

Westwood Sixth Form Entry Criteria for September 2023

General Entry Requirements:

2 x 5s and 3 x 4s/ Level 2 passes including 4s in English and Maths

Subject	Requirements
Art	5 in GCSE Art (if studied at GCSE) or 5 in a related GCSE (could be subject to a personal portfolio and general entrance requirements)
Biology	2 x 6s in GCSE Science or 6 in GCSE Biology
Chemistry	2 x 6 in GCSE Science plus 5 in GCSE Maths or 6 in GCSE Chemistry plus 5 in GCSE Maths
Design	5 in GCSE Design (if studied at GCSE) or 5 in a related GCSE (could be subject to a personal portfolio and general entrance requirements)
Drama	5 in GCSE Drama (if studied at GCSE) or evidence of performance ability/experience plus general entrance requirements
<i>Extended Project Qualification - EPQ (AS)</i>	<i>General entry requirements</i>
English Language	5 in GCSE Eng Lang/Lit
English Literature	5 in GCSE Eng Lang/Lit
French/German/Spanish	5 in GCSE of language chosen
Geography	5 in GCSE Geography (or 5 in Eng Lang/Lit plus general entrance requirements)
History	5 in GCSE History (or 5 in Eng Lang/Lit plus general entrance requirements)
Law	5 in Eng Lang/Lit plus general entrance requirements
Mathematics	6 in GCSE Mathematics
Further Mathematics	7 in GCSE Mathematics
<i>Core Maths (AS)</i>	<i>4 in GCSE Mathematics</i>
Media	5 in Media (if studied at GCSE) or General Entrance Requirements
Music	5 in GCSE Music (if studied at GCSE) or evidence of musical ability plus general entrance requirements
P.E.	5 in GCSE PE (if studied at GCSE) or proven ability/involvement in sport plus general entrance requirements
Photography	General entry requirements
Physics	2 6s in GCSE Science plus 5 in GCSE Maths or 6 in GCSE Physics and 5 in GCSE Maths
Psychology	5 in Eng Lang/Lit, 5 in Maths and 5 in Science
Sociology	5 in GCSE Eng Lang/Lit
BTEC Health (Double/Triple)	General entry requirements
BTEC Sport (Single/Double)	General entry requirements
BTEC Business (Single)	General entry requirements
IT (Single)	General entry requirements



Past students have studied at Goldsmiths University of London, Royal College of Art, Edinburgh School of Art, Leeds College of Art, and Staffordshire University amongst others.

The Course

Students will gain a broad range of skills through exploration of a variety of themes. You will be encouraged to explore a variety of media, materials and techniques including fine art, textiles, printmaking and 3-D amongst others.

Assessment

60% - Portfolio.

40% - Externally set task.

Additional Opportunities

As part of the course students will visit national and international galleries and museums and take part in workshops with artists, designers and subject specialists. Students will also have the opportunity to travel to Paris and New York and visit international galleries and museums such as MOMA.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

An interest in Art, Textiles, and Mixed Media.

The ability to abstract ideas, and think about new ideas and forms of art.

Competence with painting, drawing, and/or textiles is required.

The ability to solve problems, and a willingness to work independently.

Resilience, determination, and a willingness to work hard.



Recent students have gone on to study Photography at Leeds University, Staffordshire University and Sheffield Hallam University.

The Course

Students will develop both visual and critical skills and gain a broad range of practical and analytical skills. You will explore both digital image making and traditional darkroom processing. Students are encouraged to explore photography in its broadest terms, being as experimental as possible.

Assessment

60% - Portfolio.

40% - Externally set task.

Additional Opportunities

Students have the opportunity to visit major photographic collections such as the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Students also have the opportunity to visit New York, where they can experience a major city and important international collections such as MOMA.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

An interest in Art, and/or photography, with some competence with painting, drawing and/or textiles, at GCSE.

The ability to abstract ideas, and think about new ideas and forms of art.

The ability to solve problems, and a willingness to work independently.

Resilience, determination, and a willingness to work hard.

The Course

You will gain a broad range of skills over the course, through many different practical projects.

You will undertake a succession of workshops using various materials and techniques, including machine and hand-stitching.

Students will then select a specialism from these, and begin their personal investigation work.

Assessment

A mixture of externally set tasks and personal investigation across the A-level course.

Additional Opportunities

Opportunities to visit galleries and museums both in the UK and worldwide, such as London, Liverpool, Paris, Manchester, Amsterdam, and New York.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

An interest in Art, Textiles, and Mixed Media.

The ability to abstract ideas, and think about new ideas and forms of art.

Competence with painting, drawing, and/or textiles is required.

The ability to solve problems, and a willingness to work independently.

Resilience, determination, and a willingness to work hard.



Textiles is an ideal foundation for entry into careers such as Fashion Buyer, Designer and work in theatre/film.



Biology is a very useful subject for a range of careers, including: Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Teaching, Research, Environmental and Ecological work.

The Course

The A-Level Biology Course (AQA) offers the opportunity to develop your knowledge of the subject from GCSE. You will analyse and evaluate scientific knowledge and apply it to unfamiliar situations, demonstrate and describe practical techniques and processes, and become aware of advances in technology, including information technology, relevant to Biology.

Assessment

Examination with the opportunity to gain practical endorsement.

Additional Opportunities

Borth Ecology Field Course, outside-speakers, group and individual presentations, Inspire Cafés.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

Students should be committed to the subject and show a genuine interest in biological concepts.

The ability to be self-motivated, and be able to work to deadlines.

An ability to discuss work, both in and out of lesson time.

The ability to solve problems and a willingness to work hard are essential.



The Business course gives you a strong foundation in a variety of business operations and concepts, which can lead to a wide range of careers such as Law, Retail Management, Accountancy, Insurance, Banking, International Business or even running your own business.

The Course

Students on the BTEC Extended Certificate course will study four modules which are Exploring Business, Developing a Marketing Campaign, Personal & Business Finance and a final unit on Market Research.

Assessment

Assessment is a combination of externally assessed controlled coursework, internally assessed coursework, and a written exam.

Additional Opportunities

Year 12 company visit, guest speakers, CIPFA Management Team Event.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

An enquiring mind and an interest in topical issues.

Enjoyment of solving problems and making decisions.

The Course

A-Level Chemistry (AQA) will enable students to build on concepts and skills that will have been developed in the GCSE. You will analyse and evaluate scientific knowledge, and apply it to unfamiliar situations, demonstrate and describe practical techniques and processes, and develop an understanding of chemical concepts using real world chemical applications drawn from modern applications in industry and in the environment.

Assessment

Examination with the opportunity to gain practical endorsement.

Additional Opportunities

Inspire Cafés, Chemistry Olympiad, university visits.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

An interest in how things work, and why things happen.

The ability to deal with abstract ideas.

A level of competence with mathematics in order to calculate quantities and values.

The ability to solve problems and work independently.

Resilience, determination, and a willingness to work hard.



Chemistry is a highly respected subject required for a range of careers including: Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Dentistry, Engineering, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and Veterinary Science.



The career opportunities stemming from Design A Level are numerous and varied: you'll learn key skills that are applicable to Architecture, Art, Project Management, and many more fields of work and study.

The Course

Year 12 has evolved into a skills acquisition and refining course, without the restrictions of set projects by the exam board.

Students can learn a whole host of new creative and imaginative methods for idea generation, a range of presentation techniques using media that have not been available at GCSE. They will practise the process of iterative design, as is the method at degree level and in design studios the world over, as well as learning a variety of new model making techniques, new tools equipment and machinery and working with more advanced materials.

Year 13 is a more conventional 'design and make' exercise which now equates to 50% of the overall A-level mark. A project involving third party clients giving feedback, strong research skills resulting in high quality design creations is of course the target. The manufacture of the product utilising skills and machinery usage techniques refined in year 12 will be the outcome, of course completed by rigorous testing and evaluation.

Both years have a theory requirement where students learn in detail about the world of manufacturing on mass production scales. This is examined at the end of year 13 and counts as 50% of the course.

Assessment

50% written examination

50% coursework project

Useful Skills and Characteristics

You should enjoy the challenge of designing from scratch and physically bringing your ideas to life.

You should be confident when drawing, sketching, and exploring your design ideas.

You should be keen to expand your knowledge and awareness of the role of the designer.

You should be willing to work independently, be able to motivate yourself and learn from those around you.

The Course

The course consists of four assessment modules, one of which is examined in Year 12. This course builds on the OCR GCSE course, giving students opportunities to develop key skills in performance through the creative and rehearsal process and in analysing and evaluating a range of theatrical texts. You will perform a devised piece and extracts from a script as part of the assessment process and develop skills in live theatre analysis and evaluation. You will study a total of five texts during the course, from the perspective of actor, director and designer.

Assessment

Non-Exam Assessment (60% of the qualification)

Practitioners in Practice – 40%

Students will create their own devised performance based on and influenced by a practitioner.

Exploring and Performing Texts - 20%

Students will produce a performance based on a text chosen by the centre.

Exam Assessment (40% of the qualification)

Paper A: Exploring/Analysing Performance – 20%

Paper B: Deconstructing Texts for Performance – 20%

Additional Opportunities

Requirement to attend theatre visits; opportunities to perform in extra-curricular events; mentor younger pupils; work experience.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

You must be determined, self-motivated and well organised.

Reliability is essential, as is commitment to the subject and dedication to rehearsals outside of lesson time.

Students need to be open-minded, creative individuals who enjoy working hard and who get on well with others.

Previous experience is preferable but not essential; enthusiasm, however, is vital.



Students could progress onto many careers after additional training:
Actor, Stage Manager, Drama Teacher, Drama Therapist, Radio Presenter, Theatre Director, Theatre Technician, Theatre Designer.



A-level English Language prepares you for a range of careers, particularly those where communication and the ability to discuss information is important; careers such as Journalism, Advertising, Editing, Teaching and Lecturing, Linguistics, Marketing, PR, and work in the Communications Industry.

The subject has a very broad appeal and works well as a dual honours option at university.

The Course

Students will develop their communication skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They will learn to study the social aspects of language, and will develop their creative writing skills, learning how to write for a specific audience and purpose. The course is very lively and discussion based; students are encouraged to debate their own ideas, and think about the construction of language.

Assessment

80% - Examination

20% - Non-examination element.

Additional Opportunities

Students are encouraged to write for a range of real life contexts and enter competitions such as Young Writers.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

Enjoyment of reading and writing, discussing linguistic features and analysing texts.

You will need to be well-organised and committed, willing to read widely around the subject and happy to share your thoughts with others.

You must also be willing to work hard.

The Course

A-level English Literature will help you develop your communication skills in all areas: speaking and listening, reading and writing. Students are also given the opportunity to debate ideas raised in a rich variety of texts across genres and eras; discuss contextual themes and issues; and develop written fluency. Students are encouraged to think independently around a text, develop their own unique interpretations and also consider other critical viewpoints. The course is very lively with lots of discussion-based activities. Students wanting to improve their analytical skills, and those who enjoy reading and writing should consider the course.



Consider English if you have an interest in: Teaching, Newspaper/ Magazine editing, Publishing, Advertising/, Arts Administration, Media, Social Studies, Law related work.

Assessment

80% - Examination

20% - Non-examination element.

Additional Opportunities

Literature/theatre trip.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

Enjoyment of reading and writing, discussing important issues, critical responses and relating literature to the wider world.

You will need to be well-organised and committed, willing to read widely around the subject and happy to share your thoughts with others.

You must also be willing to work hard.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)



The EPQ is equivalent to half an A Level (more than an AS). Universities look favourably on the EPQ as it helps students develop the independent study skills and mindset necessary to succeed in higher education. It also enables students to demonstrate their interests beyond the taught content of their other Level 3 courses.

Useful skills and characteristics

You will need to be prepared to work independently, though the taught lessons will guide and support you in developing the skills required to complete the project. You will have a desire to explore a topic of your own choice. In addition to the Sixth Form entry requirements it is advisable that students have at least a good pass in English given the written communication required.

The course

The EPQ is your opportunity to devise a project of your own choice, on a topic of your choice. It can be linked to a subject you study, or it could be completely separate from your A Levels, allowing you to pursue extra-curricular interests and hobbies.

The course is assessed through the final 'product', a short presentation, and the completion of a logbook detailing your EPQ 'journey'. Most students produce a 5000-word written product though it is also possible to produce an artefact which could be a piece of music, dance, art or design accompanied by a shorter written component. The taught lessons will help students develop a range of skills including: devising your project, research methods, planning techniques and evaluating your own progress. Such skills should help students in all their subjects and in their future study and employment. To give an idea of the range of possible topics, these are studies which have worked successfully in the past:

How could the NHS promote e-cigarettes?

Can dance communicate the plight of homelessness?

GM food: is Golden Rice the solution to health issues on the Indian subcontinent?

Brexit: was it inevitable?

What was the primary factor in the decline of Native American culture?

Are biological and psychological treatments for OCD applicable to contemporary society?

Should the responsibility for reducing plastic usage be directed towards the public consumer?

The Course

The course is equally divided between Human and Physical Geography, and contains a wide range of topics.

The course includes exciting and engaging subject content about contemporary geographical themes and issues. You will investigate topics such as: Tectonic Processes and Hazards, Globalisation, Energy Security, Water Security, regenerating places and Superpower Geographies.

Assessment

80% - Examination.

20% - Non-Examined Assessment.

Additional Opportunities

The course involves four days field trips to explore some of the topics studied and to collect data for your non-examined assessment.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

You should have a keen interest in current issues, (local, national, and global), especially in the way human activity affects our environment.

You should have an open mind, and be willing to consider a range of opinions and solutions.

You will need to think independently, and express your opinion in both written and spoken form.

You should be willing to use a variety of resources to compile detailed case studies.

You will need to develop your analytical skills, particularly in statistics and ICT.



Geography is a good subject to consider alongside both Arts and Science based subjects. Useful companion subjects include History, Sociology, English, Biology and Maths.

A-Level Geography equips students with a variety of skills and can lead to a wide range of careers. Geography related careers include: Cartography, Planning and Development, and Environmental Consultancy.



Students who attain a BTEC Level 3 in Health and Social Care have progressed into the following career areas; Adult Nursing, Children's Nursing, Mental Health Nursing, Midwifery, Primary and Early Years Teaching, Physiotherapy, Social Work, Counselling,

The Course

There are 2 courses on offer for students wishing to study Level 3 Health & Social Care.

BTEC National Diploma

Equivalent to 2 A Levels.

8 units studied in total.

5 units are internally assessed via coursework.

3 units are external examinations.

Work Experience is encouraged as part of the National Diploma.

BTEC National Extended Diploma

Equivalent to 3 A Levels.

13 units studied in total.

9 are internally assessed via coursework

4 units are external examinations.

Work Experience is a compulsory part of the extended diploma.

Topics studied include Human lifespan development, Working in Health and Social Care, Caring for individuals with additional needs, Physiological disorders, Public health and Nutrition. Students also develop transferable skills such as communication, research and analysis. The course offers clear progression routes into higher education, apprenticeships and employment.

Assessment

Both courses are assessed with a combination of internal and external assessment. The overall qualifications are awarded at Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* grades. The qualifications attract UCAS points and are widely accepted by universities and employers.

Additional Opportunities

In addition to work experience placements in a variety of settings, there are links with Schools, Care homes and Adult Social Care Services. Workshops are run by Dementia Friends and Midlands Air Ambulance. Students have also attended Health & Social Care Young Person's Careers Conferences and University Summer Schools. Students have also carried out fund raising events for charities.

The Course

History is a rewarding, informative, and interesting subject. The History A-Level course gives students the opportunity to study a range of different time periods in history, and develop analytical and communication skills. Students must complete assessments in three components to complete the full course. These are: Stuart Britain and the crisis of Monarchy, The Cold War c1945-1991, and a personal study based on a topic of the student's choice.

Assessment

80% - Examination.

20% - Historical Investigation.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

Independent thought and analytical skills.

Literacy and communication skills - organising information and reaching balanced conclusions.

The ability to problem solve, and ask questions.

Critical analysis of events, people and ideas through the use of sources.



A qualification in History doesn't limit you to a career using History directly, although there are many of those. Given the high order of skills it helps develop, it is no surprise that History qualifications can lead to a huge range of careers including: Law, Insurance, Forensic Accountancy, and Law Enforcement.



To study ICT beyond Level 3 it is advisable to also consider studying a Science, Business and/or Mathematics subject.

The Course

The OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in IT (Level 3) is a qualification which gives you the opportunity to develop a range of practical skills which are widely used. There will be many opportunities for learners to use the knowledge, understanding and skills in an integrated way and apply aspects they've covered in one unit to other units they're studying. This course is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating ICT systems with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily just in ICT.

Assessment

2x External examinations – (Unit 1 Fundamentals of IT and Unit 2 Global Information)

3x Internally assessed units – (Unit 6 Application Design, Unit 9 Product Development and Unit 21 Web Design prototyping)

Additional Opportunities

Lectures/talks by ICT Experts from ICT Industry.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

You should be a student who likes to be able to select and use the appropriate ICT tools and techniques to carry out investigations, capture and handle data, solve problems, make decisions, present and communicate information in the most appropriate and effective way possible.

You must also be willing to work hard, and demonstrate determination and commitment.

The Course

A Level Law provides an introduction to law. It allows students to learn about a fascinating subject, one which covers many aspects of life. Students of A Level Law will:

- Develop an understanding of law and how it works
- Learn more about society from a legal perspective – both contemporary and historical
- Learn about the interaction between law and morals, justice and society
- Learn about different areas of law – e.g. criminal law, human rights, contract and tort
- Make connections with business, economics, history, politics and technology
- Develop academic skills, including analysis and evaluation
- Be able to make an informed decision about future careers.

Assessment

AS and A Level Law are assessed by written examinations. The AS qualification consists of two exam papers, each 1 hour 30 minutes which are both worth 50% of the marks. The A Level qualification consists of three exam papers, each 2 hours long and each worth 33 1/3% of the marks. There is a variety of exam questions including: Essay questions and legal scenario questions.

Additional Opportunities

We have links with Staffordshire University's Law school and are hoping to utilise their law department for our mock trials, we are also hoping to enter into the National Mock trial competitions as well as attend court and prison.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

A Level Law is not just for students who want to enter the legal professions. It is a well-respected subject and is a welcome addition to many A Level programmes of study. A Level Law links well with science subjects and humanities and social science subjects including, history, sociology, philosophy, economics and business, to name just a few!



Students wishing to continue their legal studies after A Levels can opt for a university degree or work-based apprenticeship. Both of these routes can lead to the qualifications required to become a solicitor, barrister or legal executive. Other popular careers include the police, teaching, social work, business and accounting



Mathematics A-Level is accepted by employers and universities as a desirable qualification. It opens the door to careers in Mathematics, Engineering, Physics, Computing, Accountancy, Economics, Business, Banking, Air Traffic Control, Management, Architecture, Surveying, Cartography, Psychology, and of course Teaching, to name but a few.

The Course

This is a two year A2 linear course.

The course is aimed at extending your range of mathematical skills and techniques, enabling you to use these to solve unstructured problems.

You will be taught elements of Pure Maths, Statistics, and Mechanics.

Assessment

This course is assessed through external exams.

Additional Opportunities

Maths Challenges and work with other students.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

Having a good command of algebra and being able to deal with abstract concepts as well as more practical problems.

Enjoying intellectual challenge and relishing problems and puzzles.

The ability to solve problems and work independently. Having a genuine interest in Mathematics and a desire to learn more of the history and theory behind this fascinating and varied subject.

The Course

This course will suit students who achieve an A* to C in GCSE Maths but do not wish to study AS or A-level Maths. It has the same weighting as an AS level course. It will focus on problem solving and developing skills needed in real-life and for studying. You will study topics such as statistics, probability and growth and decay. This course is an excellent opportunity to extend your Mathematical skills and supports subjects with a high Mathematical content such as Biology, Geography and Psychology.

Assessment

The course is assessed through external exam. There are two written papers.

Additional Opportunities

Working with other students, mathematics challenges and clubs.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

Having good basic numeracy skills and an enjoyment of Mathematics.



Core Mathematics opens the door to careers in Mathematics, Engineering, Physics, Computing, Accountancy, Economics, Business, Banking, Air Traffic Control, Management, Architecture, Surveying, Cartography, Psychology and, of course, Teaching to name but a few.



Further Mathematics A- Level is a highly regarded qualification by universities. It opens the door to careers in Mathematics, Engineering, Business, Banking, Air Traffic Control, Medicine, Accountancy, Scientific Research, Actuarial Work, and Maths Teaching to name but a few.

The Course

This is a two year A2 linear course, which extends work covered at A2 Mathematics.

The course is aimed at extending your range of mathematical skills and techniques, enabling you to use these to solve unstructured problems.

You will be taught elements of Pure Mathematics, Statistics, Mechanics, and Decision Mathematics.

Assessment

This course is assessed through external exams.

Additional Opportunities

Individual and team Maths Challenges and working with other students.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

Having an excellent command of algebra and ability to deal with abstract concepts as well as more practical problems.

Enjoying intellectual challenge and relishing problems and puzzles.

The ability to solve problems and work independently. Having a genuine interest in Mathematics and a desire to learn more of the history and theory behind this fascinating and varied subject.

The Course

The new Media Studies A Level requires you to engage with a variety of media types. Key topics include analysing representations created in texts, studying the industry processes of production, distribution and circulation, as well as developing the ability to textually analyse media texts. As well as engaging with a number of set case studies, the course also allows you the opportunity to apply your learning to a full range of different media texts. You will also be required to produce an original media artefact from a number of set briefs. This process involves research and planning for creating a media text to suit a specific purpose, as well as demonstrating your practical ability by creating an original outcome.



A wide variety of courses and employment are possible following a Media A-Level course, including Film, TV, Radio, Publishing, Journalism, Sociology, Criminology, Politics, and Cultural Studies. To study Media beyond A-Level it is advisable to also consider studying Psychology and/or Sociology.

Assessment

70% written examination and 30% non-examined assessment (coursework).

Additional Opportunities

Involvement in media elements of Drama productions and presentation materials as well as becoming involved with publishing content for the Westwood News.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

Enjoyment in forming and voicing your own point of view.

Enjoyment and natural interest in a variety of media forms.

The ability to look closely at media texts from a variety of perspectives.

Willingness to work collaboratively.

Enjoyment of forming and voicing your own point of view, sharing this with others.



Although many languages can be learned from scratch at university, an A-Level in a foreign language will be required to enter these courses.

French, German, and Spanish

The Course

Course content in all three languages consists of three core topic areas, and two additional cultural topics. Students will also get the opportunity to conduct their own research into any field of their choice that links to the studied language.

Core content

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

Assessment

100% - Examination, typically after two years of study.

There are three papers:

Paper 1: Listening, reading, and writing (40%)

Paper 2: Writing (30%)

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

Additional Opportunities

Study visits to France, Germany and Spain.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

An interest in and enjoyment of the challenge of using the language to communicate for a variety of purposes.
An interest in current affairs and cinema and literature.
A willingness to learn vocabulary, read texts, spend time outside of lessons listening to the TV or Internet, and to welcome the opportunity to talk to a native speaker, as well as visit the country whose language you are studying.

The Course

The course has three components, which continue to build the skills of performing, composing and appraising whilst developing knowledge and understanding of a range of genres and composers.

You will be assessed in performance, compose extended pieces, and learn about stylistic harmonisation. You will learn about set works to gain a greater knowledge of the techniques composers use to create music and to understand the contextual influences behind the creation of music.

Assessment

30% - Externally assessed non-exam performance.

30% - Externally assessed composition.

40% - Externally assessed aural, historical, and analytical exam.

Additional Opportunities

Students can contribute to a range of performance events, as a soloist or in an ensemble.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

You will need to be an enthusiastic musician with a desire to extend your knowledge and understanding of music and your musicianship and be open to a broad range of musical traditions.

You will be an advanced performer, with instrumental or vocal skills equivalent to at least Grade 5 standard on commencing the course.



Music sits very well alongside both the Sciences and the Arts and Humanities. Studying Music at A Level and beyond can open up a range of careers including: Musician, Composer, Sound Technician, Teacher, Music Therapist, Arts Administrator, Events Manager, Radio Producer, Broadcast Engineer.



Progression routes include: PE Teacher, Physiotherapist, Leisure Management, Sports Development, Personal Trainer, Nutritionist, Sports Journalist, Volunteer opportunities, Sports Coaching, the armed services, police and fire service.

The Course

The course consists of four modules and covers physiological, psychological and socio-cultural factors that affect performance, as well as general performance in PE.

You will extend your knowledge through studying Anatomy and Exercise Physiology, Skill Acquisition, Sport and Society, Biomechanics, and Sport Psychology. This will form 70% of your course and will be examined at the end of the two years. You will also be assessed on your performance, or coaching of an activity, and also your ability to provide a detailed evaluative response to a live sporting performance.

Assessment

70% - Externally assessed written examination.

30% - Internally assessed practical coursework.

Additional Opportunities

Sports Clubs, Sports Leadership opportunities.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

A degree of competence in one sport.

Regular participation in sport outside of College.

A desire to improve your understanding of how the body and mind influence your ability in sport.



A Physics qualification will give you access to a range of careers including many forms of Engineering, IT and Communications, the Energy Industry, Architecture, and Teaching.

The Course

During the A-Level Physics (AQA) course, you will progress smoothly from previous GCSE studies in Physics, developing an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the principles of Physics. You will gain hands-on practical and data analysis skills, appreciate how science works, studying its relevance beyond the laboratory, and see how Physics underpins important technologies.

Assessment

Examination with the opportunity to gain practical endorsement.

Additional Opportunities

Outside speakers, field trips, group presentations, Inspire Cafés.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

Students should have a genuine interest in the subject, and a desire to further their knowledge in all areas.

Students should have a good understanding of mathematics in order to manipulate equations and process data.

Students should be capable of independent learning, and possess problem solving skills.

Resilience, determination and a willingness to work hard.

The Course

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. You will develop an understanding of the many underlying factors that influence our behaviour, and the consequences that different life events can have on our personality and actions.

The course builds on skills developed in the sciences and humanities, and enables progression into a wide range of other subjects. Psychology will give you an opportunity to learn, understand and evaluate issues happening around you, which can then be applied to the wider world. Psychology offers you the chance to not just study a factual subject, but also enables you to reflect on your own experiences.

Assessment

100% External examination

Useful Skills and Characteristics

An interest in human behaviour.

Willingness to participate in class discussions and work independently. Enthusiasm for the subject coupled with motivation to work hard and good organisational skills.



There are many careers that will use Psychology directly or in-directly.

Here are a few examples: Clinical Psychology, Educational Psychologist, Forensic Psychologist, Sports Psychologist, Medicine, Law, Politics, Counselling, Teaching, Police Service, Probation Service, Nursing, Design careers and many more.

Psychology is offered at many top universities and A-Level Psychology is the first step on the road that can lead to practice as a Psychologist.



Sociology is recognised as being a useful subject for many occupations which require an understanding of people and social interactions. These include: Marketing, Business, Teaching, Law, Public Services, Health Service, Social Work, and working with children to name but a few.

The Course

The Sociology course will give you a strong foundation in both the theoretical world of sociology, and the research methods used to study it. You will gain an in-depth understanding of education, families and households, societal beliefs, crime and deviance. You will also receive an excellent grounding in sociological research methods enabling you to design and conduct investigations.

Assessment

100% - External examination

Useful Skills and Characteristics

Sociology is a subject in which discussion and the exchange of ideas is crucial for understanding. Teaching also includes the use of computers, video presentations, work in alternative forms and debate.

You will develop a wide range of skills including public speaking, essay skills, analytical skills, debating, and designing presentations. You will gain an increased awareness of social groups and people.

Sport

The Course

The course consists of either 4 units (one A-Level equivalent) or 9 units (two A-Level equivalent). Examples of the topics covered are: Anatomy and Physiology, Fitness Training, Professional Development, Sports Leadership, Fitness Testing, Practical Sports Performance, Sports Event Organisation, Sports Coaching and Sports Injury Management.

Assessment

The BTEC National Diploma is equivalent to one or two A-Levels and grades are awarded at Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*. Assessment is a combination of externally assessed controlled coursework, internally assessed coursework and a written exam.

Additional Opportunities

Students are encouraged to take a wide variety of roles including running inter-house programmes, aiding in the delivery of lower school lessons/clubs and involvement in delivering sport to feeder schools.

Useful Skills and Characteristics

You should be self-motivated, and have the ability to work to coursework deadlines.

You should enjoy a practical approach to learning. You should be motivated to produce your best work, and show good presentation skills.

You should welcome the opportunity to experience a range of different work placements.



Progression routes include: Sport and Exercise Science, Sports Journalism, Teaching/Coaching, Sports Psychology, Business, Police/Fire Service, Social Work.