



THE
BARCLAY
SCHOOL

Sixth Form Courses 2017/18



BARCLAY SIXTH FORM

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS 2017/18

MINIMUM GRADES ACHIEVED AT GCSE	AVAILABLE PROGRAMME
Five 9 - 5 grades Including English & Mathematics	Three Level 3 courses which include A Level or BTEC qualifications. Specific subject entry requirements are in this booklet
Five 9 - 5 grades Including only one of English or Maths	A bespoke programme may be available. Where English &/or Mathematics grade 5 has not been achieved, these must be retaken.

Where students have achieved two or three grade 5 results a bespoke programme may be available.

Students must retake English &/or Mathematics if they have not achieved a grade 5.

A GUIDE TO CHOOSING YOUR A LEVELS

At Barclay we offer three possible routes for Post 16 study:

- A levels
- Vocational Level 3 (BTEC National, Applied A level)
- Level 2 courses

The following information may help you to reach an informed decision about which A level subjects to study in the sixth form.

What are the A levels that give you the most options at university (facilitating A levels)?

The A levels that give you the widest range of options at university are called the facilitating A levels. An A level becomes a facilitating A level when it is clearly asked for by a number of university courses as an essential entry requirement. The more of these subjects that you do, the more options you will have open to you at university.

The facilitating A levels are:

Biology

Chemistry

English Literature

Geography

History

Languages (Classical and Modern)

Maths and Further Maths

Physics

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The Extended Project Qualification is highly regarded by universities who see it as excellent preparation for university-level study. Some universities will lower their offers for students offering the Extended Project.

Do universities dislike certain A levels (non-preferred A levels)?

There is much misinformation on this issue. A levels are often described in terms of 'hard or soft' and the advice you receive can often be dependent on the type of institution that you attend. Our aim is to give you a balanced and factual view.

One university with a declared non-preferred list of A levels is LSE (London School of Economics and Political Science). What is important to note here is that they do not want you to be offering **two** of the less traditional subjects.

Some individual courses at a particular university can have a non-preferred list such as law at Manchester or architecture at Bath. If you know what subject you want to study at university you can look on the 'Entry Profiles' at UCAS 'Course Search'.

Even if you are not sure of your subject of study at university why not think about your two favourite subjects from the facilitating subjects list.

A level (or equivalent) requirements for Degrees - a checklist

Please take note that many degrees will be open to students whatever A levels they choose. For example:

Accountancy, Anthropology, Archaeology, Business Studies, History of Art, Law, Management Studies, Media Studies, Philosophy, Politics, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, Surveying, General Primary Teacher Training.

However, some of the above courses may still have a preference for some of the facilitating A levels, check the 'Entry Profiles' on UCAS Course Search.

Here is a guide to general requirements for university courses (these may vary according to institution so check websites/prospectuses for more information):-

Accountancy (also banking/finance/insurance)

Essential A levels: None.

Useful A levels: Maths, Business Studies and Economics.

Aeronautical engineering

Essential A levels: Maths and Physics.

Useful A levels: Further Maths, DT.

Archaeology

Essential A levels: None.

Useful A levels: Archaeology, History and Chemistry.

Architecture

Essential A levels: Some courses say they want an arts/science mix.

Useful A levels: Art And Design, Art, Maths, DT and Physics.

A portfolio of drawings and ideas will often be asked for.

Art and Design

Essential A levels: Art and Design or DT.

Most entrants onto Art and Design degrees will have done a one-year Art Foundation course after their A levels.

BioChemistry

Essential A levels: Always Chemistry, and some degrees will say the student must have Biology as well, while some will say Chemistry plus one from Maths/Physics/Biology. Doing Chemistry, Biology and Maths or Physics will keep all BioChemistry courses open to you.

Biology

Essential A levels: Biology and Chemistry.

Useful A levels: Maths or Physics.

Building (Building services, surveying, construction management)

Essential AS Levels: For many courses in this field Maths and/or Physics.

Business Studies

Essential A levels: None.

Useful A levels: Maths, Business Studies and Economics.

Chemistry

Essential A levels: Chemistry and usually Maths or Physics. Some courses like Chemistry, Maths and Physics, while some like Chemistry, Maths and Biology.

Computing

Essential A levels: For some courses Maths.

Useful A levels: Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Philosophy and ICT.

Dentistry

Essential A levels: Chemistry and Biology would be acceptable for most course, but a few still like Chemistry, Biology and Maths or Physics.

Dietetics

Essential A levels: Chemistry and Biology.

Drama

Essential A levels: Some courses require English Literature and for a few courses English and/or Theatre Studies.

Useful A levels: English Literature, English language and literature, Theatre Studies.

Economics

Essential A levels: Some courses require Maths.

Useful A levels: Maths and Economics.

Education (see teacher training).

Electrical/electronic engineering

Essential A levels: Maths and Physics.

Useful A levels: Further Maths.

English

Essential A levels: English Literature/English Language and Literature

Useful A levels: History, a foreign language.

Environmental Science/Studies

Essential A levels: Many courses will ask for two from Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Physics and Geography.

French

Essential A levels: French.

Useful A levels: Another modern foreign language, English Literature, History.

Geography

Essential A levels: Most degrees require Geography.

Useful A levels: Some BSc (Science) degrees prefer one from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics.

History

Essential A levels: Most degrees require History.

Useful A levels: Economics, English Literature, Philosophy, Politics, Sociology and Theology/Religious Studies.

History of Art

Essential A levels: None.

Useful A levels: Art, English Literature, History, Theology/Religious Studies, a modern foreign language.

Law

Essential A levels: None.

Useful AS Levels: Critical thinking (this will help with the Law National Admissions Test). There really are no essential A levels for law. Maybe one choice should involve essay/report writing. History gives the student good relevant skills for law but is not essential.

Maths

Essential A levels: Maths and sometimes Further Maths.

Useful A levels: Physics.

Mechanical engineering

Essential A levels: Maths and Physics.

Useful A levels: Further Maths and DT.

Media Studies (including Communication Studies)

Essential A levels: A few courses ask for English or Media Studies.

Useful A levels: English, Media Studies, Sociology and Psychology.

Medicine

Essential A levels: If you do Chemistry, Biology and one from Maths or Physics you will keep all the medical schools open to you. If you do Chemistry and Biology you will keep the vast majority. If the student does Chemistry and one from Biology, Maths and Physics they will limit their range of choices much more.

Useful AS Levels: Critical Thinking (will help with section 3 of the Bio-medical Admissions Test).

Music

Essential A levels: For most traditional courses Music and Grade VII/VIII.

Nursing and midwifery

Essential A levels: Some courses ask for Biology or another science.

Useful A levels: Biology, Sociology, Psychology, Chemistry.

Optometry

Essential A levels: Two from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics (some courses prefer Biology as one of the choices).

Pharmacy

Essential A levels: Chemistry and two from Biology, Maths and Physics keeps the vast majority of courses open to you. Some courses like Chemistry, Biology and Maths. Doing Chemistry and Biology keeps most courses open.

Philosophy

Essential A levels: None.

Useful A levels: Maths, Classical Civilisations, Philosophy and Religious Education/Theology.

Physics

Essential A levels: Maths and Physics.

Useful A levels: Further Maths, Chemistry.

Physiotherapy

Essential A levels: Most courses will consider you with Biology, however some ask for a second science from Chemistry, Maths or Physics.

Politics

Essential A levels: None.

Useful A levels: Politics, History, Philosophy, law.

Psychology

Essential A levels: A few courses ask for one from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics.

Useful A levels: Biology, Maths, Psychology and Sociology.

Religious Studies/Theology

Essential A levels: None.

Useful A levels: Religious Studies/Theology, Philosophy, English literature, History.

Sociology

Essential A levels: None.

Useful A levels: Sociology, Psychology, Geography and Media Studies.

Speech Therapy

Essential A levels: Some degrees want a science such as Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Some specify Biology, but some degrees will consider candidates with none of these.

Useful A levels: A modern foreign language, English Language and Literature, Psychology.

Sports Science/Physical Education

Essential A levels: Many courses want to see one from Biology/Chemistry/Maths/Physics (some courses will treat Physical Education as a science equivalent).

Useful A levels: Physical Education, Psychology.

Surveying

Essential A levels: None.

Useful A levels: For some types of surveying i.e. building surveying, Maths and Physics could be helpful. For estate management (general practice surveying) most A level combinations will be considered.

Teacher Training (Primary and/or Secondary)

Useful and sometimes essential A levels: At least one from Art, **Biology**, **CACHE**, **Chemistry**, Design and Technology, Drama (Theatre Studies), **English**, French, **Geography**, German, **History**, ICT, Italian, **Maths**, **music**, **Physics**, **Physical Education**, **Religious Studies (Theology)**, Spanish.

(Subjects which are best for primary teaching are in bold).

Veterinary science

Essential A levels: You should do Chemistry and Biology and one from Maths/Physics so that you have all seven courses open to you.

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:

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 6 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:

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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 two 6 grades in GCSE sciences with a minimum of 6 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:

Kelly Broderick

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Course Name:	Business Studies
Qualification/Duration:	A level (2 years)
Exam Board/Specification:	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 (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 business activities

Theme 3 – Business decisions and strategy

Theme 4 – Global business

Admission Requirements:

5 grades in GCSE Business Studies, History/Geography and Maths/English Language and Literature, in addition to five 9 – 5 grades at GCSE.

5 GCSE's at grade C (5 in the new assessment criteria) or above including Business, Maths and English.

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 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:

Mr L Gillion

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 to 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 two 5 grades in GCSE sciences with a minimum of 5 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:

Suella Corbett

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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:

Hilary Robertson

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Course Name: Performing Arts

Qualification/Duration: BTEC

Exam Board/Specification: Edexcel

Course Description/Content:

This course is for students who enjoy Performing Arts as a whole and have an interest in a range of Performing Arts subject. The BTEC covers a range of disciplines and looks at the wider context of the Arts. The nature of the BTEC, means that the course can be tailored to suit the needs to the students and group. Students have two routes as part of this course:

Extended Certificate in Performing Arts which is equivalent to 1 A-level

National Diploma in Performing Arts equivalent of two A-Levels.

As part of this course, students will study the following mandatory units:

Investigating Practitioners' Work

Group Performance Workshop

Individual performance commission

Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance

Performing Arts in the Community

Final Live Performance to an Audience

The optional units cover a range of topics such as: Drama, musical performance, musical theatre, dance, choreography and all students are given a bespoke path way to follow for these additional units.

Admission Requirements:

Students need to have had prior experience in the Arts, through either GCSE studies or out of school learning for example attending Stage School. Students will be consulted on their individual skills and suitability for the course. A good standard of writing is needed for the written coursework. A good level of organisation and time keeping skills will be needed, to complete the coursework needed for this course.

How Assessed/Examined:

Units are internally or externally assessed. For three of the mandatory units, students are given an external brief to work towards in a set time period, set by the exam board.

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

We expect our Sixth Form students to take part in extra curricular activities and run groups for students in younger year groups. Trips will take place throughout the year, to broaden students' understanding of the units being taught.

Progression/Career Paths:

An Arts based subject, allows any career path and progression to university.

Staff Contact:

Miss S Dearn -Head of

Expressive Arts Faculty:

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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 5 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:

Mr A Whittle

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Course Name: Film Studies

Qualification/Duration: A level (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification: WJEC

Course Description/Content:

The A Level 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 cine literacy 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 5 grade in English GCSE.

How Assessed/Examined:

A Level

Component 1: Written examination 2 hours 30 minutes

120 marks

35% of the qualification

Component 2: Written examination

100 marks

35% of the examination qualification

Non exam assessment (Coursework)

60 marks

30% of qualification (production, 20%, evaluative analysis, 10%)

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.

Staff Contact:

Mrs L Norman

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Course Name: French

Qualification/Duration: A level (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification: AQA

Course Description/Content:

French is the only language, along with English, that is taught in every country in the world, and is the sixth most widely used language in the world. French is often considered the language of culture, and learning French is a journey into the worlds of gastronomy, the arts and architecture.

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 France and other French speaking countries. There are plenty of chances to develop your authentic French. 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 French and make brief summaries. You will also watch and analyse some French 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 Political and Artistic Culture along with a study of a Literary text or film, guide you from GCSE through the more advanced grammar content of A-level. In Year 13 the content moves into further studies of the aforementioned topics, as well as studies of classic French literary pieces.

Admission Requirements:

Pupils require a minimum of a grade 6 in French at GCSE but a grade 7 or higher offers more guarantees of success at achieving a higher grade at A Level.

How Assessed/Examined:

For A Level French there are three components:

- Speaking Test (30% of A Level) (21-23mins plus 5mins preparation time)
- Paper 1 Listening/Reading/Translation into English and French (50% 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 (20% of A Level) (2hrs)

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

TBA

Progression/Career Paths:

With 220 million speakers, French is the sixth most widely spoken language in the world and it is also the third most widely used language on the internet. French is spoken as a first language in 29 countries. As the world is becoming smaller, speaking French 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 French 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: 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 5 in their GCSE Geography exam. Ideally, anything higher than a 5 is going to increase students' chances of achieving good A Level results. Remember that a 5 in GCSE does not translate into a 5 (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:

Gavin Corrigan

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Course Name: Health & Social Care

Qualification/Duration: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care

Exam Board/Specification: Edexcel

Course Description/Content:

The mandatory content of the qualification incorporates topics relevant across the health and social care sector:

- Human Lifespan Development
- Working in Health and Social Care
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs.

Learners can select one optional unit that covers the biological and sociological topics relevant to the different parts of the sector to support their progression to specialised degree programmes in the sector.

Optional units include:

- Sociological Perspectives
- Psychological Perspectives
- Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs
- Physiological Disorders and their Care.

Admission Requirements:

Five 5 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:

The styles of external assessment used for qualifications in the Health and Social Care suite are:

- examinations – all learners take the same assessment at the same time, normally with a written outcome
- set tasks – learners take the assessment during a defined window and demonstrate understanding through completion of a vocational task.

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:

Mrs S Eckersall

eckersall@barclay.herts.sch.uk

Course Name: History

Qualification/Duration: A level (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification: OCR

Course Description/Content:

Year 12: The Early Tudors. Germany.

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 5 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:

Miss G Carrick

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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:

Mrs M Willis

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Course Name: Music Practitioners

Qualification/Duration: RSL Level 3

Exam Board/Specification: RSL

Course Description/Content:

This is a practical course for students who have a keen interest in performing, whilst learning about the wider context of the music industry. Students will study a range of musical styles and performance contexts. Students will study a range of topics including mandatory and optional units and after selecting a core unit, students can then build a qualification from our wide range of optional units. The mandatory units which are set by the exam board is 'Rehearsal Skills and Live Music Performance', which focuses on live performance skills and teaches students about a range rehearsal skills and techniques. Students will then study a range of units including: improving musical performance, musicianship, lead performer, session musician, understanding musical influences, understanding musical styles, musical instrument development, evolution of the record industry and music dissertation, where students style an area they choose to research and present.

Admission Requirements:

Students need to have had prior experience in Music, through either GCSE studies or through practical skills on a musical instrument. Students will be consulted on their individual skills and suitability for the course therefore. A good standard of writing is needed for the written side of the coursework. A good level of organisation and time keeping skills will be needed, to complete the coursework elements of the course.

How Assessed/Examined:

Units are internally or externally assessed through either externally set briefs or internally set briefs. There will be performance assessments but no formal written exam.

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

We expect our Sixth Form students to take part in extra curricular activities and run groups for students in younger year groups. Trips will take place throughout the year, to broaden students' understanding of the units being taught.

Progression/Career Paths:

An Arts based subject, allows any career path to be followed and progression to university to study a range of courses.

Staff Contact:

Miss S Dearn -Head of
Expressive Arts Faculty:

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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 two 6 grades in GCSE sciences with a minimum of 6 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:

Carolyn Baker

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Course Name: Politics

Qualification/Duration: A level (2 years)

Exam Board/Specification: Edexcel

Course Description/Content:

Year 12: Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas and Component 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas

Year 13: Component 3: Comparative Politics (USA)

Admission Requirements:

No prior requirement for study of Politics at GCSE. A minimum 5 grade in English Language at GCSE is required and the study of a Humanities subject for GCSE is preferable, but not necessary.

How Assessed/Examined:

This is a linear course with 3 examinations.

Extra Curricular Activities/Trips:

A Level conferences. Speakers are invited in, for example local and national government representatives and MPs. Trips to parliament and USA.

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 Politics, Law, Teaching, Journalism, Social Sciences or continue in the workplace with Management, the Civil Services, Administration or Local Government.

If you enjoy politics, it can lead you to a great future! You don't have to go into politics, but the skills that you will gain from this course are transferrable and will enable you to be successful. It will help you to understand better how our society works, with the added bonus of knowing how the American system works, which in turn allows you understand world politics. The decisions that our politicians make effect all of us and for generations to come.

Staff Contact:

Mr K Norwood

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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:

Five GCSEs at grade 5, including 6 in Science and 6 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 5 grade at GCSE and/or 6 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:

Ms C Kenny

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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:

Five GCSEs at Grade 5 including English.

How Assessed/Examined:

Three 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:

Mr G Ward wardg@barclay.herts.sch.uk
Mrs S Gupta guptas@barclay.herts.sch.uk

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 Political and Artistic Culture along with a study of a Literary text or film, guide you from GCSE through the more advanced grammar content of A-level. In Year 13 the content moves into further studies of the aforementioned topics, as well as studies of classic Spanish literary pieces, 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 6 in Spanish at GCSE but a grade 7 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 (50% 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 (20% 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:

Mr B Brown

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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 5: 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 National Diploma (2 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.

Unit 23: Skill acquisition in sport. 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.

Unit 22: Investigating Business in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry. The task will be set and marked by Pearsons.

Admission Requirements:

Four GCSE passes at grade 5 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. Two units are 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