Subject Pathways

Choices

Art 01
Biology 02
Business Studies 03
Chemistry 04
Classics 05
Computer Design 06
Drama and Theatre Studies 07
Economics 08
English Language and Literature 09
English Literature 10
French 11
Further Mathematics 12
Geography 13
History 14
Law 15
Mathematics 16
Media Studies 17
Music 18
Physics 19
Politics 20
Product Design 21
Psychology 22
RE/Philosophy and Ethics 23
Sociology 24
Spanish 25

Vocational Courses

BTEC Business 26
BTEC Double Award Engineering 27
BTEC Single Award Engineering 28
BTEC Extended Certificate in IT 29
BTEC Health and Social Care 30
BTEC Sport 31

Next Steps 32
William de Ferrers School sixth form offers a wide range of A level subjects as well as a number of level three vocational courses which are equivalent to A levels. These vocational courses can be taken as a single award (worth one A level) or a double award (worth two A levels). An A level is a General Certificate of Education (GCE) qualification designed around an individual subject which is assessed predominantly by examinations. Vocational qualifications are predominantly coursework based courses that are also well regarded by universities and employers.

In order to study at the William de Ferrers sixth form, students are required to have achieved at least five GCSEs or equivalent at grade five or above. In addition to this, they are expected to meet the entry requirements of individual subjects which are detailed in this booklet. This is to ensure that students have the required skills necessary to be successful in their chosen subjects, and to demonstrate the ability to cope with the demands of a level three curriculum.

Students will study three A levels or equivalent vocational qualifications. Please note that applicants are required to select two reserve subjects, and courses may be withdrawn in the event that there are insufficient numbers.
MAKING YOUR CHOICE

When deciding which courses to apply for, there are a variety of factors that you need to take into account. The first thing you need to consider is the grades you are likely to achieve at GCSE. This will help you to establish which subjects you should study in the sixth form. Secondly, you also need to look at the entry requirements for the subjects you are considering. These entry requirements are put in place to help ensure the suitability of courses for any individual.

In addition to this, you should also consider the following:

- Do you have the skills and abilities this course demands?
- Are you likely to meet the entry requirements for the course?
- Will you find the subject interesting?
- Are you prepared to work at least five hours per week on this subject as well as several hours outside the classroom?
- Do you need this subject for your chosen career or university course? If you are unsure about what you would like to do, try to pick a variety of options so you can choose more than one career path.
- Is your chosen subject assessed in a way that suits your strengths—some courses are examined entirely by examination, and other courses are examined by coursework.

If you need some extra information or guidance, please contact the appropriate head of department or visit the examining board’s websites at:

www.edexcel.org.uk

www.aqa.org.uk

www.ocr.org.uk
ART

Entry requirements
GCSE grade 6 or above.

What will you study?
The purposes of drawing
Contemporary and modern art
Exploration of new media and materials

Assessment
Coursework
15 hour exam to produce final piece
3000 word related study

Where this course could lead you
Fine art, graphics, illustration, animation, set design, photography, film, media, sculpture, architecture, fashion design, interior design.

What the students say …
It’s really open and enjoyable. We are able to explore lots of different mediums and materials. I have really enjoyed working in 3D this year.

The course is mainly coursework based but you have the freedom to explore what you enjoy.

Contact
Miss J Mahoney
A-LEVEL COURSES

BIOLOGY

Entry requirements
Minimum of grade 7 in biology or 7 in combined science - students must achieve a minimum of a grade 7 in the biology units if they took combined science. In addition we require a minimum grade 5 in maths and English.

What will you study?
The structure and function of biomolecules, structure and role of DNA and RNA, cell structure and division, classification and biodiversity and exchange and transport mechanisms. Cellular respiration, photosynthesis, microbiology and pathogens, DNA profiling, sequencing and gene technology, origins of genetic variation, control systems and ecosystems.

Assessment
3 exams at the end of year 13.

Where this course could lead you
Biology may be used to gain entry to a wide variety of careers both biological (such as medicine/nursing, biochemistry, pathology, laboratory work and genetics) and non-biological (including financial and commercial).

What the students say …
It's the science that makes sense.

Contact
Mrs A Durant
BUSINESS STUDIES

Entry requirements
Grade 5 English GCSE
Grade 5 maths GCSE
Grade 6 business if taken at GCSE

What will you study
This course includes a wide range of units, which relate to management, finances and aspects of human resources. The course also cover analysing the strategic direction of business.

Assessment
A level assessment consists of three two hour written exams taken at the end of the two year course.

Each exam will be worth a third of the A level. All three papers will draw on material from the whole course, and will feature a range of question styles including multiple choice questions, short answer questions, essay questions, data response questions and case studies.

Where this course could lead
If you’d like to study business, finance or management at university, A level business provides an excellent foundation. The skills you learn are also transferable across a broad range of subjects and careers. Whatever you choose to do in the future, you’ll find that the things you learn in this course will help. For example, you’ll probably work with lots of different people, so knowledge of motivational theory will help you to work well with others and help them achieve their potential. You might have ambitious plans to start your own business. If that’s the case, you’ll find the marketing and finance topics particularly useful.

What the students say …
I wanted to gain an understanding of how businesses are run. A goal of mine is to run my own international business, so it helped me gain insight into what I might expect to deal with when running a business in the future.

Contact
Mr J Winslade
A-LEVEL COURSES

CHEMISTRY

Entry requirements
Minimum of grade 7 chemistry GCSE or grade 7 in combined science GCSE (students must achieve a minimum of a grade 7 in the chemistry units within combined science). In addition, a requirement of a minimum grade 5 in maths GCSE.

What will you study?
Aspects of organic, inorganic and physical chemistry.

Assessment
Terminal examinations - 3 papers on completion of the course.

Where this course could lead you
Biochemistry and biotechnology, forensic science, pharmacy, agriculture, brewing, materials science, mineralogy, petrochemistry and environmental science. Courses linked to engineering will also use a working knowledge of chemistry. Chemistry is also regarded highly by the legal, banking and financial professions. Chemistry A level is essential for entrance to university to study medicine and veterinary science.

What the students say...
"It’s a very interesting subject which opens up a lot of future opportunities"
"I took this subject to develop a greater understanding of the subject, to learn ‘how’ and ‘why’ instead of just ‘because’ or because I really love it and loved it at GCSEs!! I think actually being interested in the subject is quite important as it gets hard and if you don’t enjoy it, you won’t want to put in the effort needed"

Contact
Miss S Oladimeji
CLASSICS

Entry requirements
Grade 5 in either history or English GCSE

What will you study?
There are two courses - one in ancient Greek history and one in Roman history. Everybody does both. The Greek course includes a study of the Persian wars, made famous by the movie 300, and the golden age of Athens. The Roman course explains how Roman emperors such as Augustus, Caligula and Nero transformed the lives of Roman citizens, and destroyed their own families.

Assessment
Two examinations at the end of year 13.

Where this course could lead you
This could lead to a degree in classics or ancient history, and is very suitable for students who intend to study law, because it develops skills of evaluating evidence.

What the students say…
'You cannot understand society today without understanding its origins in the ancient world'.

Contact
Mrs R Mason
A-LEVEL COURSES

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Entry requirements
Grade 4 computer science GCSE and above or grade 6 mathematics GCSE and above.

What will you study?
This qualification is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of the fundamentals of programming and problem solving, communications and networking and the impact of computing in the wider world.

Where this course could lead you
This course could lead to you progressing to a wide range of higher education courses primarily related to the development and use of technology.

What the students say…
You should take this course if you are keen to develop your computing knowledge and programming skills. You will enjoy developing your understanding of the impact of technology on society.

Contact
Mrs S Sibanda
DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

Entry requirements
Level 5 in English GCSE

What will you study?
Component 1 - Devising
1. Devised performance (practical) - 10%
2. Portfolio (written) - 30%

Component 2 - Text in Performance
1. Group performance of a text (practical) - 12%
2. Monologue from a second text (practical) - 8%

Component 3 - Theatre makers (written examination) - 40%
2 ½ hour written paper on :
1. Evaluation of live performance
2. Two questions on text 1
3. One question on text 2

Assessment
40% Written examination
30% Practical
30% Written coursework

Where this course could lead
There are many career paths that drama and theatre assists significantly. The ability to be able to communicate publicly with confidence and ease can be a desirable attribute. The skills acquired within the course are instantly transferable. The entertainment industry is one of the biggest industries and employers in the country and drama and theatre A level can lead to many opportunities within this area.

What the students say…
'Drama and theatre A level has been a demanding yet incredibly rewarding course to follow. We have used our practical explorations as preparation for our performance examinations but also for our written exams, allowing us to write with knowledge, experience and insight."

Contact
Mrs E Beer
ECONOMICS

Entry requirements
Grade 6 in maths and English GCSE. Grade 6 in economics if studied at GCSE.

What will you study?
During their course of study, students should be encouraged to develop a critical approach to economic models and methods of enquiry. Students will have an opportunity to gain a good knowledge of developments in the UK economy and government policies over the past fifteen years. Students will discover how factors within markets interact with each other to determine price and resource allocation, and how the government can step in when this allocation leads to an undesirable level of consumption/production. Students will also develop an understanding of how the government aims to meet objectives around the economy and their policy toolkit to enable this to happen. Other topics studied include: labour market economics, behavioural economics and inequality.

Assessment
Students will sit three examination papers at the end of year 13. Each of these exams is two hours long, 80 marks and contributes 33.3% towards your final grade.

Where this course could lead you
Students who have completed this course have gone on to explore many avenues within the world of business and economics. Students often further their studies of economics at universities across the UK to gain a more in depth insight. Students have also previously gone on to gain employment in the fields of accounting, law and banking.

What the students say…
Economics is a challenging subject, however it enables you to take a different perspective on issues that arise in our every day life. It is enjoyable being able to apply the concepts that you learn from the specification to real world examples from quality literature to develop our examination based skills.

Contact
Mr J Winslade
A-LEVEL COURSES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Entry requirements
Grade 6 English GCSE and above.

What will you study?
Prose, poetry, drama and creative writing.

Assessment
Two written exams plus coursework.

Where this course could lead you
This course could lead you to a variety of degrees, including English literature, at any university. It is a very well respected subject and can lead to a range of analytical careers such as journalism or law.

What the students say…
This course is great if you want to study literature as well as linguistics. The course allows you to be quite creative, so if you enjoyed the creative writing part of your GCSE as well as some analysis, this course is the one for you.

Contact
Mrs De Vries or Mrs Chiverton
A-LEVEL COURSES

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Entry requirements
Grade 6 English GCSE and above.

What will you study?
Drama, poetry and prose.

Assessment
Two written exams and two pieces of coursework.

Where this course could lead you
This course could lead you to a variety of degrees, including English literature, at any university including Russell group universities.

What the students say…
A Level English literature is pretty different to the literature GCSE. There is a lot of opportunity for discussion. If you enjoy reading and have a passion for the subject, you should choose to study A level literature.

Contact
Mrs De Vries or Mrs Chiverton
FRENCH

Entry requirements
Grade 6 in French GCSE.

What will you study?
In year 12 students study aspects of French speaking society such as family, technology and charity work. This is followed by developing an understanding of artistic culture in French speaking countries, culminating in the study of a French film which is "Au revoir les enfants" In year 13 current, social and political issues in French speaking society are examined in depth and students complete a research project on a particular aspect which is presented and discussed as part of the speaking examination. Students also study a work of literature which is currently "L'Etranger" by Albert Camus.

Assessment
Students take three exam papers at the end of year 13. Paper 1 is a listening, reading and writing paper covering all themes studied. Paper 2 is a writing paper in which students answer critical and analytical questions on the film and the literature studied. Paper 3 is the oral examination in which students discuss the research project which they have undertaken as well as other aspects of French-speaking society.

Where this course could lead you
The acquisition of language skills gives students access to a range of further education courses and in the working world such skills are highly prized in a range of areas, such as business, travel and tourism, law and politics. Importantly, the ability to communicate in French gives you an insight into the lives of many thousands more people than a mono-lingual approach can give.

What the students say...
"It's amazing how far an additional language can get you, especially in a world in which global relationships are often a necessity for businesses and organisations."

Contact
Mrs E Clarkson
FURTHER MATHS

Entry requirements
Grade 7, 8 or 9 maths GCSE from sets 1A and 1B only.

What will you study?
Students who study further mathematics will study mathematics and further mathematics in parallel, so at the end of year 13, students would end up with two full A level qualifications – an A level in mathematics and a second A level in further mathematics. The further mathematics A level builds upon content from the mathematics A Level and extends the study of pure mathematics to include complex numbers, matrices, hyperbolic functions along with further calculus and algebra. Half of the course is composed of optional modules that extend the study of statistics and mechanics, and introduces decision mathematics.

Assessment
The further mathematics course is examined by four papers, each with defined content and calculator usage allowed. Papers 1 and 2 both cover pure mathematics content, while papers 3 and 4 cover optional content. Each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes long and worth 75 marks.

Where this course could lead you
Further mathematics is particularly well suited to those intending to study mathematics, or subjects such as physics, computer science, economics or engineering at university. It is accepted for entrance to most degree courses and is one of the fastest growing A level subjects nationally.

What the students say…
“From taking further maths, I have expanded my knowledge into more challenging areas which I really enjoy”.

Contact
Dr P Saich
GEOGRAPHY

Entry requirements
Grade 5 in geography GCSE, grade 4 in English and maths GCSE.

What will you study?
Component 1: Physical Geography
- Water and carbon cycles
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Hazards

Component 2: Human Geography
- Global systems and global governance
- Changing places
- Population and the environment

Component 3: Geography fieldwork investigation

Assessment
Components 1 & 2 are examined separately at the end of year 13; each exam lasts two hours and thirty minutes and together account for 80% of the final grade. Component 3 - students complete an individual fieldwork investigation at Flatford Mill or Slapton. Students write up their investigation which is internally marked and externally moderated. This component accounts for 20% of the final grade.

Where this course could lead you
Components 1 & 2 are examined separately at the end of year 13; each exam lasts two hours and thirty minutes and together account for 80% of the final grade. Component 3 - students complete an individual fieldwork investigation at Flatford Mill or Slapton. Students write up their investigation which is internally marked and externally moderated. This component accounts for 20% of the final grade.

What the students say...
"Studying A level geography helps to increase your understanding of the world around you. Geography provides a deep insight into physical, political and economic issues that are currently taking place around the globe. Being such a diverse subject, there is a topic for everyone to enjoy. Studying geography encourages you to challenge your perceptions as to how you view the world, and I place exceptional value upon the fact that it promotes consideration and understanding of different cultures".

Contact
Mrs C Reed
A-LEVEL COURSES

HISTORY

Entry requirements
Grade 5 in history GCSE if studied. Grade 6 English language GCSE or English literature GCSE if you did not study history at GCSE.

What will you study?
In year 12, students study the early Tudors and the cold war in Asia, with a major focus on the wars in Korea and Vietnam. In year 13, students study a century of Russian history from 1855-1964 which involves learning about three tsars and three communist dictators. In year 13 students also write coursework on the development of English naval power between 1400-1700 and the British Empire.

Assessment
Three exams at the end of year 13, and a coursework essay in year 13 worth 20% of the course.

Where this course could lead you
As well as studying for a degree in history, this course is well suited to students who have ambitions to go into subjects such as journalism, law or teaching. The skills developed in history such as analysing facts, forming an argument and extended writing are transferable to a wide range of careers.

What the students say...
You should take this course if you are keen to develop your linguistic and analytical skills. You will enjoy developing your understanding of social, cultural, political and economic aspects of the modern world via the umbrella of history. You will gain a better understanding of modern affairs by learning from the events of the past. For example, in year 12 we studied the Korean war which has helped us to understand the constantly evolving political climate in Korea in 2018.

Contact
Mr T Frankland
LAW

Entry requirements
Grade 5 GCSE English, maths and science

What will you study?
In this course, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the English legal system, the court systems and areas of both public and private law. The course is comprised of three components. In the first component students will discover how both the civil and criminal courts operate as well as cover some of the main criminal offences including murder, assault and theft. In the second component, students will learn how laws are made and interpreted in the courts. Students will also learn about the law of tort including liability in negligence. In the final component students will study the law of contract. They will also explore the nature of law in a wider context and discover how it interacts with morality, justice, society and technology.

Assessment
This course is assessed through three examinations, one for each component.

Where this course could lead you
This course supports students to develop skills essential for a future career within the legal profession. Additionally this course would enable students to pursue roles in business, finance and education.

What the students say…
'Law is an interesting and enjoyable subject which challenges me to think critically about how the law functions and consider whether it effectively achieves justice.'

Contact
Ms N Wicks
MATHEMATICS

Entry requirements
Grade 7, 8 or 9 maths GCSE from sets 1A and 1B only.

What will you study?
Pure mathematics (proof, algebra, coordinate geometry, series, trigonometry, differentiation, integration, numerical methods), statistics (sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, hypothesis testing) and mechanics (quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton’s laws, moments).

Assessment
The A level course is examined by three papers, with defined content and calculator usage allowed in each. Paper 1 covers pure mathematics content, paper 2 also covers pure mathematics, building on and incorporating content covered in paper 1. Paper 3 covers applied content and equal weighting is given to mechanics and statistics. Each paper is two hours and worth 100 marks.

Where this course could lead you
A Level mathematics would equip you with one of the university entry qualifications required for numerous degree courses such as architecture, accountancy, banking, business, computing, engineering, education, medicine, sciences, stockbroking, etc. The opportunities are endless.

What the students say...
“Taking this maths course allows me to explore parts of maths I had never seen before”. “Lessons are really engaging and the types of questions you get asked require more thought than GCSE questions, which provides a good challenge”.

Contact
Dr P Saich
MEDIA STUDIES

Entry requirements
Level 5 at English GCSE.

What will you study?
Component 1 - Media Messages (two hour written examination)
- Newspapers
- Advertising and marketing
- Music videos
- Magazines

Component 2 - Evolving Media (two hour written examination)
- Radio
- Video games
- Film
- TV drama

Component 3 - Making Media (practical project)
- To create a three minute music video and website or
- To create two front covers and two contents pages for a magazine with accompanying website.

Assessment
70% Written examination
30% Practical project

Where this course could lead you
The media industry is expanding at a rapid rate and there are so many opportunities. This course could lead to the study or employment within marketing, digital media or design.

What the students say…
Media A level is a course that covers so many different aspects. The practical project was particularly exciting and it allowed me to independently show my creativity. The preparation for the written examinations has been demanding but always has a practical focus which I enjoy.

Contact
Mrs E Beer
MUSIC

Entry requirements
Grade 6 at GCSE or grade 4 music theory and grade 5 practical (any board).

What will you study?
Throughout the course you will develop skills in performance and composition and complete detailed analysis of music from a variety of genres. This aspect of the course will focus on three areas of study: the development of the symphony from 1750 - 1900, musical theatre and 20th century music.

Assessment
Performing (35%) a performance consisting of a minimum of three pieces; at least one of which must be as a soloist.

Composing (25%) Two compositions, one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the western classical tradition in response to a brief set by the board and the other being a ‘free’ composition.

Listening and appraising: This component takes the form of an examination lasting two hours and fifteen minutes. Students will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of the three areas of study.

Where this course could lead you
Music degree
Music teacher
Performer
Composer

What the students say...

Contact
Mrs B Carter
PHYSICS

Entry requirements
A minimum of grade 7 GCSE in physics or a mean of grade 7 GCSE in physics modules and a grade 6 GCSE in maths.

What will you study?
The course is composed of 13 topics, covering working as a physicist, mechanics, materials, waves and the particle nature of light, further mechanics, electric and magnetic fields, nuclear and particle physics, thermodynamics, nuclear radiation, gravitational fields, space and oscillations.

Assessment
The course is a linear course, at the end of which the students will be examined in three externally examined papers for the award of the A level. One of which examines the students on 16 core practicals.

Where this course could lead you
A level physics can be used as a stepping stone to a vast number of careers and qualifications, such as astrophysics, theoretical physics, nanotechnology, optics and photonics, engineering, climatology, medicine, acoustics and computing. An A level in physics is also very highly regarded in professions such as finance, insurance and legal; due to A level physicists showing excellent maths and problem solving skills.

What the students say…
It gives you the potential to become an evil genius!

Contact
Mr A Wallis
A-LEVEL COURSES

POLITICS

Entry requirements
Grade 5 GCSE English language or English literature.

What will you study?
In year 12, students study UK politics, which includes how democracy works, political parties, voting systems and voter behaviours. You will also study the workings of UK government, which includes how laws are made, the role of Parliament and the devolution of power to the different regions of the UK. In year 13, the focus of the course shifts to US politics where students are encouraged to compare similarities and differences to the UK system. The course also explore a number of different political philosophies such as socialism, conservatism and liberalism.

Assessment
Three exams at the end of year 13. Each are work one third of the final mark.

Where this course could lead you
At the age of 18 students will become even more active in the political system when they gain the right to vote. Therefore, to understand, form opinions, make criticisms and decisions, this course is hugely beneficial to them as citizens. In addition, study A level politics will help students to develop skills, such as developing an argument using case studies which are transferable to a wide range of careers. This and other skills are useful when studying a range of analytical degree courses.

What the students say…
"Since beginning this course in 2017 it has been amazing how this has developed my understanding of current political events. From the constitutional impact that Brexit will have on the parliamentary system in Britain, to understanding why the appointment of Supreme Court Justices is so important to the USA. This course really helps you to understand the world we live in today".

Contact
Mr T Frankland
A-LEVEL COURSES

PRODUCT DESIGN

Entry requirements
Grade C or above in GCSE design & technology.

What will you study?
Design & technology is about acquiring knowledge & understanding of the following areas:
- Materials and components
- Design and market influences
- Processes and manufacture
- Communication skills

The course involves applying this knowledge through the skills of designing, making and communication to practical problems, which arise in everyday life and in industrial and commercial contexts.

Assessment
This course is assessed by coursework which is worth 50% and two examinations.

Where this course could lead you
Design and technology is an accepted qualification for entry to degree courses in design, architecture, engineering, physical sciences, BTEC higher courses, apprenticeships and employment - e.g. product design, production engineering, surveying, etc.

What the students say...
The course is challenging. It allows you to be creative and opens up career choices that link to apprenticeships and university courses. It gives you a insight into what industrial courses could be like regarding pressure and deadlines.

Contact
Mr B Dimopoulos
A-LEVEL COURSES

PSYCHOLOGY

Entry requirements
Grade 5 GCSE in English and maths.

What will you study?
In year 12, we study social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathologies. In year 13 we build on these topics with aggression, relationships and schizophrenia. Throughout the whole course we look at the themes of how psychology is studied: the approaches different psychologists take to creating theories and how research is carried out.

Assessment
There are three exam papers, each lasting two hours, at the end of year 13.

Where this course could lead you
You might choose to go on to study psychology at university, but this A level also provides you with the skills and ability to study a range of other university courses from sciences to humanities subjects. If you don't want to go to university, psychology is also a great way to get into many apprenticeships and areas of work. Many employers recognise that an A level in psychology is a sign that an applicant has a set of skills that will be useful both in the workplace and in life in general.

If you want to use psychology as a career, you might consider counselling, organisational psychology, social work, education and caring professions, neuroscience and sports science. You might want to become a psychologist working in academic research or you might even want to become a psychology teacher!

What the students say...
"Being a psychology student broadens my understanding of the people and environment around me; changing my perspective on everyday life as I have learnt the reasoning behind why people behave the way they do as well as how they do it".

Contact
Mrs A Lawrence
RELIGIOUS STUDIES/PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

Entry requirements
Grade 5 GCSE English.

What will you study?
Philosophy, ethics and Christianity. This will include arguments for the existence of god, the problem of evil and suffering, ethical theories, free will and determinism, authority of the bible, beliefs about Jesus and the development of the church.

Assessment
Three two hour written examination, essay questions.

Where this course could lead you
Philosophy and ethics are seen as academic subjects and are highly regarded by all colleges and universities. Students of this subject may enter professions working with people such as social work, the police or personal. Politics and the media are other areas people have pursued with qualifications in RE and philosophy.

What the students say...
"It challenges in more ways than you imagine". "Rewarding when you understand".

Contact
Mrs H Hall
A-LEVEL COURSES

SOCIOLOGY

Entry requirements
Grade 5 GCSE in English and maths.

What will you study?
We look at society within the themes of culture, identity and power relationships. Our focus is on contemporary Britain and our place in a globalised world. In year 12, we use these themes to examine education and families and households as two structures in society which shape our lives and social actions. In year 13, our topics are crime and deviance and beliefs in society. In both years, we consider the different perspectives that sociologists use to study society and also look at how a social scientist researches the important factors which affect us all.

Assessment
Three exam papers at the end of year 13.

Where this course could lead you
Sociology is a highly sought after A level by universities and employers alike. A student of sociology is someone with a mature understanding of the world around them and will be a valued member of any workplace or university course. Sociology opens doors to a range of courses at university - not only the study of sociology itself but the wider scope of social sciences and humanities. Sociology graduates work across many different employment areas including social work, caring professions, education, health industries, the civil service and in local government.

What the students say…
"Sociology has really helped me to understand how small elements of people's background can affect them. This helps me see society in a bigger picture with better understanding".

Contact
Mrs A Lawrence
SPANISH

Entry requirements
Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish.

What will you study?
In year 12 students study aspects of Spanish speaking society such as family, technology and charity work. This is followed by developing an understanding of artistic culture in Spanish speaking countries, culminating in the study of a Spanish film, "Volver". In year 13 current social and political issues in Spanish speaking society are examined in depth and students complete a research project on a particular aspect which is presented and discussed as part of the speaking examination. Students also study a work of literature.

Assessment
Students take three exam papers at the end of year 13. Paper 1 is a listening, reading and writing paper covering all themes studied. Paper 2 is a writing paper in which students answer critical and analytical questions on the film and the literature studied. Paper 3 is the oral examination in which students discuss the research project which they have undertaken as well as other aspects of Spanish speaking society.

Where this course could lead you
The acquisition of language skills gives students access to a range of further education courses and in the working world such skills are highly prized in a range of areas, such as business, travel and tourism, law and politics. Importantly, the ability to communicate in Spanish gives an insight into the lives of many thousands more people than a mono-lingual approach can give.

What the students say...
"I have found that learning Spanish at A level has given me transferable skills which I can apply to my every day life. What’s more it has helped me to improve my all-round confidence."

Contact
Mrs E Clarkson
BTEC BUSINESS

Entry requirements
Grade 5 maths GCSE.

What will you study?
Areas of study include the key elements of business success; how businesses are organised, how they communicate, the characteristics of the environment in which they operate, and how this shapes them and their activities. In marketing, you will examine the marketing aims and objectives for existing products/services and use given market research data and other information to make recommendations about the type of marketing campaign that a business should undertake. The three mandatory units include aspects of both personal and business finance. Personal finance involves the understanding of why money is important as well as issues such as spending habits, types of borrowing and methods of saving, and the issue of how attitudes can affect personal financial choices. In the second half of the unit we look at the purpose and importance of business accounts, planning tools, such as cash flow forecasts and break-even, as well as how to and the importance of measuring financial performance.

Assessment
The extended certificate is equivalent in size to one A level. The course consists of four units of which three are mandatory and two are external. Mandatory units include one internally assessed coursework unit on exploring business, one examined element on finance, and one assignment conducted in controlled conditions set around the topic of marketing. The final unit is an optional unit from a set list although has usually been focused around work experience in which pupils have the opportunity to research into their future careers and complete a short period of time within a working environment.

Where this course could lead you
The Pearson BTEC level 3 national extended certificate in business is an applied general qualification. It is for learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment in the business sector. The qualification is equivalent in size to one A level and aims to provide a coherent introduction to study of the business sector. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two year programme of learning. It will support entry to many higher education courses, depending on the other qualifications learners have taken. The qualification can also support progression to employment directly, or via an apprenticeship. This course greatly supports those interested in fields such as finance, marketing and HR.

What the students say…
This is an interesting course for exploring real world issues and the application of examined content to exemplar businesses. What is particularly useful is the exploration into personal finance with the study of types of interest, bank accounts, and methods of borrowing.

Contact
Mrs S Cooper
VOCATIONAL COURSES

BTEC ENGINEERING (DOUBLE AWARD)

Entry requirements
Grade 5 in a GCSE technology subject, and grade 5 in GCSE maths and physics.

What will you study?
A BTEC national award is a practical, work related course. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. You focus on a particular subject area and develop a range of specialist skills and knowledge. It is equivalent to two A levels studied over two years which means when you have finished the course you can use it to get a job, or you can use it alongside other qualifications to go into higher education.

Assessment
Total units: 10
Five mandatory units
PLUS five optional units

Where this course could lead you
BTEC national awards are valued by employers and higher education.
Careers: electrical engineering and maintenance, process engineering, engineering, systems maintenance, production engineering, mechanical engineering and maintenance.
Higher education or college: aerospace engineering, electrical / electronic engineering, manufacturing engineering, marine engineering, mechanical engineering and operations engineering.

What the students say...
The course offers a wide variety of units and projects. We manufactured a number of different components and prototypes. The course ranges from written reports to controlled assessments on lathes and milling machines. "I feel the course will help me take the next step into industry and university."

Contact
Mr B Dimopoulos
VOCATIONAL COURSES

BTEC ENGINEERING (SINGLE AWARD)

Entry requirements
You will need to have ideally at least a grade B (C grade considered) or above in a GCSE design & technology subject and recommended B grade or above in mathematics or physics.

What will you study?
A BTEC national award is a practical, work-related course. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. You focus on a particular subject area and develop a range of specialist skills and knowledge. It is equivalent to one A level studied over two years which means when you have finished the course you can use it to get a job, or you can use it alongside other qualifications to go into higher education.

Assessment
Total units: 4
Three mandatory units
PLUS one optional unit

Where this course could lead you
BTEC national awards are valued by employers and higher education.
Careers: electrical engineering and maintenance, process engineering, engineering systems maintenance, production engineering, mechanical engineering and maintenance.
Higher education or college: aerospace engineering, electrical / electronic engineering, manufacturing engineering, marine engineering, mechanical engineering and operations engineering.

What the students say…
The course covers interesting sections of engineering. It combines well with other subjects like product design, maths and physics. It gives you a good insight into industry. All the units are varied and interesting.

Contact
Mr B Dimopoulos
BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN IT

Entry requirements
Grade 5 in computer science GCSE if studied. Grade 6 in maths.

What will you study?
This qualification is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information, alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT. Topics include information technology systems, creating systems to manage information, using social media in business and website design.

Assessment
The course is assessed by a combination of coursework and examination.

Where this course could lead you
The course can lead students to a degree in an IT discipline or a degree where IT related skills and knowledge may be advantageous. In addition students may also complete a higher degree apprenticeship with this qualification.

What the students say…
You should take this course if you are keen to develop your computing knowledge and programming skills. You will enjoy developing your understanding of the impact of technology on society. You will gain a better understanding of problem solving, for example investigating the challenges of cyber security, web design and social media use.

Contact
Mrs S Sibanda
BTEC HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Entry requirements
4 GCSEs grade 5 or above including maths and English.

What will you study?
All aspects of providing professional care for anyone from birth to grave in medical, educational and social care settings.

Assessment
A mixture of coursework, external examination and controlled assessment.

Where this course could lead you
Careers in schools such as teaching, teaching assistant, nursing, midwifery, social work, working with people with additional needs or disabilities.

What the students say...
"Although it's only one subject the units are so different it doesn't feel like that". "I wasn't sure about having exams but actually it was ok and the higher UCAS points are worth it". "I only knew I wanted to work with people, the course helped me decide what suited me and I choose physiotherapy".

Contact
Mrs K Horton
BTEC SPORT

Entry requirements
Grade 4 in GCSE PE or science and a merit in BTEC sport.

What will you study?
Four units will be completed. Three are mandatory and one optional.
You will gain the equivalent of one A level through this option.
Both unit 1 and unit 2 are externally assessed units set by Pearson. Unit 1 is an external one
hour exam sat in June. Unit 2 is a controlled assessment case study set by Pearson and is sat
in May in a classroom in exam conditions for two and a half hours.
The other two units which will be sat in the second year of the course will be coursework based.

The units that the students will complete are listed below:
Mandatory:
• Unit 1 - Anatomy and physiology
• Unit 2 - Fitness training and programming for health, sport and wellbeing
• Unit 3 - Professional development in the sports industry

Optional:
• Unit 6 - Sports psychology

Assessment
Unit 1 & Unit 2 - Externally assessed by Pearson
Unit 3 & Unit 6 - Internally assessment within school and verified via standard verification of an
external moderator.

Pass = E at A level
Merit = C at A level
Distinction = A at A level
Distinction* = A* at A level

Where this course could lead you
On to many different university courses in sports, physical education and the leisure industry.
Onto apprenticeships in sports management, coaching and leadership.

What the students say…
"Lessons are engaging and interesting and we cover so many topics". "It was great when we
used the chalk outside to help us learn the anatomy". "I have felt fully supported to achieve my
very best".

Contact
Mr A Hursey
NEXT STEPS

WHAT NEXT?

Make sure you have read this booklet thoroughly and understood its contents. If you have any questions please ask Mr Russell, Director of Studies, or your tutor.

Discuss your choice of courses with your parents and your subject teachers.

Complete the application form and return it to the sixth form office. You will be informed of your option choices and course entry requirements by letter before the end of term.

If you change your mind about any of your subject choices you must inform Mr Russell as soon as possible.

All applicants will be interviewed in January to discuss their option choices. This interview will take into account current performance and future aspirations. Final interviews for the sixth form will be held after GCSE results are published and individual timetables will then be finalised. The student and parent sixth form handbook will be given to students at the interview, detailing the dress code and other relevant procedures.
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