

Swale Sixth Form Courses 2016-17

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BTEC Applied Science

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students will gain an understanding of how the scientific world can be interpreted and described using the very fundamental concepts of science. This will cover topics from biology, chemistry and physics.

Students will gain a range of practical skills, this will include making standard solutions to analysing and separating substances.

Potential Topics that will be studied

Students will cover topics including fundamentals of science, working in the science industry, scientific practical techniques, physiology of human body system, biochemistry and biochemical techniques, genetics and genetic engineering.

Assessment

On the BTEC course assessment takes place in a variety of ways including assignments, externally assessed exam board tasks, as well as written examinations.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE grades including English and maths, and an AB in GCSE science.

Progression and career opportunities

There are lots of courses and career options available for those wishing to study applied science. University courses for students could include biomedical or environmental sciences, engineering, or scientific research.

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students following this course will develop skills in painting and mixed media, drawing from observation and imagination, collage, experimenting with media such as sewing, wire, clay, mod roc. There will be opportunities to develop practical skills in a wide range of media, both 2D and 3D including printmaking and sculpture.

Analytical and evaluative skills are developed through annotations and more in depth writing to build contextual understanding and inform practical progress. Researching the work of other artists and cultures and using the contextual language in the portfolio is also a key feature.

Potential Topics that will be studied

Possible topics include natural form, artists and art movements, landscape, still life, portrait, contemporary movements, conceptual. We aim to provide a wide range of opportunities for students to explore and work to their strengths. Content may vary depending on the student cohort and teachers' specific skills. Contextual studies range from traditional to modern to contemporary art and study trips to galleries are an essential component of the course.

Assessment

On the BTEC course assessment takes place in a variety of ways including assignments, and externally assessed exam board tasks.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE grades, including English and mathematics, as well as a B grade or equivalent at GCSE in Art & Design.

C grades will be considered through interview, supported by previous teacher references.

Progression and career opportunities

Foundation in art & design is a single year pre-degree course which is the most popular route. High achievement can enable direct access to art & design related degree courses.

With the creative industries continuing to grow there is a vast choice of exciting career paths within many sectors of design, fashion, media and the arts. Possible career opportunities include artist, designer, illustrator, fashion design, graphic designer, set design, interiors, and architecture. Art is an ever increasing field with the development of new technologies, the possibilities for new careers in art are endless.

A Level Biology

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students will gain an understanding of how the living world can be interpreted and described using the very fundamental concepts of science. This will cover topics that range from the structure of cells to the transport of substances around an organism.

Students will gain a range of practical skills, this will include using microscopes to look at different cells to carrying out dissections on different organs.

Potential Topics that will be studied

Practical skills in biology.

Foundations in biology

Exchange and transport

Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Communication, homeostasis and energy

Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Assessment

There are 3 exams at the end of year 13 and practical skills are assessed throughout the A-Level.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve at least 5 A*-C GCSE grades. These should include an AB in GCSE science, plus a B grade in English and mathematics.

Progression and career opportunities

Pupils will be able to study a range of courses, including biology, biochemistry or biomedical science, environmental sciences, medicine, and nursing, which will lead to a wide number of career opportunities in these fields and more.

BTEC Business

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students will develop practical skills and theoretical understanding of the world of business and complete projects investigating topics such as marketing, managing an event and business finance. During the course students will develop through their group work, IT and presentation skills. Students who study Business will gain an insight into the short, medium and long term running of small to global businesses. Critical thinking of real life examples gives students the skills to understand how businesses operate and compete in various industries.

Potential Topics / Units that will be studied

The units you will study include elements of accounting, marketing, human resource management and team building. You will have access to a variety of tutors who will support and guide you through the course.

By the time you have completed the course you will have a good knowledge of the wide world of business and a practical skill set that will prepare you for the next stage in your business career.

Assessment

On the BTEC course assessment takes place in a variety of ways including assignments, externally assessed exam board tasks, as well as written examinations.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to achieve 5 A*- C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics.

Progression and career opportunities

This course is all about preparing you for employment and/or entry to university. Future careers include accounting, banking, insurance, human resources, marketing and sales. Business is a broad subject that can mix with a combination of any other vocational or academic courses.

A Level Chemistry

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students will gain an understanding of how the chemical world can be interpreted and described using the very fundamental concepts of science. This will cover topics that range from the structure of atoms to the reasons why different chemicals react together.

Students will gain a range of practical skills, this will range from making standard solutions to identifying functional groups in unknown organic compounds.

Potential Topics that will be studied

Practical skills in chemistry.

Foundations in chemistry

Periodic table and energy

Core and organic chemistry

Physical chemistry and transition elements

Organic chemistry and analysis

Assessment

There are 3 exams at the end of year 13 and practical skills are assessed throughout the A-Level.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve at least 5 A*-C GCSE grades including English, as well as an AB in GCSE science, plus a B grade in mathematics.

Progression and career opportunities

Pupils will be able to study a range of courses at university, including chemistry, biochemistry or biomedical science, chemical engineering, clinical chemistry, materials science, medicine, and pharmacy.

Level 2 Childcare

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students will gain a wide range of skills whilst studying this course, such as communication, time management, team work, social skills, literacy and numeracy, respect, objectivity, work experience, patience, resilience, compassion, enthusiasm, building positive relationships and promoting independence in themselves.

Potential Topics that will be studied

During the course, you will look at child development, children's development through play, health and safety in early years settings and working in the early years sector.

Assessment

Assessment will take place through a range of assignments and externally assessed tasks.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have achieved 5 GCSE grade A*- G, including maths and English.

All candidates will be required to complete an enhanced DBS (police check).

Progression and career opportunities

- Level 3 courses, Higher Education, nursery nurse, primary teaching, children's nursing, adult nursing, social work.
- Learners can progress to a wide variety of job roles in a range of sectors: early years and child care, social care, learning and development support services, schools, children's nurse.

Please note specifications for some vocational qualifications are currently under Government review and may change.

BTEC Children's Play, Learning and Development

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students studying this course develop skills in effective communication, independent enquiry and research. Practical skills are applied in work placement settings, with work experience forming a critical part of the course. Students will also develop skills in creative thinking, reflective learning, team work, and work and deadline management. A key feature of the course involves supporting the development of children under the age of 5.

Potential Topics that will be studied

Students will study topics in some of the following areas –

Children's development

Play and learning

Keeping children safe

Children's physical development, care and health needs, and personal, social, and emotional development

Working with parents and others in early years

Observation, assessment and planning

Reflective practice

The early years foundation stage

Assessment

On the BTEC course assessment takes place in a variety of ways including assignments, externally assessed exam board tasks, as well as written examinations. There is also a work placement element to the course.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE grades including English, maths and science.

A merit or higher in BTEC level 2 Health and Social Care, or a C grade in GCSE Health and Social Care would be beneficial, although students new to the subject will be considered.

All candidates will be required to complete an enhanced DBS (police check).

Progression and career opportunities

This course provides opportunities for progression onto a range of careers paths and University degrees, as well as an early years educator qualification. Students wishing to work in areas including childcare and primary teaching would be particularly suitable for this course.

BTEC Computing

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students will cover a range of practical content where they will develop employability skills like teamwork, communication, project work, research and assessment skills. They will become reflective practitioners, working to deadlines.

Potential Topics that will be studied

Students will study a wide range of topics, which could include information and technology systems, creating systems to manage information, using social media in business and website development.

Assessment

On the BTEC course assessment takes place in a variety of ways including assignments, externally assessed exam board tasks, as well as written examinations.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to achieve 5 A*- C GCSE grades, including English and mathematics, as well as a C or Merit in ICT.

Progression and career opportunities

BTEC Nationals are widely recognised by industry and higher education as the signature vocational qualification at Level 3. They provide progression to the workplace either directly or via study at a higher level.

BTEC Dance

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

The aim of the course is to provide you with a practical understanding of professional performance activities. It will provide you with the opportunity to develop skills and understanding in ballet, contemporary, jazz, musical theatre, tap, and urban techniques. Many of the projects undertaken will enable you to work creatively and collaboratively in choreographing and creating performance material. To support your development we provide opportunities to see live dance performances by renowned dance companies, as well as master classes provided by visiting professionals.

The course allows you to focus on the essential techniques and disciplines needed to prepare you for work as a dancer or performer in the entertainment industry, on stage, in television or as a teacher.

Potential Topics that will be studied

Students will follow a variety of courses and units which may include developing skills and techniques for live performance, group performance workshops, performing arts in the community, individual performance commission, and employment opportunities in performing arts.

Assessment

On the BTEC course assessment takes place in a variety of ways including assignments, and externally assessed exam board tasks.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE grades including English and mathematics. A C grade or higher in GCSE dance is useful but not essential.

Progression and career opportunities

We boast a history of excellent results with students progressing to vocational schools as well as gaining coveted places at the top dance university courses in the country. If you decide that a career in dance is not for you then the creative element to the course will provide you with excellent skills for progression onto degree courses such as events management and the tourism industry.

BTEC Drama

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

It is important to note that Drama is not just studied by people wanting to be actors. The skills learnt in drama are transferable to many employment sectors.

To prepare you for work in the entertainment industry, on stage, in television or as a teacher, this course will provide a direct route into further training or your first job. The course provides a foundation in acting, singing and dancing as well as directing, devising and television work. You do not have to be brilliant in every area, but some knowledge of each will help your progress in the future.

Some of the skills gained by studying this course include creative thinking, team work, communication, imagination, organisation and leadership.

Potential Topics that will be studied

Students may cover topics on areas such as contemporary theatre, mask performance, theatre for children, improvisation, auditions for actors, classical theatre and film and TV acting.

Assessment

On the BTEC course assessment takes place in a variety of ways including assignments, and externally assessed exam board tasks. Assessment will be through practical performances and portfolios.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE grades including English and maths. A pass at BTEC performing arts or a C at GCSE drama is preferable but not essential. Equivalent experience outside school will also be considered.

Progression and career opportunities

Many students will want to take up a degree level qualification at the end of this course to continue their training. There are, however, many possibilities open to you, including youth work and production roles, writing, holiday entertainer in the UK or abroad and filming.

BTEC Engineering

(Westlands Based)

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

This is the course for you if you want to build a greater foundation of knowledge in engineering, developing your knowledge of materials and processes and developing skills in electrical and mechanical engineering principles.

This course is different to the Extended Full Time Course offered at the Swale Skills Centre.

Potential Topics that will be studied

Areas of study may include: Health and safety; Mathematics for technicians; Electrical and electronic principles; Mechanical principles and applications; Features and applications of electrical machines; Properties and applications of engineering materials; Applications of mechanical systems in engineering; Engineering drawing for technicians; Applications of Computer Numerical Control (CNC) in engineering; Mechanical measurement and inspection techniques; and an Engineering project.

Assessment

On the BTEC course assessment takes place in a variety of ways including assignments, externally assessed exam board tasks, as well as written examinations.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C GCSEs grades including English, mathematics and Science. An interview is also required.

Progression and career opportunities

This engineering course allows you to gain essential employability skills, valued by employers and training agencies alike. You may be able to progress onto further Level 4 qualifications or pursue an apprenticeship with an employer. This course gives you the essential practical knowledge to progress in your engineering career.

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Studying language provides many opportunities for students to develop a wide range of skills that are relevant throughout their everyday lives. Students are encouraged to think analytically, delving beyond the surface meaning of texts by examining how writers use different language levels to construct them. Furthermore through consideration of the contexts of the texts and methods of production and receivership, students are able to develop a wider understanding and appreciation of how language is used in the world around them. Being able to work independently and having the confidence to justify and evaluate their own views when responding to a wide range of language issues are further skills that students will develop on this course.

Potential Topics that will be studied

We offer the topics of Exploring Language (which examines how writers construct different texts and encourages the students to offer their own opinions on different language issues discussed in the media) and Dimensions of Linguistic Variations (which examines issues of language change and child language acquisition). The course also includes a Non-Examination Assessment, in which students are able to investigate an aspect of language use of their own choosing, writing both analytically and creatively about this.

Assessment

This course is assessed by 80% examination, with two exams, each worth 40% of the final grade. The NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) is initially marked by the teachers and is worth 20% of the final grade.

Entry Requirement

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C grade GCSEs including English and maths, one of which should be a B grade in English literature or language.

Progression and career opportunities

All universities see an A-Level in English Language as a major asset to any course, as it exhibits that students are academically able, well-read and capable writers. Specific careers which are benefitted by this subject are journalism, law, broadcasting, media, teaching, advertising, editing, lexicography and marketing among many others. An A Level in English Language will open many doors to a successful future.

A Level English Literature

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

The skills gained through the study of English Literature are immeasurable. Students are able to broaden their knowledge, not only of a wide range of texts, but also of human relationships, history and different views of the world. Throughout the two year course, students are trained to become more independent and perceptive in their reading skills, developing their powers of analytical and evaluative thinking. They also learn to become more proficient and sophisticated in their writing and to carry out research with discrimination and a critical eye. Most importantly, their knowledge and horizons are expanded through being introduced to a wealth of novels, plays and poetry ranging through many genres and eras.

Potential Topics that will be studied

We offer AQA English Literature A Level Specification B and plan to continue with the topics of Aspects of Tragedy (which explores tragic texts from Shakespeare's Othello, through to 20th Century plays and poetry) and Elements of Crime Writing (which explores some of the most impressive texts of the genre). The course also includes a Non-Examination Assessment, in which students are able to select texts of their own choosing from any genre and era and respond to them from a critical viewpoint, allowing scope to cater for all interests.

Assessment

This course is assessed by 80% examination, with two exams, each worth 40% of the final grade. The NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) is initially marked by the teachers and is worth 20% of the final grade.

Entry Requirement

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C grade GCSEs including English and maths, one of which should be a B grade in English literature or language.

Progression and career opportunities

All universities see an A-Level in English Literature as a major asset to any course, as it exhibits that students are academically able, well-read and capable writers. Specific careers which are benefitted by this subject are publishing, journalism, law, broadcasting, media, acting, teaching and advertising, among many others. An A Level in English Literature will open many doors to a successful future.

Extended Project

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

This course provides an opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond the A-level syllabus, and stand out and prepare for university or their future career. Students will identify, plan and complete an individual project on a subject of their choosing, applying a range of strategies to prove a hypothesis or create something new. They will obtain, critically select and use information from a range of sources; analyse data, apply it relevantly and demonstrate understanding of the complexities of the topic. Students select and use a range of skills, solve problems, and take decisions critically, creatively and flexibly, to achieve planned outcomes.

Potential Topics that will be studied

Students who choose the Extended Project can complete their assignment on any topic of their choosing. This can be linked to something they are currently studying on one of their courses, or something completely different.

Examples of recent project topics include the decline of heavy metal music, whether aggression is a result of nature or nurture, and an investigation into how effective coastal defences have proved to be.

Assessment

The assessment is very different from other qualifications because there are no exams. In fact, in the Extended Project, the learning process is more important than the outcome.

That is, the skills you develop and the experiences you go through are more important than what you actually make, present or conclude.

Students will achieve an outcome equivalent to an AS grade.

The project involves the completion of

(1) Project outcome:

- 5000 word essay, centred around a question
- Or: 5000 word scientific report
- Or: 1000 word essay + artefact
- Or: 1000 word essay + performance

(2) Project log

(3) Presentation

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE grades, including English and mathematics.

Progression and career opportunities

No matter what your next step in life, a carefully chosen Extended Project can help you to make sound decisions, to become more confident, and to develop important skills and knowledge. Universities really value the Extended Project Qualification as it helps them to select students with a commitment to their chosen subject and a head-start in the independent learning skills that higher education demands.

IFS Finance

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students who study finance will look at the immediate, short term and long term elements of the financial world. Students will first understand key criteria such as saving, borrowing, budgeting and financial providers such as Banks and Building Societies before they critically analyse and evaluate how as a society we can become more sustainable and secure with our money.

Potential Topics that will be studied

The purpose of money, budgeting, saving, borrowing, sustainability, ethics and globalisation are some of the key topics included in the subject. Short term and long term financial sustainability for individuals and businesses are the key units included.

Assessment

100% exam based

All units have a Multiple Choice test and a Case Study Written Examination. Marks are also awarded for spelling and grammar which ensures students' literacy levels are improved upon.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE Grades including English and mathematics.

Progression and career opportunities

Finance opens up an exciting world of opportunities for students. Students can go on to study Accounts and Finance at University or seek an opportunity with a financial company through an Apprenticeship Scheme. The IFS University offer scholarships to students who have excelled on the Finance course. Fields of employment include accountancy, financial advice agents, and estate agency amongst many other areas.

A Level French

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students studying French will gain skills such as analysing; reporting; debating, communicating and presenting. These are transferable skills for any workplace or academic setting. Students will also gain an understanding of the culture of French speaking countries. French A level enables the development of creativity and higher level thinking skills in students. The skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are all addressed.

Potential Topics that will be studied

The French course involves the development of cultural understanding and bi-lingual skills on a variety of topics including social issues and trends, popular culture, family and relationships, literary texts and films, and French grammar.

Assessment

Students will complete examinations in each of the four disciplines; reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE grades, including English and mathematics, one of which should be a B grade in GCSE French.

Progression and career opportunities

This A level would enable you to follow a further degree course in French or a new language. There are several career paths for students with an A level in French such as translation, law, accountancy, international banking, journalism, commerce, education, and the civil service. The French are leaders in the fields of medical genetics and aerospace.

French is the official language of the United Nations, Olympic Committee, Red Cross and the European Court of Justice.

A Level Geography

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

There are many different skills gained by studying geography. The course requires research as well as data handling skills to be developed and refined, including map and cartographic skills, production and analysis of graphs, and data sensors. Geography also involves written work so strong literacy and communication skills are required and developed. Field trips are an integral part of geography, so collaborative work in small groups is also important.

Potential Topics that will be studied

The course covers both human and physical geography. Some of the topics studied may include changes to urban areas, hazards (including global weather and tectonic), ecosystems, rivers and coasts, and climate, population and environmental change.

Assessment

The course is assessed through written examinations, as well as an extensive field work project.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C grade GCSEs including English and maths, one of which should be a B grade in GCSE Geography.

Progression and career opportunities

A geography qualification will demonstrate a plethora of skills and an awareness of global issues which are transferable to different roles and careers in the world of work- many geographers for example work in banking. A geography qualification can also lead to a degree which will be the first building block in more specialist areas such as geology, cartography and environmental studies. Town planning and careers in development as well as hazard management are also popular.

BTEC Health and Social Care

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students completing this course will develop a wide range of skills including communication, organisation, empathy, and time management. There will be opportunities to partake in team work and work placements, enabling the development of social and interpersonal skills. Strong literacy and numeracy skills are also important.

Potential Topics that will be studied

Students will cover a variety of topics which may include:

- Working in the sector
- Equality, diversity and individual rights
- Effective communication
- Human development
- Anatomy and physiology
- Health and safety

Assessment

On the BTEC course assessment takes place in a variety of ways including assignments, externally assessed exam board tasks, as well as written examinations.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE grades, including English and mathematics. All candidates will be required to complete an enhanced DBS (police check).

Progression and career opportunities

Students following this course may progress into higher education into a variety of degree subjects, midwifery, nursing, social work, occupational therapist, mental health nursing, counselling and primary education.

There may be opportunities to progress onto apprenticeships at Level 4 and above, or gain employment within the sector.

A Level History

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

You will acquire a broad range of historical knowledge and understanding, including a sense of development over time, and an appreciation of the culture and attitudes of societies other than our own. You will critically evaluate a large body of material, including evidence from contemporary sources and the opinions of more recent historians. Students will engage directly with questions and present independent opinions in arguments that are well-written, clearly expressed, coherently organised and effectively supported by relevant evidence. You will gain confidence to undertake self-directed learning, making the most effective use of time and resources, being able to organise thoughts and ideas to present strong arguments.

Potential Topics that will be studied

The Crusades 1071 - 1204

The English Revolution 1625 – 1660

Modern Britain

Historical Investigation (personal study)

Assessment

The two year course is assessed by 2 written exams (1 hour 30 minutes each) and a historical investigation of 3000-3500 words.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve at least 5 A*-C GCSE grades including mathematics, as well as B grades or higher in English and history.

Progression and career opportunities

Skills acquired through a history course are well sought after by a variety of employers due to the critical thinking, analytical nature and independence the subject teaches you.

Possible career opportunities include being a teacher, museum curator, excavator, researcher, barrister, various television roles, author, journalist and many more.

You will also need a history A Level in order to study the subject at university.

BTEC ICT

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students study a wide range of IT skills ranging from understanding basic computer hardware to identifying and troubleshooting complex hardware problems. They learn to write computer programs to create websites, games and bespoke software. The course also covers various computer graphics; animation and multimedia units where students get an opportunity to create and present their products.

Potential Topics that will be studied

A range of topics will be covered within this qualification, such as principles of computer science, fundamentals of computer systems, IT security systems and encryption and managing and supporting systems.

Assessment

On the BTEC course assessment takes place in a variety of ways including assignments, externally assessed exam board tasks, as well as written examinations.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to achieve 5 A*- C GCSE grades, including English and mathematics. Previous experience of ICT will be required.

Progression and career opportunities

This course prepares students for employment in many areas of IT, as well as qualifying them to study for an HNC/D or Degree like: Computing (Foundation Degree), Computing (BSc), Business Computing (BSc), Forensic Computing (BSc), Internet Computing (BSc).

A Level Law

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

A Level Law will provide students with a sound understanding of the key tenets of the English legal system. Students will learn substantive areas of criminal and civil law in order to solve complex legal problems, developing sophisticated skills of analysis and legal reasoning as the course progresses. Through the in-depth study of cases and statutes, students will also develop a critical understanding of the law, addressing key philosophical questions such as *what is justice?*

Potential Topics that will be studied

Law Making

This unit provides an overview of the English legal system. Students will learn how laws are made and how the doctrine of judicial precedent operates within the court hierarchy. They will also evaluate the role played by lay people and legal professionals.

The Concept of Liability

This unit involves study of the criminal law on non-fatal offences against the person and the civil law of negligence. Students will be taught to apply their understanding of these laws to problem scenarios.

Assessment

Assessment for this course is by written examination only. Each unit is worth 25% of the overall A Level grade.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve at least 5 A* - C GCSE grades, including mathematics, as well as a B grade or higher in English.

Progression and career opportunities

A Level Law provides an excellent foundation for those considering degree-level study or a career in the legal profession. It will also prepare students for further study in a wide range of subjects, including government and politics, history, criminology, sociology and philosophy.

Level 2 Maintenance Operations and Electrical Products Servicing

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

This course is designed to develop skills to work in the construction industry with the competence to complete small scale repairs to buildings, painting and decorating, plastering, plumbing and carpentry. This diploma has been specifically developed to use simulated conditions, and the tests are based on you showing what you can do as an individual through the completion of theory work packs, end of unit tests and set practical maintenance tasks. The course is also designed to develop the skills required to diagnose faults in white goods, such as washing machines, and to repair them and service them as needed.

Assessment

The course is assessed through the completion of theory work packs and set practical tasks. At the end of each unit your knowledge is tested through an on-line multiple choice test. Your practical skills are assessed as each practical unit nears completion.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-E GCSE grades including English and mathematics. If you wish to take this course you will need to have completed either the BTEC Level 1 Certificate or BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in construction. Students with no previous qualifications in construction will need to be prepared to spend up to 3 weeks before the end of the summer term completing a range of practical activities to ensure you are able to achieve the standards required to begin this course.

Progression and career opportunities

This course is designed to develop your skills and knowledge, enabling you to work in building maintenance in the construction industry. It could lead to a trade specific qualification, perhaps in site carpentry, bricklaying or painting and decorating, for example. The course also enables you to develop your skills and knowledge to enable you to work in the electrical product servicing and repair industry.

Please note specifications for some vocational qualifications are currently under government review and may change.

A Level Mathematics

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

You will learn how higher level algebra can be used to solve a variety of problems. The topics on sequences and series will broaden your understanding of its application in the financial sector. You will also explore calculus (differentiation and integration) and learn how it is applied to create mathematical models and solve problems. The use of vectors in the aviation and marine industry will also become clear by studying this qualification.

Potential Topics that will be studied

Core 1 Core 2 and Statistics 1

Core 3 Core 4 and Statistics 2

Assessment

The course is examined via one and half hour (1½ hours) written examination paper for each module. The modules carry equal weight and there is no coursework. Calculators are not allowed in the Core 1 module but can be used in all the other modules.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve at least 5 A*-C GCSE grades, one of which must be English, as well as an A in GCSE mathematics, and a B or better in statistics.

Progression and career opportunities

Students who succeed will be awarded a full A Level qualification in Mathematics, which is an entry level requirement for many university courses.

You could take this course with other advanced level courses to prepare for higher education in the Mathematics related areas such as Engineering, Economics, Physics or more general higher education courses.

Many employers are also offering apprenticeships to the candidates with an A-level mathematics qualification in the field of Science and Technology. Gaining this qualification will enable you to pursue a career in jobs such as Accountancy, Engineering, Teaching, Insurance under-writing and the Financial sector. You could also consider becoming a tutor of mathematics and earn up to £35/hour.

This course also helps you develop the analytical and problem solving skills that many employers across lots of industries are looking for, especially in the economic and financial sectors.

A Level Media Studies

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

We live in a media-saturated world. From video clips on your phone, to TV ads, to blockbuster movies, to posters at the bus stop, to the music in your ears; you are surrounded by media messages for most of your waking hours.

How do you make sense of them all? How do you know what they are trying to communicate? How do you know how much you have been influenced by these messages? Does the media reflect your reality, or control the way you view it?

Studying media will enable students to become proficient in skills which are invaluable to employers, including communication (verbal and written), research, planning and design, presentation skills, and critical thinking.

Potential Topics that will be studied

Students will produce a Foundation Portfolio and study 'Key Media Concepts' and 'Critical Perspectives in Media'.

Assessment

50% examination, 50% coursework.

Entry Requirements

Students need to have 5 A* - C GCSE grades including mathematics, and at least a B grade in English. A C grade in media studies GCSE is desirable, however students new to media studies will be considered.

Progression and career opportunities

Apprenticeship opportunities with media companies such as SKY and BBC look favourably on an A level media qualification

Most Universities offer media based courses, often tailored to the student's specific area of interest in media.

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

You will grow in confidence whilst developing logic and problem solving skills. You will build strong skills in independent study along with team work skills. Students will gain an understanding of industry standard equipment and how to use it producing professional standard projects. They will develop performance, composing, listening and appraising skills.

Potential Topics / Units that will be studied

You will study various topics that may include recording and production, sequencing, live sound, DJing, ensemble performance, backline technical management and also events management.

Assessment

On the BTEC course assessment takes place in a variety of ways including assignments and externally assessed exam board tasks. You will also be assessed on your practical performance.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to achieve 5 A*- C GCSE grades, including English and mathematics. Previous experience of BTEC music or GCSE music will be an advantage.

An open mind and an interest in music are the key requirements for this course. Some musical experience and the ability to play an instrument is useful but not essential.

Progression and career opportunities

This is a highly contextual and vocational course, giving students an experience worthy of preparing them for progression to either Higher Education or the professional arena. Whether as a composer, producer, engineer, performer, events co-ordinator, promoter, marketing manager, technician or a teacher there is something for everyone.

BTEC Music

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students develop skills in three key areas: performing, composing and the music industry. They will choose one instrument (or voice) to develop specifically throughout the course and take an active role in the musical life of the school and the wider community. Students learn the social, moral, cultural and spiritual aspects of music, in addition to the core musical skills.

A passion for music is essential, as is the ability to play an instrument or sing to a reasonable level. Instrumental or vocal tuition is desirable. A commitment to extra-curricular involvement is expected and a flair for performing is helpful.

Potential Topics that will be studied

The three mandatory units are:

Music Performance Brief

Music Composition Brief

Professional Practice in the Music Industry

The optional units are chosen based on the skills and interests of the cohort. They are practically based and usually have a strong focus on performing.

Assessment

On the BTEC course assessment takes place in a variety of ways, including assignments, externally assessed exam board tasks, as well as written examinations. You will also be assessed on your practical performance. Students are filmed in rehearsal and performance and graded on their progress over time.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE grades, including English and mathematics. Level 2 BTEC in Music or Performing Arts, or GCSE music is compulsory for this course. In addition, you will be expected to give a short audition to demonstrate your skill level.

Progression and career opportunities

The course leads onto music or performing arts courses at college or university. Additionally, this would prepare you well for a career in the arts. Music courses are highly regarded by a wide range of professions and universities, due to the wide range of transferable skills acquired on the course.

A Level Physical Education

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

You will develop your subject knowledge in physical education, exploring specific areas of PE and sport.

Potential Topics that will be studied

You will also use a range of skills to cover both practical and theoretical concepts relating to participating in sport, health and fitness and the history of sport and its importance in society.

Assessment

This course will be assessed through coursework and final examinations.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to achieve 5 A*- C GCSE grades, including English and mathematics. Students must also be playing sport for a club or higher, so that the coursework component can be completed.

Progression and career opportunities

Students will be able to progress on to higher education courses including sports science, sports coaching, sports therapy, as well as PE teaching degrees.

A Level Photography

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students develop a wide range of practical photographic skills using traditional film and digital cameras. Processing and post production techniques are taught using a darkroom and photoshop software. Analytical and evaluative skills are developed through annotations and more in depth writing to build technical and contextual understanding and inform practical progress. Students will also gain an understanding of how to use an SLR camera. Contextual understanding of photographers and styles of photography will also be explored.

Potential Topics that will be studied

Topics provide a structure within which a student learns technical skills and creatively develops and explores their potential.

Contextual studies range from early pioneers of photography to contemporary practice. Field trips and gallery visits are an essential component of the course.

Assessment

Assessment is conducted by the teacher in the first instance then shared and discussed within the department prior to external moderation by the examination board.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE grades including English and mathematics. A B grade or equivalent at GCSE in Photography or an Art & Design course is also required. C grades will be considered through interview, supported by previous teacher references.

Progression and career opportunities

High achievement can enable direct access to degree courses in photography or lens based media. Due to its balance between visual and academic skills, photography is valued by many career paths within the creative industries, in the media and wider economy. Other career opportunities may include photo journalism, fashion photography, advertising and police evidence photography.

A Level Physics

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students will gain an understanding of how the physical world can be interpreted and described using the very fundamental concepts of science. This will cover topics that range from the forces between the smallest sub-atomic particles to the nature of the Universe.

Students will gain a range of practical skills, which will include using sensitive electronic equipment to carrying out practical measurements on different physical situations to an incredible degree of precision. Mathematical skills also play a big part in this subject.

Potential Topics that will be studied

Practical skills in physics.

Foundations of physics

Forces and motion

Electrons, waves and photons

Newtonian world and astrophysics

Particles and medical physics

Assessment

There are 3 exams at the end of year 13 and practical skills are assessed throughout the A-Level.

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE grades, including English. Students are also required to gain AB in GCSE science and B in mathematics.

Progression and career opportunities

A level physics makes use of many different skills. This can lead to a number of different careers, with obvious links to technology, engineering and scientific research. Physics is the type of qualification that can open doors to many other surprising and interesting career paths. This could be in science roles such as working for organisations such as CERN as a particle physicist, for ESA on development of space technology, working in the medical sector as a radiologist or within oncology. A level physics complements the other sciences and can help you on your way to careers in marine biology or chemical engineering. Also the demanding nature of the course means it could lead you to a career in finance or business as it is a highly regarded qualification.

A Level Psychology

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour and it aims to develop an understanding of psychological theories, research, terminology, concepts, approaches, methods and application. Students will develop skills of critical analysis, interpretation and evaluation, as well as an understanding of different areas of psychology, including the core areas of cognitive, social, developmental and biological psychology; individual differences and research methods. The course covers an understanding of how to design and report on psychological investigations and analyse data. Students will also understand ethical issues in psychology, including the implications of psychological research.

Potential Topics that will be studied

This is a two year A level course which broadly divides into two sections: compulsory content which looks at the various strands of psychology such as research methods, social psychology, and abnormal psychology, and specialised units such as relationships, aggression & forensic psychology.

Assessment

This course is wholly assessed through examination. There will be three two hour papers at the end of the course (each worth 33.3% of the A level).

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE grades, including Maths, English and Science or Psychology to at least a B grade.

Progression and career opportunities

Psychology A Level is relevant to many jobs, particularly those dealing with people. These include health and social care, child care, customer service, the police and other emergency services, armed forces, advertising, sales, market research, personnel management and many others. Many choose to study psychology at University, with opportunities for further professional training in clinical, educational, forensic, organisational and counselling psychology. Psychology also offers an excellent foundation for Higher Education in biological sciences (in combination with science subjects), Social Sciences, Sports Science, Humanities, Business, Law and Education. It is particularly useful for those wishing to pursue vocational training in social work, education and child care, nursing, medicine and related areas. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

Level 2 Public Services

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Students will focus on developing the life/practical skills and the understanding required to work in the Public Services. Needing to adopt a 'team' mentality within all practical and learning tasks, students will be required as a group to engage and participate in discussion, presentations, group work, role play and practical activities.

Assessment

The course is assessed through a range of practical activities and written assignments.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to achieve 5 A* - G GCSE grades, including English and mathematics.

Progression and career opportunities

Students completing this course may wish to pursue a career in public service sectors such as the Fire Service, Navy, RAF, Army, Police, NHS, Prison Service, Law and other community and social services. The course is a Level 2 qualification equivalent to 2 or 4 GCSEs respectively, and will provide those students needing to further develop a pathway through to National Diploma in Uniformed Public Services.

Please note specifications for some vocational qualifications are currently under Government review and may change.

A Level Sociology

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

Sociology will equip you with a wide variety of marketable skills. Perhaps the most important is that of *critical thinking*. The course exposes you to many different ways of thinking about our social world, enabling you to make informed decisions as part of evaluation. Other important skills the course equips you with are: communication, cross cultural understanding, forming evaluation using a range of theoretical perspectives, the ability to make reasoned arguments, organisation, analysing sources, conducting research, presentation.

Potential Topics that will be studied

During the course you will look at different aspects of the social world. Topics can include:

- Social media – *‘What impact does the internet have on social relations?’*
- Crime and deviance – *‘Why are some people more likely to commit crime than others?’*
- The family – *‘How diverse are modern families?’*
- Culture, socialisation and identity – *‘Who and what has influenced my identity?’*
- Researching society – *‘What is the most useful way to research each topic?’*
- Inequality in society – *‘Why do some people in society experience more deprivation than others?’*

Assessment

The course is assessed solely through examinations which you take at the end of year 13:

- Unit 1: Socialisation, culture and identity (1h30m) 30% of total A level
- Unit 2: Researching and understanding social inequalities (2h15m) 35% of total A level
- Unit 3: Debates in contemporary society (2h15m) 35% of total A level

Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve at least 5 A* - C GCSE grades, including mathematics and science, as well as a B grade or higher in English.

Progression and career opportunities

Many of our students go on to study at University level. Possible career opportunities include: social worker, teaching, community development worker, charity fundraiser, human resources officer, public relations officer, social researcher, writer, advice worker.

BTEC Sports Studies

Summary of skills students gain by studying this subject

You will develop your subject knowledge of the sporting world, covering every aspect of sport, health and fitness. You will also use practical skills, developing confidence through officiating and coaching younger children, as well as taking part in a range of outdoor and adventurous activities.

Potential Topics that will be studied

You will study a range of units including anatomy and physiology, sports injuries, sports nutrition, sports development, officiating in sport, sports coaching, fitness training, work experience and many more.

Assessment

On the BTEC course assessment takes place in a variety of ways including assignments, externally assessed exam board tasks, as well as written examinations. You will also be assessed on your practical performance - this could be your performance when officiating or delivering a coaching session to younger children.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to achieve 5 A*- C GCSE grades, including English and mathematics. Previous experience of BTEC sport studies or GCSE physical education will be an advantage.

Progression and career opportunities

Students will be able to progress into a range of job opportunities such as a fitness instructor, personal trainer, physiotherapist, sports scientist, sports therapist, sports psychologist, PE teacher and sports coach.