



# Course Guide



# WELCOME TO OUR COURSES

This Course Guide will give you an introduction to the A Level and Level 3 courses we offer here in Sixth Form at The Bishops' Blue Coat CE High School.

Our courses are well-established and we know that gaining these qualifications will mean that you are able to move on to your next destination, whether that be university, an apprenticeship or the workplace. You will read about former students from each course. They are just one example of where the course could take you; ask the course leaders to tell you where else the qualification can lead.

There are three key facts that you should note if you are interested in joining the course:

Course entry requirement	This explains what <b>GCSEs and grades</b> are recommended in order to access the course.
How you are assessed	Look at the balance of coursework and examination. Most A Levels have a high proportion of examinations but coursework can be a major part of some courses.
When you are assessed	A Levels courses now have all of the assessment at the end of Year 13. Some courses have a coursework element within this assessment. Level 3 courses include coursework and also assessment in some units at the end of Year 12.

It is important that you do not simply choose A Levels from this guide. There are other ways to research your A Levels:

- Speak to your GCSE teachers or course leaders, either on Open Evening or during school.
- Visit the website of the examination board and look at the specification – a lot of the document is for teachers but you will get more details on units and topic areas.
- Some courses have additional summaries they give out.
- Talk to current students about the course.
- Speak to the Head of Sixth Form about your choices.
- Research online – there is a website called ‘The Student Room’ where a lot of our sixth form seek advice.
- Visit the website “Russell Group – Informed Choices” as there are certain careers that require you to study set A Levels for example to study Medicine many universities stipulate that students study both Chemistry and Biology.

You will be choosing three courses to study for the next two years. Students learn best when they are enthusiastic and interested and so that should be your main aim. In addition, we offer Enrichment Programmes that you can learn more about at our Open Evening or online.

Good luck. And remember, if you are in doubt...ask!



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# Art

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in Art & Design.



## Why study Art?

The benefit of an Art course is that you don't just study Art: you make it. Art enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills. No matter what career you choose, those who can arrange, present and display material in a way that is aesthetically pleasing have an advantage. In a fast-paced, changing world full of technology and business, there has never been a better time to join the creative industries.

## Where can this course lead?

There are many career options and routes available to Art students, especially as the creative industry is currently the biggest growing industry in this current economic climate. Some of the most popular career routes are Fine Artist, Illustrator, Photographer, Animator, Graphic designer, Arts administrator, Printmaker, Game Designer, Fashion, Makeup Artist, Costume and Theatre Design, Teacher/university lecturer.

## Who could be teaching me?

Miss French and Mrs Willingham will be teaching this course jointly. Together, with over 10 years of teaching experience, Miss French and Mrs Willingham are able to combine specialisms to deliver a course, full of diverse Art, Craft and Design based experiences. With industry experience in Graphic Design and Advertising and both active practising artists, the course is well balanced and relative to current practices.

## What do students think?

"I enjoy Art as it gives me a break from other essay based subjects. It allows you to express yourself creatively. It's a really nice environment to work in and you get the chance to experiment with different materials and techniques."

"I love that Art gives you the room to express your creativity through a variety of mediums."

"I enjoy Art because I like the vast amount of freedom we are given, also the fact that I can express myself unlike any other subject."

## Former students

Former students have gone to complete pre-university foundation courses at college or have gone directly to university to study a variety of Art based courses.

Average class size: 7

**Exam Board:** Eduqas | **Assessment:** 50% exam 50% coursework | **When?:** 100% Year 13

# Biology

**Entry requirements:** 6-6 in trilogy Science or equivalent in separate Science, grade 6 in Maths and grade 5 in English.



## Why study Biology?

Biology develops essential knowledge of the concepts of life together with an understanding of scientific methods. It also increases the awareness of advances in technology which can be used in society.

## Where can this course lead?

Students with an A Level in Biology typically go on to work in a diverse variety of fields. As well as expected careers such as Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. Biology also allows for careers in the environment in areas such as marine biology, genetics and conservation.

## Who could be teaching me?

Dr Toczyski has a PhD in biochemistry and has been teaching for 12 years, she marks for AQA and is also a senior examiner for AQA..

Mrs Woods has been teaching for 11 years having previously worked in food industry as a quality manager and microbiologist.

Miss Browne has a degree in Microbiology and Genetics and has been teaching for 8 years.

## What do students think?

“Biology has helped me to understand life around me and build my knowledge to pursue a career in science.”

“A great A-level to take and it opens up a wide range of future possibilities.”

## Former students

Eve is studying Biomedical Sciences at the University of Bath.

Kayleigh Bowie is studying Biotechnology at Edge Hill University.

Charlotte Jones has secured a place at University of Bristol next year studying psychology and Neuroscience.

Average class size: 18

# Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate Business

**Entry requirements:** Grade 5 in English or Maths.



## Why study Business?

We all use businesses every day – shops, websites and apps are just a few of the ways that we access them. This course gives you an insight into how these businesses are run and what makes some businesses successful while others fail. You might even choose to start your own business one day! This course covers all types of business, from sole traders with just one person who owns and runs the business to multinational corporations with tens of thousands of employees.

## Where can this course lead?

Students with an A Level in Business have gone on to work and study in a variety of fields. This has included degrees in business, marketing, logistics, IT and the sports sector to name just a few.

## Who could be teaching me?

Mr McAlynn has 7 years' experience teaching Business A Level and has previously worked for Intel as an e-commerce consultant.

Mrs Caroe, in addition to more than 6 years' experience of teaching Business, has also been an examiner for the subject for AQA.

## What do students think?

"I like the fact that it's about real businesses that I've heard of. It's not just a load of theory. It's real life."

"The marketing work was really interesting. I watch the adverts on TV very differently now."

"It's good to know how businesses recruit staff. I'll be looking at my notes before I apply for a job in future!"

## Former students

Jake Waring completing a degree level apprenticeship.

Charlotte Walton went on to study International Business and Economics at The University of Manchester.

Average class size: 14 -16

# Chemistry

**Entry requirements:** 6-6 in trilogy Science or equivalent in separate Science, grade 6 in Maths and grade 5 in English.



## Why study Chemistry?

Chemistry is an exciting, challenging and immersive subject that allows you to investigate a range of ideas and questions about the world around you. Chemistry makes important contributions to the understanding of materials used in every day life. Physical chemistry deals with the relationship between energy and chemical reactions, inorganic chemistry deals with the synthesis and behaviour of inorganic compounds and organic chemistry is the study of carbon compounds and other elements.

## Where can this course lead?

An A Level in Chemistry is a course requirement for degree courses such as Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry and Veterinary science. A Level chemists can follow a variety of future careers such as teaching, nursing, laboratory technician, forensics, engineering natural sciences and other biomedical sciences. Even if you don't go directly into a scientific field, the course provides you with so many transferable skills that universities and the job market are looking for including research, problem solving, analytical skills, alongside teamwork and communication.

## Who could be teaching me?

Mrs Mooney has taught A Level Chemistry for over 20 years. She is a Practical Adviser for AQA exam board.

Mrs Adams and Dr Dearden are also experienced chemistry teachers having taught chemistry for a combined total of over 10 years. Mrs Adams gained her degree in Forensic Science and Dr Dearden achieved her PhD studying new materials in the field of solar energy.

## What do students think?

“Chemistry opens up lots of opportunities and has real-life applications. Everything on the course interlinks making understanding much easier”.

“Chemistry A-level gives great opportunities to develop analytical skills, the lessons are exciting and I'm really looking forward to continuing my chemistry studies at university”.

## Former students

Rupert Annison is currently studying Engineering at Cambridge University.

Alex Houghton is currently studying medicine at The University of Newcastle.

Katy Leigh is studying Medical Chemistry at Liverpool University.

Average class size: 12

**Exam Board:** AQA | **Assessment:** 100% exam | **When?:** 100% Year 13

# Level 3 Applied Diploma Criminology

**Entry requirements:** Grade 4 in English Language.



## Why study Criminology?

This is an exciting new course in its second year at The Bishops' Sixth Form. Do you want to find out why people commit crime? Then criminology is the subject for you. You will investigate the causes of crime; the impact crime has on society and examine why people turn to crime. You will also explore the criminal justice system and how effective it is in dealing with crime in the 21st Century.

## Where can this course lead?

Students with a Diploma in Criminology could typically go onto to study, Criminology, Criminal Justice, Sociology or Psychology at university.

This could lead to a career path in the police, criminal justice system, social working or mental health nursing, for example.

## Who could be teaching me?

Miss Fletcher has 14 years' experience. An expert in the sociological aspects of crime having previously taught GCSE Sociology.

Miss Sadler is an A Level teacher with 7 years' experience and Year Leader for Year 9, and is an expert in the aims and effectiveness of punishment.

## What do students think?

"I'm really excited to be studying Criminology, it looks really interesting and I think will compliment my other options I want to study like, Psychology and Health & Social Care."

"Criminology is a unique and enjoyable subject that gives insight into both practical and theoretical approaches to tackling crime. It fits perfectly alongside subjects such as Psychology and is a great option."

Average class size: 20

**Exam Board:** WJEC | **Assessment:** 50% exam 50% coursework | **When?:** 50% Year 12 50% Year 13

# English Language & Literature

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in English Language and Literature.



## Why study English Language & Literature?

This course enables students to access the world of literature predominantly through the analysis and evaluation of spoken and written language. You will look closely at the writers' craft, interpreting and exploring the choices that they have made in their writing. You will produce a variety of writing including re-creative, commentary, discursive essays and research-based investigative writing. You will develop a wide range of skills including the ability to read critically, analyse, evaluate and undertake independent research.

## Where can this course lead?

Students with an A Level in English Language and Literature can typically go on to work in a diverse variety of fields including Journalism, Law, Teaching, Media and Publishing.

## What do students think?

"I am loving the coursework unit where I get to choose my own book to explore."

"You get to metaphorically dive into Paris and explore the city and culture from a variety of texts."

## Who could be teaching me?

Mrs Bates has over 13 years' experience in teaching A Level Language and Literature. She has also been an examiner for AQA and will teach the course alongside Miss Stephenson who currently teaches both GCSE and A Level English, and is also a GCSE examiner for AQA.

## Former students

Ellie Jones is studying Law at The University of Lancaster.

Sam Budd is currently studying Creative Writing at the University of Warwick.

Emily Tucker is studying Psychology at The University of Leeds.

Average class size: 10

**Exam Board:** AQA | **Assessment:** 80% exam 20% coursework | **When?:** 100% Year 13

# English Literature

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in English Language and Literature.



## Why study English Literature?

This exciting new course is now in its second year and offers a relevant and engaging approach to studying literature. You will experience a rich and challenging range of literature, including poetry, Shakespearean tragedy, classic fiction, modern classics, and also study the culture and history behind them. Studying Literature enables you to think critically and perceptively and argue convincingly. The coursework component gives you the opportunity to pursue your own areas of interest, honing study skills, critical theory, and investigation.

## Where can this course lead?

Students with an A Level in English Literature typically go on to work in a diverse variety of fields including journalism, law, teaching, publishing, marketing, public relations, editing, copy-writing, and even working within social media.

## Who could be teaching me?

Mr Robinson and Mrs McManus are vastly experienced in teaching A Level. Mrs McManus and Mr Robinson both also work as AQA examiners.

## What do students think?

“Books have been a great constant in my life and reading has always been a love of mine. Taking English Literature for A Level would be like getting a qualification for doing something I love!”

## Former Students:

Johanna Sealey is currently studying Theology and Philosophy at Oxford University.

Maks Wojciechowski is studying law at Nottingham University.

Average class size: 10

**Exam Board:** AQA | **Assessment:** 80% exam 20% coursework | **When?:** 100% Year 13

# Film Studies

**Entry requirements:** Grade 5 in English Language and Literature.



## Why study Film Studies?

In an increasingly media-saturated world, the study of film, in all its forms, holds an integral place in our critical understanding of the modern world. As citizens, we should analyse and evaluate the impact of our greatest sources of entertainment and information as they affect our lives. Analysis of media arts is essential to a healthy democracy given that we glean so much information from visual media. This course will give you in-demand critical skills of analysis and evaluation.

## Where can this course lead?

Students with an A Level in Film Studies typically go on to work in media. Careers in areas such as film production, set design, directing, editing and sound are common. Film Studies also allows for careers in journalism, advertising and writing.

## What do students think?

"I chose to take Film Studies for an A Level because growing up I was always interested in photography and filmmaking. Doing this course provides me with insight into how films are created and the technical knowledge to begin making my own."

## Who could be teaching me?

Miss Jessop and Mr Thomas, who both have experience in teaching Film Studies at A Level. Mr Thomas is a film enthusiast.

## Former Students

Sammy Beattie is now studying TV and Film Production at Staffordshire University.

Lydia Wilson is currently studying for a degree in film production at The Met Film school. To supplement her studies she works with the West London Film School with Netflix and Bollywood productions.

Average class size: 10-15

**Exam Board:** Eduqas | **Assessment:** 70% exam 30% coursework | **When?:** 100% Year 13

# Level 3 Applied Certificate & Diploma Food Science & Nutrition

**Entry requirements:** Grade 5 in English and Science.



## Why study Food Science & Nutrition?

An understanding of food and nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles such as nutritionists, care providers such as hospitals, fitness instructors, hospitality and catering, product development and promotion. This qualification provides the knowledge, understanding and skills to progress to further study or training or be used to provide experience for employment.

## Where can this course lead?

The range of degrees and jobs in the food industry is massive. You have the nutrition side leading to dietetics and Sports Nutrition. The scientific side leading to roles in Food Science and Technology which is a massive worldwide industry. Then the creative side with product development, food marketing and catering.

## Who could be teaching me?

Mrs Baker and Mrs Harber both have over 25 years' experience in all areas of Food Education. Mrs Baker has taught for many exam boards including AQA, BTEC and WJEC. Mrs Harber has been a coursework moderator for WJEC.

## What do students think?

"I am so pleased I took Food in Sixth Form as it has the balance between academic and creative lessons."

"Now I am looking at going to University I am amazed at how many courses are available linked to this subject – and I will be able to feed myself when I leave home too!"

## Former Students

Antonia Puaca doing a BSc in Food Marketing & Business Economics at University of Reading.

Curtis Antrim gained a 1st class BSC Hons degree in Nutrition and Food Sciences from the University of Reading.

Lucy Davis is currently studying for a BSc Hons degree in Nutrition and Food Marketing at Newcastle University.

Average class size: 6-8

# French

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in French.



## Why study French?

We live in a multilingual global society and languages are undeniably all around us, whether at work, on holiday or just casually in day-to-day life. This course is ideal for you if you wish to improve your communication skills, your understanding of grammar and to develop your linguistic ability making you more employable as employers seek people with a language qualification. This course also aids appreciation of other cultures and undoubtedly broadens horizons.

## Where can this course lead?

Students with an A Level in French go on to a wide range of careers outside of the expected such as translation, including business, travel and tourism and engineering. In our ever changing European landscape the ability to rely on English is reducing and the importance of French as the language of European business and politics is growing. The ability to speak French also opens up opportunities with Canadian based companies.

## Who could be teaching me?

Mrs Williams and Mr Owen both have over 10 years of A level teaching experience and have an excellent record of helping students achieve top grades.

We also have a FLA (Foreign Language Assistant) who provides one-to-one speaking sessions for 30 minutes every week.

## What do students think?

"I love the French language and studying A level allows me to improve my language ability."

"I found the transition to A Level from GCSE okay because of all the support that we had from teachers."

"I really enjoy learning more about the culture as well as developing my language skills."

## Former Students

Many recent students have gone on to study French at university.

Suzy Keen is studying French and German at the University of Leeds.

Anna Williams is studying French and English Literature at the University of Manchester.

James Thomas is pursuing studies in French and Business Studies at the University of Sheffield.

Average class size: 4

# Geography

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in Geography.



## Why study Geography?

A Level Geography covers both the physical and human environments, and the complex interaction of processes that shape our world. Studying Geography will allow you to understand processes and landscapes that others take for granted. The broad nature of the course means you will always find something that interests you, and the skills you learn are widely applicable as you move onto further study.

## Where can this course lead?

Every year students who take A Level Geography apply to study Geography and Geography-related degrees at university and higher education level. In the past few years Geography has been used as a facilitating subject by students successfully applying to study in areas as diverse as Law, Business and Physiotherapy, as well as those accepted onto apprenticeships.

## Who could be teaching me?

Mr Bennett has a wealth of experience at A Level Geography with over 25 years of successfully preparing students for examinations.

Miss Thursby has over 8 years of experience in teaching A Level Geography and in addition to her BSc has a Masters degree in education.

## What do students think?

“Many universities and employers are attracted to the skills that Geography equips students with, so it makes you more employable and attractive to them.”

“Always something interesting to study.”

“I really enjoyed Geography at Bishops’ and it’s helped me to get into a great university.”

“The teachers were great!”

## Former Students

Abbie Tucker is studying Urban Planning at The University of Sheffield.

Lucie Wallach is currently studying Geography at the University of Liverpool.

Average class size: 15

**Exam Board:** OCR | **Assessment:** 80% exam 20% coursework | **When?:** 100% Year 13

# German

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in German.



## Why study German?

We live in a multilingual global society and languages are undeniably all around us, whether at work, on holiday or just casually in day-to-day life. This course is ideal for you if you wish to improve your communication skills, your understanding of grammar and to develop your linguistic ability making you more employable as employers seek people with a language qualification. This course also aids appreciation of other cultures and undoubtedly broadens horizons.

## Where can this course lead?

Students with an A Level in German go on to a wide range of careers outside of the expected such as translation, including business, travel and tourism and engineering. In our ever changing European landscape the ability to rely on English is reducing and the importance of German as a major European trading language is growing.

German is a good complimentary subject for other areas such as engineering or science.

## Who could be teaching me?

Mr Owen and Mrs Robinson are both experienced A level teachers. We also have a FLA (Foreign Language Assistant) who provides one-to-one speaking lessons for 30 minutes every week.

## What do students think?

“I really enjoy focusing on studying topics in the context of Germany and Austria. I find the cultural aspect really interesting.”

“The support from the teachers is excellent – it really helps me to improve.”

## Former Students

Suzy Keen is studying German and French at the University of Leeds.

Andrew Thornton is studying German at the University of Durham.

Average class size: 4

**Exam Board:** Edexcel | **Assessment:** 100% exam | **When?:** 100% Year 13

# Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate Health & Social Care

**Entry requirements:** Grade 5 in English and Science.



## Why study Health & Social Care?

The Health and Social Care sector is the largest employer in this country. There are a wide range of further education courses which lead on from this course as well as an extensive variety of job roles and opportunities in this sector. Coursework is flexible and gives choice to the student on areas of the subject they are most interested in.

## Where can this course lead?

Students with a BTEC in Health and Social Care typically go on to work in a diverse variety of fields. As well as expected careers such as Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, a qualification in Health and Social Care also allows for careers in a range of other social and health care settings e.g. teaching and speech therapy.

## Who could be teaching me?

Mrs Baker has over 15 years' experience in teaching Health and Social Care.

Ms Adams has a wealth of experience in teaching A level students and has successfully led the course for a number of years, with students gaining some excellent results.

## What do students think?

"I've really enjoyed BTEC Health and Social Care. It's given me a much better understanding of health and social care settings and a greater awareness of careers in this field. We use a range of interesting case studies of service users and apply what we've learned in class to these service users as part of our coursework."

"The teachers make the lessons fun and challenging but are always there for guidance to help you succeed."

"I really enjoyed the coursework, finding out about different practitioners and how the different health care services work."

## Former Students

Charlotte McMillan studies Health and Social Care at University of Chester and a number of students have used this course to access degrees in Nursing, Midwifery at university.

Average class size: 8

**Exam Board:** Eduqas | **Assessment:** 50% exam 50% coursework | **When?:** 50% Year 12 50% Year 13

# History

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in History.



## Why study History?

The study of History provides students with the ability to analyse complex concepts and problems, to make judgements on cause and consequence and to learn the skills of accurate and effective communication. History is a challenging academic subject that opens doors to many career paths. As a facilitating subject, History is a desirable option for anyone considering studying at a Russell Group University.

## Where can this course lead?

Students with an A Level in History can go on to work in almost any area of work. History helps to develop the transferrable skills that can be used in management positions. It often leads to careers in law, accountancy, business management, the police, retail, the armed forces, journalism and broadcasting. One famous historian became the President of the USA!

## Who could be teaching me?

Mr Hodgeman, Mrs Fitzgibbon and Mr Hardman have over 20 years' experience combined in teaching History. They have attended numerous OCR training days on the delivery and marking of the course. Mrs Fitzgibbon has also marked for OCR.

## What do students think?

"History has been challenging but I have enjoyed it the most out of all my subjects."

"I feel prepared for university and I am looking forward to continuing my studies in History."

"I wanted to say a big thanks for teaching me, as hard as Sixth Form was I genuinely loved learning History... I got an A overall... it all just came together at the perfect time!"

## Former Students

Kieran Taylor is now studying History at the University of Sheffield.

Andrea Marin-Martinez is studying History of Art at The University of Nottingham.

Average class size: 10-15

**Exam Board:** OCR | **Assessment:** 80% exam 20% coursework | **When?:** 100% Year 13

# Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate ICT

**Entry requirements:** Merit in Cambridge Nationals IT or a Level 5 in Computing .



## Why study ICT?

ICT provides a great foundation for studying ICT or a related area in Higher Education. It also provides students with a wealth of skills and knowledge for direct entry into apprenticeships and employment.

## Where can this course lead?

ICT can open up a broad range of pathways, including further studies in ICT or Computer Science, moving onto technical qualifications, apprenticeships in areas such as software development or cyber security.

## What do students think?

“It’s a challenging and rewarding course.”

“The coursework gives you a way to look at the work and get real world experience at the same time.”

“The website development coursework is really interesting.”

## Who could be teaching me?

Mrs Caroe has 9 years’ experience in teaching A Level ICT and has examined for OCR. Mr Fletcher has 6 years’ experience in teaching A Level ICT and is a specialist in web development.

Mr Moffatt was head of ICT & Learning Technologies here at Bishops’ before becoming Head of Sixth Form. He is an experienced ICT specialist who delivers the IT systems element of the course, and also has a Masters degree in teaching and learning.

## Former Students

Sergei Fook is currently studying Computer Science at Liverpool John Moores University.

Cormac Mooney is currently completing a degree level apprenticeship with Cheltenham University.

Alicia Blackhurst is currently completing a degree level apprenticeship with Barclays.

Average class size: 12-15

**Exam Board:** Pearson | **Assessment:** 58% exam 42% coursework | **When?:** 42% Year 12 58% Year 13

# Mathematics

**Entry requirements:** Grade 7 in Mathematics.



## Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics involves specific focus on the core elements of algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus combined with application to statistical and mechanical problems. Studying Mathematics helps us to create graphics, build websites, design skyscrapers and generally understand how things work. You will also learn to create models to analyse and solve complex problems, process, interpret and evaluate data and construct mathematical arguments and proof.

## Where can this course lead?

Maths and Further Maths are very versatile qualifications which help facilitate other subjects, as well as being well respected by employers. Maths and Further Maths enables students to think logically and analytically.

Maths is a really useful subject for the progression to university being an essential or preferred subject for many courses.

## Who could be teaching me?

Mathematics A Level is led by our vastly experienced Head of Department, Mrs Davies, who is supported by Deputy and Assistant Heads of Mathematics, Mr Close and Miss Jones and Mrs Murray.

## What do students think?

“Our lessons stretch me to think about Maths from different angles, enabling me to tackle a variety of challenging problems.”

## Former Students

George Cavanagh went on to study Chemical Engineering at Sheffield University.

Luke Tordoff secured a prestigious degree level apprenticeship with Airbus after his A grade.

Average class size: 15

**Exam Board:** Edexcel | **Assessment:** 100% exam | **When?:** 100% Year 13

# Further Maths

**Entry requirements:** Grade 7 in Mathematics.



## Why study Further Maths?

Further Maths is excellent preparation for any degree course with a mathematical bias such as Natural Sciences, Engineering or Finance and Accountancy. It is highly recommended if you are thinking of a Maths Degree or applying to a prestigious university. Further Maths allows you to study all three applied maths modules - Statistics, Mechanics and Decision. The Decision Maths modules introduce many of the algorithms used as the basis of computer coding for a wide variety of real life applications.

## Where can this course lead?

Maths and Further Maths are very versatile qualifications which help facilitate other subjects, as well as being well respected by employers. Maths and Further Maths enables students to think logically and analytically.

Further Maths is designed to stretch and challenge our mathematics students, giving them the opportunity to add depth to their studies.

## Who could be teaching me?

Further Maths A Level is usually taught by one teacher and is likely to be Mr Close or Mrs Davies who both have a breadth of experience teaching the extended topics.

## What do students think?

“Further maths gives a fantastic insight into real world applications of Maths, particularly Decision Maths.”

“Further maths is a great way to see how different sections of Maths are linked and multiple possibilities in which problems can be solved.”

## Former Students

Will Leighton went on to study Mathematics at Durham University.

Rupert Annison went to study Engineering at Cambridge University.

This year all of our Further Mathematicians have applied to study maths related courses at Oxbridge.

Average class size: 4 - 6

**Exam Board:** Edexcel | **Assessment:** 100% exam | **When?:** 100% Year 13

# Physics

**Entry requirements:** 6-6 in trilogy science or equivalent in separate Science. Grade 7 in Maths and grade 5 in English.



## Why study Physics?

Physics is a key part of science and technology, and is used to solve many problems ranging from health, environmental concerns and technological advances. Students gain valuable transferable analytical skills. A real passion for Mathematics is rewarded when studying Physics, as it is literally 'the language of the subject'. There will be numerous opportunities to challenge yourself, and your thinking, during this exciting course.

## Where can this course lead?

Students have gone on to enjoy courses and careers in Engineering and Aerospace industries as well as diverse courses such as material, computing, geo-sciences and architecture.

## What do students think?

"Studying physics is useful, interesting and has a wide variety of applications. It teaches you the logical and analytical thinking skills required in the world of work."

## Who could be teaching me?

The teachers of Physics all share a real passion for this technical subject. They both appreciate and promote the benefits of this topic and its uses in the wider world of science and beyond.

Both Mr Langan and Dr James have previous extensive industrial and engineering experience that is brought to the course content, enhancing its relevance and enjoyment.

## Former Students

Aidan Daly studying Astrophysics and Space science at the University of Kent.

Rupert Annison is studying engineering at Cambridge University.

Average class size: 12

**Exam Board:** AQA | **Assessment:** 100% exam | **When?:** 100% Year 13

# Product Design

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in GCSE Design & Technology or grade Merit or above in Engineering Studies.



## Why study Product Design?

Students will learn and apply key design skills, building confidence to take design risks. Through the encouragement of innovation and creativity you will develop an understanding of new and emerging technologies, recognise design needs and develop an understanding of how current global issues, including integrating technology, impact today's world. You will develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of components and process, including product development through prototyping, realisation and manufacture.

## Where can this course lead?

*Apprenticeships:* Junior Product Designer, Service technician, Civil Engineering Technician, Plumber, Design & Draughting Technician, Engineering Model Maker.

*Degree courses:* Product Design (inc textiles), Systems & Control Technology, Art, Graphic Design, Media, Music Technology, Computing, Maths, Physics, Photography, Engineering.

*Careers:* Aerospace Engineer, Animator, Architect, Bricklayer, Building Control Officer, CNC Machinist, Computer-aided Design, Costume Designer, Electrician, Lighting Technician, Medical Illustrator, Petroleum Engineer, Photographer, Plumber, Quantity surveyor, Teacher.

## Who could be teaching me?

The course is led by Mr Hooker and Mr Cross who combined have over 30 years teaching experience within the subject area. They are supported by a fully engaged and committed department team each with a unique set of skills that are fully utilised throughout the course with other members of the department acting as mentors.

## What do students think?

"Having studied DT at GCSE, I feel the A Level course has exceeded my expectations. It has allowed me to develop my own creative skills and guided me on my future pathway."

"The guidance I have received from the department has allowed me to develop within the subject. Staff have also helped to guide me and prepare me for university."

## Former students

Jen Tooke is now studying Product Design at Nottingham Trent University.

Ex head girl Georgina Evans is now completing a degree level project management degree apprenticeship with Raytheon.

Average class size: 8

**Exam Board:** Edexcel | **Assessment:** 50% exam 50% coursework | **When?:** 100% Year 13

# Psychology

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in Psychology or a Grade 6 in either English or Science.



## Why study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour and you will learn to appreciate that there are often multiple explanations for why people behave the way they do. Psychology appeals to a cross-section of students, regardless of whether they have studied the subject before. It builds on skills developed in the sciences and humanities. Students learn how to analyse arguments and evidence, test hypotheses and make informed judgements.

## Where can this course lead?

Students with an A Level in Psychology typically go on to work in a diverse variety of fields to include police, physiotherapy and nursing, as well as more specialised psychology careers, such as clinical and educational psychology.

## What do students think?

“It’s really interesting because we do a variety of activities to support our learning and we cover a range of different topics that give us a better understanding of ours and others’ behaviour within society.”

“I chose psychology because I’ve always been interested in what makes people tick and I’m curious to learn more about particular aspects of the subject e.g. attachment during the early years and mental health issues.”

## Who could be teaching me?

Ms Adams has over 28 years’ experience in teaching A Level Psychology and has been an examiner for AQA.

## Former Students

Emily Tucker is studying Psychology at University of Leeds.

Emily Bryant is now studying Psychology at the University of Leeds.

Average class size: 15

# Religious Studies

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in Religious Studies and a Grade 6 in English Language.



## Why study Religious Studies?

Our course ensures students have a thorough understanding of diverse philosophical, ethical and religious viewpoints. Religious Studies is a thought-provoking subject covering contemporary themes which will help you engage in wider discussion. Topics such as free will and moral responsibility, evil and suffering, arguments for the existence of God, religion, gender and sexuality and pluralism cover a vast array of content to engage students with deep debate which will equip them for future study and work.

## Where can this course lead?

Students gain critical and evaluative skills sought by higher education and employers – particularly in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration and the media. Religious Studies A Level can lead to many exciting career paths and opportunities.

## Former Students

This version of A Level Religious Studies was a new course in 2020. Previous students who completed the earlier specification have gone on to study a wide variety of courses:

Emma Jaynes is studying Geography at Liverpool University.

Noah Ablett graduated from the University of Chester with a degree in International Tourism Management.

## Who could be teaching me?

Miss Fletcher has 13 years' experience of teaching A Level Religious Studies as well as being an examiner for the Philosophy and Ethics paper for 7 years.

Dr Kay has been teaching A Level RS for 20 years and considers it to be one of the most important subjects for the 21st century world.

Average class size: 6 -8

**Exam Board:** AQA | **Assessment:** 100% exam | **When?:** 100% Year 13

# BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate Sport

**Entry requirements:** Level 2 Merit in Cambridge National Sport Science. Alternatively a Grade 7 in Science and English.



## Why study Sport?

Since the UK hosted events such as the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games and the 2015 Rugby World Cup, there has been significant growth in employment areas such as coaching, fitness and event management. Sport now accounts for 2.3% of the UK workforce. Students will gain develop employability skills, cognitive problem-solving skills, critical thinking, how to work collaboratively, and self-management skills.

## Where can this course lead?

Students completing their BTEC Nationals in Sport will be aiming to go on to employment, often via the stepping stone of higher education.

It combines well with a large number of subjects and supports entry to higher education courses in Sport Studies and Business, Sport Psychology, Sports Education and Special and Inclusive Education, Sport and Exercise Science.

Other future jobs would be, Personal Training, Sports and Leisure management, Coaching, Police training.

## Who could be teaching me?

Level 3 teachers would be Mr Lucas, Miss Foster ( who is the course internal verifier), and Mr Mitchell. They are all experienced A Level PE and Level 3 Sport teachers. Miss Foster is a professional referee for FIFA.

## What do students think?

“I have really enjoyed the different units of the course covered over the two years, especially Sport Psychology and Fitness training. Playing a sport helps but just having a passion for sport is enough as there isn't a practical assessment.”

“I have really enjoyed the different ways this course is examined, having coursework units has suited my style of learning and has really helped me as my other subjects that are linearly tested have benefited too.”

## Former Students

Torin Jenkins who has gone on to study Sports Performance at Bath University and works in elite level sport.

Liam Wentel who has gone on to study Sports Management at Bournemouth University.

Average class size: 7

**Exam Board:** Edexcel | **Assessment:** 50% exam 50% coursework | **When?:** 50% Year 12 50% Year 13

# Theatre Studies

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in Drama and/or grade 6 in English Language.



## Why study Theatre Studies?

Students will study in an academic setting. They will interrogate this art form, applying their knowledge and understanding to the process of creating and developing drama and theatre, as well as in their own performance work. Students will explore a number of different plays and styles of theatre as well as devise an original piece of theatre. LAMDA examinations are also offered as part of enrichment.

## Where can this course lead?

An A Level in Theatre Studies can open doors into multiple jobs in the creative industries. A qualification in Theatre Studies allows potential employers/universities to see that you are academic as well as creative and are able to present ideas with confidence.

## Who could be teaching me?

Mr Otton has over 12 years' experience in teaching and examining A Level Theatre Studies.

Mr Clarkson has over 19 years experience teaching A Level Theatre Studies and is the Assistant Headteacher.

## What do students think?

"A level Theatre Studies is my favourite lesson, without a doubt. There is so much detail and thought in every lesson. You are always learning something new. I have a new passion for theatre and I have definitely become a better performer because of this course."

"It is fun and very engaging."

"Theatre Studies has allowed me to grow in confidence since joining Bishops' from another school. I have constant support from my teachers."

"Theatre Studies lets me express my passion and helps build my confidence."

## Former students

In previous years we have had students go on to explore careers in Acting, Directing, Stage Management, Teaching, Interior Design, Television writing, Playwriting, Law, Graphic Design amongst others.

Average class size: 6

**Exam Board:** OCR | **Assessment:** 60% performance & coursework 40% exam | **When?:** 100% Year 13



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