



Sixth Form Courses **2024**

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APPLICATION TIMELINE

When?	What happens?	More information
16 November 2023	Sixth Form Open Evening	<p>A chance to find out more about the opportunities on offer at The Spires College Sixth Form.</p> <p>Explore courses that you might be interested in and get expert advice about the right Study Programme for you.</p>
November and December 2023	Year 11 Careers Meetings Course Taster Sessions	<p>Advice and Guidance sessions for students from The Spires College continue.</p> <p>Opportunities to find out more about courses and qualifications you might be interested in.</p>
12 January 2024	Applications Deadline	Your completed Application Form must be completed online and submitted by this date.
January and February 2024	Sixth Form Applicants' Meetings	<p>Applicants are invited to meet with the Sixth Form Team. This is an opportunity for you to ask any remaining questions that you might have.</p> <p>Your personal Study Programme will be discussed and agreed.</p>
May and June 2024	GCSE Examinations	
July 2024	Sixth Form Induction	<p>All applicants are expected to attend Induction.</p> <p>This is a great opportunity for you to meet with your tutor and your course teachers.</p>
22 August 2024	GCSE Results Day	The Sixth Form Team will be available for advice, guidance, and support.
3 September 2024	Start of Term	Welcome to the Sixth Form!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the entry requirements for The Spires College Sixth Form?

Your Study Programme will be personal to you and, so, it is difficult to specify general entry requirements. Whatever the courses you choose, the most important requirements are:

- ▲ an enthusiastic and positive approach to your studies
- ▲ a commitment to being part of The Spires College community and meeting the high expectations we have of our students
- ▲ excellent attendance and punctuality

Each pathway has its own entry requirements and many of the courses within each pathway have further, specific entry requirements. You will need to meet both the pathway and course specific entry requirements. It is important that you check the course details carefully. If you haven't got a Grade 4 in GCSE English or Maths when you join the Sixth Form, you will be required to continue your studies in these subjects and resit these qualifications.

How many courses should I choose?

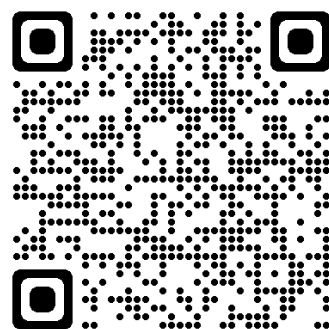
Your Study Programme in the Sixth Form is about much more than just the courses you choose. Your Programme is personal to you and will be made up of examination courses, tutorial, the opportunity to develop important skills for learning and life and a variety of other activities. We aim to provide you with a Programme which meets your individual needs and will provide you with the qualifications, skills, and experiences to enable you to progress to Higher Education, employment, or further training, as well as developing your personal interests. The Sixth Form Team will advise you carefully about the right number and types of courses for you. As a guide, most students choose three Level 3 courses.

Can you guarantee that all the courses that I choose will be available?

The courses in this brochure are our 'offer'. Whilst we would love to run all the courses, sometimes we are not able to. Decisions about whether to run courses will depend on the number of students who opt for them. If we are not able to run a particular course for any reason, we will let you know in good time and advise you on choosing a different course.

How do I apply to The Spires College Sixth Form?

Simply complete the application form online using this QR code:
The deadline for receipt of applications is 12 January 2024.
See the Application Timeline for more information.



Will I have to come for an interview?

We meet with all applicants. This isn't really an interview; it's an opportunity to discuss your Study Programme and make sure that your Study Programme is exactly right for you. It's really important that you attend this meeting. Parents and carers are welcome to come, too.

What will happen at my Applicant's Meeting? Do I need to bring anything with me?

If you're not already a student at The Spires College, you will need to bring a recent school report with you. Your letter will tell you exactly what you need to bring. Applicants' Meetings will be held throughout January and February. Your meeting will be with a member of the Sixth Form Team. Your meeting is an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you might have and for us to advise you about the right courses and activities for your personalised Study Programme. At the end of your meeting, you will be given an 'offer' confirming your Study Programme and the grades you will need to get to be able to do those courses.

Where can I get advice about which courses to choose?

Several factors might influence your choice of Study Programme:

- ▲ you might have enjoyed or been good at a subject at GCSE
- ▲ you might need a particular subject for your chosen career path or university course

In addition to these factors, you should also bear the following in mind:

- ▲ some subjects are much harder at Level 3 than at GCSE
- ▲ research carefully which Level 3 subjects and qualifications you need for your future plans. Check with university admissions if you are unsure or visit the UCAS website
- ▲ do your homework about what particular subjects involve at Level 3. Speak to current students and attend Drop Ins and Taster Sessions so you can meet teachers and get honest and informed advice and guidance

Entry onto Level 3 courses is based on whether you have the right qualifications at GCSE to be able to cope with the demands of the subject at Level 3. Each course has a different entry requirement, so you need to check carefully. The decisions you make now will affect the university courses open to you and, in an increasingly competitive market for places, your choices really do matter.

Universities need to know that students are well prepared for the academic rigour required to study at degree level. Some universities will require you to have studied a particular subject at A Level and many prefer that students have included at least one 'facilitating' subject as part of their Study Programme. These are:

English ▲ Mathematics ▲ Biology ▲ Chemistry ▲ Physics ▲ History ▲ Geography ▲ Languages

By choosing one or more of these subjects, you are keeping as many options open as possible.

We know that it can all seem a bit overwhelming but there is plenty of support available to help you to make the right choices. You can attend 'drop in' sessions and Taster Sessions. We will let you know when they are via your tutor. If you are not a student at The Spires College, or if you are and need advice when there are no 'drop ins', simply give us a call on 01803 408852 or email sixthform@thespirescollege.com. Someone will give you a call or arrange for you to come in for a chat.

Can I study part-time?

All our Level 3 programmes are full-time, two-year programmes. We do not offer part-time or one-year programmes in the Sixth Form.

What happens if I change my mind about what I want to study?

You just need to let the Sixth Form Team know what you would like to change to. If it is a major change, we may ask you to come in for another meeting.

What happens if I don't get my predicted grades?

The most important thing is that you are studying on the right courses at the right level. Our admissions process takes place the day after your GCSE results are available. Every student will have an admissions interview and, if you haven't got the grades that you need, we will work with you to look at the options available to you. This might mean changing course. The Sixth Form Team will also be available for advice on GCSE results day, or you can contact our Helpline. Full details will be on the website.

LEVEL 3 COURSE REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE

Applied Science BTEC National	Grades 5-5 or above in GCSE Combined Science or Grade 5 in GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics	Mathematics Advanced Level	Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics
Art & Design (Fine Art) Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art	Further Mathematics Advanced Level	Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics or Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 7 in Level 2 Further Mathematics
Art & Design (Photography) Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art or GCSE Photography	Mathematical Studies (Core Mathematics) Level 3 Certificate	Grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics
Biology Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology and Grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry or GCSE Physics	Music BTEC National	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Music or Merit or above in Level 2 RSL or Level 2 BTEC Music
Business BTEC National	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Business Studies (if studied)	Performing Arts BTEC National	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Drama or Merit or above in BTEC Level 2 Performing Arts
Chemistry Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry and Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology or GCSE Physics	Philosophy Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE English
English Literature Advanced Level	Grades 6 or above in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature	Physical Education Advanced Level	Grade 5 or above in GCSE PE and Grades 5 or above in GCSE Science
Extended Project Qualification	No course specific entry requirements	Physics Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Physics and Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology or GCSE Chemistry
Film Studies Advanced Level	Grades 6 or above in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature	Politics Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE History or Grade 6 or above in GCSE English
French Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE French	Psychology Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Psychology (if studied)
Geography Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography	Spanish Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Spanish
History Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE History or Grade 6 or above in GCSE English	Travel and Tourism BTEC National	Merit or above in Level 2 Travel and Tourism (if studied)
Information Technology BTEC National	Merit or above in Level 2 IT (if studied)		

LEVEL 3 ACADEMIC

To succeed on our **Academic Pathway**, you will have at least **five GCSEs**, including English and Mathematics, at **Grade 5** or above.

Most of our Academic Pathway qualifications have **course specific entry requirements**, too, and you will need to meet these as well as the Academic Pathway entry requirements.

If you choose Academic Pathway courses, you are likely to be planning to progress onto further study at **university**.

We will advise you on the right number and choice of Academic Pathway courses for you, depending on both your GCSE results and your future plans.

ART & DESIGN (FINE ART) Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art & Design

Exam Board Pearson Edexcel

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art

Overview

Advanced Level Art and Design (Fine Art) is a course which allows you to develop your artistic and creative skills in great depth. It is a challenging course which will require you to take risks, explore new ideas, make complex connections between practical skills and artistic concepts and analyse your own work as well as that of others.

What will I learn?

In Year 12 you will be introduced to a range of starting-points, techniques and concepts. For the first term, you will undertake a 'mini-Foundation'; in which you will be challenged to take creative risks and push beyond your comfort zone through a series of diverse workshops. In the Spring term of Year 12, you will use your Foundation knowledge to begin your personal investigation, which will be developed and refined through to the end of the first term in Year 13. The personal investigation comprises your sketchbook and portfolio work through which you explore a chosen theme or idea. The Spring term of Year 13 will see you complete a shorter focused exam investigation, the externally set assignment (ESA).

▲ **Personal Investigation** (60% of A Level marks)

The A Level Personal Investigation is student led and gives you the opportunity to explore a topic or theme about which you are passionate. Your medium and the subject matter of your investigation are entirely your choice. The Personal Investigation portfolio results in one or more final outcomes, and it is supported by an in-depth analytical essay of 1000- 3000 words.

▲ **Externally Set Assignment** (40% of A Level marks)

For the Externally Set Assignment, you will be given a range of topics from which to select, and using your chosen topic, you will produce a body of work in response over the course of 8-10 weeks. The project will commence in February of year 13. You will produce your supporting work during lessons and at home before producing the final outcome independently in a 15-hour practical, under examination conditions.

How will I learn?

A Level Art and Design is a practical subject with lessons designed to maximise your understanding through active participation. You will create work based on investigation of contemporary and historical art sources and will document this journey through the use of a sketchbook. You will be encouraged to become active in understanding the development of art in real time by responding to news articles and events. You will learn by producing work using a variety of skills and processes such as printing, painting, drawing and use of digital media.

Where could it lead?

As one of the fastest growing industries globally, opportunities for employment in the creative arts are vast. You will develop the independent working skills and experience required to succeed both at university level and in employment in areas such as illustration, game design, graphic design, theatre design, fashion, museum curation, restoration/conservation, art therapy and architecture. For students seeking to take their studies in Art & Design further, the usual route after A Level is to take a one-year Foundation course, although some students progress straight onto degree courses

ART & DESIGN (PHOTOGRAPHY) Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art & Design

Exam Board Pearson Edexcel

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art **or** GCSE Photography **or** a portfolio of relevant work. Access to a digital SLR camera is recommended but not essential

Overview

Advanced Level Photography is fast-paced rigorous course of study, in which you will be required to reflect on your creative process and critically analyse the work of others as well as your own. You will develop your knowledge of visual communication and create imagery through a range of different traditional and digital media. You will have access to a large darkroom and fully equipped studio space as well as a modern computer suite with the full Adobe editing suite.

What will I learn?

You will be introduced to a variety of experiences, exploring a range of photographic processes and techniques. Your work will develop through in-depth exploration of both practical and critical/contextual approaches. In the first term of Year 12, you will work through a series of workshops to introduce you to and extend your understanding of the following areas of study: portraiture; commercial photography; still-life photography; documentary photography; experimental imagery; editorial photography; photographic installation; photographic process and landscape photography. In the Spring of Year 12, you will use your broad knowledge and skills to establish a focus for your Personal Investigation, which you will sustain and develop through to Year 13, followed by the Externally Set Assignment in the Spring of Year 13.

▲ **Personal Investigation** (60% of A Level marks)

The A Level Personal Investigation is student led and gives you the opportunity to explore a topic or theme about which you are passionate. The techniques and the subject matter of your investigation are entirely your choice. The Personal Investigation portfolio results in a series of final outcomes, and it is supported by an in-depth analytical essay of 1000- 3000 words.

▲ **Externally Set Assignment** (40% of A Level marks)

For the Externally Set Assignment, you will be given a range of topics from which to select, and using your chosen topic, you will produce a body of work in response over the course of 8-10 weeks. The project will commence in February of year 13. You will produce your supporting work during lessons and at home before producing the final outcomes independently in a 15-hour practical, under examination conditions.

How will I learn?

You will be required to work both independently and collaboratively to create a personal investigation into a particular area of photography and your own chosen theme. Initially, you will be introduced to a wide range of different genres and techniques before deciding upon the direction you would like to focus and develop in great depth. Support is given through workshops, regular teacher feedback, 1:1 discussion and group critiques.

Where could it lead?

Photography is particularly valuable for careers in the arts, design, fashion, print and web-based journalism, merchandising, archaeology, forensics, conservation, pathology, advertising, marketing and many more. In a world where digital imagery, the internet and social media are integral vehicles in selling and promoting products, lifestyles and communicating visual messages, employers are always keen to employ people with a creative outlook and skills. This A Level is a well-respected and rigorously assessed course, valued highly by universities (including those in the Russell Group).

BIOLOGY Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Biology

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grades 6-6 or above in GCSE Combined Science **or** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology **and** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry **or** GCSE Physics. Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics is also required

Overview

- ▲ How can two metres of DNA be crammed into a nucleus with a diameter of one hundredth of a millimetre?
- ▲ What does the inside of an eyeball look like?
- ▲ How does the heart pump blood in a perfect one-way system?

These are just some of the many fascinating questions which form part of the study of Biology – life and living processes – and which make this subject one of the most popular at The Spires College.

Advanced Level Biology is a challenging, rewarding course that will help you to develop the knowledge and skills required for Higher Education and for a successful career.

What will I learn?

In the **first year** of the course, you will study:

- ▲ Biological molecules
- ▲ Cells
- ▲ How organisms exchange substances with their environment
- ▲ Genetic information, variation, and relationships between organisms

In the **second year**, you will learn about:

- ▲ Energy transfers in and between organisms
- ▲ How organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- ▲ Genetics, populations, evolution, and ecosystems
- ▲ The control of gene expression

The eight topics are assessed via three written examinations at the end of the course. Each examination lasts two hours. Papers 1 and 2 consist of both short and long answer questions as well as comprehension questions. Paper 3 comprises structured questions, critical analysis, and an essay question.

Practical Skills Endorsement

This qualification will give you opportunities to use relevant apparatus and techniques to develop and demonstrate specific practical skills. To achieve a pass, you must demonstrate that you are competent in all the practical skills listed in the subject content requirements. You will demonstrate your practical competency by completing a series of core practicals throughout the course. This does not form part of your overall A Level grade.

How will I learn?

Your lessons will take many forms and will involve a range of interactive teaching and learning strategies. There may be lectures, seminars, discussion groups or practical work. You will be expected to read journals, engage in debate and to take an active part in your own learning.

Where could it lead?

Biology offers a wide range of career and Higher Education opportunities. It is a broad science which allows you to study a range of topics which are traditional yet relevant to today's research. Biology is going through a period of great expansion and interest. It offers great opportunities and is well placed to become the science of the new millennium.

CHEMISTRY Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Chemistry

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grades 6-6 or above in GCSE Combined Science **or** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry **and** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology or GCSE Physics. Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics is also required

Overview

Advanced Level Chemistry is divided into two strands:

- ▲ The **academic strand** covers all aspects of physical, inorganic, and organic chemistry, all three of which develop in complexity over the two years of the course.
- ▲ The **practical strand** will involve a minimum of 12 assessed practical activities. At the end of two years, three written examinations will be taken, one of which will cover practical techniques and skills.

What will I learn?

▲ Paper 1 **Physical Chemistry and Inorganic Chemistry**

You will study a range of Physical Chemistry topics as well as practical skills and Inorganic Chemistry. You will develop and practise practical skills linked to the course. Your learning will be assessed via a two-hour exam comprising both short and long answer questions. This exam contributes 35% of the A Level marks.

▲ Paper 2 **Physical Chemistry and Organic Chemistry**

You will study a range of Physical Chemistry topics as well as with practical skills and Organic Chemistry. Like Paper 1, your learning will be assessed via a two-hour exam comprising both short and long answer questions. Paper 2 contributes 35% of the A Level marks.

▲ Paper 3 **All Topics and Practical Techniques**

This paper assesses all aspects of the course as well as the practical techniques acquired during two years of A Level study. Your learning will be assessed via a two-hour exam which contributes 30% of the A Level marks.

Practical Skills Endorsement

This qualification will give you opportunities to use relevant apparatus and techniques to develop and demonstrate specific practical skills. Advanced Level Chemistry requires many interesting and specialist practical techniques which demand a range of core skills and competencies. There is a minimum of 12 assessed practicals, providing a certificate of practical competency which is particularly valued by universities, especially for those pursuing Chemistry at degree level.

How will I learn?

Lessons demand high levels of participation, and you will be encouraged to discuss and critique your work as a valuable tool to help your progress. Reading and re-writing of notes is essential, and homework is frequent. The course content is very diverse and, while demanding, it is an incredibly interesting and rewarding branch of scientific study.

Where could it lead?

A Level Chemistry is an essential or preferred qualification for a wide variety of science related courses at university, but it is also viewed very favourably by the business and financial sector. It is commonplace for chemistry graduates to move into other areas of science. As a result, many doors are open to Chemistry graduates and career opportunities are very diverse. Chemistry is also a wise choice for students studying subjects mainly in the Arts or Humanities but who wish to maintain breadth and diversity in their studies. A Chemistry qualification shows that you have qualities important to many non-scientific careers, as well as scientific ones: that's why you'll find chemists in everything from food to finance!

ENGLISH LITERATURE Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Literature

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 6 or above in **both** GCSE English Language **and** GCSE English Literature

Overview

Advanced Level English Literature involves students in the study of a range of literary texts from a variety of genres and contexts. You will develop new approaches to the ways in which texts are analysed, interpreted, and explored and will examine the ways in which authors' methods shape complex meanings and ideas. You will develop your ability to analyse the structure and language of a range of poetry, drama texts and prose as well as exploring the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they are set in order to make connections across literary genres. You will be assessed through two examinations at the end of the course. You will also complete a non-examined component that requires you to explore texts of your own choosing, both creatively and analytically.

What will I learn?

- ▲ **Paper 1 Love through the Ages:** you will study a Shakespeare play focussing on the ways in which the theme of love is explored through language and dramatic technique. You will also study one prose and one poetry text, one of which will have been written pre-1900 and one post-1900. The exam will ask you to relate a printed extract from your studied play to the play as a whole. You will learn to respond to unseen poetry and to compare prose and poetry texts. Both these skills will be tested in the exam.
- ▲ **Paper 2 Texts in Shared Contexts:** you will study three texts – one prose, one poetry and one drama - exploring aspects of literature connected through a period of time. The exam will test your ability to compare texts and to respond to unseen texts, as well as responding to an individual text in detail. There are two periods of time from which to choose:
 - ▲ **WW1 and its Aftermath** explores literature arising out of World War 1 but extends this period to allow reflection on the full impact of the war that reverberates up to the present day. It considers the impact on combatants, non-combatants, and subsequent generations as well as its social, political, personal, and literary legacies.
 - ▲ **Modern Times** takes the end of World War 2 as its historical starting point and explores both modern and contemporary literature's engagement with some of the social, political, personal, and literary issues which have helped to shape the latter half of the 20th century and the early decades of the 21st century.
- ▲ **Non-examined assessment Texts across Time:** you will undertake an independent, comparative, critical study of two texts. With teacher guidance, you will be encouraged to read widely and, in this component, can choose texts that you find particularly stimulating and engaging to focus. You will receive regular support and feedback but will be expected to explore ideas and interpretations entirely of your own choosing in order to produce an essay of 2500 words together with a supporting bibliography.

How will I learn?

Lessons are designed to encourage active participation. Discussion and group or individual presentations are regular features, and you will often be expected to lead learning. Lessons will teach you to develop reading, writing, and thinking skills; beyond the classroom, learning is consolidated and supplemented by independent reading, research and engagement with relevant social and historical texts.

Where could it lead?

English Literature is valued both by universities and in the workplace. Literature students are highly competent in analysing texts, thinking creatively, and writing coherently, skills essential in many professions including law, journalism, education, public relations, management, media, and the arts.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

Qualification Level 3 Extended Project Qualification

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements This one-year course **must** form part of a Study Programme comprising at least three other two-year, Level 3 qualifications

Overview

The Extended Project will develop and extend from one or more of your study areas or from an area of personal interest or activity outside of your Study Programme. It will be based on a topic chosen by you and agreed by your supervisor.

The Extended Project Qualification offers opportunities for you to:

- ▲ make a significant contribution to the choice and design of an extended project and take responsibility either for an individual task or for a defined task within a group project
- ▲ develop and improve your own learning and performance as a critical, reflective, and independent student
- ▲ develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- ▲ extend your planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and presentation skills
- ▲ develop and apply skills creatively, demonstrating initiative and enterprise
- ▲ use your learning experiences to support your aspirations for Higher Education
- ▲ transfer skills developed as part of your extended project to other areas of study

What will I learn?

You will be required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- ▲ choose an area of interest
- ▲ draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval
- ▲ plan, research and carry out the project
- ▲ deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience
- ▲ provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment

To achieve these outcomes, you will be taught:

- ▲ research skills including the ability to search for and identify suitable sources of information in your chosen subject area
- ▲ any skills or techniques that will be required for the safe and effective execution of your project which are not part of your Study Programme, for example safe laboratory or workshop technique, professional codes of practice, ethical guidelines, or research methodology
- ▲ ICT skills that will enhance the production of your report and the development of your project
- ▲ project management skills including time, resource, and task management
- ▲ the format and structure of accepted academic forms of research report
- ▲ referencing, the evaluation of sources and the prevention of plagiarism
- ▲ presentation skills

How will I learn?

You will be taught the necessary skills to undertake your project, but this qualification demands extended autonomous work.

Where could it lead?

The Extended Project Qualification attracts UCAS points as a qualification in its own right. However, taken alongside other subjects, it is highly regarded by Higher Education institutions. Writing about your EPQ in your UCAS personal statement shows university admissions that you have the passion, skills, and determination to carry out research and it distinguishes you from other students. It also helps develop skills that employers value in the workplace.

FILM STUDIES Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Film Studies

Exam Board Eduqas

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 6 or above in **both** GCSE English Language **and** GCSE English Literature

Overview

Film Studies is an extremely enjoyable and worthwhile subject to study. Not only will it change the way you watch films, but more importantly it will challenge you to think in new ways and question or change your perspective on a whole host of issues, for example, representation of race or gender. Studying film allows you to understand important issues and developments within history, society, and culture, using film as the medium with which to gain a greater insight into these areas. From silent cinema to contemporary Hollywood, the films on this course have fantastic critical reputations. They are films of depth and substance which have been purposefully chosen to offer rich and interesting analysis.

The study of film is highly regarded. Film Studies has been an academic discipline within universities for over 50 years and is regarded as an academic subject in its own right. Oxford and Cambridge are now offering Masters and PhD courses in Film Studies and Screen Arts. Russell Group universities accept Film Studies as an appropriate A level qualification when prospective students apply to study a humanities or arts related discipline.

What will I learn?

Advanced Level Film Studies is assessed through three components:

- ▲ **Component 1 Varieties of Film and Filmmaking:** you will study classic Hollywood through Hitchcock's work, American blockbusters and independent cinema, and British films such as *Trainspotting* or *Shaun of the Dead*.
- ▲ **Component 2 Global Filmmaking Perspectives:** you will study the work of Guillermo del Toro, documentary and silent film, and experimental cinema through films such as *Pulp Fiction*.
- ▲ **Component 3 Creative Production** This unit assesses your ability to apply your knowledge of film in a creative task, either by filming and editing your own short film or writing a screenplay.

How will I learn?

There is so much more to Film Studies than simply watching films. When watching a film, we might regard it as relaxation or escapism. However, the in-depth study of film involves coming from a very different starting point. As well as gaining an appreciation of film as an art form in terms of its visual storytelling, studying film can enhance your understanding of the world in terms of competing values, attitudes, and beliefs. We will explore the 'language' used by filmmakers to create meaning for audiences as well as the contexts surrounding a film's production. The exams challenge students to analyse films in detail, writing academic essays that explore these topics.

Where could it lead?

Film is one of the most relevant subjects today. The development of deeper critical and creative thinking gained by studying films can enhance many different career paths and is a much sought-after transferable skill in both employment and further study. Employment in the screen industries has grown by over 20% since 2009. Career paths for students of Film may, of course, include practical avenues such as filmmaking, directing, producing and editing but a qualification in Film Studies also allows you to move into more theoretical pathways such as film criticism, journalism or education.

FRENCH Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in French

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 6 or above in GCSE French

Overview

A Level French builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE level or equivalent. The course constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society.

What will I learn?

- ▲ Social issues and trends
- ▲ Political and artistic culture
- ▲ Grammar
- ▲ Literary texts and films
- ▲ Individual research project

How will I learn?

A range of teaching styles will be employed to enhance students' linguistic skills, alongside individual study, which is particularly important for the societal and cultural elements of the course. The course promotes and develops students' capacity for critical thinking on the basis of their knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the country or countries where the language is spoken.

Students will be encouraged to develop control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes as increasingly confident, accurate and independent users of the language.

Where could it lead?

An A Level in French is a prized possession both in the world of business and academia.

Students often follow career paths, both in the home country and abroad, in fields as diverse as education, journalism, translation and Interpreting, marketing and business.

Students with an A Level in French demonstrate the necessary critical thinking skills and independence of thought to thrive at university and careers in the above fields often follow study at a higher level.

GEOGRAPHY Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Geography

Exam Board Pearson Edexcel

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography

Overview

Advanced Level Geography incorporates a wide range of contemporary global issues that are of great importance to modern society. The focus of the course is the interaction between people and the environment as well as the major global challenges that face the world's population.

What will I learn?

Advanced Level Geography comprises **four** areas of study:

▲ Dynamic Landscapes

- ▲ Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- ▲ Landscape Systems, Processes and Change

▲ Dynamic Places

- ▲ Globalisation
- ▲ Shaping Places

▲ Physical Systems and Sustainability

- ▲ The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- ▲ The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

▲ Human Systems and Geopolitics

- ▲ Superpowers
- ▲ Global Development and Connections

Your learning will be assessed via three external examinations taken at the end of the course (80% of the total A Level marks) and an Independent Investigation worth 20% of the total A Level marks. The Independent Investigation takes the form of a written report of 3000-4000 words.

Fieldwork, research, and practical work are all part of the wider investigation process. They form an intrinsic part of each area of study and are central to your Independent Investigation. You will undertake a minimum of four days of fieldwork during the course; this will inform your independent investigation task.

How will I learn?

A Level Geography demands an enquiring approach and an interest in the world around you. Wide background reading of quality newspapers and magazines is essential. Lessons will be a mixture of research, presentations, geographical field work skills, and investigations using the internet, texts, journals, and DVDs. You will learn to collect, present, and interpret data; to analyse information; to produce coherent, well-argued essays and reports; and to empathise and develop an understanding of values and opinions.

Where could it lead?

Geography is inherently multidisciplinary in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills needed to work across the physical and social sciences. The subject will enable you to have access to a wide range of possible career and Higher Education opportunities. You will learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course. These skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers and universities as being of great value. The subject also has one of the best employment records with only 5.8% of Geography graduates still job-hunting six months after they graduated, against an average of 7.3%.

HISTORY Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in History

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 6 or above in GCSE History **or** Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language **or** Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Literature. It is not necessary to have studied History at GCSE

Overview

History is a well-respected subject which would suit both those students who wish to specialise in history as a career and those who wish to create a 'well balanced' academic profile.

What will I learn?

▲ Component 1 **Making of a Superpower: USA 1865-1975**

From Lincoln to Nixon, from the Civil War to the Cold War, this unit covers the sweeping history of America from the bitter divisions of the mid-19th century to its position as a dominant world superpower in the 20th century. It looks at the issues that blighted Black people from the Ku Klux Klan to the Civil Rights Movement. It looks at the Boom and Bust of the 1920s and prohibition, the Great Depression, and the New Deal in the 1930s. A sweeping story of possibly the most powerful and yet most divided nation on earth.

▲ Component 2 **The Making of Modern Britain: 1951-2007**

This unit takes you from Churchill's return to government in 1951 through to the era of New Labour and the Blair/Brown years. The course touches on important economic and political developments in British history, such as relations with Europe and joining the EEC, the winter of discontent, Thatcher's government, the poll tax, and the miners' strikes. Social developments are also considered, including changes to youth culture in the 1950s, race relations, changes for women and the impact of the swinging sixties. There is also a focus on foreign affairs, including the Suez crisis, the troubles in Northern Ireland, the Cold War, and the Falklands conflict. This course provides students with a vital understanding of modern Britain and the issues that still impact us today.

▲ Component 3 **Coursework**

This non-examined assessment covers different aspects of Witchcraft in the 16th and 17th centuries. You will be taught a series of lessons on this topic and will then be able to choose from a selection of essay titles. The coursework comprises an essay of between 3,500 - 4,500 words and you will be able to complete your own research. You will have the chance to assess the utility of primary sources and the views of historians to support your arguments.

How will I learn?

You will be given the opportunity to acquire and effectively communicate knowledge and understanding of selected periods of history; develop understanding of historical terms and concepts; explore the significance of events, individuals, issues and societies in history; understand the nature of historical evidence and the methods used by historians in analysis and evaluation; develop your understanding of how the past has been interpreted and represented and develop your interest in, and enthusiasm for, history.

Where could it lead?

History deals in-depth with the ideas, dreams, and actions of the most fascinating creature on the planet: humans! By studying History, you will develop key skills in researching, analysing, and synthesising information from a range of sources and producing substantiated and reasoned conclusions. Advanced Level History is highly regarded by universities. Many prominent lawyers, politicians, and professionals in a wide variety of fields have enjoyed an academic historical training which has been beneficial to their careers. This course is ideal for both students who are considering specialising in History at degree level as well as those students following different paths who want to show a well-rounded education and well-developed skills in debate.

MATHEMATICS Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics

Overview

Advanced Level Mathematics develops the mathematical concepts you will have learned at GCSE level whilst enriching your understanding of how mathematics can be applied to realistic situations. It emphasises how mathematical ideas are interconnected and how mathematics can be applied to model situations using algebra and other representations, to help make sense of data, to understand the physical world and to solve problems in a variety of contexts, including social sciences and business. Advanced Level Mathematics prepares students for further study and employment in a wide range of disciplines involving the use of mathematics as well as supporting your mathematical needs across a broad range of other subjects at this level. The A Level course is assessed through three equally-weighted written papers:

- ▲ **Paper 1:** Pure Mathematics
- ▲ **Paper 2:** Pure Mathematics and Mechanics
- ▲ **Paper 3:** Pure Mathematics and Statistics

All exam papers are calculator based, and you will need to obtain a scientific calculator that meets course requirements at the start of the course.

What will I learn?

Advanced Level Mathematics has three over-arching themes:

- ▲ Mathematical argument and proof
- ▲ Mathematical problem-solving
- ▲ Mathematical modeling

It is divided into three branches:

- ▲ **Pure Mathematics:** proof ▲ algebra and functions ▲ coordinate geometry ▲ sequences and series ▲ trigonometry ▲ exponentials and logarithms ▲ calculus ▲ numerical methods for solving equations ▲ vectors
- ▲ **Statistics:** statistical sampling ▲ data presentation and interpretation ▲ probability ▲ statistical distributions ▲ statistical hypothesis testing
- ▲ **Mechanics:** quantities and units ▲ kinematics ▲ forces ▲ Newton's laws ▲ moments

How will I learn?

During lessons, you will be encouraged to discuss and evaluate mathematical concepts, sometimes in small groups, sometimes as a whole class. Your studies will take an investigative approach to develop your reasoning and problem-solving skills. You will also be expected to take notes and practise key concepts in class. Some topics will be taught using graphical calculators and computers. Advanced Level Mathematics requires a lot of dedication: you will be required to practise the skills you have learned in class with extensive work at home and during your study periods in College. Help and support from your mathematics teachers will be available after College and during lunch times.

Where could it lead?

Mathematics is a versatile qualification, well-respected by employers and is regarded as a 'facilitating' subject for entry to Higher Education by the Russell Group of Universities. Careers for people with good mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid – recent research suggests that those who have a Maths A Level earn a 10% higher income on average – but they are also interesting and rewarding. Mathematics can lead to a variety of fulfilling careers from engineering, design and architecture to philosophy, geography and even careers in music and media.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Further Mathematics

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements 5 GCSEs at grade 9-5 including English Language or Literature. Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics, **or** Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics **and** Grade 7 in Level 2 Further Mathematics. Students **must be studying A Level Mathematics**.

Overview

Particularly strong candidates can consider Further Mathematics A Level in addition to Mathematics A Level. As the name suggests, Further Mathematics takes the elements, skills, and competencies developed in A Level Mathematics even further, with students studying elements of Pure Mathematics, Statistics, Mechanics, and Discrete Mathematics not seen on the A Level course. Two thirds of the course content is Pure Mathematics, with Statistics, Mechanics or Discrete Mathematics making up the rest of the course. This course is designed for students who enjoy exploring the world of mathematics and have a real passion for the subject. It is particularly useful for anyone considering a career in Mathematics, engineering, electronics, economics or accountancy.

What will I learn?

Within the Pure Mathematics elements of Further Mathematics, students will study new 'stand alone' topics such as matrices, complex numbers, graphs, further algebra and proof by induction. Students will study two of Statistics, Mechanics, and Discrete Mathematics; this choice will be made based on the interests of the class. In Statistics, students will further their understanding of distributions, expectations, and confidence intervals, and in Mechanics, students will learn about momentum and circular motion, whilst Discrete Mathematics will further students' understanding of algorithms used in solving decision making problems.

How will I learn?

Through discussion, teacher-led exposition, individual study and group work, students will learn to analyse and solve problems. Further Mathematics will differ to normal Mathematics in that there will be more emphasis on problem solving: this is what universities are looking for in good mathematicians. Students studying Further Mathematics tend to benefit from smaller class sizes with a good teacher to pupil ratio. Moreover, whilst many colleges offer Further Mathematics on a reduced timetable, at The Spires College the Further Mathematics course is given as much lesson time per week as any other A Level. Students will be required to complete a substantial amount of independent study, however, Mathematics staff will also be available after school and during lunch to aid students in this.

Where could it lead?

Similar to the Mathematics A Level, Further Mathematics is regarded as a 'facilitating' subject for entry to higher education by the Russel Group of Universities. It is particularly useful for students aiming to move on to degree courses with large mathematical content, such as Engineering degrees, degrees in Science, and (obviously) degrees in Mathematics. Moreover, having A Level Further Mathematics on a university application is a way to stand out, regardless of degree course. Further Mathematics may also lead to careers in research, engineering, design and architecture, philosophy, geography, music and media.

PHILOSOPHY Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Philosophy

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language **or** GCSE English Literature

Overview

Philosophy literally translates as 'The Love of Wisdom'. As 'wisdom' comes from an earnest and honest analysis of life and the human experience, Philosophy addresses major questions about what it means to be human, the meaning and purpose of existence, and how we can 'best' live this life. Through studying and analysing concepts of Philosophers from a range of contexts, you will seek to not only understand these complex ideas but, in turn, to develop your own perspectives and answers to life's biggest questions. You will have the opportunity to engage with big questions in a purely secular context.

You will be assessed through two examinations at the end of the course. Each exam consists of two sections. This is a very heavily essay based course and so strong essay skills writing are highly recommended.

What will I learn?

▲ Paper 1 **Epistemology and Moral Philosophy**

- ▲ **Epistemology:** you will explore the nature of 'knowledge' by addressing questions such as ▲ What 'is' knowledge? ▲ How do we 'know' anything? ▲ Is there such a thing as real 'truth'? ▲ To what extent can we trust our sense perception in order to give us knowledge of the world? ▲ How reliable is 'reason' as a source of knowledge?
- ▲ **Moral Philosophy:** you will explore questions about what it means for something to be 'right' or 'wrong'/'good' or 'bad'. You will explore questions such as ▲ What makes something 'right' or 'wrong'? ▲ Does the will of the majority override the will of the minority? ▲ Do the consequences of an action make the action justified or are some things just always wrong? ▲ What does it mean to be a 'good' human being? You will also explore applied ethical issues including ▲ stealing ▲ simulated killing (for example, within computer games, plays and films) ▲ eating animals ▲ telling lies

▲ Paper 2 **Metaphysics of God and Metaphysics of Mind**

- ▲ **Metaphysics of God:** you will explore the concept of God by asking questions such as ▲ What 'is' god? ▲ What are the arguments for and against the existence of God? ▲ Does it make sense to talk about 'God'? ▲ If God does exist why is there so much suffering in the world?
- ▲ **Metaphysics of Mind:** you will explore the nature and purpose of 'the mind' and explore questions such as ▲ Is there a distinction between the mind and body or the mind and brain? ▲ Can machines be said to have minds? ▲ Are human beings any more than material objects? ▲ Is there anything beyond the physical?

How will I learn?

Lessons are designed to encourage active participation and are similar in style to those you might find in university seminars. Discussion is essential to all lessons. You will be encouraged to think for yourself beyond the 'taught' content. Lessons will also encourage you to develop reading, writing and critical thinking skills.

Where could it lead?

Philosophy is highly valued by universities and in the workplace because it shows deep, critical level of thought. It has been called 'the ultimate transferrable work skill' with its emphasis on reason and argumentation. A qualification in Philosophy can, therefore, be highly desirable in a vast range of professions. Many who study go onto careers in law, medicine, journalism, politics, economics, business, teaching, International Aid, media to name but a few.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Physical Education

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 5 or above in GCSE PE **and** Grades 5-5 or above in GCSE Combined Science **or** Grade 5 or above in GCSE Biology

Overview

This practical and engaging course has been developed to allow learners to study Physical Education in an academic setting, enabling them to critically analyse and evaluate their physical performance and apply their experience of practical activity in developing their knowledge and understanding of the subject.

What will I learn?

Theory makes up 70% of your overall mark and is examined in seven different areas, applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sport and society, exercise physiology, biomechanical movement, sport psychology and the role of technology in sport.

The second part of the course is the non-examined assessment, and this makes up the other 30% of the course. This section allows you to explore one sport in detail as a performer or coach, chosen from a wide variety of sporting activities. Learners will also analyse and evaluate performance in that chosen activity as part of their NEA.

Throughout the two-year course you will:

- ▲ develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance
- ▲ understand how physiological and psychological states affect performance
- ▲ understand the key socio-cultural factors that influence people's involvement in physical activity and sport
- ▲ understand the role of technology in physical activity and sport
- ▲ refine your ability to perform effectively in physical activity and sport by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas
- ▲ develop your ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance
- ▲ understand the contribution which physical activity makes to health and fitness
- ▲ improve as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with curious and enquiring minds

How will I learn?

All of the course is studied in the classroom. You will be required to take part in a sport regularly outside of college in order to be assessed in this area. Assessment for this will be in the form of video evidence.

Where could it lead?

This course will prepare you for the further study of PE or Sports Science courses at university, as well as other related subjects such as Psychology, Sociology and Biology. You will also develop the transferable skills that are in demand from employers in all sectors of industry. The career opportunities that this course can lead to include PE teaching, sports science, sports psychology, sports coaching, physiotherapy, and personal training.

PHYSICS Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Physics

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grades 6-6 or above in GCSE Combined Science **or** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Physics **and** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry or GCSE Biology. You must also achieve Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics

Overview

A Level Physics is a challenging and rewarding course that gives you the opportunity to explore the phenomena of the universe and to look at theories that explain what is observed. This subject combines practical skills with theoretical ideas to develop descriptions of the physical universe. You will explore how our understanding of Universe has changed over time, from being able to predict the motion of planets and stars, to understanding the quantum behaviour of the atom and light, leading to advances in modern computing. If you are interested in the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between this is the subject for you. Physics is more than a subject – it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries.

What will I learn?

▲ **Paper 1** Particles and quantum phenomena ▲ Waves ▲ Mechanics and materials ▲ Electricity

▲ **Paper 2** Thermal physics ▲ Fields and their consequences ▲ Nuclear physics

▲ **Paper 3** Practical skills ▲ Astrophysics

The whole of the A Level Physics course is examined at the end of the full course. There are three theory papers and a practical skills assessment. Your grade is determined by how well you do on the theory papers. Your result in the practical is noted as an endorsement alongside your A Level grade.

Practical Skills Endorsement

As with all three sciences at A Level, you will be given the opportunity to use relevant apparatus and techniques in order to develop and demonstrate specific practical skills. There are twelve experiments over the two years of the course, with each experiment focussing on different skills. To receive the practical skills endorsement, you must demonstrate competence in all the skills. These will also be assessed in Paper 3.

How will I learn?

A Level Physics is a mixture of highly conceptual thinking and very practical applications. You need to be able to think about abstract ideas such as fields and also be able to apply those ideas. This will mean that learning will take many different forms involving interactive and responsive teaching. There will also be many opportunities to develop your mathematical skills because mathematics is the language of Physics.

Where could it lead?

Physics is a highly respected A Level and demonstrates to an employer that you have analytical and mathematical skills that you can apply to real life situations. There are many possible career paths that it could create for you, including engineering, medicine, forensic science, astronomy, cosmology, electronics, power generation, finance and many more.

If you want to find out more, why not try

- ▲ *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson
- ▲ *Why don't penguins' feet freeze?* by New Scientist
- ▲ *The Quantum Universe: Everything that can happen does happen* by Brian Cox and Jeff Forshaw.

Good websites for Physicists include www.iop.org and www.physicsworld.com

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Politics

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 6 or above in History. Where History has not been studied a grade 6 in GCSE English Language **or** GCSE English Literature is required.

Overview

Lively, relevant, controversial... there are many ways to describe A-level Politics. You cannot escape the reach of Politics; covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, studying A Level Politics helps you understand how our country is run. The course also allows you to develop research, written communication and debating skills.

You will be assessed through three examinations at the end of the course and so strong essay writing skills are required.

What will I learn?

▲ Government and Politics of the UK

This unit explores the development of democracy, political parties and legislation in the UK. The unit also teaches electoral systems, parliamentary election, party ideology and analysis of voting behaviour.

▲ Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics

This unit allows students to deepen their knowledge and understanding of politics on a more global scale, beyond the context of the UK. Students will learn about political systems in the USA and draw comparisons with the UK.

How will I learn?

Lessons are designed to encourage active participation and are similar in style to those you might find in university seminars. Discussion is essential to all lessons. You will be encouraged to think for yourself beyond the 'taught' content. Lessons will also encourage you to develop reading, writing and critical thinking skills.

Where could it lead?

It is highly regarded by employers in industries including politics, international organisations, the media, government and the civil service.

PSYCHOLOGY Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Psychology

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 6 or above in GCSE Psychology (if studied) **or** Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language. You must also achieve Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics **and** Grades 5-5 or above in GCSE Combined Science **or** Grade 5 in GCSE Biology

Overview

Advanced Level Psychology involves you learning to develop an analytical and critical approach to the study of the human mind and behaviour, leading to a sound understanding of the multiple applications of Psychology in the wider society. You will consider biological make-up, learned experiences, cognitive (thought) processes and past experiences. You will learn to analyse theories by evaluating the studies that support them, and you will be taught the skills required to draw out the strengths, weaknesses and the psychological issues and debates with each. You will also learn how to examine and analyse the methodologies which underpin psychological theories, for example, questionnaires, laboratory experiments and case studies. The course is 100% examination based, with three examination papers to be taken at the end of the course.

What will I learn?

You will be assessed via three written examinations of two hours each, all taken at the end of the course. Each paper will include multiple-choice questions, short answer questions and extended writing. Learning is focussed around three main assessment objectives which are emphasised and embedded throughout the taught duration of the course.

▲ **Paper 1 Introductory topics in Psychology:** you will study social influence, memory, attachment, and psychopathology.

▲ **Paper 2 Psychology in Context:** you will study the approaches in psychology, biopsychology, and research methods.

▲ **Paper 3 Issues and Options in Psychology:** you will study issues and debates in Psychology plus three additional topics: relationships ▲ schizophrenia ▲ aggression

How will I learn?

Through learning about human behaviour, you will develop strong communication, leadership, and team-working skills. Lessons are designed to promote higher-level and analytical thinking through a variety of learning methods, including data collection, debates, presentations, and essay writing. To be most successful, you will be expected to read around the topics covered in lessons, looking at additional research examples to broaden your evaluative viewpoint on psychological research and applications in society. In addition to your taught lessons, you will be expected to undertake a significant amount of independent study.

Where could it lead?

Advanced Level Psychology offers the opportunity for students to develop approaches to critical thinking and analysis of human behaviour through use of discussions, evaluative writing, research, applied statistics and data analysis. It is, therefore, considered an asset to all areas of Higher Education, including business, education, research, social work, medicine, and healthcare. Furthermore, students who wish to become psychologists could work in a range of roles such as teaching, counselling and therapy, sport, human resources, and the prison service.

SPANISH Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Spanish

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 6 or above in GCSE Spanish

Overview

A Level Spanish builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE level or equivalent. The course constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society.

What will I learn?

- ▲ Social issues and trends
- ▲ Political and artistic culture
- ▲ Grammar
- ▲ Literary texts and films
- ▲ Individual research project

How will I learn?

A range of teaching styles will be employed to enhance students' linguistic skills, alongside individual study, which is particularly important for the societal and cultural elements of the course. The course promotes and develops students' capacity for critical thinking on the basis of their knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the country or countries where the language is spoken.

Students will be encouraged to develop control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes as increasingly confident, accurate and independent users of the language.

Where could it lead?

An A Level in Spanish is a prized possession both in the world of business and academia.

Students often follow career paths, both in the home country and abroad, in fields as diverse as education, journalism, translation and Interpreting, marketing and business.

Students with an A Level in Spanish demonstrate the necessary critical thinking skills and independence of thought to thrive at university and careers in the above fields often follow study at a higher level.

LEVEL 3 APPLIED

To succeed on our **Applied Pathway**, you will have at least **five GCSEs**, including English and Maths, at **Grade 4** or above.

Many of our Applied Pathway qualifications have **course specific entry requirements**, too, and you will need to meet these as well as the Applied Pathway entry requirements.

Following this pathway will allow you to progress to **further study** in your chosen subjects or lead you directly into an **apprenticeship** or **employment**.

We will advise you on the right number and choice of Applied Pathway courses for you, depending on both your GCSE results and your future plans.

Qualification BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science

Exam Board Pearson Edexcel

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grades 5-5 or above in GCSE Combined Science **or** Grade 5 or above in GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry **and** GCSE Physics

Overview

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science is a practical based course of study which will develop your skills and confidence in the laboratory as well as teaching you the theory required to succeed. The course consists of four units, of which three are mandatory and two are externally assessed. Completion of all four units is required in order to qualify for certification.

What will I learn?

In the **first year** of the course, you will study:

- ▲ **Principles and Applications of Science** (*externally examined unit*)
- ▲ **Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques** (*internally assessed portfolio*)

In the **second year**, you will learn about:

- ▲ **Science Investigation Skills** (*externally assessed practical skills assessment*)

You will also study a choice of **one unit** from the following (*internally assessed portfolio*)

- ▲ Physiology of Human Body Systems
- ▲ Human Regulation and Reproduction
- ▲ Biological Molecules and Metabolic Pathways
- ▲ Genetics and Genetic Engineering
- ▲ Diseases and Infections
- ▲ Applications of Inorganic Chemistry
- ▲ Applications of Organic Chemistry
- ▲ Electrical Circuits and their Application
- ▲ Astronomy and Space Science
- ▲ Microbiology and Microbiological Techniques

How will I learn?

Your lessons will take many forms, with a heavy emphasis on practical skills, and will involve a range of interactive teaching and learning strategies. There may be lectures, seminars, discussion groups in addition to the practical work. You will be expected to read journals, engage in debate and to take an active part in your own learning.

Where could it lead?

The natural progression from this qualification is to Higher Education, Further Education, or employment. Former students have gone on to study nursing, midwifery, social work, and sport sciences. YouGov research reveals that 62% of large companies have recruited employees with BTEC qualifications. What's more, well over 100,000 BTEC students apply to UK universities every year and their BTEC Nationals are accepted by over 150 UK universities and Higher Education institutions for relevant degree programmes either on their own or in combination with A Levels.

Qualification BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business

Exam Board Pearson Edexcel

Course Specific Entry Requirements If you study GCSE Business Studies, you must achieve a Grade 5 or above. It is not necessary to have studied Business at Level 2

Overview

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business is designed to sit alongside other Level 3 courses, either academic or applied, as part of your Study Programme. It is aimed at those students who have an interest in business and learning more about the business sector. It provides opportunities to investigate real life scenarios and contexts, enabling you to tailor the course to your individual areas of interest. As with other BTEC courses, you will be required to study a number of mandatory units in addition to an optional unit which is selected based on students' areas of interest.

What will I learn?

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business is comprised of four units. Three are mandatory units, two of which are assessed externally, and the final unit allows for a degree of student choice.

The **mandatory** units are:

- ▲ Exploring Business
- ▲ Developing a Marketing Campaign
- ▲ Personal and Business Finance

Possible **optional** units are varied and include:

- ▲ Recruitment and Selection
- ▲ Investigating Customer Service
- ▲ Market Research
- ▲ The English Legal System
- ▲ Work Experience in Business

How will I learn?

Lessons will reflect the varied style and nature of the assessment of the BTEC course. You will be required to apply what you have learned in the classroom to a range of business contexts. Investigation into the business world will be a key element of this course, with students exploring approaches used by different firms to achieve their aims. You will need to take an active role in your learning, involving yourself in discussion and debate as well as presenting your ideas to the class on occasions. A keen interest in the world around you and, specifically, the business world, is essential.

Where could it lead?

The course content has been developed in collaboration with both universities and leading organisations in order to ensure progression both for those students wishing to enter Higher Education and for those who want to move directly into employment in the business sector. Business and business-related courses at Higher Education are diverse and highly sought after. This course will equip you with the independence of learning and resilience required for degree courses at university. Equally, the course modules are recognisable to employers, who were consulted in the development stage to ensure the programme of study provides high calibre employees of the future.

Qualification BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology

Exam Board Pearson Edexcel

Course Specific Entry Requirements If you study Information Technology at Level 2, you must achieve a Merit or above. However, It is not necessary to have studied Information Technology at Level 2

Overview

We live in a digital world. Understanding how the technology that runs our world works will give you the advantage in whichever job sector you decide to work. BTEC Level 3 Information Technology is an extremely versatile subject to choose and provides a progression route to many Higher Education courses. This new and exciting course has been developed in collaboration with employers, representatives from Higher Education and relevant professional bodies to ensure the content is current and relevant and to ensure that you are well equipped when you leave the course and continue onto your next pathway.

What will I learn?

BTEC National Extended Certificate in Information Technology comprises of four units of work completed over two years:

▲ **Information Technology Systems** (*externally assessed examination*)

You will explore the relationships between the hardware and software that form an IT system, and the way that systems work individually and together, as well as the relationship between the user and the system. You will examine issues related to the use of IT systems and the impact that they have on organisations and individuals.

▲ **Creating Systems to Manage Information** (*externally assessment of work carried out under supervision*)

You will examine the structure of data and its origins, and how an efficient data design follows through to an effective and useful database. You will examine a given scenario and develop an effective design solution to produce a database system. You will then test your solution to ensure that it works correctly. Finally, you will evaluate each stage of the development process and the effectiveness of your database solution.

▲ **Social Media in Business** (*internally assessed coursework*)

You may be familiar with social media for personal use and in this unit, you will discover how it can be used in a business context. You will explore different social media websites, the ways in which they can be used and the potential pitfalls when using them for business purposes. You will develop a plan to use social media strategies for business purposes to achieve specific aims and objectives. You will then implement the plan, developing and posting content and interacting with others. Finally, you will collect data on the business use of social media and review the effectiveness of your efforts.

▲ Optional Unit: **Data Modelling** or **Website Development** (*internally assessed coursework*)

How will I learn?

You will be expected to contribute your opinions and work collaboratively with your peers. An interest in technology is required and an enthusiasm to learn about how the digital world works is essential. You will enjoy a hands-on approach to learning where you can put into practise the knowledge you are learning. A mixture of theory and practical lessons will make for a rich and stimulating learning environment.

Where could it lead?

Careers for those with qualifications in IT are diverse and the course forms a solid grounding for both further study and a range of careers. The skills and knowledge you will develop whilst following the IT course will enhance your application into any sector of employment. Higher Education welcomes IT as a qualification that can enhance a range of other subjects. IT based higher education courses are hugely diverse: you could go on to study Computer Science, Games Design, Web design, the list is huge! Apprenticeships in IT are another option, and this qualification shows potential employers that you have a broad range of skills.

MATHEMATICAL STUDIES (CORE MATHS) Level 3 Certificate

Qualification Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics. This one-year course **must** form part of a Study Programme comprising at least three other two-year, Level 3 qualifications. You will need a scientific calculator throughout the course

Overview

Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is a one year course for students who have passed GCSE Mathematics at Grade 4 or above but are not taking Advanced Level Mathematics. The aim is for you to retain, deepen and extend your mathematical understanding through solving meaningful and relevant problems, building upon your understanding at GCSE level. It is anticipated that this course will be particularly beneficial to you if you require a good level of mathematical skill for concurrent and future courses. The course sets out to use a problem solving approach to teach applied areas such as data handling (relevant to Geography, Psychology, Business and Sciences), decision maths (relevant to many business related subjects and computing), personal finance (including calculating income tax and National Insurance), and critically analysing statistics and graphs often used in the media. This course will give you confidence with numerical techniques required at degree level or in future employment. Taken alongside a Tech Level subject and Extended Project, it contributes to achievement of the Technical Baccalaureate.

What will I learn?

Approximately 75% of the course is based on elements of the new GCSE course, with emphasis on real life application. New mathematical content that you will learn includes:

- ▲ Modelling
- ▲ Financial problem solving
- ▲ Critical maths
- ▲ Statistics

The course is assessed through two written papers at the end of the year. **Paper 1** assesses compulsory content including Financial Mathematics and Data Analysis, whilst **Paper 2** will focus on critical analysis, probability, and statistics.

How will I learn?

Core Maths builds on GCSE Maths with sharper focus on problem solving skills by considering and tackling mathematics in meaningful contexts. These meaningful contexts may take the form of projects that run over a series of lessons and will be driven, as much as possible, by the interests of the students themselves. The mathematical content required for examination will therefore often be taught within the context of the projects. There will be opportunities to develop your IT skills using spreadsheets and Excel.

Where could it lead?

This is a problem solving course and hence will form the bedrock of many careers and different types of employment (many of which might not yet exist!) as a supporting subject. The course will also prepare you for the mathematical demands of many degree courses, such as Geography and Psychology, for which the mathematical understanding required is high, but not as substantial as in Advanced Level Mathematics.

Many Universities will lower their course entry requirements for students who have achieved a grade A or B in Core Maths.

Qualification BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music

Exam Board Pearson Edexcel

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 5 or above in GCSE Music **or** Merit or above in Level 2 RSL or BTEC Music **or** Grade 4 standard in any instrument

Overview

This course is designed to give you the practical skills and knowledge you will need to succeed in the challenging and competitive world of Music. The programme covers a broad basis of study for the music sector with a focus on performance, personal instrumental technique development, music theory and professional practice. This BTEC level 3 will be of particular interest to students who play a musical instrument and are interested in furthering their performance skills. In addition, there will be an opportunity to study composing in a variety of genres.

What will I learn?

There are four units:

- ▲ **Practical Music Theory and Harmony:** explore music theory through a range of practical and theoretical tasks to improve your musicianship.
- ▲ **Ensemble Music Performance:** you will develop your group performance skills and improve your own instrumental technique through rehearsals, workshops, recording and live performance.
- ▲ **Professional Practice in the Music Industry:** you will learn the key skills required to work in the UK's most successful industry. Learners will have the opportunity to plan, organise and lead on performances and recording sessions.
- ▲ **Optional solo or composition unit:** you will be given the freedom to choose your creative pathway and work on an individual project that is suited towards your musical strengths.

How will I learn?

You will work independently and collaboratively on musical performances and research into the industry. You will be given the opportunity to perform as a soloist and a member of the group and are expected to rehearse your chosen instrument regularly. You will have access to the Mac suite where you will compose using Sibelius and Logic music software.

Where could it lead?

The BTEC Music qualification could lead you to a range of careers in the ever-growing music Industry and develop transferable and higher order skills that are valued by Higher Education and employers.

Qualification BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Exam Board Pearson Edexcel

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 5 or above in GCSE Drama **or** Merit or above in Level 2 Performing Arts **or** a wide experience of performing in public.

Overview

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts qualification provides students with the opportunity to develop and enhance their knowledge and understanding of Drama and Movement through a range of units that provide a vocational setting to the work. The Extended Certificate is worth the equivalent of one A Level. All lessons are delivered by subject specialists and will prepare students for a possible future in the Performing Arts industry. The choice of qualification allows students to select a Performing Arts pathway that reflects their intention beyond the Sixth Form.

What will I learn?

In this course you will study **four** units, all related to an aspect of Theatre:

- ▲ Investigating Practitioners' Work
- ▲ Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance
- ▲ Group Performance Workshop
- ▲ Acting Styles

How will I learn?

All units have a predominantly practical and vocational focus. Each term will culminate in a public performance of the work created, with the additional opportunity to be part of the whole College show. Chances to develop as a performer are abundant! Performing Arts students are also given the opportunity to help co-ordinate and run Drama Clubs for younger students. This is an excellent opportunity which provides great experience for any students thinking about a career in education.

Where could it lead?

A qualification in Performing Arts opens many doors. Whether you are planning to progress to Higher Education, an apprenticeship or employment, with Performing Arts now one of the fastest growing industries in the United Kingdom, there has never been a better time to study the arts.

Qualification BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Exam Board Pearson Edexcel

Course Specific Entry Requirements If you study Travel and Tourism at Level 2, you must achieve a Merit or above. However, It is not necessary to have studied Travel and Tourism at Level 2

Overview

Despite political uncertainties at home and around the world, nothing seems to stop us from planning and taking holidays. What is changing, however, is how and where we choose to take those holidays, giving rise to exciting times in this already fast changing sector. The BTEC Level 3 National in Travel and Tourism will help you to acquire the skills and knowledge you will need to get your travel and tourism career off to the best possible start. With many jobs locally linked to the travel and tourism industry, what better subject is there to choose which will help lead you into your future career?

What will I learn?

The BTEC National Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism comprises of **four** units of work completed over two years:

▲ **The World of Travel and Tourism** (*externally assessed examination*)

You will explore the key components and scale of the travel and tourism industry, developing the skills needed to examine, interpret, and analyse a variety of statistics that measure the importance of tourism to the UK. You will also gain an understanding of how travel and tourism organisations work together to benefit both themselves and their customers.

▲ **Global Destinations** (*externally assessment of work carried out under supervision*)

You will investigate and analyse information regarding the features and appeal of global destinations, travel planning, and the factors and trends affecting the changing popularity of global destinations.

▲ **Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism** (*internally assessed coursework*)

You will learn about the importance of meeting customer expectations and communicating with customers effectively, as well as investigating the different stages that an organisation or tourist destination goes through when marketing their products or services.

▲ **Visitor Attractions** (*internally assessed coursework*)

You will develop analytical skills while investigating the nature and role of both built and natural visitor attractions, their commercial success, appeal, response to diverse visitor needs and the importance of delivering a memorable visitor experience.

How will I learn?

You will be expected to work both independently as well as collaboratively with your peers. Lessons will involve a mixture of theory as well as practical activities, such as problem solving and role play. In addition, there will be opportunities to learn outside the classroom through site visits and travel experiences.

Where could it lead?

Travel and tourism jobs cover a wide spectrum but generally include any job within the holiday market. Whether that be helping customers to plan for a holiday, source a great place to stay, help to keep holiday-makers safe and comfortable during their holiday, or even helping travel companies to source great accommodation, like hotels and villas, and secure exclusive prices.