, reading, writing 2 hours 30 mins

**Paper 2:** writing. Essay writing on the film and text studied 2 hours

**Paper 3:** speaking. Individual research project + 1 theme 20-23 mins

## Entry Criteria

Grade 6 or above in GCSE French [on the Higher tier only](#)

## Progression

Industry examples include: business services, central government, engineering, media, travel and tourism. This qualification could lead to salaries 20% above the average.

## Student Comments

"I have really enjoyed the variety of topics such as literature, study of films and discovering French architecture. It has given me a wider view of French culture. I have made a lot of progress quickly and I feel now that I can speak French almost fluently. I have chosen to study it at university."

**Year 12 student**



# GEOGRAPHY - A Level

## Examboard

Edexcel

## Why Study Geography?

A Level Geography has been designed to allow geographers the flexibility to build upon their knowledge, to suit their own particular interests and needs by using a range of approaches. Those geographers with interests in distinct physical, human and environmental approaches will be able to use this specification.

## Content of Course

**Unit 1:** Dynamic Landscapes

**Unit 2:** Dynamic Places

**Unit 3:** Physical Systems and Sustainability

**Unit 4:** Human Systems and Geopolitics

**Coursework:** Independent Investigation

## Assessment

Three separate exams and independent investigation write up:

**Paper 1:** Written examination: 2 hours (30% of the qualification 90 marks)

**Paper 2:** Written examination: 2 hours (30% of the qualification 90 marks)

**Paper 3:** Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes (20% of the qualification 60 marks)

Coursework: Independent Investigation - Non-examined assessment (20% of the qualification 60 marks)

## Entry Criteria

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Geography **and** Grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths **and** GCSE English

## Progression

Geography is a highly regarded academic subject which can lead to a number of third level education courses. Geography in the current environmental climate is a crucial subject for the future world we live in. Careers in education, future environmental planning and resource commodity are some of the many options that Geography can lead you towards.

## Student Comments

"Geography allows me to develop a range of skills that I can use in my future career from research to critical thinking."

**Year 13 student**

"I feel that studying Geography gives me a different perspective on our rapidly changing world that helps me appreciate it more".

**Year 13 student**



# HISTORY - A Level

## Examboard

Edexcel

## Why Study History?

From the Historical Association: "Apart from being VERY interesting, history is useful for a whole host of different careers, and life too! History teaches you vital skills that employers want. Through history you will have learned to handle evidence and opinions and make informed decisions; you will be able to see more than one point of view and what motivates people, their thoughts and feelings. You will understand that different people see things differently. You will be able to find and read lots of different types of information and you will be able to communicate your ideas and thoughts clearly, both verbally and in your writing; vital for making arguments or presentations. In today's internet-based, information overloaded world, employers really appreciate someone who can sift through the evidence to find the vital information - a skill that history is better placed than any other subject to help you develop."

## Content of Course

The course helps students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives. The first year of study is focused on Communist States in the 20th century and in particular Russia (1917-91) and the German Democratic Republic (1949-90). The second year focusses on rebellion and disorder under the Tudors and coursework

## Assessment

3 exams and coursework.

**Paper 1:** 30% of final grade, **Paper 2:** 20% of final grade, **Paper 3:** 30% of final grade and coursework 20% of final grade.

## Entry Criteria

Grade 5 or above in GCSE History and Grade 5 or above in GCSE English

## Progression

Professor Nicholls (University of Bristol): "With a history degree you can aspire to be prime minister, a press baron, overlord of the BBC, famous lawyer, archbishop of Canterbury, diplomat, Oxbridge vice-chancellor, famous comedian, business multimillionaire or celebrated pop musician."

## Student Comments

"History is such a great subject to study because it gives you a whole range of skills, from analysing sources, writing complex essays and evaluating arguments."

"I chose to study History a level History because it is held in such high regard by universities."

"You should study History a level because the topics studied are interesting, it develops on your existing skills from GCSE and you will be pushed to learn and develop new skills."

"My history teacher was very supportive, making me feel very prepared for the exam by giving very clear exam advice."

**Year 13 students**



# MATHEMATICS - A Level

## Examboard

Edexcel: visit [edexcel.com](http://edexcel.com) for more details.

## Why Study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a much valued subject. If you are considering a career or further study in ICT, Accountancy, Engineering, Economics and the Sciences you should seriously consider continuing to study Mathematics. This subject will also support your Sixth Form studies in subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Psychology and Economics. To get some idea of careers open to those studying Mathematics at A Level and beyond, take a look at the careers section at [www.mathscareers.org.uk](http://www.mathscareers.org.uk)

## Content of Course

You will study many of the concepts learnt at GCSE, but at a more advanced level, as well as many new areas of Mathematics. In the AS course you will study: Pure Mathematics and an application unit which will cover both Mechanics and Statistics. In the A Level course you will study: Pure Mathematics 2 and study the applied topics (Mechanics and Statistics) in greater depth.

The Statistics aspect focuses on statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, statistical hypothesis testing. The Mechanics aspect focuses on quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws.

## Assessment

In each year mock exams will take place in December and 'pre-public' exams in March preceding the public exams. In the first year you study Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics and two exams will be sat at the end of the first year to gain an AS in Mathematics. In the second year of the course, you will continue to study these topics at a deeper level and sit 3 exams to gain an A Level in Mathematics.

## Entry Criteria

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Maths and pass a 'gate entry' algebra test in July / September 2020

## Progression

Successful completion of this course will enable progression onto both further and higher education, a Modern Apprenticeship or employment in a range of industries.

## Student Comments

"Maths gives the opportunity to develop skills you can apply to other subjects as well as to life - I am applying to study Electronic Engineering at university."

Year 13 student

"I think Maths is the most important subject! It has helped me to succeed in my Physics and Chemistry AS Level courses too."

Year 12 student





# FURTHER MATHEMATICS - A Level

## Examboard

Edexcel: visit [edexcel.com](http://edexcel.com) for more details.

## Why Study Further Mathematics?

Further Mathematics is a much valued subject. If you are considering a career or further study in Mathematics, ICT, Accountancy, Engineering, Economics and the Sciences you should seriously consider studying Further Mathematics in addition to the A Level Mathematics course. To get some idea of careers open to those studying Mathematics at A Level and beyond, take a look at the careers section at [www.mathscareers.org.uk](http://www.mathscareers.org.uk)

## Content of Course

This course is taught in conjunction with the A Level Mathematics course, and will challenge and stretch even the most able of mathematicians. In addition to the units taught in the A Level Mathematics course, students will study a range of units. The course is designed to enable students to develop mathematical understanding; to reason logically; to generalise and construct proofs; to recognise how different areas of mathematics are connected; to apply mathematics and recognise its significance to other disciplines, and to model 'real world' problems.

## Assessment

In each year mock exams will take place in December and 'pre-public exams' in March preceding the public exams. In the first year you will study Further Pure Mathematics and a 'Further Applied' unit. Two exams will be sat at the end of the first year to gain an AS Level in Further Mathematics. In the second year of the course, you will continue to study these topics at a deeper level and sit 4 exams to gain an A Level in Further Mathematics.

## Entry Criteria

Grade 8 or above in GCSE Maths.  
Note: must be studied alongside A Level Mathematics (above)

## Progression

Successful completion of this course will enable progression onto both further and higher education, a Modern Apprenticeship or employment in a range of industries.

## Student Comments

"Further Maths is challenging but interesting and exciting - if you are confident with the A and A\* grade work in GCSE Maths and prepared to work hard, then you will enjoy this important course. I am definitely planning to study Mathematics at university."

Year 13 student



# MATHEMATICAL STUDIES - AS Level

## Examboard

AQA : Visit <https://www.aqa.org.uk> for more details

## Why Study Further Mathematics?

If you want to extend your study of Mathematics beyond GCSE but are not wanting to study a full A level in Maths, this course is for you! The emphasis in this Mathematical Studies is in the application that maths has to real life and includes interpreting mathematical information such as house prices, scientific graphs and tables, financial investment and taxation. Mathematical Studies will also enhance your career choice and help you stand out from the crowd. The qualification is part of the new A-Level reforms.

## Content of Course

The focus is on applied mathematics - there is no algebra or trigonometry. Everything is put into context and applied to real life examples.

Certificate in Mathematical Studies could be described as numerical critical thinking and the lessons are designed to equip students to make good decisions whenever numbers or data are involved. Topics include Financial Mathematics, Modelling, Probabilities, Collecting and Analysing Data and Finding Patterns in Data

## Assessment:

In each year mock exams will take place in December and 'pre-public' exams in March preceding the public exams.

In the first year you study Analysis of data, Maths for personal finance, and graphical techniques and Estimation. In the second year of the course, you will continue to study these topics at a deeper level including Critical analysis of data, critical path analysis graphical techniques.

## Progression

Successful completion of this course will enable progression onto both further and higher education, a Modern Apprenticeship or employment in a range of industries including banking, Health service, and IT.



# PHOTOGRAPHY - A Level

## Examboard

AQA - Photography

## Why Study Photography?

If students are creative, persistent and can use their initiative, A Level Photography is a practical course that can open up the students' potential. Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of traditional methods as well as digital techniques. Students will learn the camera functions and visual techniques that are needed, in order to become a professional photographer and how to create an online portfolio.

## Content of Course

Photography students are required to work in one or more area(s) of Photography: Portraiture, Landscape, Still Life Photography, Documentary, Photo- Journalism, Fashion photography, experimental imagery, multimedia, photographic installation and moving image (film/animation). Work produced will demonstrate the use of creative and technical skills. At the start of Year 12, students will complete a number of satellite projects. In February, Yr12 students will decide to focus on their chosen area/personal project that continues until the start of their exam preparation in Year 13. Students will be expected to visit galleries on their own, with the school and attend photography workshops.

### Component 1:

Story-telling project 30% of AS  
Close Up project 30% of AS

### Component 2:

Students choice of one starting point question (choice of 5)  
40%

## Assessment

### Component 1: Portfolio of work

Project times set by centre  
96 marks (4 Assessment objectives)  
Personal project and 3,000 words essay 60%

### Component 2: Externally set assignment

Preparatory period + 10 hours supervised time  
96 marks (4 Assessment Objectives)  
Exam 40%

## Entry Criteria

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Art or Textiles or Photography or Product Design

## Progression

Complete a Foundation course before commencing onto a full Photography degree. There are a variety of careers in the Photographic Industry.

## Student Comments

"The photography workshop was informative and allowed me to take on techniques from a professional photographer"

Year 12 student

"I have enjoyed learning about a variation of skills, not only the camera functions but how to use programs such as Bridge and Adobe Photoshop in greater detail"

Year 13 student



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION - A Level

## Examboard

AQA (7582)

## Why Study A-Level PE?

A Level PE allows you to mix theory with practical through studying sports performance, physiology, psychology and contemporary factors that influence PE. This course will enable you understand the body's response to exercise, the learning of new skills, the relationship between sport and society and the influence the mind has on performance.

## Content of Course

Unit 01 – Applied anatomy and Physiology  
Unit 02 – Skill Acquisition  
Unit 03 – Sport and society  
Unit 04 – Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics  
Unit 05 – Sport Psychology  
Unit 06 – Role of technology in sport

## Assessment

Paper 1 – Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport – 2 Hour external exam – worth 35% of A-level  
Paper 2 – Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport – 2 Hour external exam – worth 35% of A-Level  
Practical performance – Video evidence of one sport – worth 15% of A-LEVEL  
Written/verbal analysis of your performance – worth 15% of A-LEVEL

## Entry Criteria

Grade 5 or above in GCSE PE or Distinction in BTEC Sport or Grade 45 in GCSE Combined Science

## Progression

Degree courses in sports science or sports studies (such as physiotherapy, sports psychology, sports therapy or sports history), teaching or sports management. Careers in sports coaching and the leisure industry.

## Student Comments

"A Level PE is beneficial when learning about how to improve your sporting performance. It informs you on how to exercise, sports psychology and skill acquisition. Studying these topics have helped me to become a better high level performer."

**Year 13 student**

"A Level PE teaches you about how the body responds to exercise and how it adapts to improve performance. I enjoy it because the practical element provides a balance with my other theory subjects."

**Year 12 student**





# PHYSICS - A Level

## Examboard

AQA

## Why Study A Level Physics?

Physicists explore the fundamental nature of almost everything we know of. They probe the furthest reaches of the earth to study the smallest pieces of matter. Join them to enter a world deep beneath the surface of normal human experience.

## Content of Course

### First year of A Level

Measurements and their errors, Particles and radiation, Waves, Mechanics and energy, Electricity.

### Second year of A Level

Further mechanics and thermal physics, Fields, Nuclear physics, Plus one option from the following – Astrophysics, Medical physics, Engineering physics, Turning points in physics, Electronics.

## Assessment

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practicals will be assessed. There are three exams at the end of the two years for A-level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A-level Physics are based on what you have learned in your practicals. The AS has two exams at the end of the year. Both are 1 hour 30 minutes long.

## Entry Criteria

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Physics or Grade 67 or above in GCSE Combined Science, **and** Grade 6 or above in Maths.

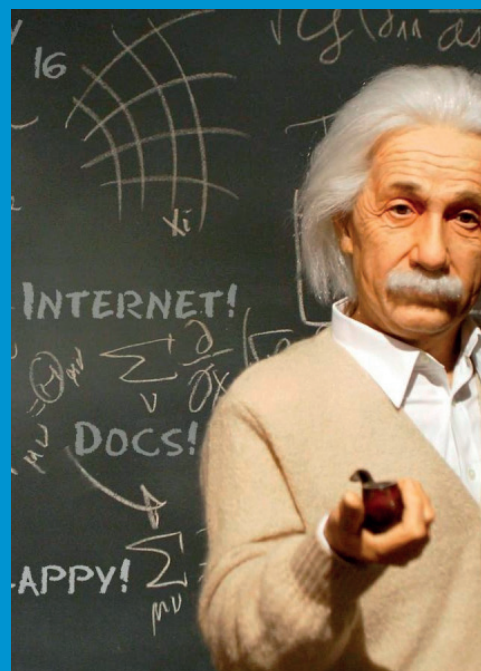
## Progression

Possible degree options are:  
Mathematics, Physics, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Civil Engineering, Economics, Business.

## Student Comments

"I chose A Level physics as I enjoy the principles of motion and the mechanics behind vehicles. I like studying physics as a subject as I am able to learn how it applies to everyday life and how it evolves society."

Year 13 student



# THREE DIMENSIONAL DESIGN (PRODUCT DESIGN) - A Level

## Examboard

AQA

## Why Study Product Design?

We live in a world where good design is implicit in almost every aspect of our lives; Three Dimensional (3D) Design (Product Design) A Level is the gateway into an exciting and ever expanding world filled with opportunities to work with new and emerging materials and technologies. This is an engaging and practical course based on the design and manufacture of products for everyday use. You must have a real interest in how the things around us work as well as how and what they are made from. The course will also encourage creativity and innovation where students will have the confidence to innovate and produce creative design solutions as they develop their own ideas and products. Students will work both individually and as part of a team and require good drawing, problem solving, technological and entrepreneurial skills in order to be successful.

## Content of Course

A Level 3D Design (Product Design) is designed to broaden students view of Design and develop their capacity to design and make products and appreciate the complex relations between design, materials and manufacture. Students are required to work in one or more area(s) of 3D Design (Product Design) including: sculpture, exhibition design, design for theatre, television and film, interior design, product design, environmental and architectural design, jewellery/body ornament and 3D digital design.

At the start of Year 12, students will complete a number of satellite projects to develop their skills. In February, Yr12 students will decide to focus on their chosen area and start their personal project that continues until the start of their exam preparation in Year 13. Students will be expected to visit museums and galleries on their own to develop a wider understanding of Design in the real world.

## Assessment

A level 3D Design (Product Design)

### Component 1:

Satellite projects/Personal project and  
3,000 words essay 60%  
96 marks (4 Assessment objectives)

### Component 2:

Externally set assignment Exam 40%  
preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time  
96 marks (4 Assessment Objectives)

## Entry Criteria

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Product Design (or equivalent D&T GCSE courses), **or** a Grade 5 or above in GCSE Art or Textiles or Photography, **and** a Grade 4 or above in a Science subject

## Progression

Complete an undergraduate degree in a subject area linking to Design for example Product Design, Design, Engineering, Architecture, Graphic Design, Furniture Design and art/ creative subjects. Complete a Foundation Course before entry onto a Design based degree.  
Undertake further training, apprenticeships or jobs in the creative, engineering, automotive or manufacturing industries.

## Student Comments

"Product Design helps me to express my talent and interest in designing."  
**Year 12 student**



# PSYCHOLOGY - A Level

## Examboard

AQA

## Why Study Psychology?

Psychology is the fascinating study of mind and behaviour of the individual. Psychology involves analysis of various theories of behaviour and the consideration of research studies which evaluate these theories. You will be encouraged to think critically when analysing why people behave in the way that they do- for example why do some people obey orders and others do not? Why do some people develop Schizophrenia? Which treatment for OCD is most successful?

## Content of Course

Throughout the A-level course you will learn the following topics- Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and 'Abnormality'. You will also study and evaluate the following topics in great depth- Schizophrenia, Gender and Forensic Psychology.

A range of Psychological approaches will be explored, with a focus on Biopsychology. Through the study of 'Research methods' you will learn how psychologists conduct their research, and also why psychology is considered to be a science. Finally, you will study the way in which psychologists carry out statistical tests on the data that they gather when carrying out a psychological experiment.

## Assessment

The AS will be assessed by in two examinations lasting 90 minutes, including both short and extended answers. The A-Level will be assessed in three examinations, each lasting two hours. Again these papers will assess both short answer and extended answer questions.

## Entry Criteria

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English **and** GCSE Maths **and** a GCSE Science

## Progression

This course is ideal for those wishing to study Psychology at university, and the skills developed within it (such as extended-writing) will also be relevant to a range of university courses.

## Student Comments

"I love Psychology lessons! They are so engaging and interesting and in each lesson I can make links between the content we are learning about and people around me. It's a subject that I can relate to"

**Year 12 student**

"Psychology allows me to consider theories and whether or not they are valid by looking at research to back them up. This is of most interest for me exploring different studies carried out by psychologists and concluding what the findings show about the mind and behaviour"

**Year 13 student**



# SOCIOLOGY - A Level

## Examboard

AQA

## Why Study Sociology?

Widen your horizons, challenge yourself and the world around you. We offer: -an established course that will help you to progress academically, cultivate your passion for understanding the social world, and gain valuable skills for life -dedicated teaching that will challenge you to widen your horizons and expand your creativity, empowering you to see the real world in a more critical light -a solid foundation for whatever future path you choose, even those you haven't yet imagined!

## Content of Course

AS Sociology students will study two compulsory topics- 'Education', and 'Sociological Research Methods'. Students will also apply their knowledge of research methods in a sociological context of education known as 'Methods in context'. AS students will study an additional topic chosen from a series of options- 'Families and Households'. In addition to the AS content, the A-level course will offer two compulsory topics of 'Crime and Deviance' and 'Sociological Theories' in the context of Education and a chosen optional topic of 'Beliefs in Society'.

## Assessment

The AS course will comprise of two 90 minute public examinations of two topics including both short answer and extended answer exam questions worth 60 marks per paper. The A-level course comprises of three 2 hour examinations of equal weighting- 80 marks per paper. One of the exam papers will be based solely on extended writing, and two of the papers will include both short answer questions and extended writing.

## Entry Criteria

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Sociology **or** GCSE R&L, **and** GCSE English Grade 5 or above.

## Progression

A-level Sociology leads to the study of Sociology at university and develops skills for job sectors such as social services, education and the criminal justice system.

## Student Comments

"Sociology covers a wide range of topics, so there is always something new to learn about. Lots of the topics encourage debate which is really enjoyable. Sociology is also a topic that everyone can relate to- particularly the Family topic which is really interesting to explore, and also Education"

Year 13 student.





# TEXTILES - A Level

## Examboard

AQA - Textile Design

## Why Study Textiles?

If students are creative, persistent and can use their initiative, AS Textiles is a practical course that can open up the students' potential. Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of media, processes and techniques. Students must show evidence in one or more of the areas of study (Fashion design/textiles, costume, digital textiles, printed/dyed fabrics and materials, domestic textiles, wallpaper, interior design, constructed and installed textiles)

## Content of Course

AS Textiles is designed to encourage a broad approach to Textiles. Work produced will demonstrate the use of formal elements, creative skills and give visual form to individual thoughts, feelings, observations and ideas. Students will be expected to visit galleries on their own, with the school and attend life drawing class.

### Component 1:

Architectural Features project 30% of AS  
Head Adornment project 30% of AS

### Component 2:

Students choice of one starting point question (choice of 5)  
40%

## Assessment

### AS Textiles

**Component 1:** Portfolio of work  
Project times set by centre;  
96 marks (4 Assessment objectives)  
60% of AS 40% of

**Component 2:** Externally set assignment  
preparatory period + 10 hours supervised time  
96 marks (4 Assessment Objectives)  
AS

**A level Textiles** **Component 1:** Personal project and  
3,000 words essay 60%

**Component 2:** Exam 40%

## Entry Criteria

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Art or Textiles or Photography or Product Design

## Progression

Complete a Foundation Art course before commencing onto a full Textiles or Fashion degree course. Textiles can lead to a variety of careers in the creative Industries.

## Student Comments

"You should pick Textiles because it is interactive, fun and a good skill to have in life"

Year 13 student



# TURKISH - A Level

## Examboard

OCR

## Why Study Turkish?

You will develop awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of countries or communities where Turkish is spoken. You will learn how to use the language accurately to express facts and ideas, and to present explanations, opinions and information in writing. You will develop an interest in, and an enthusiasm for, language learning.

## Content of Course

You will develop understanding of Turkish in a variety of contexts and genres; communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in Turkish for a range of purposes.

## Assessment

Students need to complete an AS and A2 unit of Turkish Listening, Reading and Writing.

All GCE units are awarded a–e. The advanced GCE is awarded on the scale A–E with access to an A\*.

## Entry Criteria

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Turkish

## Progression

The course provides a foundation for study in higher education, as well as an invaluable adjunct to careers in business, education & the arts.

## Student Comments

"I really enjoyed the course and found it challenging as well as rewarding. I now feel much more confident with my Turkish writing. It was a lot of fun."

Year 13 student



# APPLIED GENERAL SCIENCE - Level 3

## Examboard

AQA

## Why Study Applied Science?

The Applied General Science course is designed for students with an interest in all three sciences. You will learn how science contributes to our lifestyle and the environment in which we live. The course is designed to allow you to spend some your time in the laboratory, working on the kind of practical projects that may be undertaken by employees working in science-based industries. The course mixes a balance of coursework and external exams.

## Content of Course

### Year 12 Units:

**Unit 1** Key Concepts in Science. Here you will learn a mix of Biology, Chemistry and Physics content at a GCSE/AS level standard. This will be assessed in an external exam and is 33% of your year 12 grade.

**Unit 2** Applied Experimental Techniques. Here you will complete 6 experiments and write them up as reports. This is internally assessed and is worth 33% of your year 12 grade.

**Unit 3** Science in the Modern World. Here you will learn how to analyse and evaluate scientific information and develop critical thinking skills. This will be assessed in an external exam with pre-released material. This is worth 33% of your year 12 grade.

## Assessment

This qualification contains externally assessed and internally assessed units. Externally assessed units are assessed by written examination. Internally assessed units are externally moderated by AQA.

## Entry Criteria

Grade 5 **or** above in at least 2 of GCSE Biology, Chemistry & Physics, or Grade 55 in GCSE Combined Science, **and** at least a Grade 4 or above in both GCSE English and Maths.

## Progression

There is an extremely wide variety of employment opportunities for those interested in Science. Career options range from a vast choice of medical opportunities through to employment in conservation and environmental projects. Those who study Science can also, for example, go on to work as electronic or mechanical engineers, dieticians, technicians and research scientists.

## Student Comments

"Studying Applied Science has given me the opportunity to both enjoy learning science and to learn about its application in real life which will help me in choosing the right career."

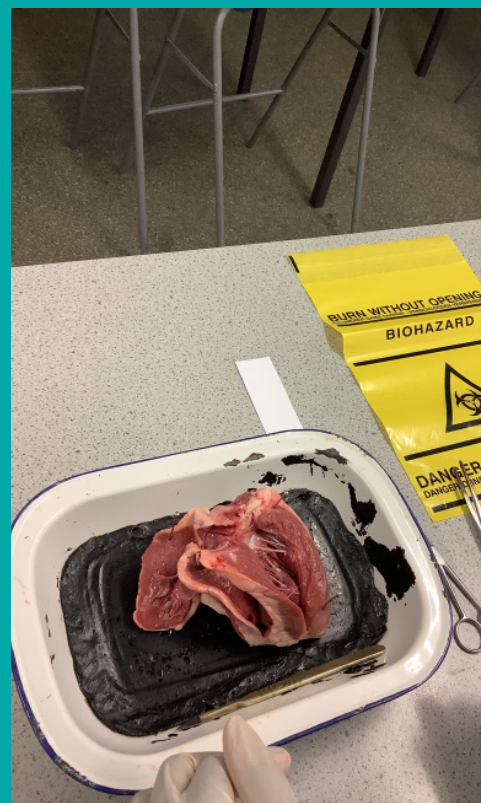
**Year 13 student**

"Applied Science has given me the opportunity to carry out lots of research and independent tasks which are crucial skills in further education."

**Year 13 student**

"Choosing to study Applied Science is a good decision to make because we get the opportunity to develop new skills which will help us in our university courses. Completing coursework allows us to develop our research skills in Biology, Chemistry and Physics."

**Year 13 student**



# BUSINESS - Level 3 BTEC

## Examboard

Edexcel

## Why Study National Extended Certificate in Business?

This qualification is designed for learners who are interested in learning about the business sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in business-related subjects.

## Content of Course

### Single Award

Exploring Business  
Developing a Marketing Campaign  
Personal and Business Finance  
Recruitment and Selection Process

### Double Award

International Business  
Managing An Event  
Pitching a New Business  
Principles of Management

## Assessment

Assignments (coursework)  
Written examination  
Task set and completed under supervised conditions.

## Entry Criteria

Grade 4 or above in GCSE English Language **and** GCSE Business Studies (if taken) **and** an interest in Business

## Progression

The qualifications carry UCAS points and are recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two year programme of learning. The qualifications can also support progression to employment directly, or via an Apprenticeship.

## Student Comments

"I feel I now have a greater understanding of what is needed to be a successful leader and entrepreneur"

Year 12 student





# HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE - Level 3 BTEC

## Examboard

Edexcel

## Why Study Health and Social Care?

BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care is an excellent choice of course for students with an interest in the Health or Social Care sector. It is a vocational course that will provide students with both the knowledge and skills needed for a range of health or care environments. Students enjoy learning such a wide variety of topics from different approaches in the health sector to how humans develop throughout their lifespan.

## Content of Course

Students will study Human Lifespan Development, working in Health and Social Care and Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs as compulsory units. In addition, teacher-chosen optional topic for coursework assessments will be Psychological perspectives in Health and Social Care.

## Assessment

Human Lifespan Development and Working in Health and Social Care units will be assessed by public examinations lasting 90 minutes. The other three units taught will be assessed by coursework tasks to be completed by set deadlines. Each unit of coursework is assessed using the following criteria- Pass, Merit or Distinction.

## Entry Criteria

Merit or above in BTEC HSC if taken. Plus, 5 GCSE Grades 9-4 **including** GCSE English Language at Grade 4 or above

## Progression

Progression on to a range of Health and Social Care specific courses at college or university level.

## Student Comments

"This course allows us to have experience in health and social care environments by encouraging us to do work placements, which is really useful. Our coursework writing of reports improves our extended-writing skills which is essential at university"

**Year 12 student**

"I have developed many transferable skills on this course- especially organisation and time-management! The communication topic also develops our skills in a practical way"

**Year 13 student.**



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) - Level 3 BTEC

## Examboard

Edexcel

## Why Study National Extended Certificate in IT?

This qualification 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.

## Content of Course

Information Technology Systems  
Creating Systems to Manage Information  
Using Social Media in Business  
Website Development

## Assessment

Written examination  
Task set and completed under supervised conditions.

## Entry Criteria

5 GCSE Grades 9-4 (A\*-C) and English Language Grade 4 or above, **and** an Interest in Information Technology

## Progression

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two year programme of learning. The qualification can also support progression to employment directly, or via an Apprenticeship.

## Student Comments

"I really enjoyed the Social Media Unit"

"I can still get into a good University with this course"

## Year 13 students



# MATHEMATICAL STUDIES - Level 3 certificate

## (AS equivalent, 2 year course)

### Examboard

AQA: visit [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk) for more details.

### Why Study Mathematics in Context?

This is an engaging qualification for 16-18 year olds, launched in September 2015. It is designed for students who would like to continue to study mathematics in context by applying it to the 'real' world and have achieved passed GCSE Mathematics but are not studying the AS Mathematics course. This course will also support your Sixth Form studies in subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Psychology and Economics.

### Content of Course

You will study many of the concepts learnt at GCSE, but at a higher level. The course focuses on enabling students to improve their knowledge of Mathematics and understand how to apply it to situations in the 'real' world. In particular, it aims to develop students' understanding and ability to apply mathematics, and consists of:

- analysis of data
- personal finance
- estimation
- critical analysis of data and models
- 4 optional modules

### Assessment

There are two equally weighted written examinations (1hr 30mins each) at the end of the second year, however there are continual internal assessments throughout both years to ensure students are making sufficient progress.

### Entry Criteria

A 'strong' Grade 4 (in the top 40% of the Grade 4 marks band) or above in **Higher** Tier GCSE Maths

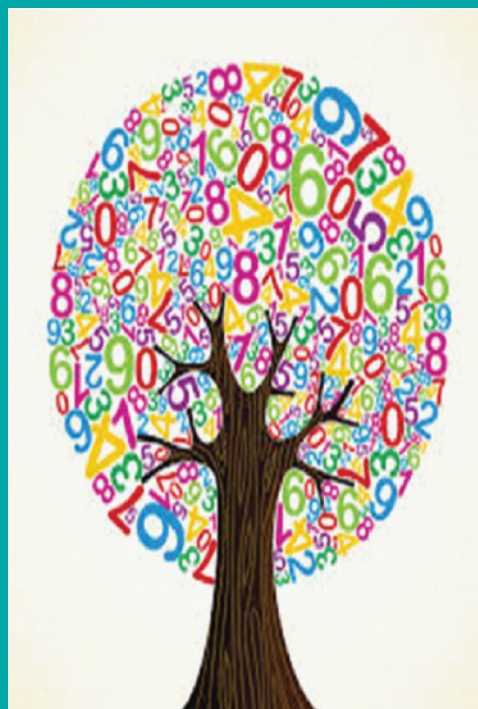
### Progression

Successful completion of this course will enable progression onto both further and higher education, a Modern Apprenticeship or employment in a range of industries.

### Student Comments

"This course teaches you about how mathematics is used in real life situations, and will hugely benefit you in the future."

Year 12 student



# MEDIA STUDIES - Level 3 BTEC

## Examboard

Edexcel

## Why Study Media Studies?

Choosing to study a BTEC National in Creative Digital Media Production is an excellent decision to make for many reasons. You will apply your learning through practical assessments in the form of internally assessed assignments and externally assessed tasks and on-screen exams.

Expect to be 'hands-on'. Some of your units are practical and focus on the skills and knowledge needed in the workplace. You will learn new things and learn how to apply your knowledge.

BTEC learners are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and be keen and well-organised. You should enjoy having more freedom, while knowing you can still ask for help or support if you need it. You will also develop a critical understanding of media theory and will explore ethical, moral, social and cultural ideas.

Media is a level 3 course equivalent to one A-Level. This course is designed to give students a broad understanding of Media, whilst allowing students plenty of scope to focus on the Film and television industry. You will gain an understanding of the ways in which Media organizations are managed and how Media products are marketed. You will be encouraged to develop a critical awareness of the media in society and will explore ethical, moral, social and cultural dimensions.

## Content of Course

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media Production is a course that is taught over 360 guided learning hours (GLH) and will be completed in two years. It includes core and optional specialist units.

You must complete the three core units and the one optional specialist unit that your teacher has chosen for you to reach a total of 360 GLH.

Unit	Core Units
1	Media Representations
4	Pre-production portfolio
8	Responding to a Commission
Optional Specialist Units	
10	Film Production: Fiction

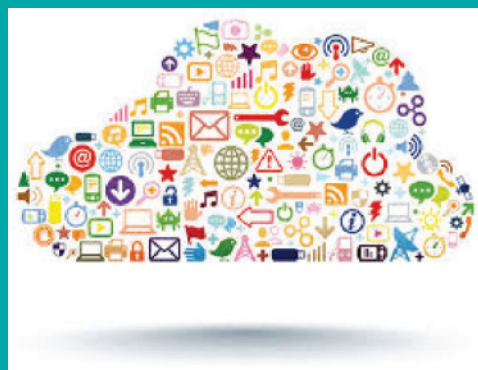
There is an emphasis on coursework. You must be committed and prepared to work independently and collaboratively. You will study the following units:

Unit 1: Pre-production Techniques for Creative Media Production

Unit 2: Communication Skills for Creative Media Production

Unit 3: Research Techniques for Creative Media Production

You will also study an additional four units that specialize in Film Studies and video production.





# MEDIA STUDIES - Level 3 BTEC

## Assessment

The course involves a mixture of 2 coursework units that your school assess (internal) and 2 exam units that the exam board sets and marks (external). You will sit your exam for Unit 1: Media Representations in year 12 and the exam for Unit 8: Responding to a Commission in year 13. There may be an opportunity to re-take your exams if necessary.

## Entry Criteria

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English

## Progression

UCAS points are awarded for progression to university and this course is the equivalent of one A Level. Media is particularly useful for studying Film Studies or Media at university but also for any subject which values creatively and analytical skills. The media industries employ a huge number of people who undertake a wide range of job roles using an array of different skills.

When you think of the media sector, you may think of just a small part of the media, such as working in television, but the sector encompasses many different industries and therefore opens doors to a vast array of opportunities.

## Student Comments

"Media is a really interesting subject where we learn about social media, TV, games, films and much more!"

**Year 12 student**

"I loved planning and making my short horror film! Because I had learnt all about media language I was able to use different techniques to make my film look really professional!"

**Year 13 student**

# SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY - Level 3 OCR Technical Certificate (Single Award)

## Examboard

OCR

## Why Study Cambridge Technicals in Sport and Physical Activity?

The Cambridge Technical in Sport and Physical Activity gives you a chance to gain an understanding of the key concepts and practical skills required in the sporting vocational sector. You study a wide variety of sports units and are assessed through exams, project work and practical sports. It will prepare you with the knowledge and understanding to work in the sporting sector.

## Content of Course

### Compulsory Units

**Unit 1** Body systems and the effects of physical activity

**Unit 2** Sports coaching and activity leadership

**Unit 3** Sports organisation and development

**Optional Units** (we will pick the most suitable two units from the following)

**Unit 5** Performance analysis in sport and exercise

**Unit 8** Organisation of sports events

**Unit 13** Health and fitness testing for sport and exercise

**Unit 17** Sports injuries and rehabilitation

**Unit 18** Practical skills in sport and physical activities

**Unit 19** Sport and exercise psychology

## Assessment

Units 1 and 3 are assessed through an external written exam. All the other units are assignment/project based assessments

## Entry Criteria

Grade 4 or above in GCSE PE or Grade 44 or above in GCSE Combined Science or a Level 2 Pass or above in OCR Cambridge National/BTEC Level 2 Sport.

## Progression

It is an ideal course to progress into vocational work within the sports and leisure industry, or to continue with further education at university.

## Student Comments

"It's fun and enjoyable to do because you learn about different aspects of the sport industry. You do this through practical and theory lessons and develop your independent research skills and teamwork during group tasks"

**Year 12 student**

"If you want a career in sport, this course is most helpful. It helps you understand how the sports industry works"

**Year 13 student**



# CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA - Level 2 BTEC

## Examboard

Edexcel

## Why Study Creative Media?

This level 2 course is designed to give you a broad understanding of the digital media industries whilst also allowing plenty of scope to focus on selected areas of the industry such as moving image production and web production. You will gain an understanding of the ways in which media institutions are managed and how media products are produced and marketed. You will be encouraged to develop a critical awareness of the media within society and will actively explore ethical, moral, social and cultural dimensions.

## Content of Course

The core units you will complete are:

**Unit 1:** Digital Media sectors and Audiences

**Unit 2:** Planning and Pitching a Digital Media Product

The optional specialist units you will complete are:

### Unit 3: Digital Moving Image Production

Unit 6: Website Production

## Assessment

The course is taught over 120 guided learning hours (GLH) and will be completed in one year. It has core and optional specialist units.

You must complete the two core units and the two optional specialist units that your teachers have chosen for you to reach a total of 120 GLH.

The course involves a mixture of coursework units that your school assess (internal) and an exam unit that the exam board sets and marks (external). You will sit your exam for Unit 1: Digital Media Sectors and Audiences in January. There may be an opportunity to re-take this in June if necessary.

## Entry Criteria

A Grade 3 or above in English GCSE.

## Progression

The course has been designed to provide a broad knowledge of Media and will develop a range of skills directly relevant to employment in the media industry.

## Student Comments

"The course is really interesting and has given me a good understanding of how the media impacts on society"

Year 12 student

"I want to have a career in the media and this course has given me the skills that will make me successful"

Year 12 student



# INFORMATION & CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY - Level 2 BTEC

## Examboard

Edexcel

## Why Study Level 2 BTEC in Information and Creative Technology?

It has been developed to: inspire and enthuse learners to become technology savvy – producers of technology products and systems, it gives learners the opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge of the Information Technology sector and to gain the practical skills.

## Content of Course

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The Online World, Digital Portfolio and Databases.

## Assessment

One external assessment (Online test) and internal coursework assessment.

## Entry Criteria

Good commitment to coursework and an interest in ICT.

## Progression

Gives learners the potential opportunity to enter employment within a wide range of job roles across the Information Technology sector and some aspects of the creative industries, such as Software Engineer, Website Content Manager, Computer Animator and Graphic. Opportunity to continue to level 3 qualifications, such as the BTEC Level 3 Nationals in IT.

## Student Comments

"This course is really interesting - I am learning and understanding more about computers and technology, and it will help me to get a job in IT."

Year 12 student

