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Somervale Courses

Applied ICT

What are the Big Questions?

These are just some of the questions that might be discussed by ICT students:

- Where are Information & Communication Systems found?
- How do Information & Communication Systems influence our everyday lives?
- How do we design and build effective Information & Communication Systems?
- How can we best use multimedia technologies to share information?

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course is aimed at anyone who has a desire to find out more about the world they live in, and how actions cause changes in a variety of ways, and on different scales. It is very well complimented by a Science subject. The structure and nature of the topics covered requires an open and enquiring mind and will develop your personal confidence to share your opinions with others. The course will allow you to develop your skills as a critical thinker, and your ability to listen attentively to the views of others and establish your own critical viewpoints through speaking, listening, reading and writing.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Geography related Degrees are ranked in the top 10 most popular degrees offered at university, with nearly every university in the country offering a wide range of courses linked to the subject. They are also ranked second highest in terms of employability as they open up opportunities to a wide variety of careers both in this country and abroad.

Entry Requirements

Students must have an interest in ICT with sound practical skills in a range of software applications and have a C grade or above in ICT and English Language as well as 6 C Grades or above overall.

Applied ICT		
AS (Year 1)		AS
It1	Examination	30%
It2	Internally Assessed Portfolio Desktop Publishing and Presentation Software	20%
A2 (Year 2)		A2
It3	Examination	30%
It4	Internally Assessed Portfolio Database	20%

Art - Graphics

What are the Big Questions?

These are just some of the questions that might be discussed by Graphics students:

- What is Graphics? Pretty, Controversial, Functional, Persuasive, Political, Expressive, Emotional, Contemporary, Traditional, Any or all of the above?
- Can you be an independent thinker and multi-disciplined practitioner?

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course will suit anyone who enjoys Graphics and Art. This specification is designed to encourage a broad approach to Art Graphics which will allow students to develop a sound grounding in a number of specific Graphic areas.

It would be helpful if students have studied either Art or Graphics at GCSE. The course will teach students to look critically at both the work of practising Graphics artists and Design Studios whilst forming an appreciation of Historical works and techniques. The course will enable students to explore a range of media and processes - both Traditional and Contemporary - that will enable students to develop their own personal style.

What Might the Course Lead To?

With a qualification in Art Graphics you could go on to Higher Education and follow an Art Foundation course which in turn could lead to either a specialist HND or Degree course. Alternatively you could work in the Art or Graphics industries.

Entry Requirements

Students must achieve a C Grade or above in either Art or Graphics

Art - Graphics			
AS (Year 1)		AS	A2
Unit 1: Sketchbook Research Project			
Unit 2: Major Research Project	Externally Moderated	30%	15%
Unit 3: Personal Investigation	Externally Moderated	30%	15%
Unit 4: Controlled Test	Externally Moderated	40%	20%
A2 (Year 2)			A2
Unit 5: Specialist Project	Externally Moderated		15%
Unit 6: Personal Study	Externally Moderated		15%
Unit 7: Controlled Test	Externally Moderated		20%

Art and Design

What are the Big Questions?

The course is organised into units of work which cover a range of media and techniques and encourage the development of strong personal qualities in each student's artwork. Some of the questions we will be addressing are:

- Looking at the work of other artists - what is the work about, what is its meaning, how is it made, how does it affect the viewer?
- Media and techniques - what materials can be used to make a piece of artwork?
- How do I develop a series of work towards a final piece or pieces?
- How can my work be informed by studying the artwork of others?

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course is aimed at anyone who enjoyed GCSE Art and wishes to develop their skills further. A good deal of time is spent on practical work - investigating a range of two and three dimensional media and techniques. The course will develop your critical skills in terms of responding to the work of others and your ability to use this knowledge and understanding to develop your own ideas and skills.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Many students who wish to take their passion for Art further go on to a BTEC Diploma in Foundation Studies, a course which prepares you for a place on any art or design-based BA (Hons) degree or HND. Over 250 different job titles now exist within the art and design professions including curators, educators, photographers, applied arts practitioners and graphic designers.

Entry Requirements

Students must achieve a C Grade or above in GCSE Art and 6 C Grades or above overall.

Extra costs: Purchase of sketchbook and materials, visits to gallery exhibitions

Fine Art			
AS (Year 1)		AS	A2
Unit 1: Coursework Portfolio	Externally Moderated	50%	25%
Unit 2: Externally-Set Assignment	Externally Moderated	50%	25%
AS (Year 1)			A2
Unit 3: Personal Investigation	Externally Moderated		25%
Unit 4: A2 Externally-Set Assignment	Externally Moderated		25%

Biology

What are the Big Questions?

These are just some of the questions that might be discussed by Biology students:

- What are we made of?
- How do our bodies work?
- How do genes control cells?
- How do diseases, smoking and diet affect health?

Who Might the Course Suit?

Biology at AS and A2 level will enable you to acquire a systematic body of biological knowledge and an appreciation of its significance. It is a subject that can provide you with great enjoyment and respect for all living things. This course develops many of the topics you may have already studied and introduces you to some of the exciting areas of Biology in the contemporary world. Biology is a practical science subject so you will develop experimental skills and an understanding of the scientific method. It is hoped that this course will help you gain some understanding of the dynamic and exciting nature of biology today, and an awareness of the ethical, technological and economic aspects of the subject.

What Might the Course Lead To?

An A level qualification in Biology could prepare you to study Biology or one of the Biological Sciences in Further or Higher Education. It would also serve as a good basis if you wish to take a more vocational course leading to a career in medicine, veterinary medicine, forensics, animal health, horticulture or agriculture.

Entry Requirements

Students must achieve a BB Grade or above in GCSE Science on the Higher Tier and 6 C Grades and above overall (including Maths) to qualify for entry to the AS course.

Biology			
AS (Year 1)		AS	A2
Unit 1: Cells, Exchange & Transport	External written exam	30%	15%
Unit 2: Molecules, Biodiversity, Food & Health	External written exam	50%	25%
Unit 3: Practical Skills	Internal Assessment	20%	10%
A2 (Year 2)			A2
Unit 4: Communication, Homeostasis & Energy	External written exam		15%
Unit 5: Control, Genomes & Environment	External written exam		25%
Unit 6: Practical Skills	Internal Assessment		10%

Chemistry

What are the Big Questions?

These are just some of the questions that might be discussed by Chemistry students:

- What are we made of?
- Why is the fuel we use in our cars different in summer and winter?
- What is causing the ozone layer to be depleted?
- What makes molecules (like drugs) biologically active?
- How can we invent polymers with such different, useful properties?

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course is aimed at anyone who is fascinated by the world around them – why different materials have their properties and interact and change when conditions change. The study of chemistry will complement the study of biology or physics or be of interest as the only science subject being taken.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The course provides a firm foundation for those candidates progressing to chemistry, medicine and related courses in higher education. It also provides the knowledge, understanding and skills to allow those candidates who do not wish to carry their study of chemistry further to make reasoned and informed decisions about chemical issues affecting their lives.

Entry Requirements

Students must achieve a BB Grade or above in GCSE Science on the Higher Tier and 6 C Grades and above overall (including Maths) to qualify for entry to the AS course.

Chemistry			
AS (Year 1)		AS	A2
Unit 1: Chemistry for Life	External written exam	30%	15%
Unit 2: Chemistry of Natural Resources	External written exam	50%	25%
Unit 3: Chemistry In Practice	Practical Skills	20%	10%
A2 (Year 2)			A2
Unit 4: Chemistry of Materials	External written exam		15%
Unit 5: Chemistry by Design	External written exam		20%
Unit 6: Individual Investigation	Practical Skills		15%

English Language and Literature

What are the Big Questions?

These are just some of the questions that might be discussed by English Language and Literature students:

- How can I manipulate different features of language to write a story of my own?
- What are the differences between written and spoken English?
- What are the different ways in which people put over their views, prejudices and feelings?
- Are novels written in the language of real life?

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course is aimed at anyone who enjoys creative writing and also enjoys reading non fiction as well as literary texts. A proportion of time is spent talking and writing about texts so you will need to enjoy the in depth study of the wide variety of writing that we shall read. The course will develop your skills as a critical reader, your ability to listen attentively to the views of others, and establish your own critical viewpoints through speaking, listening, reading and writing. You will have the chance to flex your creative muscle through writing an extended piece of creative, original fiction. You will also learn to evaluate your own writing in detail.

What Might the Course Lead To?

English is one of the most popular degrees at University; nearly every University in the country offers a wide range of courses in the subject. Often students with A' Level or degree English go into careers in print journalism, advertising, public relations and teaching. It is highly regarded by both employers and higher educational establishments because of the way it helps students to develop analytical skills and their powers of persuasion.

Entry Requirements

Students must achieve a C Grade or above in English and/or English Literature and have 6 C Grades or above overall.

English Language and Literature			
AS (Year 1)		AS	A2
Unit 1: Introduction to the Language of Texts	External written exam	60%	30%
Unit 2: Original Writing & Exploring Spoken Language	Internal Assessment	40%	20%
A2 (Year 2)			A2
Unit 3: Language Investigation & Writing for Specific Purposes	Internal Assessment		40%
Unit 4: Analysing & Evaluating Language Modes and Contexts	External written exam		60%

English Literature

What are the Big Questions?

These are just some of the questions that might be discussed by Literature students:

- What makes a novel a modern classic?
- How does drama give us an insight into human behaviour?
- Why does Literature make us feel differently about the way we live?
- What makes poetry such a powerful vehicle to express human emotions?

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course is aimed at anyone who enjoys reading books or poems or going to the theatre and those who enjoy discussing with others what they think about texts. A good deal of time is spent talking and writing about texts so you will need to enjoy the in depth study of the novels, poems and plays we read. The course will develop your skills as a critical reader, your ability to listen attentively to the views of others, and establish your own critical viewpoints through speaking, listening, reading and writing.

What Might the Course Lead To?

English Literature is one of the most popular degrees at University; nearly every University in the country offers a wide range of courses in the subject. Often students with A' Level or degree level English Literature go into careers in print journalism, advertising, public relations and teaching. It is highly regarded by both employers and higher educational establishments because of the way it helps students to develop analytical skills and their powers of persuasion.

Entry Requirements

Students must achieve a C Grade or above in English and/or English Literature and have 6 C Grades or above overall.

English Literature			
AS (Year 1)		AS	A2
Unit 1: Poetry & Drama 1 (Post-1900 Poetry & Drama)	External written exam	60%	30%
Unit 2: Prose Study & Creative Reading	Internal Assessment	40%	20%
A2 (Year 2)			A2
Unit 3: Period & Genre Study	Internal Assessment		40%
Unit 4: Poetry & Drama 2 (Shakespeare & related Drama)	External written exam		60%

French

Why Learn a Language?

These are some of the big questions examined by Foreign Language students:

- How is French culture different from our own?
- How can you communicate your own ideas and persuade others of your views?
- How is the French language structured?

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course is aimed at those who enjoy communicating in another language and who are interested in exploring other cultures and what they have to offer. Speaking in French is a vital part of the course, as is understanding that you can communicate, even if at first there may be some misunderstanding! The course will help you to recognise when you make mistakes and how to learn from them. It will give a greater understanding of the structure of language as well as giving opportunities to develop personal view points on a range of international issues. Employers are increasingly recognising the value of language skills, and other skills acquired through language learning such as analytical ability, general communication skills, outward-looking attitudes and intercultural competence. This is not just a course to teach you how to describe your cat or say how many brothers and sisters you have!

What Might the Course Lead To?

The ability to understand and communicate in another language is a life skill. Most universities offer courses in the major languages. There is also the opportunity to study a new language or combine languages with other subjects. Currently in the UK there is a shortage of language specialists at all levels in the workforce. Possible careers include law, banking, marketing, sales, business, armed forces, teaching and public relations.

Entry Requirements

Students must achieve an B grade in their chosen language at GCSE level, and 6 A*-C grades overall, and must enjoy language learning.

French			
AS (Year 1)		AS	A2
Unit 1: Speaking (Role play, topic discussion)	Speaking test	30%	15%
Unit 2: Listening, Reading & Writing 1	External written exam	70%	35%
A2 (Year 2)			A2
Unit 3: Speaking (Discussion, topic conversation)	Speaking test		15%
Unit 4: Listening, Reading & Writing 2	External written exam		35%

Geography

What are the Big Questions?

These are just some of the questions that might be discussed by Geography students:

- What are the meanings, causes and impacts of a number of headline global issues?
- How do physical and human issues affect our lives and can these be managed?
- The use and management of resources is a key issue for geography in today's world. Consumption patterns highlight stark inequalities between regions, countries and groups of people. Many resources are finite, and rising consumption means that difficult decisions will have to be taken. What are those decisions, and how will people react to them?
- How does the weather and climate impact on people's lives throughout the world, and how are these changing?
- How are we managing and coping with natural disasters?
- How equitable is global development in the twenty-first century?

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course is aimed at anyone who has a desire to find out more about the world they live in, and how actions cause changes in a variety of ways, and on different scales. It is very well complimented by a Science subject. The structure and nature of the topics covered requires an open and enquiring mind and will develop your personal confidence to share your opinions with others. The course will allow you to develop your skills as a critical thinker, your ability to analyse the views of others and develop your own critical viewpoints through speaking, listening, reading and writing.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Geography related Degrees are ranked in the top 10 most popular degrees offered at university, with nearly every university in the country offering a wide range of courses linked to the subject. They are also ranked second highest in terms of employability as they open up opportunities to a wide variety of careers both in this country and abroad.

Entry Requirements

Students must achieve 6 C Grades or above overall. It is not necessarily a requirement to have studied Geography at GCSE in order to study it at A' Level, and it is therefore open to anyone entering the Sixth Form.

Geography			
AS (Year 1)		AS	A2
Unit 1: Global Challenges	External written exam	60%	30%
Unit 2: Geographical Investigations	External written exam	40%	20%
A2 (Year 2)			A2
Unit 3: Contested Planet	External written exam		30%
Unit 4: Geographical Research	External written exam		20%

History

What are the Big Questions?

These are some of the big questions examined by History students:

- Why did many Americans believe they were losing the cold war in the 1950's?
- Why did the USA intervene in Vietnam?
- What were the causes and consequences of the Cuban missile crisis?
- Why did the Conservatives remain in power from 1951 to 1964?
- How successful were the Labour governments 1964-70 and 1974-79?
- Why was Mrs Thatcher a controversial Prime Minister?

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course will suit anyone who enjoys the study of History and is interested in Politics and the way the world operates. It is useful if students think in detail about the world around them and can construct an argument whilst speaking or writing.

What Might the Course Lead To?

History remains one of the most popular degrees at University with nearly every institution in the country offering a wide range of subject areas. The exacting standards of a History A' level and Degree course give a graduate the skills needed to go into careers in all walks of life, from being a stand-up comic to a leader of industry.

Entry Requirements

Students must achieve a 'C' grade or above in History and have 6 C grades or above overall.

The new 2008 History specification is currently only available in draft format therefore the individual unit details are unavailable. Below is an outline of the 2007 units which illustrate the types of topics covered by the course:

AS (Year 1)	
Module 1 The Cold War in Asia and the Americas	External exam
Module 2 Post-War Britain 1951-1992	External Exam

At A2 students study the Nazi dictatorship and its effects on Germany and Irelands Union with Britain 1798-1921.

Mathematics

What are the Big Questions?

These are just some of the questions that will be discussed by Mathematics students:

- What does the data tell us about the population?
- How do we know that we have reached a maximum value?
- What will the graph look like?
- When two cars crash which way will the vehicles move?
- What is the quickest/cheapest way to deliver goods to 10 different shops.

Who Might the Course Suit?

A' level mathematics would be an appropriate choice for any pupil going into a career such as Engineering where mathematics is needed in designing and testing, or a career which looks at data and makes recommendations based on this analysis, i.e. Medicine, Advertising, Business Studies and Research.

Mathematics is also a good combination with subjects that require mathematical skills as it will enable you to get a fuller understanding, for instance it is used in Physics, Biology, Geography and PE A' Levels.

What Might the Course Lead To?

An A' Level in Mathematics can lead into numerous careers and university courses. Many universities value Mathematics as it proves you have a variety of different skills and can work in a logical way. It is said that people with an A' Level in Mathematics on average earn 10% more than others.

Entry Requirements

Students must achieve at least a grade 'B' in GCSE Mathematics and have 6 'C' Grades or above overall.

Mathematics			
AS (Year 1)		AS	A2
Unit 1: Core 1	External written exam	30%	15%
Unit 2: Core 2	External written exam	30%	15%
Unit 3: Statistics 1 or Mechanics 1 or Decision Maths	External written exam	40%	20%
A2 (Year 2)			A2
Unit 4: Core 3	External written exam		15%
Unit 5: Core 4	External written exam		15%
Unit 6: Statistics 1 or 2 / Mechanics 1 or Decision Maths	External written exam		20%

All pupils complete 3 units at AS level and 3 units at A2 level. Pupils entering Year 12 will need to decide which application they wish to follow (statistics or mechanics), and will also need to choose again in Year 13.

Media Studies

What are the Big Questions?

These are just some of the questions that will be discussed by Media students:

- What methods does the Media use to influence audiences?
- How are our lives shaped by the Media?
- Why is the Media such a powerful influence on our society?
- How can we use Media technology to influence the world around us?

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course is aimed at anyone who enjoys TV, film, radio, newspapers, magazines, the internet etc. and who is interested in learning about Media production and theories about how the media works. Students who want to develop a range of visual, practical and academic skills will particularly enjoy the course as they can combine skills from diverse subjects such as Music, Art, English, the Humanities and Science with the practical skills of using Media technology.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The emphasis in this course is upon the development of independent critical thinking skills which makes it particularly relevant to candidates wanting to study the Media at university. It can provide a useful taster for candidates considering more specialised vocational courses and careers in the Media. In addition, knowledge of the Media is increasingly valued and is becoming an important aspect of work in most institutions in an information society. This course should therefore be of value to candidates entering or studying for employment across a wide range of industries and professions.

Entry Requirements

Students must achieve a C Grade or above in Media Studies, English Literature or English and have 6 C Grades or above overall.

Media Studies			
AS (Year 1)		AS	A2
Unit 1: Investigating Media	External written exam	50%	25%
Unit 2: Creating Media	Internally Assessed	50%	25%
A2 (Year 2)			A2
Unit 3: Media – Critical Perspectives	External written exam		25%
Unit 4: Media – Research & Production	Internally Assessed		25%

Music Performance (BTEC National Award)

What are the Big Questions?

The course provides students with the opportunity to develop their performance skills through:

- Developing effective instrumental or vocal technique through a structured practice routine, learning a range of appropriate repertoire for a solo performance and group performance.
- Learning and understanding the different roles in the live music industry. Developing their organisation skills to manage a project, preparing financial records and taking responsibility to oversee the project and evaluate a successful live event.
- Preparing for a live event, working as a member of a team and contributing to a performance to a technically acceptable level.

Who Might the Course Suit?

The BTEC National Award in Music Performance is aimed at students continuing into the Sixth Form who are enthusiastic performers. The aim of the course is to provide students with a core focus (performing) completing three core units and three specialist units over two years.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The completion of each unit will be assessed against a set of outcomes, which is an ongoing process enabling students to analyse and improve their own performance throughout the course. The units are graded as a Pass, Merit or a Distinction, which is equivalent to one GCE A Level. The BTEC National Award in Music Performance is a nationally recognised vocational qualification aimed at developing student's performance skills to progress into higher education and pursuing a career in music.

Entry Requirements:

Six GCSE's (graded C or equivalent) and, in addition a passion for performance.

Music Performance			
Core Units		GLH	Level
Music Performance Techniques	Coursework	60	3
Planning a Music Project	Coursework	60	3
Music Project	Coursework	60	3
Specialist Units			
The specialist units are: (A choice of 3)			
Aural Perception Skills, Classical Music in Practice, Improvising Music, Improvising Music in a Jazz Style, Listening Skills for Musicians, Modern Music in Practice, Music Performance Session Styles, Musical Theatre Performance, Pop Music in Practice, Singing Techniques and Performance, Studying Music from Around the World, Working and Developing a Musical Ensemble.			

Physical Education

What will I learn?

You will;

- Develop your knowledge and skills as performer, official or coach
- Explore the contemporary issues in modern sport and recreation
- Examine the effects of exercise and the relationships between training and performance
- Identify the pathways and opportunities available to participate in sport and recreation at local, national and international level
- Enhance your understanding of how elite performers prepare for sports competition
- Find ways to improve your own performance in selected roles through your greater understanding of the subject

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course will appeal to you if you;

- Have a keen interest in sport and recreation
- Have an enquiring mind and an interest in sport throughout the world
- Want to know more about how the body functions and the effects of exercise
- Want to evaluate and improve your own performance in a range of sports roles
- Want to study a course that is active and that you will enjoy

What Might the Course Lead To?

Physical Education supports applications for a wide range of university courses like Sports Sciences, Physiotherapy, Recreation and Leisure Studies and many other new and exciting courses related to sport. Other students choose to use their qualification to go straight into employment, using their transferable skills (such as analysing data, communication skills and the development of long-term projects) to create opportunities in recreational management, leisure activities, the armed forces or the civil service.

Entry Requirements

Students must achieve an A* - C Grade in GCSE Physical Education and have 6 C Grades or above overall.

Physical Education			
AS (Year 1)		AS	A2
Unit 1: Participation in Sport & Recreation	Externally Assessed	50%	25%
Unit 2: The Critical Sports Performer	Internally Assessed	50%	25%
A2 (Year 2)			A2
Unit 3: Preparation for Optimum Sports Performance	Externally Assessed		25%
Unit 4: The Developing Sports Performer	Internally Assessed		25%

Physics

What are the Big Questions?

These are just some of the questions that might be discussed by physics students:

- How does physics help explain the way things move?
- How does a digital camera operate?
- How does physics help us design new materials?
- How is physics used in the field of medicine

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course is aimed at anyone who has an enquiring mind and likes using Maths to solve problems. Physicists like to think Physics is the study of everything. Without physics there would be no significant advances in engineering. Any hope of conquering heart disease or cancers depends on a future generation of physicists. Without physicists it is very difficult to see how the world can survive an energy crisis in the next 50 years.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Physics courses are widely available from many universities but it is also an excellent or even essential choice for maths or engineering based courses and careers. The opportunities for physicists at any level are enormous. There is such a world shortage of physicists that bursaries of up to £5000 are available from universities such as Manchester and Birmingham. Qualified physics teachers in schools and colleges are entitled to a financial golden hello up to £7000 from the government. Physicists are also now widely used as financial analysts on the world's stock exchanges.

Entry Requirements:

Students must achieve a BB Grade or above in GCSE Science on the Higher Tier and 6 C Grades and above overall (including Maths) to qualify for entry to the AS course.

Physics			
AS (Year 1)		AS	A2
Unit 1: Physics in Action	External written exam	30%	15%
Unit 2: Understanding Processes and Experimentation and Data Handling	External written exam	50%	25%
Unit 3: Physics in Practice (coursework)	Quality of Measurement / Physics in Use	20%	10%
A2 (Year 2)			A2
Unit 4: Rise and Fall of the Clockwork Universe	External written exam		15%
Unit 5: Field and Particle Pictures	External written exam		25%
Unit 6: Researching Physics (coursework)	Investigation/Research briefing		10%

Religious Studies

What are the Big Questions?

Religious Studies involves investigating many important questions about human nature and experience, such as:

- What are the arguments for and against the existence of God?
- Was the world created by God, or do we exist as a result of a cosmic accident?
- Do our actions during this life matter?
- Can science answer all our questions?
- Can you be religious without believing in God?
- Why is Buddhism called "Science of the mind"?

Who Might the Course Suit?

This course will interest anyone who enjoys thinking about themselves and the world around them. Anyone who has ever wondered what the point of life is, or whether we live on beyond the grave may benefit from Religious Studies in the Sixth Form. The course would also suit those students who enjoy learning about other people's viewpoints through debates and discussions. All students are welcome, regardless of whether they adhere to a particular faith or not.

What Might the Course Lead To?

We hope that students will develop a life long interest in thinking about life and in trying to understand the world in which we live. An Advanced qualification in RE is recognised by all colleges, universities and employers as an intellectually challenging course which stimulates students to think, question and analyse a wide range of ideas and opinions. It provides a suitable basis for many degree subjects, especially Psychology, Sociology, History, English and Religious Studies. It is also useful for those considering a career in Law, Medicine, journalism and the Armed Forces. Any job that involves dealing with other people is likely to view RE as a useful qualification, since we will study a wide range of viewpoints.

Entry Requirements

Students must achieve a C Grade or above in RE GCSE Full Course or a C Grade or above in Short Course RE and have 6 C Grades or above overall to include English Language.

Religious Studies			
AS (Year 1)		AS	A2
Unit 1: Philosophy of Religion, Buddhism	External written exam	50%	25%
Unit 2: Religious Studies Investigation	External written exam	50%	25%
A2 (Year 2)			A2
Unit 3: Religious Studies - Developments	External written exam		25%
Unit 4: Religious Studies - Implications	External written exam		25%

MSN Schools Partnership (Federation) Courses

CACHE

What is the Cache Diploma?

It is a qualification in Child Care and Education. The CACHE Diploma is equivalent to 3 full A' levels.

What Does the Course Cover?

It prepares learners to work unsupervised or in a supervisory capacity with children and their families in a variety of settings and environments within the sector of children's services.

There is time spent in practical placements and study days in school.

Units covered:

- Health
- Social Studies
- Education
- Equality of opportunity
- IT
- All aspects of children's development

What Might the Course Lead To?

The course prepares students for entry into Higher Education onto teaching and child care courses, as well as for jobs in nurseries and as pre-school assistants.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Five GCSE passes at Grades A*-C or equivalent.

How is it Assessed?

- Assignments linked to the unit (throughout the course)
- Practical evidence record (assessed by placements)
- Research talk
- Portfolio of work to support professional practice and assignments.

Fashion & Clothing BTEC

Level 3 Award

What is the Course About?

This course enables students to:

- Undertake specialised studies directly relevant to the fashion/textile and other creative professions in which learners intend to seek employment or further study.
- Develop an understanding of the skills required to develop careers within the fashion and related industries.
- Develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life.

The coursework is broken down into small units of work and this will involve using CAD/CAM and traditional methods to produce practical samples, final outcomes such as garments and accessories and experiment with different techniques.

Who Might the Course Suit?

Anyone who enjoys Textiles Design, Art, Fashion and is creative. This course will develop your practical, visualisation and CAD/CAM skills and allow you to explore

vocational possibilities. The structure of the course enables learners to identify their own areas of interest and select appropriate units. Unit examples: Fashion marketing/promotion, Fashion media, techniques and technology, Garment and accessory production and developing costume design.

What Might the Course Lead To?

This course will allow you to pursue a number of pathways. You can progress straight into employment. There is a wide variety of prospective careers that you can explore, for example: Fashion/clothing designer, tailor/dressmaker, multimedia designer, sales marketing, buying and distributing, quality control, testing, researching or as a computer specialist.

The BTEC National Award in Fashion and Clothing has the equivalence of one A Level and it is possible for you to progress further into higher education, as successful BTEC National qualifications give UCAS points for university applications. This qualification will help you to access a number of university courses at foundation or degree level.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or equivalent.

Edexcel	Fashion and Clothing Award	
Core Units		
Visual recording Materials, techniques and processes Ideas and concepts Visual communication		Folder work and practical outcomes.
Specialist unit examples (choose 2 units)		
Garment and accessory production Fashion visualisation/presentation Fashion marketing/promotion Surface Pattern for Fashion and Clothing		Folder work and practical outcomes

Music Technology

What is the Course About?

The aim of the course is to lead students towards an understanding of the use, capabilities and limitations of equipment which is encountered in Music Technology. The two computer programmes used are Logic Pro (Sequencing) and Sibelius (Score Writing).

The emphasis is on the creative potential of this technology and how an understanding of this equipment leads to the solution of problems in music recording, including such matters as acoustics in studios. There is a wide range of practical work.

Who Might the Course Suit?

Anyone who is interested in both Music and Technology. Musical skills such as aural awareness, arranging and composing and good vocabulary knowledge are needed. This is alongside an interest in recording and manipulating sound with technology.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Any of the following careers: session musician, television, radio broadcasting, arranging and composing for advertising, the pop industry, recording companies, teaching, technical music assistant, theatre productions, electronics and computer generated music.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above.

EDEXCEL		Music Technology
AS		
Unit 1	Music Technology Portfolio 1	Coursework (May Year 12)
Unit 2	Listening and Analysing	Exam (June Year 12)
A2		
Unit 3	Music Technology Portfolio 2	Coursework (May Year 13)
Unit 4	Analysing and Producing	Exam (June Year 13)

Product Design

What is the Course About?

Manufacturing of products has changed enormously in the last two decades and is constantly being updated. This course will allow you the opportunity to learn how to design specifically for industrial manufacturing methods. It moves you on from the traditional construction techniques and investigates how modern mass produced goods are created on a global scale. There are opportunities to design and make products using some of the latest technologies in both CAD and CAM and to work with modern and smart materials. You will gain a fuller understanding of the complete life of a product taking it from conception and raw materials through the design process, mass manufacture and onto distribution and sales.

Who Might the Course Suit?

We are looking for students who have the capability to design products, students who want to understand how the whole process works, who are capable of using modern techniques to create modern products for a modern world. If you are keen to use up-to-date CAD and CAM to complement your existing skills, this course is for you.

What Might the Course Lead To?

With a qualification in this subject you will be able to move onto further education courses at all levels, it will allow access to design based or manufacturing based work. You can use it to move towards a more in depth study of CAD/CAM or towards industrial product design and working in the global market place.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above.

EDEXCEL	Product Design	
AS		
Unit 1	Product Development	Folder
Unit 2	Knowledge & Understanding of Product Design	Exam (June Year 12)
A2		
Unit 3	Further Study of Product Design	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	Commercial Product Development	Folder

Travel & Tourism (BTEC National Award)

What are the Big Questions?

These are just some of the questions that could be discussed by Travel and Tourism students:

- What is the structure of the present travel and tourism industry?
- What are the issues and implications of delivering quality customer service?
- How have recent developments shaped the present day travel and tourism industry?
- What are the roles and responsibilities for both tourists and tour operators?

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course provides excellent vocational knowledge and experience of customer service and marketing principles that can be applied to any job or business. The qualification will equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to consider a successful career in the tourism industry, which is one of the fastest growing industries, and the South West is second in growth only to London. Travel and tourism goes very well with Geography, Business Studies, Media Studies or Modern Foreign Languages.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Employment opportunities - With the international recognition of BTEC courses such as this, you can progress straight into employment. If successful there are a wide variety of potential careers that you can explore, all of which will benefit from your studies, for example: air cabin crew, tourist guide or travel agent.

Further vocational and academic qualifications -The BTEC National Award in Travel and Tourism has the equivalence of one GCE A Level, and it is possible for you to progress further into higher education. Travel and Tourism at University is becoming a popular degree and many universities offer a range of courses in the subject.

Entry Requirements

Six GCSEs at grade C or equivalent and, in addition, the interest and potential to succeed in achieving the qualification.

Travel & Tourism			
Unit	Core units	GLH	Level
1	Investigating Travel and Tourism	60	3
2	The Business of Travel and Tourism	60	3
3	The UK as a Destination	60	3
4	Customer Service in Travel and Tourism	60	3
	Specialist units		
8	Long-haul Travel Destinations	60	3
26	Current Issues in Travel and Tourism	60	3

Norton Hill Courses

Applied ICT

What is the Course About?

The difference with this course is that there is far greater emphasis placed on using and applying ICT skills. The course has a business context to it and candidates will be expected to find real clients to create a database system, some print based materials and in one case, a multimedia video. The course is assessed entirely on a practical basis through coursework. There are also two 15 – 20 hour exams that are both taken using a computer. The first exam done in Y12, looks at how ICT has affected an area of society. Students will normally create a website or brochure on this. The other exam asks students to use advanced techniques to create a spreadsheet system for a client to use.

Students will learn and acquire other useful life skills on the course including project management, time management and communication skills.

Who Might the Course Suit?

As this course is largely assessed by a portfolio of work, students with a good working knowledge of software applications will be at an advantage. Students who are self motivated and enjoy experimenting with the features of various software applications will be successful on the Applied ICT course.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The qualification is designed to provide a broad introduction to ICT either in preparation for further study (e.g. at university for a degree or an HND) or for moving into employment.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

6 GCSE passes at grade C or above including ICT and English.

AQA	Applied IT	
AS		
Unit 1	ICT and Society	Externally Assessed (Year 12)
Unit 2	ICT and Organisations	Portfolio (Year 12)
Unit 3	Data Handling	Portfolio (Year 12)
A2		
Unit 8	Project Management	Portfolio (Year 13)
Unit 10	Advanced Spreadsheet Design	Externally Assessed (Year 13)
Plus any one of the following:		
Unit 12	Publishing	Portfolio (Year 13)
Unit 14	Interactive Multimedia	Portfolio (Year 13)

Applied Science

What is the Course About?

The AQA GCSE Applied Science course will allow you to study how Science is applied in many different types of professions and industries. The focus of the course is scientific usage, concentrating on how scientists and others use science in their work.

During the course you will be given the opportunity to visit scientific workplaces and meet people who use science on a daily basis. You will also learn how science contributes to our lifestyle and the environment in which we live.

The course is designed to allow you to spend a considerable amount of your time in the laboratory, working on the kind of practical projects that may be undertaken by employees working in science-based industries.

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course that you choose to study will depend on your interests, strengths and preference for a particular style of learning as well as your future ambitions. You will need to work independently on a number of projects. The course is aimed at students who do not necessarily want to specialize in the separate Sciences at this stage.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The GCE in Applied Science will prepare you for a career in the science industry or industries that use scientific knowledge and skills. It will also prepare you to take on learning and training in further and higher education. The types of courses include, for example, many science and paramedical degrees.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above to include a C grade in Science.

AQA	Applied Science	
AS		
Unit 1	Investigating Science at Work	Portfolio (ongoing)
Unit 2	Energy Transfer Systems	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 3	Finding out about Substances	Portfolio (ongoing)
A2		
Unit 4	Planning & Carrying out a Scientific Investigation	Portfolio (ongoing)
Unit 5	One further unit from a possible nine	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 6	One further unit from a possible nine	Portfolio (ongoing)

Art & Design

What is the Course About?

The AS course consists of one coursework unit and an externally set exam unit. The coursework unit is designed to re-establish skills and knowledge from GCSE level, and extend these into new areas and to a higher standard.

The course is teacher-directed at initially, but as the course develops students take on increased responsibility for the direction and progress of their work. In Year Thirteen students develop ideas and interests from AS and pursue individual themes, through one coursework unit, which has a larger written element. The course is completed through an externally set exam unit.

The department organise a series of visits to galleries and aims to introduce students to ways of working outside the classroom environment. Every other year there is a gallery trip to either Paris or Barcelona which, although not essential, is a wonderful experience leading to enhanced skills and contextual understanding.

Who Might the Course Suit?

Students who have gained at least grade B at GCSE who are well-motivated and capable of independent thought.

What Might the Course Lead To?

A-Level Art is acceptable as an A-Level for most university courses. Many students study Art and Design subjects at degree or foundation level but study can lead to: Architecture, Fashion, Television, Film, Photography, Animation, Graphic Design, Theatre Design, Art History, Museum work, Illustration and Advertising etc.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above.

AQA		Art & Design
AS		
Unit 1	Object and environment/Figure and identity	Internally assessed
Unit 2	Examination	Internally marked Externally moderated
A2		
Unit 3	Self-directed Unit (including Personal Study)	Internally assessed
Unit 4	Examination	Internally assessed Externally moderated

Biology

What is the Course About?

The course encompasses all areas of both Plant and Animal Biology. The course looks at the bio-chemistry of various organic and inorganic molecules e.g. carbohydrates, lipids and proteins and builds upon this in Year Thirteen to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the metabolic pathways occurring in both Photosynthesis and Respiration.

Human Physiology forms an important part of the course and students gain an insight into how each of the organ systems work.

Plant and Environmental Biology are also vital topics studied and these are becoming more relevant as the issues surrounding the future of the planet make their way up the political agenda. This is also true for the other political "hot potato" namely genetics. Students will look at many of the ground-breaking discoveries made in recent times and discuss the controversial ideas of where to go next.

Who Might the Course Suit?

Students must have an inquisitive nature and show great enthusiasm for Biology in general. The ability to research independently will be essential as much background reading surrounding the topics will be expected. Students need to engage in practical work and adopt a methodical approach to improve their scientific skills.

What Might the Course Lead To?

An A-Level in Biology can open doors to many courses at university. There are courses in Bio-chemistry, Cell Biology, Micro-Biology, Environmental Biology, Medicine, Bio-Medical Sciences, Nursing and many more. A degree in Science may also lead to professional jobs e.g. teaching, accountancy etc.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above + Grade BB in Science

OCR		Biology
AS		
Unit 1	Cells	Exam (January Year 12)
Unit 2	Molecules, biodiversity, food and health	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 3	Practical skills	Assessment during Year 12
A2		
Unit 4	Communication, homeostasis and energy	Exam (January Year 13)
Unit 5	Control, genomes and environment	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 6	Practical skills	Assessment during Year 13

Business (BTEC National Award)

What are BTEC Nationals?

BTEC Nationals are A-Level equivalent programmes designed to provide specific work-related qualifications in business. They have been developed to prepare learners for employment and/or provide career development opportunities.

What is the Course about?

The BTEC Nationals in Business have been developed in the business sector to focus on:

- Education and training for students who are likely to work in administration, marketing, human resources, accounting, ICT and the legal and management areas of business
- Providing opportunities for employees working in administration, marketing, human resources, accounting, ICT and the legal and management areas of business to achieve a nationally recognised Level Three vocationally specific qualification
- Giving learners the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification to enter employment in the business sector or to progress to higher qualifications such as the BTEC Higher National in Business or related degree courses
- Giving learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life.

Who Might the Course Suit?

Students who will enjoy this course will have the “get up and go” to research independently and participate enthusiastically in presentations, role-plays, debates and in-depth research. This research may involve library resources, the internet, business visits and surveys.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The BTEC National in Business has been developed to provide a broad educational basis for further training, further education or for moving into appropriate employment within the business sector. The course has been designed to be delivered in a work-related context and to allow learners to develop an appreciation of the business sector.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE or equivalent passes at Grade C or above.

AQA	Business (BTEC National)	
AS		
Unit 1	Exploring Business Activity	June (Year 12)
Unit 2	Investigating Business Resources	June (Year 12)
Unit 3	Introduction to Marketing	June (Year 12)
A2		
Unit 4	Effective People, Communication & Information	June (Year 13)
Unit 5	Understanding Financial Accounting	June (Year 13)
Unit 6	Investigating Internet Marketing	June (Year 13)

Business Studies

What is the Course About?

The main theme of the course is management and decision-making in organisations. Students study the world as it is now: The everyday triumphs and disasters of businesses form the basis of lessons and reading. By studying organisations as diverse as Nike, the BBC, Manchester United, Virgin and the Body Shop, students will be introduced into the main issues that concern a business.

The following concepts will be covered in detail:

- Investigating business behaviour from the perspectives of a range of stakeholders including customers, managers, creditors, owners/ shareholders and employees.
- Developing a critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value
- Analysis of the external environment that will contribute significantly to the success or failure of a businesses

Who Might the Course Suit?

The Advanced Level Business course provides a smooth transition from GCSE Business Studies, although this is not a pre-requisite for studying AS/A Level. Business Studies is complimentary to a number of other subjects e.g. Psychology as both subjects address the issue of motivation.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The Business Studies A-Level lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Business or other related courses in higher education. For example, this may include Economics, Marketing, Human Resource Management, Law and Finance. Studies have shown that Graduates in these subjects can expect a substantial premium on their starting salaries.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six passes at Grade C or above to include a Grade C in English Language.

AQA	Business Studies	
AS		
Unit 1	Planning and Financing a Business	June (Year 12)
Unit 2	Managing a Business	June (Year 12)
A2		
Unit 3	Strategies for Success	June (Year 13)
Unit 4	The Business Environment and Managing Change	June (Year 13)

Business and Personal Finance (BTEC National Award)

What are BTEC Nationals?

BTEC Nationals are A-Level equivalent programmes designed to provide specific work-related qualifications in business. They have been developed to prepare learners for employment and/or provide career development opportunities.

What is the Course About?

This course will serve the needs of a wide range of students who are interested in private, public or voluntary organizations in the Business and Finance sector.

It will be particularly relevant to those interested in working in the financial services industry.

The award provides underpinning knowledge and business skills.

The course will also develop the students understanding of the financial services available for individuals and businesses.

These units will contribute to a learners understanding of how to organise their finances at all future stages of their lives.

Who might the Course Suit?

Students who will enjoy this course will have the "get up and go" to research independently and participate enthusiastically in presentations, role-plays, debates and in-depth research. This research may involve library resources, the internet, business visits and surveys. Clearly, they will need to have an interest in the world of finance.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The BTEC National in Business has been developed to provide a broad educational basis for further training, further education or for moving into appropriate employment within the business sector. The course has been designed to be delivered in a work-related context and to allow learners to develop an appreciation of the finance sector.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE or equivalent passes at Grade C or above.

AQA	BTEC Business and Personal Finance	
Unit 1	Financial Services for Individuals	
Unit 2	Business Financial Performance	
Unit 3	Financial Services to Support Business	
Unit 4	Financial Services Regulation Ethics and Trends	
Unit 5	Finance in the Global Economy	
Unit 6	Learning from Employment	

Chemistry

What is the Course About?

- What chemical reactions occur in the human body?
- Why do some substances react when others do not?
- What is the atmosphere made from and what causes the 'greenhouse effect'?
- How was the periodic table decided?
- How do we know so much about the atom when we can't see it?

These are just some of the questions that are answered in the A-Level Chemistry course taught at Norton Hill.

Chemistry is a practical subject and there are many opportunities to develop your practical skills. In Year Twelve and Thirteen, you will be required to use these acquired skills and complete a range of different tasks, all supporting and using your understanding of Chemistry.

Who Might the Course Suit?

Students who have enjoyed GCSE Science and have a natural interest in Chemistry would be best suited to the course. Students who are considering careers in Medicine, Veterinary Science should also do A-Level Chemistry. Well motivated and organised students will be the most successful. Extended writing skills are not essential.

What Might the Course Lead To?

There are numerous job opportunities for students with Chemistry qualifications including Medicinal Chemistry, Veterinary, Forensic Science, Bio-medical Sciences, Pharmacy and Bio-chemistry. A-Level Chemistry is also highly regarded for non-scientific careers including Accountancy and Law.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above + Grade BB in Science.

OCR	Chemistry	
AS		
Unit 1	Chemistry for Life	Exam (January) (15%)
Unit 2	Chemistry of Natural Resources	Exam (June) (25%)
Unit 3	Chemistry in Practice	Internal Assessment (throughout) (10%)
A2		
Unit 4	Chemistry of Materials	Exam (June) (15%)
Unit 5	Chemistry by Design	Exam (June) (20%)
Unit 6	Individual Investigation	Coursework (May) (15%)

Critical Thinking

What is the Course About?

This, as a course, is only available to students studying in Year 13.

Critical Thinking develops the skills of assessing arguments. There is no specific content unlike other AS subjects, and there is thus little writing or revision required. Instead, the course involves the discussion and analysis of a wide range of topics, from moral issues such as euthanasia through to current debates on issues like compulsory ID cards.

Is this course suitable for me?

No prior knowledge is necessary. The Course is largely based on learning and practising a range of skills. Students need to enjoy analysing problems and arguments, be interested in debating and have an open mind when considering evidence. Students will look at reasons, conclusions, assumptions, counterarguments, flaws and metaphors – and more. For example:-

- All witches have black cats
- My neighbour has a black cat
- So she must er anything wrong here?

OR how would you interrogate?

- Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492.

OR how would you debate?

- All rail travel should be made free in the UK.

Evidence in all its forms will be considered and precise ways to judge its credibility, plausibility and validity. Study also involves presentation skills and communicating findings to a class and on paper, in a structured way.

Subject entry requirements?

Critical Thinking involves considerable reading, for understanding and analysis. This means that we require a Grade B or above in 5 GCSE subjects – including English Language. **This AS course is only available to students studying in Year 13.**

Awareness of and an interest in contemporary events and issues and how they are reported would be an advantage.

What will I study on this course?

The two Units studied are:

- Unit 1: An introduction to Critical Thinking, including important skills, the language of reasoning and credibility of evidence.
- Unit 2: Assessing and Developing Argument, including the evaluation of weaknesses and flaws in arguments and constructing your own arguments.

Who Might the Course Suit?

This course is ideal for students who are considering going on to university after Sixth Form, and is essential for those considering a career in medicine, or who is considering applying to Oxbridge.

What might the course lead to?

Almost any professional career will require analytical thinking and so the course is potentially beneficial to all students.

What are the entrance requirements?

Critical Thinking involves considerable reading for understanding and analysis. This means that we require a Grade B or above in 5 GCSE subjects, including English Language.

OCR	Critical Thinking	
AS		
Unit 1	Introduction to Critical Thinking	Exam (January Year 13)
Unit 2	Assessing and Developing Argument	Exam (June Year 13)

Drama and Theatre Studies

What is the Course About?

The course explores drama and theatre studies as a practical, intellectual and artistic subject. Students' creativity and understanding are developed through the active study of major play texts enhanced through practical drama exploration.

In the first year of the course the students are introduced to a number of selected play texts where they are encouraged to consider the fundamentals of drama study including plotting, character, meaning and context

In the second year students take the lead in the course and become theatre practitioners. The first A2 module challenges the group to devise their own piece of unique drama, based on a stimulus introduced by the teacher. The students go on to adapt and perform play scenes, selected and directed by themselves. Final performances of the 'Devised' drama take place at 'the egg' Theatre, Bath.

In both years there are options for performance support candidates who may be interested in developing their skills as directors or technicians.

Who Might the Course Suit?

It would be advantageous if the applicant has studied Drama to GCSE as the two courses are designed to ensure a progression in student skills. A student needs to be prepared to perform in front of an audience at some point throughout the two years of the course. Additionally, they will be expected to attend live theatre productions as a critical aspect of textual analysis.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The course would suit anyone interested in going into a career in the Arts such as actor, director or designer. It would also suit students interested in a career in arts administration. More specifically, it would be a valuable starting point for a student wishing to go to Drama School or University to study on a drama course.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above including a Grade C in English Language.

AQA		
Drama and Theatre Studies		
AS		
Unit 1	Live Theatre Production & Prescribed Play	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 2	Presentation of an Extract from a Play	Performance (Spring Year 12)
A2		
Unit 3	Further Prescribed Plays including Pre-Twentieth Century	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	Devised Drama	Practical (Spring Year 13)

Economics Pre-U

What is the Pre-U?

Cambridge Pre-U is an exciting qualification for 16-19 year olds who want to go to university.

The qualification will equip students with the skills they need to make a success of their undergraduate studies:

- By possessing a solid and coherent grounding in Economics at an appropriate level;
- By undertaking independent and self directed learning of a variety economic case studies, including the expansion of the EU and the role of China in the global economy;
- To understand the importance of cause, effect and interdependency within the world of economics.

What is the Course About?

Economics enables students to:

- Gain a thorough and rigorous understanding of the theory that underpins the workings of a modern day economy
- Develop quantitative skills through the appreciation and use of various statistical methods
- Understand the causes of the current financial crisis or global credit crunch, both on a micro and a macro economic scale and develop an appreciation of how this crisis may be resolved

- Have a sound understanding of events, both internal and external that have influenced the UK economy over the past ten years
- Understand the risks, rewards and challenges to the UK and the global economy posed by the vast emerging markets of China and India.

Who might the Course Suit?

Students who will enjoy this course will have a clear interest in the world around them; they will be curious about the causes and effects of the global financial crisis and have an interest in understanding the changes that are afoot within both the UK and global economies.

The course will also suit students who possess strong numerical and written skills which will enable them to carry out detailed research and analysis in the world of economics and global finance.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Students studying Pre-U Economics will have a clear desire to pursue a degree course at University.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above to include B grades in English Language and Maths.

Cambridge Pre-U Economics		
Units include:-		
Unit 1	Microeconomics	
Unit 2	Macroeconomics and the National Economy	
Unit 3	International Economics	
Unit 4	Investigation Topics which will include the expansion of the EU and China's role in the Global Economy	

English Language

What is the Course About?

The course is an in depth study into language and its uses. This A-Level begins with an exploration of language, looking at how it works and its various effects in society. Students will look at how language involves and affects everyone across genders, races and social classes. The coursework module encourages pupils to develop their own writing skills, producing writing in different genres and for different audiences and purposes.

In Year Thirteen the exams cover how certain types of text are constructed, how we acquire language from an early age and how language has changed over the years.

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course would suit those with enquiring minds, initiative and a genuine interest in communication between humans. Pupils will be involved in discussing a wide range of issues, carrying out research projects, analysing language closely and developing writing skills.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Those who complete the course will benefit from a better understanding of how our language operates and the skills to use it more effectively in everyday communication. It is a useful foundation for degrees in language, linguistics, socio-linguistics, media and journalism.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above including a C grade in English Language.

AQA	English Language	
AS		
Unit 1	Categorising Texts	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 2	Creating Texts	Coursework (Year 12)
A2		
Unit 3	Developing Language	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	Investigating Language	Coursework (Year 13)

English Literature

What is the Course About?

The course consists of four modules, two at AS level and two at A2. Module One explores aspects of narratives via the study of two novels and two poetry texts from 1800 – 1945. Module Two explores different dramatic genres, culminating in a portfolio of written coursework.

Students of A-Level Literature study prose, poetry and drama from different historical periods and cultures. The course looks at writers' techniques, the contexts in which authors write and interpretations we make. Lessons involve creative and critical responses in the form of seminar discussions, group work and presentations. Students are expected to have a passion for reading and the desire to read independently and widely.

Who Might the Course Suit?

Students who enjoy reading texts, discussing ideas and exploring different interpretations and points of view will gain a great deal from this course. We expect our candidates to have a love of literature and a thirst to discover more about it!

What Might the Course Lead To?

A-Level English Literature is highly regarded by employers and universities. It is well-established as an A-Level and demonstrates a student can interpret and analyse language as well as argue a case fluently. These are essential skills in many professions including journalism, law and publishing.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above including a C grade in English Language.

AQA		English Literature
AS		
Unit 1	Aspects of Narrative	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 2	Dramatic Genres	Coursework (Year 12)
A2		
Unit 3	Texts and Genres	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	Further and Independent Reading	Coursework (Year 13)

Environmental Studies

What is the Course About?

The specification provides an opportunity to study a wide range of topics from a variety of subjects. There are aspects of Biology, Geography, Physics and Chemistry as well as the chance to consider the cultural and ethical consequences of some of the most important global issues.

This course looks at the interactions between the different spheres of the planet and highlights the major problems caused mainly by human activity and poses questions relating to their solutions.

The course now has to be called Environmental Studies instead of Environmental Science as there is no coursework assessment. The skills and knowledge of scientific investigation and 'How Science Works' are assessed in the exams.

Who Might the Course Suit?

This would be a good option for those wishing apply their scientific understanding to a broad range of environmental topics. An interest in current issues and a willingness to keep up to date with environmental current affairs is essential. There is also an emphasis on independent learning as research skills are vital to success on this course.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Further university courses on Environmental Science and the other Earth Sciences such as Meteorology. There are also opportunities in Biotic Resource Management (forestry, fisheries and farming), Environmental Health, Future Energy Resource Development and Politics.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above.

AQA Environmental Studies		
AS		
Unit 1	The Living Environment	Exam (January Year 12)
Unit 2	The Physical Environment	Exam (June Year 12)
A2		
Unit 3	Energy Resources and Environmental Pollution	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	Biological Resources and Sustainability	Exam (June Year 13)

Extended Project (EPQ)

What is the Course?

The Extended Project is a one year course equivalent to an AS level and is awarded Grades A-E. Some universities will accept it as part of an offer, but the top universities will not but have said that they would look favourably on students who opt to do it and others have said they would be willing to make lower offers because of it, eg Bristol.

How is it assessed?

- Students record what they do in a production log.
- They produce an extended piece of work and make a presentation about it.
- They are assessed on the log, the project and the presentation.

What can they look at?

- Students can choose to look at an area which is an extension to their current area of study or alternatively they can explore an area of personal interest or activity outside the main programme of study.
- Students can opt to take an Extended Project in either a social science area, such as psychology or sociology or a Humanities area.

What will students need to show that they can do to achieve a good grade?

- To choose an area of interest
- Draft a project title
- Draft aims of the project
- Plan, research and carry out the project
- Provide evidence of all stages of project production
- Deliver a presentation to a specified audience.

What are the Entry Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above.

Geography

What is the Course About?

- Why does there seem to be an increasing number of natural disasters around the world in recent years?
- Why is the gap between the wealth of rich and poor countries growing?
- What caused the Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004?

These are some of the questions we will try to answer in A-Level Geography along with many more. The course content is divided between physical and human topics and includes climatic hazards, river flooding, population explosion and industrial development in the Far East. We look at the processes that cause change and the impacts of that change on human activity. Interpretation of geographical data and fieldwork are integral parts of the course. A residential visit to North Devon takes place in March of Year Twelve.

Who Might the Course Suit?

Anybody who has an interest about the earth and the effect of people and processes on it will enjoy A-Level Geography. Do **you** have concerns about the environment? Do **you** enjoy fieldwork and practical learning as geographers often enjoy the outdoors and will be inquisitive?

What Might the Course Lead To?

Geography graduates are now some of the most employable in the workplace as they have such a wide range of skills including problem solving, decision making, teamwork and communication. Geographers work in diverse areas such as Business and Finance, Environmental Management and Education.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above.

AQA		Geography
AS		
Unit 1	Physical & Human Geography	Exam (May Year 12)
Unit 2	Applied Geography	Exam (May Year 12)
A2		
Unit 3	Contemporary Geographical Issues	Exam (Jan Year 13)
Unit 4	Geography Fieldwork Investigation	Exam (June Year 13)

Pre-U Global Perspectives and Research Project

What is the Course About?

Global Perspectives is a core component of the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma which provides:

- An introduction to critical thinking skills
- A practical application of rigorous research skills
- A chance to explore connections between academic subjects
- A focus on real-world challenges and opportunities.

The course is built around a series of topics, each one representing a key global challenge that will face candidates as adults, wherever they live and work.

The topics are organised into broad generic themes: Ethics, Economics, Environment, Technology and Politics and Culture. Topics explored recently in GPR sessions have been as diverse as 'Organ Donation – a Gift or a Right?', 'Drugs – Just what the Doctor Ordered?', 'Intensive Farming', 'Darwin -vs- Creationism', 'Gun Control in America' and 'Bring back the death penalty'. Students also have the opportunity to debate and discuss topics that they feel passionately about.

Who Might the Course Suit?

The Global Perspectives course helps students to explore the challenges that will face them as young people in the modern world – wherever they live and work. The emphasis is on giving students the tools to identify, evaluate and explore competing arguments and perspectives. Mastering these tools involves high level skills which are valued in all subjects and indeed employment.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Cambridge Pre-U has been specifically designed to prepare students for university study. It develops both deep understanding and independent learning skills – so students should have a head start once they're at university, making it easier for them to achieve their academic goals.

What are the Entry Requirements?

All students will complete Six GCSEs at C grade to include a C grade in English Language.

How is it Assessed?

In the first year students are assessed in three ways. Students complete an essay, a written exam and a 15 minute presentation on Critical Thinking skills. In the second year students will complete an independent research project on a subject of their choice.

Pre-U Diploma Independent Research Report		
Principal Subject	Principal Subject	Principal Subject
Global Perspectives		

Graphics

What is the Course About?

Graphics products covers a vast range of what you see around you in everyday life, we live in a world where ever increasingly the look and style of our materials, goods and possessions tells other people something about us. This reliance on a designer based environment has to be generated by someone, this course will explain how it is created and give you a chance to learn how to shape the products and look of tomorrow. Traditional graphical techniques will be enhanced with ICT work, investigations into industrial processes and modern manufacturing methods. To ensure we learn from history there is a strong theme of researching design periods, people and events.

- Who was Sir Alec Issigonis?
- What did Ettore Sottsass decide?
- How did Bel Geddes in the 1920s shape the products of today?

Who Might the Course Suit?

We are looking for students who are inquisitive, people who are curious about why things are like they are. Being good at drawing and graphics is not necessarily the most important skill; you need to be creative, imaginative and open minded. Students must be prepared to put in extra work to carry out research and coursework.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Whether you complete the two years or just one, this course will prepare you for local foundation courses, it will give you access to design courses which use a variety of materials and cover a large number of disciplines, it will give you an understanding of design which can be tailored to fit many creative studies.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above.

EDEXCEL Design Technology : Graphics with Materials		
AS		
Unit 1	Product Development	Folder
Unit 2	Knowledge & Understanding of Product Design	Exam (June Year 12)
A2		
Unit 3	Further Study of Product Design	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	Commercial Product Development	Folder

History

What is the Course About?

The History course at Norton Hill covers aspects of British and European History, ranging from the Elizabethan era to the Nazi regime.

In Year Twelve, students will do a breadth study, investigating the development of the Political

Parties, imperial attitudes in the early twentieth century, and the impact of World War One. Post World War One, the focus is on political changes and challenges in the inter-war years, changes in society, as well as consideration of the reasons for Britain's declining role in world affairs. Students will also do a depth study on Germany, looking at anti-Semitism, the rise of Hitler and the Nazis, and the reactions of the German people to the political, social and economic changes that occurred.

In Year Thirteen, students will complete a second depth study focussing on Elizabeth. They will investigate the development of monarchy under the Tudors and the problems faced, including religious strife, foreign invasion and poverty. The final unit of work is a personal study. This is an extended piece of written work focussing on one aspect, a number of aspects or the general development of a country's history in a 100 years period. Our 100 years study is Ireland, 1900 - 2000.

Who Might the Course Suit?

History at this level is for those students who welcome a challenge, a debate or an argument and who want to develop all of the essential skills needed for the next step in education. These will be executed through presentation, wider reading, essay work and reporting, all of which are expected of the AS/A2 Historian.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The list of occupations and prospects is endless. Studying History provides more than knowledge and understanding of the key events. It provides each student the essential skills required to succeed in any occupation, course or apprenticeship. Having a qualification in History at this level is regarded as prestigious and admirable.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at grade C or above and a C grade in History. If a student has not taken History GCSE, a minimum of a C in English Language is required.

Alternatively, students may wish to study our new A level course, the Cambridge Pre-U (please see details on next page).

AQA		History
AS		
Unit 1	Britain 1906-1951	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 2	Anti-Semitism, Hitler and the German People, 1919-1942	Exam (June Year 12)
A2		
Unit 3	The Triumph of Elizabeth: Britain, 1547-1603	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	Ireland	Personal Study (Year 13)

History Pre-U

What is the Course About?

The Cambridge Pre-U in History is a new course introduced in September 2009 and which has been flourishing ever since.

It provides the same skills, challenge and rigour as the existing A level in History and involves a similar amount of study/work time. The differences are that it is carried out over two years (with a final exam at the end of that period), and that the content is varied compared to the existing A level.

Students opting for the Pre-U course will be studying the units outlined below as well as completing a Personal Study on a topic of their own choosing in Y13.

Who Might the Course Suit?

This new course would suit the more independent learner as it involves wider reading and research. The course has been labelled as 'more difficult' or for the 'more able' but this is not the case. Where the AQA A level is graded at A* - E, the Pre U is graded at Distinction - Pass which covers the A* - E grade range at AQA. It is simply a different exam board with a different format. We are fortunate enough that at Norton Hill History is popular enough to provide two very different 'A' levels to suit all learners.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The list of occupations and prospects is endless. Studying History provides more than knowledge and understanding of the key events. It provides each student the essential skills required to succeed in any occupation, course or apprenticeship. Having a qualification in History at this level is regarded as prestigious and admirable.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at grade C or above and a C grade in History. If a student has not taken History GCSE, a minimum of a C in English Language is required.

Cambridge Pre-U History		
Essay Based Units		
Unit 1	European History c. 1715 – 2000 Italy, Russia, Germany	Exam: June - Year 13.
Unit 2	African and Asian History c. 1750 – 2000 China, India	Exam: June – Year 13.
Source Based Unit		
Unit 3	The Reign of Charles 1, 1625 – 1649	Exam: June – Year 13.
Unit 4	Personal Investigation	Year 13.

ICT

What is the Course About?

The emphasis of this course is placed on developing an appreciation of the importance of Information Communications Technology to individuals and organisations. This is an exciting new qualification developed by WJEC and has a far greater practical emphasis than previous A-Levels in ICT.

The course aims to develop:

- an awareness of the effects of ICT on individuals, organisations and society
- the ability to analyse, appraise and make critical judgments about the use of ICT
- problem solving skills through the practical application of ICT
- an awareness of the role of ICT in the management, manipulation and distribution of information

Who Might the Course Suit?

Students with a good command of English will cope well with the comprehension of concepts and examination questions, some of which require essay-style answers. With a subject that is constantly changing and developing students need to be willing to 'read around' the subject and be constantly aware of new developments. During y13, students are required to create their own ICT system. Students who are self motivated and have the ability to persevere in order to solve complex problems will be at an advantage.

What Might the Course Lead To?

ICT is relevant to careers in business and commerce, retail, medicine, manufacturing, education and many more and can complement any subject combination. The course would allow progression into further education and would build an excellent foundation for degrees such as Business or IT.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

5 GCSE passes at grade C or above
GCSE English Grade B or above (recommended)
GCSE ICT Grade B or above (recommended)

WJEC	Information and Communications Technology	
AS		
Unit 1	ICT1 – Information Systems	Exam (Jun Y12)
Unit 2	ICT2 – Presenting Information Task	Internally Assessed Coursework
A2		
Unit 3	ICT3 – Use and Impact of ICT	Exam (Jun Y13)
Unit 4	ICT4 – Relational Database Project	Internally Assessed Coursework

Advanced Diploma in ICT

What is the Course About?

The way young people learn about technology will be transformed by the Diploma in ICT. Students learn technical, interpersonal and business skills through both theoretical study and practical experience. The diploma is designed to help students succeed in a competitive world that is increasingly dependent on technology. Many of Britain's leading employers of IT professionals have been involved in the development of the diploma so it really is relevant to today's business world.

Who Might the Course Suit?

Students who are interested in new technology, the business world and working with people will be successful on this course.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The diploma is equivalent to 3 ½ A-Levels and will give you the skills you need for either university or work. It could lead you to a University degree in computing, networking, business and ICT, computer games design, multimedia or graphic design. It could also help you begin a career as an IT professional, business manager or entrepreneur.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

6 GCSE passes at grade C or above including English, Maths and ICT

Unit	Principal Learning Units	Assessment
1	The potential of technology	Coursework
2	Understanding Organisations	Coursework
3	Professional Development	Two Exams
4	Creating Technology Solutions	Coursework & Exam
5	Multimedia and Digital Projects	Coursework
6	Making Projects Successful	Coursework
7	Managing Technology Systems	Coursework

Additional and Specialist Learning

As part of the diploma you will study another A-Level subject alongside the course.

Extended Project

The diploma allows you the opportunity to explore a topic further and add depth to your studies.

Functional Skills

You will learn practical skills in Maths, English and ICT to help you gain the most out of work, education and everyday life.

Mathematics

What is the Course About?

The A-Level course studies six modules of Mathematics: Four Pure Maths Modules and Two Applied Maths Modules.

The Pure Mathematics Modules are the Core of the course and extend the study of Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry and introduce Calculus. The course supports A-Level subjects such as Physics, Chemistry and Business Studies.

The Applied Mathematics Modules include Mechanics (using Maths to solve Physics problems), Statistics (using Maths to analyse data) and Decision Maths (using Maths to solve business problems using networks).

Three modules (two Pure and one Applied) are taken in each of Year Twelve and Year Thirteen. This means that students dropping Maths at the end of Year Twelve have completed an AS level.

Who Might the Course Suit?

Students wishing to take this course must enjoy Maths. They will probably be currently studying GCSE Maths preferably at the Higher Level of Entry and have a target of grade of at least B at GCSE. They will be expected to have a good foundation in Trigonometry and Algebra and enjoy the challenge of solving problems. The syllabus will be invaluable to students studying Sciences, especially Physics.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Mathematics is an important A-Level because it is valued by the admissions officers of many University Faculties. Applicants for Degree courses in Maths, Science and Engineering would be expected to have studied the subject to A-Level. It is interesting to note that Mathematics graduates have high first job salaries and low levels of unemployment.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above + Grade B in Maths.

EDEXCEL	Mathematics	
AS		
Unit 1	Core Mathematics C1	Exam (January Year 12)
Unit 2	Core Mathematics C2	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 3	Mechanics M1 or Statistics S1	Exam (June Year 12)
A2		
Unit 4	Core Mathematics C3	Exam (January Year 13)
Unit 5	Core Mathematics C4	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 6	Mechanics M2 or Decision Maths D1	Exam (January Year 13)

Further Mathematics

What is the Course About?

This course is an additional A-Level for those who wish to take the study of Mathematics to a higher level. The A-Level Further Maths Course studies a further six modules: three Further Pure Maths Modules and three more Applied Maths Modules

The Further Pure Maths Modules extend the study to include a variety of topics such as Matrices, Complex Numbers and Differential Equations. Applied Maths is also studied in greater depth.

Much of the course is studied after school so as to avoid conflict with other subjects and thus to make the option available to a greater number of students. Three modules are taken in each of Year Twelve and Year Thirteen. Students wishing to take the subject for one year only will have completed the course for Further Maths AS-Level.

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course is aimed at students who wish to specialize in Mathematics, including those who might study the subject at university. The course is suitable for those who achieve Grade A or A* in GCSE Maths.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Universities and employers alike are impressed by students who can demonstrate the ability to succeed in Mathematics at this level. Some of the most prestigious universities prefer their Maths applicants to have studied Further Maths.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above including Grade A* or A in Maths.

EDEXCEL		Further Mathematics
AS		
Unit 1	Further Pure Maths FP1	Exam (January Year 12)
Unit 2	Statistics S1	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 3	Decision Maths D1	Exam (June Year 12)
A2		
Unit 4	Three from: Further Pure Maths FP2, Further Pure Maths FP3, Statistics S2 and Mechanics M3	Exam (January Year 13)
Unit 5		Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 6		Exam (June Year 13)

Media Studies

What is the Course About?

- What influence does the media have in our lives?
- Who controls the media and does it make a difference?
- How does the media industry target particular audiences?
- Is news reporting biased?
- Do violent images in the media change the way people think and act?

Pupils interested in Media Studies at A-Level should already have an inquiring mind about how the world around them is framed by the media. Through the analysis and study of various media texts, students are encouraged to become more active readers of the media in the world around us. In addition to reading and analysis, pupils are involved in research, presentations and practical work.

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course would suit any pupil who is naturally curious about the world today and the ways in which the media interprets and influences our society. Pupils should have an interest in all aspects of the media from film and television to pop videos and magazines.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Those who complete the course will have an understanding of the way in which media constructs meaning and how the audience makes sense of it. The course is by no means a guarantee of a job in the media. It does however give pupils a solid foundation in pursuing a degree in Media Studies, English or Journalism.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above.

AQA		Media Studies
AS		
Unit 1	Investigating Media	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 2	Creating Media	Practical (Year 12)
A2		
Unit 3	Media: Critical Perspectives	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	Media: Research and Production	Coursework (Year 13)

Modern Languages : French/German/Spanish

What is the Course About?

Work will continue at Sixth Form Level on the four skills of listening speaking, reading and writing. A more in-depth study of grammatical structures will be undertaken, leading to a greater ability to manipulate the language for the purpose of self expression. Classes are conducted mainly in the foreign language and students are encouraged to contribute as much as possible to discussions. A variety of topics of contemporary such as Media, Travel, Food, Social Issues are studied as an introduction to aspects of the culture of the target language country. Students choose their own topic for oral discussion in Years Twelve and Thirteen. We organise a two-week work experience exchange with Biarritz for French students and a week's German exchange with the possibility of work experience in Weil der Stadt, near Stuttgart and there is the possibility of attending a two week intensive language course in Córdoba at the end of Year 11 for those who wish to take up the opportunity to study Spanish.

Who Might the Course Suit?

Applications are welcome from candidates who have shown an aptitude for understanding language structures in the course of their KS3 and KS4 studies and who want to build on these foundations to study the language in greater depth. Emphasis will be placed on building up the fluency of the spoken language.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The Modern Languages courses offered at Norton Hill are focused on the future needs of candidates in terms of employment, leisure and entrance requirements to Higher Education.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above + Grade B in French/German/Spanish

EDEXCEL	Modern Languages
AS	
Unit 1	Students are rewarded for their ability to converse in on a general topic area that they have chosen in advance.
Unit 2	Students are required to understand and convey their understanding of the foreign language language texts and recordings. Students will also need to produce an essay to demonstrate an ability to manipulate the the foreign language language in continuous writing.
A2	
Unit 3	Students are required to demonstrate the effectiveness of their the foreign language language skills through presenting and taking a clear stance on any issue of their choice.
Unit 4	Students are required to demonstrate skills in the foreign language at an Advanced Level; writing and translation from English into the foreign language. Students are also required to demonstrate evidence of independent, Advanced-Level language reading and research, linked to an area of particular interest and the culture of a country where the foreign language is spoken.

Music

What is the Course About?

- Understanding how music has changed and developed from 1700 to the present day.
- Studying set works so that an understanding of how sounds are organised and music in context is developed.
- Studying a specific style, genre or tradition of music over a significant period of change and development.
- Working with four/two part harmony to complete set briefs.

Who Might the Course Suit?

This course will appeal to a student who really enjoys being involved in music. This will mean that they enjoy playing in different musical groups, that they enjoy listening to a very wide variety of musical styles and that they have the means to express themselves when talking, or writing about music.

What Might the Course Lead To?

This A-Level could lead to a performance or music history based course in higher education. There are also many careers that are associated with music; these include theatre or recording work, music journalism, music therapy, music teaching, work within the pop industry or freelance performing

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above.

EDEXCEL		Music
AS		
Unit 1	Music in context	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 2	Creating Musical Ideas	Coursework (May Year 12)
Unit 3	Performing: Solo/Ensemble/Technology based	Coursework (May Year 12)
A2		
Unit 4	Music in Context	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 5	Creating Musical Ideas	Coursework (May Year 13)
Unit 6	Performance (Solo Programme)	Recital (March Year 13)

Physical Education

What is the Course About?

- How does the provision of sport differ in this country compared with sport in America and Australia?
- Why is the energy continuum a useful concept for coaches and performers?
- What important role does the mind have, prior to, during and after sports performance?
- What changes have occurred in history to influence the development and spread of sport throughout the world?

The A-Level candidates will research and understand a wide variety of aspects relating to sport, including the questions above. They will develop an understanding of both the physical and mental aspects that can affect our performances, as well as many of the factors in society that influence sport such as media, discrimination and drugs. In addition to reading and written work, the students are assessed in their practical performance of two sports activities and an oral assessment. This requires students to apply theory knowledge and comment on performance.

Who Might the Course Suit?

To have studied GCSE PE is highly recommended. An interest in the

theoretical aspects of the GCSE is essential as the A-Level is largely theory based. If GCSE PE has not been studied it is recommended that the candidate has gained a Grade C or above in Biology/ Science at GCSE Level.

What Might the Course Lead To?

This specification relates well to Advanced Courses in Social and Natural Sciences and to some unit components of GNVQ, particularly in the vocational fields of Leisure and Tourism, Health and Social Care and Business Studies. An A-Level qualification is rapidly becoming essential for specialist study in PE and Sport Studies in Higher Education and it is also a suitable qualification for other areas of study, e.g. Physiotherapy.

The syllabus provides an excellent foundation for students intending to pursue careers in Teaching and Coaching, the Leisure Industry, Recreational Management, the Health and Fitness Industry and Professional Sport. Much of the knowledge gained will also improve an individual's life skills.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above to include a C grade in PE or if the student has not studied GCSE PE then a C grade in Science is required.

AQA Physical Education			
AS			
G451	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anatomy and Physiology ▪ Acquiring Movement Skills ▪ Social-Cultural Studies Relating to Participation in Physical Activity 	Examination	60%
G452	Practical Performance Evaluating & planning for the Improvement of Performance	Practical Moderation	40%
A2			
G453	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comparative Studies ▪ Sports Psychology ▪ Exercise & Sports Physiology ▪ Historical Studies 	Examination	70%
G454	Practical Performance Evaluation, Appreciation & the Improvement of Performance	Practical Moderation	30%

Philosophy & Ethics

What is the Course About?

- How can we know how to live a good life?
- Are some actions always right or wrong, or does it depend on the circumstances?
- How can a theist justify the existence of God in the face of human suffering?
- Is there life after death?

This course engages students with the questions that human beings have asked since the time of the ancient Greek philosophers. The Philosophy section of the course examines such things as arguments for the existence of God, the problem of evil and suffering, philosophical debates about miracles and whether there is such a thing as life after death. The Ethics course is a study of ethical theories, the relationship between religion and morality and applied ethics, such as when is it morally right to go to war.

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course is aimed at anyone who enjoys asking questions and does not mind not getting a straight answer! Each module of the course is assessed through essay questions in an exam. However, some of these are based on the material studied, some on the student's own investigations and some on the student's ability to critically engage with texts. Therefore students will need to be able to develop their arguments in written form as well as through class discussion.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The study of Philosophy of Religion and Ethics enables students to develop transferable skills such as communication, empathy, reason, logic, analysis and critical thinking, which are key skills that employers and universities look for. It combines well with almost all other humanities subjects and will give a broad-based education which will enable you to enter higher education.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above to include a C grade in PB and English Language.

EDEXCEL		Philosophy & Ethics
AS		
Unit 1	Foundations	Exam June
Unit 2	Investigations	Exam June
A2		
Unit 3	Developments	Exam June
Unit 4	Implications	Exam June

Photography

What is the Course About?

The Art Department offers Photography as an endorsement at Advanced Level.

At present the course consists of one coursework unit and an externally set examination in both AS and the A2 courses.

In Year Twelve students are introduced to the materials, techniques and processes of photography, both traditional and digital. The course is teacher-directed at initially, but students take on an increased responsibility for the direction and progress of their work as the course develops.

In Year Thirteen students develop ideas and interests from their AS studies and pursue individual themes. There is an increased written element to the course, in which students are required to research and analyse photographic and other visual work in more depth.

Who Might the Course Suit?

Students who have gained at least grade B at GCSE Art, who are well-motivated and capable of independent thought. It is beneficial, though not essential, for students to be studying other visual creative and expressive subjects.

What Might the Course Lead To?

A-Level Photography is acceptable as an A-Level for most university courses. Many students study Art and Design subjects at degree or foundation level but study can lead to: Architecture, Fashion, Television, Film, Photography, Animation, Graphic Design, Theatre Design, Art History, Museum work, Illustration and Advertising etc.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above.

AQA		Photography
AS		
Unit 1	Teacher Directed Unit	Internally assessed
Unit 2	Examination	Internally marked Externally moderated
A2		
Unit 3	Self-directed Unit (including Personal Study)	Internally assessed
Unit 4	Examination	Internally assessed Externally moderated

Physics

What is the Course About?

Advancing Physics is an innovative AS GCE and Advanced GCE course, reflecting Physics as it is practised and used today. At the end of the course candidates should know more of what Physics is about and its place in the world. The units covered at AS are:

- Physics of Communication: Signals and Imaging
- Designer Materials
- Waves and Quantum Behaviour
- Space, Time and Motion
- Quality of Measurement
- Physics in Use

For example in the unit Designer materials we look at the properties of materials so that the usefulness of new materials can be assessed different purposes such as joint replacements, or perhaps stronger and lighter materials which could be used to facilitate space flight.

Who Might the Course Suit?

If you have an enquiring mind, always asking why things happen, then Physics will help you find the answers. It forms the basis of most modern technologies and holds the key to the future for global well-being.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Physics is at the heart of everything and is a highly rewarding discipline to study at school, university and beyond. Above all Physics opens doors to a wide variety of careers. Employers see a Physics qualification as an indication of someone who will immediately be an asset to the organisation.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE subjects at Grade C or above + Grade BB in GCSE Science. You should have studied GCSE Maths at higher tier level and have achieved a grade B or above.

OCR	Physics B (Advancing Physics)	
AS		
Unit 1	Physics in Action	Exam (January Year 12)
Unit 2	Understanding Processes	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 3	Physics in Practice	Coursework (ongoing)
A2		
Unit 4	Rise and Fall of the Clockwork Universe	Exam (January Year 13)
Unit 5	Field and Particle Pictures	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 6	Researching Physics	Coursework (ongoing)

Politics

What is the Course About?

- Is the Prime Minister too powerful?
- What influence does the media have on government?
- Do protests by the people ever make a difference?
- Who really makes the decisions in Britain?

These are just some of the questions that might be discussed by Politics students. As well as studying the ideas that are the basis of our political system, we investigate how effective the institutions of government really are, using events from the news to illustrate the academic theories.

In addition to reading and written work, research and presentations are regular features of the course. There is also a good deal of discussion and argument!

Who Might the Course Suit?

A willingness to engage in the discussion of political issues is essential. Students are expected to keep up to date with political events by reading the papers and following relevant radio and television programmes. In addition, students will be expected to read formal texts and develop their essay writing skills.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Studying politics does *not* mean you have to become a politician! A knowledge of how the country is run would benefit anybody with an interest in law, the media, government and a wide variety of other occupations. Universities and employers will always be impressed by candidates with a good knowledge of current affairs.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at grade C or above.

AQA		Politics
AS		
Unit 1	People, Politics & Participation	Exam (January Year 12)
Unit 2	Governing Modern Britain	Exam (June Year 12)
A2		
Unit 3	Ideologies	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	The Government of the USA	Exam (June Year 13)

Psychology

What is the Course About?

Psychology is one of the fastest growing courses both at A-Level and at Degree-Level, perhaps in part due to the wide range of jobs that use the subject in depth. Psychology is essentially the study of human behaviour and the human mind – it seeks to help us understand and explain why people behave in the way that they do. In one sense, everyone is a psychologist – we constantly discuss our behaviour and the behaviour of others. The course looks at some of the most important aspects of human life – relationships, stress, memory, emotion, motivation, aggression, leadership and obedience, crowd behaviour, mate selection, sleep and dreams, thinking and intelligence, child development, parent-child relationships, learning difficulties and disorders such as depression, phobias or anorexia.

Who Might the Course Suit?

It is naturally best suited to those who have an interest in people (and indeed non-human animals) and who want to understand more about the causes of human behaviour. Given the competing explanations of why people “do what they do” the best students are those with an “open mind” and a willingness to read around the “key issues” being discussed.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Yes – there are professionally trained clinical, educational, occupational and forensic Psychologists – but Psychology features in many degree courses (nursing and health care, marketing and advertising, education, criminology) and in jobs including health care, police work, management, teaching, personnel work, workplace design, retailing, advertising and even zoology.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above (including Grade Cs in English Language and Mathematics).

AQA Psychology		
AS		
Unit 1	Memory, Attachment and Research Methods	Exam (January Year 12)
Unit 2	Stress, Abnormality and Social Influence	Exam (June Year 12)
A2		
Unit 3	Anti-social behaviour, intelligence and child development.	Exam (January Year 13)
Unit 4	Psychological disorders (depression, schizophrenia, phobias) and their treatment. The influence of media on behaviour. Research Methods.	Exam (June Year 13)

Public Services (BTEC National Award)

What is the Course About?

The BTEC National Award in Public Services is a six-unit qualification which consists of three core units plus three specialist units.

These qualifications provide:

- The opportunity to broaden the learner's study in public service related areas
- Help candidates to develop key skills, such as improving own learning, working with others and problem solving skills, which are essential in the public services sector
- Learners with a realistic picture of public services and the requirements of functional areas, such as features that provide a rewarding working environment, the challenge of meeting a range of public service needs, the effective use of resources, a realistic view of the individual service requirements for entry at all levels and the expectations of serving members.

Who Might the Course Suit?

- Those who enjoy practical activities and team working;
- Students who feel they often under-perform in exams;
- Those who work hard on coursework assignments;
- Students that are interested in a career in the public services.

The students will complete a detailed coursework assignment for each module.

There are no external exams.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The BTEC Nationals in Public Services are designed to equip learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required for success in current and future employment, or for progression to courses such as BTEC Higher Nationals or degrees. These transferable skills will enable learners to meet changing circumstances, whether these arise from a shift in their own sphere of employment, promotion to supervisory or management roles or from general changes in the public services environment. There is an increasing demand for suitably qualified candidates to work in this growth area. These qualifications have been developed to meet the needs of the major areas in public services, while also taking into account, in the specialist units, other public service areas such as housing and transport.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Students will require a proactive nature, six passes at GCSE Grade C or equivalent and an interest in the Public Services.

EDEXCEL		BTEC National Award Structure	
Core Units			
Unit 1	Government, Policies and the Public Services		
Unit 2	Team Leadership in the Uniformed Public Services		
Unit 3	Citizenship, Contemporary Society and the Public Services		
Specialist Units (choose three units)			
Unit 4	Team Development in Public Services		
Unit 5	Understanding Discipline within the Uniformed Public Services		
Unit 6	Physical Preparation and Fitness for the Uniformed Services		

Sociology

What is the Course About?

Sociology is the study of the relationship between the individual and society.

Have you ever wondered

- Why do people exhibit certain behaviour?
- Which social groups commit the most crime and why?
- Why are there different roles for men and women?
- How do we become the people that we are?
- Why we have an obsession with 'fashion labels'?

What we take for granted about societies - what might seem obvious - is usually challenged by the sociological imagination.

Who Might the Course Suit?

Sociology is an exciting subject that challenges your everyday experience. It will help you develop skills to assess different views and reach conclusions about society, based on careful consideration of evidence. Students should be interested in contemporary social issues and will be expected to be well informed in political and social debates.

What Might the Course Lead To?

Sociology is a highly valued course and prepares students for a variety of courses at higher education. Areas that are particularly relevant are law, academic research, advertising, criminology, social policy planning, teaching, journalism and social work.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or above to include a C grade in English Language.

AQA	Sociology	
AS		
Unit 1	Family and Households	Exam (January Year 12)
Unit 2	Education & Research Methods	Exam (June Year 12)
A2		
Unit 4	Religion	Exam (January Year 13)
Unit 6	Crime & Deviance & Theory & Methods	Exam (June Year 13)

Sport (BTEC National Award)

What is the Course About?

The course was introduced to capitalise on a very highly motivated group of students within core Physical Education with the intention of offering the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification that can be used when applying either for higher education or employment. It is intended that the course will use each student's skill and enthusiasm in sport to develop an awareness and interest in science technology, which underpins much of the sporting industry. The course is student centred. Students learn through investigation and active involvement taking a large responsibility for their own learning. The six units are taught through 'learning outcomes' and each assignment will concentrate on testing and extending the students knowledge in one or more of the outcomes. The tutor will act as a learning resource for the students, offering advice and guidance as to how to approach the work.

Who Might the Course Suit?

Students with an interest in sport and coaching who may wish to seek employment in those fields. The course relies on assignments, presentations and practical work as its means of assessment and these elements may be seen as a valid factor in its favour.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The course should provide a sound and sufficiently broad educational base to enable each individual to progress either to an HND or Degree Level Course in Higher Education or to employment in the Sports and Leisure Industry. The course can be studied as a vocationally based alternative to A-Level P.E.

What are the Entrance Requirements?

Six GCSE passes at Grade C or equivalent.

EDEXCEL		National Sport Award
AS		
Year 1	The Body in Action	Coursework (September/November/April)
Year 1	Health & Safety in Sport	Coursework (October/January/February)
Year 1	Training & Fitness for Sport	Coursework (December/February/March)
A2		
Year 2	Sports Coaching	Coursework (December/February/March)
Year 2	Fitness Testing for Sport & Exercise	Coursework (September/November/April)
Year 2	Practical Team Sports	Coursework (October/January/February)

