



THE BARCLAY SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM COURSES 2017-2018

We offer a wide range of courses. The courses you choose will depend on your interests, your ability and your career aspirations. We work closely with other education providers in the town to make sure that all students can find a combination of courses which takes them forward on their learning journey, whether that be working towards university, college or further vocational training or employment.

For the academic year 2017-2018 we plan to offer courses in the following subjects at the Barclay School Sixth Form:

- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- English Literature
- Extended Project Qualification
- Film Studies
- Geography
- Health & Social Care
- History
- Maths & Further Maths
- Music
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies: Ethics & Philosophy
- Science Applied
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Sport Studies



Course Name: Art & Design

Qualification/Duration: A level (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification: AQA

Course Description/Content:

Students of our AQA A level in Art and Design will have opportunities to generate practical work, ideas and research from primary, secondary and contextual sources. They will work with a broad range of media and processes including new and traditional technologies. They will develop and refine their ideas, presenting their outcomes in creative and imaginative ways. They will explore the interrelationships between art, craft and design processes and the context in which they operate.

Admission Requirements:

Preferably a B grade GCSE Art and Design.

How Assessed/Examined:

At A-level for component 1 you will develop work for a personal investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme supported by written material. This will count for 60% of your total A-level marks. (Support Studies. Practical outcomes).

In component 2 you will produce personal work in response to one of eight exciting starting points which will count for 40% of your total A-level marks. (Students submit preparatory studies and practical outcomes).

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

Students will be expected to extend your experience beyond the studio into individual research and to appreciate other artists and cultures by visiting galleries, museums and exhibitions.

The GCE in Art & Design has been designed to encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to the subject.

Progression/Career Paths:

This course in Art and Design supports progression to a variety of further education courses such as the BTEC Foundation Degree in Art and Design as well as onto degree.

Staff Contact:

Mrs H Dodds

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Course Name:

Biology

Qualification/Duration:

A level (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification:

OCR

Course Description/Content:

The OCR Biology is a content led approach to teaching the Biology course. OCR's modules review topics and skills that are related to the modern world and the application of Biology. You will develop an understanding of biological facts and principles and learn to appreciate their significance in modern scientific applications.

Module 1 - Developing practical skills in Biology

Module 2 - Foundations in Biology

Cell structure, Biological molecules, Nucleic acids, Enzymes, Biological membranes, Cell division and organisation.

Module 3 –Exchange and transport

Exchange surfaces, Transport in plants, Transport in animals.

Module 4 – Biodiversity, Evolution and disease

Communicable diseases, Disease prevention and the immune system, Biodiversity, Classification and Evolution.

Module 5 – Communication, Homeostasis and Energy

Communication and Homeostasis, Excretion, Neuronal and hormonal communication, Plant and Animal responses, Photosynthesis and Respiration.

Module 6 – Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems

Cellular control, Inheritance, Manipulating genomes, Cloning and Biotechnology, Ecosystems, Populations and Sustainability.

Practical skills are assessed and students produce a lab portfolio of investigation skills.

Admission Requirements:

Minimum of 2 B grades in GCSE sciences with a minimum of B grade in Biology. Maths and English are essential.

How Assessed/Examined:

Assessment is made through 3 written exams.

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

We usually run 3 days of field work activities offsite.

Progression/Career Paths:

Medicine, Veterinary Science, Sports Science, Biological research, Physiology, Physiotherapy, Environmental Health, Ecology, Conservation, Marine Biology and Nursing to name but a few.

Staff Contact:

Mr P Jones

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Course Name:

Business Studies

Qualification/Duration:

A level (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification:

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 (AS 8BS0/A2 9BS0)

Course Description/Content:

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business is structured into four themes and consists of three externally examined papers.

Theme 1 – Marketing and people

Theme 2 – Managing activities

Theme 3 – Business decisions and strategy

Theme 4 – Global business

Admission Requirements:

B grades in GCSE Business Studies, History/Geography and Maths/English Language and Literature, in addition to 5 A* - C grades at GCSE.

How Assessed/Examined:

All exams are externally assessed at the end of Year 13

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

Extra curricular activities and trips include a Dragons' Apprentice challenge, Alton Towers/Thorpe Park trip and a visit to manufacturing businesses.

Progression/Career Paths:

Students can progress from this qualification to higher education courses like management, business administration, accountancy and finance, human resource management, marketing, retail management and international business and into a wide range of careers ranging from banking, sales, product management and general management to working in public sector organisations and international business. It also prepares students for an apprenticeship in a wide variety of roles.

Staff Contact:

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Course Name: Chemistry

Qualification/Duration: A level (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification: OCR A

Course Description/Content:

Chemistry is sometimes known as the 'central science' because it helps to connect physical sciences, like maths and physics, with applied sciences, like biology, medicine and engineering. An A level in Chemistry helps you to develop **research, problem solving** and **analytical** skills. It helps you challenge ideas and show how you worked things out through **logic** and **step-by-step reasoning**. Chemistry often requires **teamwork** and **communication** skills too, which is great for enhancing your skills in **project management**.

The OCR Chemistry A level qualification covers all aspects of Chemistry applied in modern contexts and the content is divided into topics focusing on different key concepts as detailed below.

Module 1: Development of practical skills

Module 2: Foundations in chemistry covering concepts required throughout the remaining modules.

Modules 3 & 4: AS topics (Periodic table and Energy, Core organic chemistry).

Modules 5 & 6: A Level topics (Physical chemistry and transition elements, Organic chemistry and analysis).

Admission Requirements:

Minimum of 2 B grades in GCSE sciences with a minimum of B grade in Chemistry. Maths and English are essential.

How Assessed/Examined:

The A level is assessed by written exams and also including a school based practical assessment portfolio.

A Level

Paper 1 assesses the content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5. Paper 2 assesses the content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Paper 3 assesses the content from Modules 1 to 6

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

Enrichment opportunities such as competitions.

Progression/Career Paths:

Many higher education scientific pathways are open to students with Chemistry as an A level qualification including dentistry, medicine, environmental science, biochemistry, Chemical engineering and countless others.

A diverse range of non-science higher education courses also value Chemistry as an entry qualification (including engineering, law, software research and development).

Staff Contact:

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Course Name:	English Literature
Qualification/Duration:	A level (2 years)
Exam Board/Specification:	AQA Specification B (7717)

Course Description/Content:

A selection of texts will be explored and discussed through clear focus on genre. A minimum of eight texts will be studied including: Shakespeare, poetry, prose and drama – at least two texts studied will be pre-1900.

Core content:

- 4.1 Literary genres
- 4.2 Texts and genres
- 4.3 Theory and independence

Options:

- 4.1.1 Aspects of tragedy
- 4.1.2 Aspects of comedy
- 4.2.1 Elements of crime writing
- 4.2.2 Elements of political and social protest writing

Admission Requirements:

Minimum 6 grade in GCSE English Literature and Language.

How Assessed/Examined:

There are two examination papers to be taken at the end of the two year course.

Paper 1: Literary Genre (2 hours and 30 minutes examination, closed book, worth 75 marks and 40% overall grade).

What's assessed: Choice of two options:

Option 1A: Aspects of tragedy OR Option 1B: Aspects of comedy

Study of three texts: one Shakespeare text; a second drama text and one further text, of which one must be written pre-1900.

Paper 2: Texts and Genres (3 hour examination, open book, worth 75 marks and 40% of overall grade)

What's assessed: Choice of two options:

Option 2A: Elements of crime writing OR Option 2B: Elements of political and social protest writing

Study of three texts: one post-2000 prose text; one poetry and one further text, one of which must be written pre-1900.

Examination will include an unseen passage.

There are also two pieces of coursework, where there will be a study of two texts: one poetry and one prose text, informed by study of the Critical Anthology Students will need to produce two essays of 1250–1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology. One essay can be re-creative. The re-creative piece will be accompanied by a commentary.

Coursework is worth 20% of the overall grade.

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

Visit to The Globe Theatre; visits to theatres which are showing plays, or texts, being covered.

Progression/Career Paths:

An excellent A level choice for those interested in any university degree which requires analytical study. Higher education. Apprenticeships.

Staff Contact:

Ms J Adams

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Course Name: Extended Project Qualification

Qualification/Duration: Level 3 (1 year)

Exam Board/Specification: AQA

Course Description/Content:

The extended project is a single piece of work done over a year. It functions as a standalone qualification and is the equivalent of an AS. The EPQ allows each student to embark on a largely self-directed and self-motivated project. Students must choose a topic, plan, research and develop their idea and decide on their finished product.

A project topic may be directly related to a student's main study programme, but should look beyond the specification.

A finished product may take the form of:

- A research based written report
- A production* (e.g. charity event, fashion show or sports event etc)
- An artefact* (e.g. piece of art, a computer game or realised design).

*a written report must accompany these options.

Students must also record their project process in their Production Log. The process of recording and completing a project is as important as the finished product. Both the Production Log and Product will be assessed.

What your students need to do

- Choose an area of interest and draft their project title and aims.
- Plan, research and carry out their project.
- Keep a production log of all stages of the project production, reviewing and evaluating their progress.
- Complete the project product.
- Prepare and deliver a presentation.
- Review the outcome of their project and presentation.

It is designed to expand your learning in your field of study, in a related area or something that is relevant to your own personal interests or hobbies. By undertaking this work it is hoped that it would enable you to have a significant input into choice and design; develop your decision making and problem solving skills; extend your research, critical thinking, analytical and evaluation skills; and use the experience to support higher education and/or career aspirations.

Admission Requirements:

Minimum C grade in GCSE English & Maths.

How Assessed/Examined:

The work will be marked by your tutor and graded A* to E. Students able to take responsibility for their own learning would enjoy this course. It will require in total 120 guided learning hours.

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

N/A

Progression/Career Paths:

The EPQ is very useful in supporting higher education and/or career aspirations.

Staff Contact:

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Course Name:

Film Studies

Qualification/Duration:

AS & A2 level (1 or 2 years)

Exam Board/Specification:

WJEC

Course Description/Content:

The AS/A course in Film Studies is designed to deepen students' understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film, the major art form of the twentieth century, and one developing new modes of expression and exhibition in the first decades of the twenty-first century. The course builds on the cineliteracy learners have developed informally since childhood. They will study film deriving from a variety of production contexts and experienced in a variety of viewing situations. They will also engage with a wide range of different kinds of films, developing skills of observation, critical analysis and personal reflection, as well as developing their creativity and practical skills, either in audio-visual or written form. A variety of forms of assessment are used, with the intention of producing imaginative, active learners. In particular, the course explores the relationship between the film and the individual by exploring how films create meanings and produce both intellectual and emotional responses. Additionally, the aesthetic and sensory qualities of film are emphasised as integral to a study of the interaction between films and spectators. Analysis is enabled by the application of critical approaches appropriate to this level, as well as through creative project work.

The study of film producers and audiences explores issues of production and consumption: the supply of and demand for films. Some of the recurring debates within film culture will be explored. These include the global dominance of Hollywood, strategies for supporting indigenous film and the significance of fandom.

The course introduces students to the diverse range of film forms and film styles developed in different places throughout the history of cinema. In giving students the opportunity to study significant film movements and aspects of national cinemas, it is intended that an interest in film culture will be fostered which can be taken forward in lifelong learning.

Admission Requirements:

Minimum C grade in English GCSE.

How Assessed/Examined:

AS Level

Unit 1: FM1 20 % (40%) Internal Assessment - Exploring Film Form

Unit 2: FM2 30% (60%) External Assessment (2½ hours Written Paper) - British and American Film

A Level (the above plus)

Unit 3: FM3 25 % Internal Assessment - Film Research and Creative Projects

Unit 4: FM4 25 % External Assessment (2 ¾ hour Written Paper) - Varieties of Film Experience: Issues and Debates
Homework

Although specific homework tasks will be set regularly, students are expected to undertake their own wider study of the subject. This can take the form of research, writing up notes, viewing relevant films/extracts, preparing presentations, writing formal essays, assessment preparation, exam skills practice.

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

Visits to BFI, ASFF York Film Festival, Maidstone TV Studios, Cambridge/Letchworth Picture House Tour.

Progression/Career Paths:

Staff Contact:

Mrs L Norman

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Course Name: Geography

Qualification/Duration: A Level (2 Years)

Exam Board/Specification: Edexcel

Course Description/Content:

We choose our topics carefully so there is a natural progression from GCSE to A Level, ensuring there is a development of content, allowing for specialisation and progression to higher education and employment. You will be given the opportunity to develop fieldwork skills and study geographical issues and impacts. A high value is placed on the quality of the written work (spelling, grammar, punctuation).

Topics: Tectonic Processes and Hazards / Coastal Landscapes / Physical Systems and Sustainability Globalisation / Regenerating Places / Migration. A synoptic paper will also be completed based on a key geographical issue or theme. Students will also complete an independent geographical investigation based on an area of their choice.

Admission Requirements:

We will have difficulties in accepting students who achieved less than a C in their GCSE Geography exam. Ideally, anything higher than a C is going to increase students' chances of achieving good A Level results. Remember that a C in GCSE does not translate into a C grade at A Level.

How Assessed/Examined:

Examinations plus a coursework assignment of 3000-4000 words (which counts as 20% of A-Level). Throughout the course students are assessed regularly in an informal manner (class discussions, debates, presentations, peer assessment and self-assessment) as well as in a formal manner (past papers, portfolio check, marking and feedback on assignments).

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

Field trips including a visit to Rothamsted Park, Harpenden / A local investigation between Stevenage and Hitchin. A rivers trip to Surrey.

Progression/Career Paths:

Geography at A Level is a very valuable in regards to transition into university. It is a facilitating subject, which means it is a highly desirable subject to have. In August 2015, it was described in The Guardian as "The must-have A Level". Geography enables you to obtain multi-disciplinary skills which are valued in many lines of employment including; Finance and Banking; Environmental Agencies; International Development Organisations; Education; Urban Planning; Renewable Energy and GIS mapping.

Staff Contact:

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Course Name:

Health & Social Care

Qualification/Duration:

BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification:

Edexcel

Course Description/Content:

- **Human Lifespan Development EXAM 1 ½ hrs** - This unit covers the physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the human lifespan. Investigates the factors that affect growth and development and how these interrelate Studies the development and the effects of ageing.
- **Working in Health and Social Care EXAM 1 ½ hrs** - Learners explore what it is like to work in the health and social care sector, including the roles and responsibilities of workers and organisations. This unit will help you to understand what it is like to work in the health and social care sector. These include maintaining the safety of and safeguarding individuals with health and social care needs, making sure that you properly handle their personal information and preventing discrimination
- **Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs Course Work** - Examine principles, values and skills which underpin meeting the care and support needs of individuals B Examine the ethical issues involved when providing care and support to meet individual needs C Investigate the principles behind enabling individuals with care and support needs to overcome challenges D Investigate the roles of professionals and how they work together to provide the
- **Promoting Public Health Course work** - Examine strategies for developing public health policy to improve the health of individuals and the population Examine the factors affecting health and the impact of addressing these factors to improve public health Investigate how health is promoted to improve the health of the population Investigate how health promotion encourages individuals to change their behaviour

Admission Requirements:

5 C grades at GCSE. If these grades are not met then students will be required to discuss their eligibility with a member of staff.

How Assessed/Examined:

2 Externally examined units and 2 coursework internally assessed units.

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

TBA

Progression/Career Paths:

Nurses, midwives, healthcare assistants, social workers, occupational therapists, youth workers, care managers/assistants, support workers Early Years practitioners, teachers, police service and many more

Staff Contact:

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Course Name:

History

Qualification/Duration:

A level (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification:

OCR

Course Description/Content:

Year 12: The Early Tudors. Russia 1894-1941.

Year 13: Witch crazes of the 16th & 17th centuries. Independent study topic.

Admission Requirements:

No prior requirement for study of History at GCSE however this is desirable but a minimum C grade in English Language at GCSE is required.

How Assessed/Examined:

This is a linear course with 3 examinations & one independent study topic.

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

A Level conferences to hear leading historians like Dr David Starkey, Professor Ronald Hutton and Dr John Guy.

Progression/Career Paths:

History at A Level is a highly sought after qualification for both Higher Education and for employers. You could go on to study a degree in History, Law, Politics, Teaching, Journalism, Social Sciences or continue in the workplace with Management, the Civil Services, Administration or Local Government.

If you enjoy History, it can lead you to a great future! Look at Dermott Murnaghan (journalist), David Sainsbury (Chairman of Sainsbury's), Diane Abbott (MP and broadcaster). You can also count the likes of Melvin Bragg, Anita Roddick (founder of the Body Shop), Monty Python's Michael Palin, Sacha Baron Cohen (AKA Ali G) Louis Theroux, Jonathan Ross, Gordon Brown, Al Murray and Cold Play's Chris Martin among other History graduates!

Staff Contact:

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Course Name: Mathematics & Further Mathematics

Qualification/Duration: A level (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification: Edexcel

Course Description/Content:

As from first teaching September 2017, Mathematics will be a linear qualification, with a content that is common to all examination boards. The overarching themes covering the qualifications are threefold; Mathematical argument, language and proof, Mathematical problem solving and Mathematical modelling. The underlying principles include assessment that will encourage good understanding of Mathematics, applications with Pure Mathematics embedded, problem solving and modelling central to the course and a syllabus that builds confidence for students. The following topics are studied at A level Mathematics:

Pure

Algebra, co-ordinate geometry, polynomials, inequalities, language of maths and indices and surds. Differentiation, integration, natural logarithms and exponentials, functions, proof, numerical solution of equations. Binomial expansions, partial fractions, trigonometry, parametric equations, further techniques for integration and differential equations.

Statistics

Exploring Data, Data Presentation, Probability, Discrete Random Variables, Combinations, The Binomial Distribution and Hypothesis Testing.

Mechanics

Modelling, Vectors, Kinematics, Newton's laws of motion, Projectiles and Forces. Friction, Moments, Work, Energy and Power.

Further Mathematics should be considered by enthusiastic, able Mathematicians. It is a more challenging course which requires dedication as it is deeper and broader than A Level Mathematics. It reinforces and expands some content from Mathematics, as well as introducing new topics. There will be some choice as regards to course content, The exam board has decided approximately 50% of the course, and the other 50% is to be chosen by the department to maximise the best grades for students.

Admission Requirements:

Minimum grade 7 in GCSE Maths. Good algebra skills.

How Assessed/Examined:

All assessments will be linear (that is examined at the end of the 2-year course, with 100% examination) containing both pure and applied (Mechanics and Statistics) mathematics. The examination structure will be 3 papers, the first one considering only Pure Mathematics whereas the second and third papers having half of their content Pure with the other half either Mechanics or Statistics. All papers will expect the use of a calculator.

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

Students have the opportunity to participate in the Senior Mathematics Challenge.

Progression/Career Paths:

The logic and reasoning skills developed by studying A Level Mathematics make sure the qualification is widely respected, even in non-mathematical areas. Mathematics is essential for almost all Engineering courses, and is very useful (indeed essential at some universities) for Business Studies, Accountancy, Finance, Management Science, Economics, Physics and other Science courses including Medicine, Computing and Architecture. The study of mathematics can lead to a variety of exciting professional careers: Research, Law, Commerce, Teaching, Medicine, Engineering, Finance, Business and Government.

Staff Contact:

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Course Name:

Music

Qualification/Duration:

A level (2 years AS and A Level)

Exam Board/Specification:

WJEC

Course Description/Content:

AS level:

Component 1 30%: Performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study. Performing total duration of performances: 6-8 minute.

Component 2 30%: Two compositions one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Students will have a choice of four briefs. The second composition is a free composition.

Component 3 40% Appraising music: This part of the qualification involves studying two set areas of music including: Set work analysis with a score, Extended responses on wider context, Unprepared extracts of music with and without a score, Comparison questions The two areas of study include: Area of study A: The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1830) and a choice of a further area study from: Area of study B: Rock and Pop Area of study C: Musical Theatre Area of study D: Jazz.

At A2 level, choice to major in either composition or performance (choice of either A or B).

Performing: Option A: Performing (35%) A performance consisting of a minimum of three pieces. At least one of these pieces must be as a soloist. The other pieces may be either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study. At least one other piece must reflect the musical characteristics of a different area of study. Option B: Performing (25%) A

performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination.

Composing: Option A: Total duration of compositions: 4-6 minutes Option A: 25% of qualification. Option B: Total duration of compositions: 8-10 minutes Option B: 35% of qualification

Component 3 consists of a writing exam which focuses on three areas: Area of study A: The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony), a choice of one from: Area of study B: Rock and Pop Area of study C: Musical Theatre Area of study D: Jazz, a choice from: Area of study E: Into the Twentieth Century Area of study F: Into the Twenty-first Century.

The school supported the funding for A-Level music students to receive a 30-minute instrumental lesson each week to support on component 1 of the course.

Admission Requirements:

Students must be able to perform at Grade 4 level on their instrument, including voice and should be working towards grade 5 pieces during their AS Music course. Students need to be able to perform at this standard for their As performance exam at the end of the As year. If you have not taken an instrumental exam, please speak to Miss Dearn to assess suitability for course. Students can be accepted onto the course working at a lower grade but marks will be lost for the difficulty mark in the performance exam.

How Assessed/Examined:

At AS and A2 Component 1 and 2 are externally assessed (Component 1 involves a visiting examiner). Component 3 is assessed through a listening examination.

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

Many students who do not take music as an A Level subject are still heavily involved in the life of the department, through our extra curricular programme. Trips are used to enhanced learning on the course.

Progression/Career Paths:

Past students have gone on to successfully study Music at University or a course related to music. Some students have gone on to study courses not related to Music as completing an A Level in Music demonstrates an ability to work both independently and as part of a team, the ability to multitask and a good level of self motivation and self control.

Staff Contact:

Miss S Dearn

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Course Name:	Physics
Qualification/Duration:	A level (2 years)
Exam Board/Specification:	OCR (H556)

Course Description/Content:

A flexible content-led approach where the specification is divided into modules, each covering different key concepts in Physics. As learners progress through the course they will build on their knowledge of the laws of Physics, applying their understanding to solve problems on topics ranging from sub-atomic particles to the entire universe. The course also includes a Practical Endorsement that supports the development of practical skills.

Content Overview:

Module 1 - Development of Practical Skills in Physics. Module 2 - Foundations of Physics. Module 3 - Forces and Motion. Module 4 - Electrons, Waves and Photons. Module 5 - Newtonian World and Astrophysics. Module 6 - Particles and Medical Physics.

Admission Requirements:

Minimum of 2 B grades in GCSE sciences with a minimum of B grade in Physics. Maths and English are essential.

How Assessed/Examined:

Modelling Physics (01) 37% of total A level. 100 marks. 2 hours 15 minutes. Written paper.
Exploring Physics (02) 37% of total A level. 100 marks. 2 hours 15 minutes. Written paper.
Unified Physics (03) 26% of total A level. 70 marks. 1 hour 30 minutes. Written paper.
Practical Endorsement in Physics (04)
Non exam assessment

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

TBA

Progression/Career Paths:

Physics is the science that tries to understand the laws of nature and the relationship between energy and matter. However, it might be more appropriate to define physics as a way of thinking rather than as a profession. The field of physics trains students to take a logical, problem-solving approach in whatever situations they might find themselves. Physics students explore concepts and methods of science that can be applied in many different professional areas and research topics. Physics deals with everything from subatomic particles to black holes and the overall structure of the universe. Physicists use mathematical formulas to try to explain their theories and make predictions. It is a science that has attracted and confounded some of the most brilliant minds of all time: Sir Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, and Stephen Hawking, to name just a few. But physics is also concerned with how things work on a more tangible level. The laws of physics are applied to fields such as engineering, communications, biology, and electronics. The development of technologies like lasers and semiconductors resulted from pioneering work in physics. Televisions, microwaves and digital cameras would not exist without breakthroughs in physics. Physics is really the study of how the world works, and, it might be considered the most fundamental of all the sciences. The goal of physics is to develop theories that will summarize the laws of nature and lead to an understanding of why things work as they do.

The basics of physics can be applied to most other sciences, and for that reason, a great many people use physics as a springboard into other fields of study or professions some of which are listed: Acoustics, Aeronautical Engineer, Agricultural Engineer, Air Traffic Controller, Airline Pilot, Archaeologist, Architect, Astronomer, Audio Engineer, Broadcasting, Cartographer, Chartered Surveyor, Civil Engineer, Climatologist, Clinical Scientist, Computing, Designer, Doctor, Electrical Engineer, Energy, Engineering, Environment, Environmental Scientist, Forensic Scientist, Gas Engineer, Geologist, Health Services, Journalist, Laboratory Technician, Marine Engineering, Mathematician, Mechanical Engineer, Medical Physicist, Meteorologist, Naval Architect, Nuclear Scientist, Oceanographer, Operational Research, Patent Agent, Patent Examiner, Pharmacist, Radiation Protection, Radiographer, Scientific Officer (Government), Space and Remote Sensing, Teacher, Transport, Water Management.

Staff Contact:

Miss J Ellison

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Course Name: Psychology

Qualification/Duration: A level (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification: OCR

Course Description/Content:

The first examination unit looks at research methods in Psychology. Here students learn about planning, conducting, analysing and reporting psychological research across a range of experimental and non-experimental methodologies and techniques.

The second unit introduces some of the central areas of investigation in psychology such as moral development and responses to authority. These are organised in key themes of cognitive and developmental psychology etc. Each key theme is represented by a classic and a contemporary core study.

The final component is our applied section of the course which examines Issues in mental health, Child psychology and Criminal psychology.

Admission Requirements:

5 GCSEs at grade C, including B in Science and B in English.

How Assessed/Examined:

3 written exam papers at the end of Year 13.

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

Visits to Professor Zimbardo Conference London, Social Science Conference North Herts College and Psychology University Conference Bedfordshire/ Hertfordshire.

Progression/Career Paths:

Health care, Social care, Marketing and Public Relations, Management and human resources – Institutional Psychology, Sports Psychologist, Educational Psychologist, Public sector work, Military psychologist, Psychiatric medicine.

Staff Contact:

Mr G Ward

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Course Name: Religious Studies: Ethics & Philosophy

Qualification/Duration: A level (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification: AQA

Course Description/Content:

There are two assessed components. Students must take assessments in both Component 1 and Component 2 in the same exam series. These assessments must be in the same faith context, for example students entering for an exam in 1A Buddhism and the philosophy of religion must also enter 2A Buddhism and ethics.

4.4.1 Component 1: Philosophy and religion

Section A: Study of religion - God Self, death and the afterlife, The challenge from science, Christianity and the nature and function of religion, Sources of religious wisdom and authority in Christianity.

Section B: Philosophy of religion - Arguments for the existence of God, Evil and suffering, Religious experience, Religious language, Miracles, Self, death and the afterlife.

Section C: The dialogue between philosophy and religion - Students must explore the dialogue between philosophical approaches, including where appropriate the approach of moral philosophy and the religion they have chosen for study.

4.4.2 Component 2: Ethics, religion and society

Section A: Study of religion - Key moral principles, Christian religious identity, Christianity and sexual identity, Christianity and religious pluralism.

Section B: Ethics and religion - Normative ethical theories, The application of natural moral law, situation ethics and virtue ethics, Introduction to meta ethics: the meaning of right and wrong, Free will and moral responsibility, Conscience, Bentham and Kant.

Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion - Students must explore the dialogue between ethical studies, including relevant philosophical, insights, and the one religion they have chosen for study.

Admission Requirements:

Minimum C grade at GCSE and/or B grade in GCSE English.

How Assessed/Examined:

4.4.1 Component 1: Philosophy and religion

Section A: one compulsory question testing AO1 (10 marks) and one compulsory question testing AO2 (15 marks).

Section B: two compulsory questions testing AO1 (each worth 10 marks) and two compulsory questions testing AO2 (each worth 15 marks).

Section C: one synoptic question from a choice of two testing AO1 and AO2 (worth 25 marks). AO1 and AO2 are tested in isolation except in the synoptic assessment in Section C. At A-level, the AO weightings are the same across both components for each question: AO1 40% and AO2 60%

4.4.2 Component 2: Ethics, religion and society

Section A: one compulsory question testing AO1 (10 marks) and one compulsory question testing AO2 (15 marks).

Section B: two compulsory questions testing AO1 (each worth 10 marks) and two compulsory questions testing AO2 (each worth 15 marks).

Section C: one synoptic question from a choice of two testing AO1 and AO2 (worth 25 marks). AO1 and AO2 are tested in isolation except in the synoptic assessment in Section C. At A-level, the AO weightings are the same across both components for each question: AO1 40% and AO2 60%

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

Many opportunities, including educational visits to Whipsnade zoo, visits to places of worship, as well as educational talks from experts on the theme or religion studied.

Progression/Career Paths:

Studying at A-Level can lead to a wide range of courses including Religious Studies, Theology, Philosophy, Law, Sociology and the Social Sciences. Careers: Barrister, Civil Service fast streamer, Health service manager, Local government officer, Marketing executive, Newspaper journalist, Psychotherapist, Recruitment consultant, Solicitor.

Staff Contact:

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Course Name:

Science Applied

Qualification/Duration:

BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification:

Edexcel

Course Description/Content:

The course is equivalent to one A Level and is undertaken over two years. The course is assessed solely by coursework and you will complete 6 units over two years; 3 units in Year 12 and 3 units in Year 13.

Year 12

- Fundamentals of science
- Working in the science industry
- Scientific practical techniques

Year 13

- Physiology of Human Systems
- Disease and Infection
- Biomedical Techniques

A strong foundation is laid in all aspects of science in the first year then there is a focus on biological units in the second year. This course concentrates on the knowledge, skills and techniques found in real-life situations. It includes research, practical work and problem-solving and will build on scientific skills and knowledge in key ideas in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will build a portfolio of work which will comprise a mixture of project work, practical assessment and individual research.

Admission Requirements:

Minimum of C grades at GCSE sciences or a Merit pass at Level 2 BTEC are required. Maths and English are essential.

How Assessed/Examined:

50% Exam 50% Coursework portfolio

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

TBA

Progression/Career Paths:

A BTEC national certificate in Applied science (medical science) will enable you to progress to many degree courses such as: Foundation nursing, sports studies, applied science, medical sciences, dental technology and therapy and exercise studies. Alternatively, this qualification can also lead to direct employment in a science-related area such as laboratory work. The certificate will earn you UCAS points in the same way that A-levels do.

(Please note that this course is NOT appropriate if you wish to become a doctor, veterinary surgeon or dentist.)

Staff Contact:

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Course Name: **Sociology**

Qualification/Duration: A level (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification: AQA

Course Description/Content:

Sociology is a study of the society in which we live. It examines the way in which it shapes our lives and the way in which we shape it. During the course of their A-level in Sociology students will cover 4 units:

Families and Households. This unit covers aspects such as the changing nature of childhood and changing patterns in household structure alongside the roles of men and women in the home.

Education with Research Method. In this unit students examine the role and purpose of education alongside the differences in educational attainment by gender, ethnicity and social class.

Mass Media. In this unit students examine the way in which messages of control and persuasion by the powerful influence our lifestyles - more often than not without our knowledge. As a result it looks at who is in control of the media and what that means for us?

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods. Here students investigate the relationship between deviance, power and social control. One other aspect of the unit involves examining how globalisation has affected drug trafficking, people trafficking, cybercrime and other crimes.

Admission Requirements:

5 GCSEs at Grade C including English.

How Assessed/Examined:

3 written exams papers at the end of Year 13.

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

Visits to the Enlightenment Exhibition at The British Museum, Speakers Corner at Hyde Park, London, the Sociology University Conference Bedfordshire/Hertfordshire.

Progression/Career Paths:

Sociologist, Social Services, Counselling, Police Services, Education, Child care, Social Research, Civil Servant, Implementing social policy, Local Government – Community Services, Further Education.

Staff Contact:

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Course Name:	Spanish
Qualification/Duration:	A level (2 years)
Exam Board/Specification:	AQA

Course Description/Content:

If you want access to South America, and increasingly the North, a thorough working knowledge of the 3rd most spoken language in the World after Mandarin and English, some insight into countries with civilisations ranging from the Aztecs, Incas and Mayans to the Moors of North Africa, then Spanish is for you. Frequent use is made of up to date material from the Spanish and Latin American to give real insight into the modern and changing world.

As well as course book texts, you will work on video and audio materials, and a number of Internet and other interactive sources. All language work is firmly linked to contemporary issues and life in Spain and other Spanish speaking countries. There are plenty of chances to develop your authentic Spanish. In class you will carry out a lot of pair and group work designed to build up your communicative skills. By the end of Year 12 you will be able to study short off-air news items in Spanish and make brief summaries. You will also watch and analyse some Spanish feature films.

What to expect:

- To study every day. Language acquisition requires a "little and often" approach.
- To participate in class in the target language.
- To learn and revise vocabulary and grammar on a weekly basis.

The topics of Social issues and trends / Artistic culture /Study of a Literary text or film, guide you from GCSE through to a more advanced content and degree of interest, appropriate to their age. In Year 13 the content moves to further studies of Social issues and trends, Political and artistic culture and Literary texts or films such as La Casa de Bernarda Alba, one of the best-known plays ever to come out of Spain.

Admission Requirements:

Pupils require a minimum of a grade B in Spanish at GCSE but a grade A or higher offers more guarantees of success at achieving a higher grade at A Level.

How Assessed/Examined:

For A Level Spanish there are three components:-

- Speaking Test (30% of A Level) (21-23mins plus 5mins preparation time)
- Paper 1 Listening/Reading/Translation into English and Spanish (40% of A Level) ((2hrs 30mins)
- Paper 2 Writing about two books from the prescribed list of set texts or one book and one film from the prescribed list (30% of A Level) (2hrs)

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

TBA

Progression/Career Paths:

Spanish is the second most widely spoken language with 350 million speakers worldwide. Spanish is spoken as a first language in 21 countries. As the world is becoming smaller, speaking Spanish can open many career opportunities in business, industry and education, and can be a valuable asset in such career fields as computing, accountancy, banking, tourism, media, import, exports and marketing. Joint degree combinations are very popular, for example combining Spanish with another language, or Law, English, Business, Tourism, or indeed a wide range of other disciplines. Students going on to employment or training progress into areas such as retail and leisure and tourism.

Staff Contact:

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Course Name:

Sport

Qualification/Duration:

BTEC Level 3 National (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification:

Pearson/Edexcel

Course Description/Content:

The course is taught in units, with a variety of assessment tasks in each.

Level 3 Extended Certificate (1 A level equivalence)

Year 12

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology (1 hour and 30 minute exam that will contain a mix of short and long answer questions). The paper will be set and marked by Pearsons.

Unit 4: (optional unit) Application of fitness testing. This is assignment based and it is an internally assessed unit.

Year 13

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sports and Well-Being. The task will be set and marked by Pearsons

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry

This is assignment based and it is an internally assessed unit.

Level 3 Foundation Diploma (1.5 A level equivalence)

All of Extended Certificate units plus:

Year 12:

Unit 4: Sports Leadership. This is assignment based and it is an internally assessed unit.

Unit 6: Sports Psychology. This is assignment based and it is an internally assessed unit.

Year 13:

Unit 8: Coaching for performance. This is assignment based and it is an internally assessed unit.

Level three certificate in Sports Leadership.

Admission Requirements:

4 GCSE passes at grade C and/or average points score to move onto a Level 3 course of study, with the proviso that the PE teaching team are confident that a student will succeed on this course. For all courses students are required to have an interest in the practical application of a variety of sports, in Sports Leadership/Coaching and the theoretical concepts of sport. It is not essential to have studied GCSE PE or Level 2 BTEC Sport to take the course.

How Assessed/Examined:

Assessment is through coursework that is set and marked on a regular basis throughout the year. Students do sit a formal exam for unit one. Anatomy and Physiology. One unit is task based and marked externally by pearsons. Assignments are marked at one of three levels; pass, merit or distinction. There is a final grade given at the end of the one year/two year course – this equates to UCAS points.

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

Work with local primary schools and Stevenage Sports Festivals as part of CSLA.

Progression/Career Paths:

University, apprenticeships in sport, local employment, public services

Staff Contact:

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