



# Course Guide

## 2026-2028



# 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 CofE High School. The broad range of courses allows you to personalise a pathway which suits your interests and strengths that will open the doors to your next steps.

You will read about former students from each course, find out what they enjoyed about the course and see what they have gone on to do, having been inspired during their Sixth Form journey. 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:**

<b>Course entry requirement</b>	This explains what <b>GCSEs and grades</b> are recommended in order to access the course.
<b>How you are assessed?</b>	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.
<b>When you are assessed?</b>	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 reading this guide. There are other ways to research your A Levels:

- Speak to your GCSE teachers or course leaders, they know you and are able to advise you on subject areas, based on their knowledge of you through your time at school.
- Visit the website of the examination board and look at the specification – much of the information is for teachers, but you can find more details on the units and topic areas.
- Some courses have additional summaries they give out which will provide you with further information about what you will study on the course.
- Talk to current students about the course, they are the best source of information to find out what it will be like.
- 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.

### **A Level Subjects**

Art / Photography  
Biology  
Chemistry  
English Language & Literature  
English Literature  
Film Studies  
French  
Geography  
Government and Politics  
History  
Mathematics  
Further Mathematics  
Physics  
Product Design  
Psychology  
Religious Studies  
Sociology  
Spanish  
Theatre Studies

### **AAQ Subjects**

Applied Science  
Business Studies  
Criminology  
Food Science & Nutrition  
Health & Social Care  
IT  
Music  
Sport

You will be choosing three courses to study for the next two years. You will learn best when you are enthusiastic and interested, that should be your main aim.

Once applications have been received, we generate our options blocks you can then enrol onto courses from three of the four blocks following your GCSE results. Once options blocks are published we will have follow up discussions with students where necessary. There is more information about next steps at the back of this guide.

In addition, we offer Enrichment Programmes which you can learn more about at our Open Evening or online.

Good luck.

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



**Mr Owen**

*Head of Sixth Form*

[aowen@bishopschester.co.uk](mailto:aowen@bishopschester.co.uk)



**Mr Hardman**

*Deputy Head of Sixth Form*

[ahardman@bishopschester.co.uk](mailto:ahardman@bishopschester.co.uk)

# Applied Science

**Entry requirements:** 5-5 in Combined Science Trilogy, or equivalent Separate Science. Grade 4 in English and Maths.



## Why study Applied Science?

The benefit of studying Applied Science is that it provides theoretical knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of Science, preparing for progression to undergraduate study. It covers core topics of biology, physics and chemistry and will also help you to be equipped with relevant industry skills through researching, planning and performing a range of different laboratory investigations.

## Where can this course lead?

Both the subject-specific knowledge, understanding and skills, and broader transferable skills developed through this qualification, will help you progress to further study in related areas such as:

- Biomedical Science degree
- Allied Health and Nursing degree
- Life Sciences degree
- Forensic Science degree

## Who could be teaching me?

In Year 12 students will be taught by Dr James, Mrs Adams and Dr Toczyski. In Year 13 students will be taught by Miss Browne and Mrs Adams. The course content covers all three Science disciplines and relevant practical's as part of the 'fundamentals in science' unit.

## Course details

The course consists of two examined units (40 % of the course) and three practical assignment-based units (60 %). These topics can include analytical techniques in chemistry, environmental studies, forensic biology or medical physics.

The qualification will also help develop transferable skills that can be used in both higher education and other life and work situations including:

- Communicating effectively with individuals or groups.
- Researching topic areas and recording research sources, then using them to interpret findings and present evidence.
- Presenting information, this will involve managing time and identifying aims, purpose, resources, methods.
- Problem solving when matching and analysing data

# Art / Photography

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in Art & Design or Grade 5 in Photography



## Why study Art?

The benefit of the 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. Photography allows you to capture images and moments and create a lasting record. 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, 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 combine specialisms to deliver a course full of diverse Art, Craft and Design and Photography based experiences. With industry experience in Graphic Design and Advertising and both active practicing 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 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 on to complete pre-university foundation courses at college or have gone directly to university to study a variety of Art based courses.

# 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 environmental areas such as marine biology, genetics and conservation.

## 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."

## Who could be teaching me?

Dr Toczyski has a PhD in Biochemistry and has been teaching for 17 years, She is a senior examiner for AQA.

Mrs Woods has been teaching for 15 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 12 years.

## Former students

Daniel Wright is now studying Biomedical Science at Liverpool John Moores University having also secured a scholarship for academic excellence.

Alex Modoi is now studying Medicine and Surgery at Lancaster University.

# Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate

## Business Studies

**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 a Level 3 BTEC 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. Business is also an excellent complement to subjects such as a modern foreign language or Maths. The course units prepare you for a varied range of careers, with units including marketing and business finance, which open doors to further study and progression into the field of economics.

### Who could be teaching me?

Mr McAlynn has over 10 years of experience teaching Business A Level and has previously worked for Intel as an e-commerce consultant.

### 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 the future!”

### Former students

Jack Morl received a D\* (equivalent to A\*) and is now studying Business with Digital Marketing at Liverpool John Moores University.

George Edwards gained a D\* (equivalent to A\*) and has gone on to study Business Management at Lancaster University.

# 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 and analytical skills, alongside teamwork and communication.

## Who could be teaching me?

You will be taught by staff who have a passion for the subject and many years of A-level teaching experience. Mrs Adams gained her degree in Forensic Science. Dr Howard studied Chemistry at University and achieved her PhD studying new materials in the field of solar energy. Mr Patricolo studied Bio-Chemistry at University.

## 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

Kate Pimblett is now studying Medicine at Aston University, Birmingham.

Jonathan Riley is now studying Chemistry at Cardiff University.

# Criminology

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



## Why study Criminology?

This is an exciting course in its fifth 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 an Applied Diploma in Criminology could typically go on 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 18 years of experience. An expert in the sociological aspects of crime having previously taught GCSE Sociology.

Miss Sadler is an A Level teacher with 10 years of experience and Year Leader for Year 11, and is an expert in the unit covering 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 complement 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."

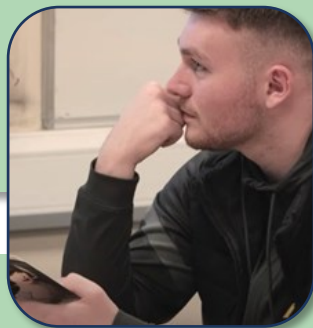
## Former students

Erica Cass-Jones has gone on to study Forensic Science and Criminal Investigation at the University of Lancashire.

Charlotte Broady is now studying Digital Media and Society at University of Sheffield.

# 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.

## Who could be teaching me?

There are a wide variety of staff who may teach you, all of whom are experienced teachers of this course and have been, or currently are, examiners for AQA.

## What do students think?

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

"The use of fantasy in 'The Lovely Bones' is very interesting and really draws you in."

"I enjoy 'The Lovely Bones' and learning about the real life issues it talks about as well as building my knowledge of English terminology used in the book. "

## Former students

Henry Clarke has gone on to study English Literature and Creative Writing at Lancaster University.

Ruby Burns-Buckland is now studying Primary Education at University of Chester.

# English Literature

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



## Why study English Language & Literature?

This A Level opens the door to a rich, challenging, and exciting world of literature. In Year 12, you will study poetry and prose through the lens of political and social protest writing. Through Blake's poetry, and modern classics like *The Handmaid's Tale* and *The Kite Runner*, you will explore worlds of power and control, and hear the voices of those who take a stand. In Year 13 you will study tragedy, from the dire consequences of jealousy and mistrust in Shakespeare's *Othello*, to the crippling failure of Willy Loman in the classic American play, *Death of a Salesman*. You will sharpen your skills to think, read, question, write, and debate carefully and critically while exploring some of the world's best texts. If you love reading, this is the course for you.

## Where can this course lead?

A Level Literature is a highly regarded course which opens the door to many future pathways and provides a wealth of transferrable skills. 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, editing, public relations, and even working within social media.

## Who could be teaching me?

Mrs Hartley and Mrs McManus are vastly experienced in teaching and incredibly passionate about literature. Both teachers also work as AQA examiners.

## What do students think?

"To say that studying English Literature was the best choice I could have made is an understatement; the joy and fulfilment that come from studying this subject are unlike anything else. Through English Literature, you begin to see the world through new lenses - opening your mind to endless opportunities for creativity and critical thought. English Literature invites you to debate, discuss, and form your own independent opinions. The bonds you form with your class and teacher are so unique and enriching, as you venture through the exciting collection of texts together that deepen your understanding of society, history, and culture."

## Former students

Johanna Sealey studied Theology & Philosophy at Oxford University

Matty Brown studied Law at Oxford University

Tahani Uddin studied English Literature at Liverpool University

# 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?

Mr Thomas leads on Film, especially the coursework. You could also be taught by Mr Barnard, Mrs McManus, and Miss Whitfield who have been teaching Film Studies at A Level for several years.

## Former Students

Jessica Walker has gone on to study English and Film at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Lottie Hughes is now studying English Literature at Lancaster University.

Ruben Gibbons is currently studying Film & Media at Chester University.

# 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 aspect leading to dietetics and sports nutrition; the scientific side leading to roles in food science and technology; then the creative side leading to product development, food marketing and catering. Through studying this course you are opening the door to a range of careers in the sector.

## Who could be teaching me?

Food Science & Nutrition is led by Mrs Lubbe who brings over 20 years of teaching experience to the role, along with Miss Ferrie and Mrs Donohue they form a highly committed team with extensive teaching experience. They also bring valuable industry experience and knowledge. This enriches the curriculum with practical insight and real-world expertise.

## What do students think?

"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!"

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

## Former Students

Elizabeth Cotterill is now studying Nutrition and Health at Edge Hill University.

Esther Davies has gone on to get a Degree Level Apprenticeship with Samsung.

Annie Davies is now studying Primary Education at University of Chester.

# 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 increasingly 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 including business, travel and tourism, translation, 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 Bainbridge and Mr Owen both have over 15 years of A level teaching experience and have an excellent record of helping students achieve top grades.

## 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.

Emma Edwards is studying French and Spanish at the University of Bangor.

Lauren Coyne is studying English with French at the University of Warwick.

Annie Ardern is now studying International Relations and Politics at University of Sheffield.

# Geography

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



## Why study Geography?

A Level Geography covers both physical and human environments, and the complex interaction of processes that shape our world. Studying Geography will allow you to understand physical processes, landscapes and human interactions 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 Henstock has a wealth of experience at A-Level Geography with over 20 years of successfully preparing students for examinations.

Mrs Brown has over 10 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

Andrew Collins has gone on to study Geology at Keele University.

Alexandra Hughes is now studying Urban Studies and Planning at the University of Sheffield.

# Government & Politics

**Entry requirements:** Grade 5 in History or English Language



## Why study Government & Politics?

Government and Politics will not only develop a deep understanding of both political systems and ideologies but also builds the skills of critical thinking, analysis and evaluation. Through studying both the UK political system and a the US system, you will gain deep knowledge of how democracy lies within both systems. You will be able to explore political ideas and develop your understanding of differing political views and perspectives.

## Where can this course lead?

An A Level in Government and Politics is an ideal stepping stone to a broad range of pathways including university study in a number of directly-related courses. It has links to subjects such as Business Studies, Sociology and History but also leads to pathways such as Journalism, the Diplomatic Service and working within Law and Human Resources.

## Who could be teaching me?

New for September 2026, we plan to have a member of staff in place who specialises in Government and Politics and lead the course drawing on both their teaching experience and subject knowledge.

## What do students think?

Whilst we don't have current students, in speaking to prospective students they have shared:

"I'm excited about the opportunity to study Politics. It is an area I'm really interested in and can see how it affects our daily lives."

"I think this course would go really well alongside my other choices and help me in the future."

## Former Students

This will be a new and exciting course at Bishops' but previous students have gone on to follow degrees in areas such as International Relations and Philosophy, Politics and Economics. This course will support students interested in a broad range of pathways.

# 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?

Lead by Mrs Cawson, who has over 12 years experience teaching and volunteering in the Health and Social Care Sector.

Mrs Donohue, who has a wealth of industry knowledge and many years experience in teaching.

## 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

Sophie Parry is now studying Children's Nursing at Edge Hill University.

Paige Davies has gone on to study Physiotherapy at Leeds Beckett.

# 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!

## 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!"

## Who could be teaching me?

Mr Hodgeman, Mr Hardman and Mr Jackson are experienced in the teaching of History, each bringing their individual specialties to the course. They have attended numerous OCR training days on the delivery and marking of the course.

## Former Students

Isabella Hughes has gone on to study International Relations at University of Leeds.

Jack Wilkinson is now studying Law at the University of Nottingham.

# ICT

**Entry requirements:** Level 2 Pass or above WJEC 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 from a real world perspective."

"The website development coursework is really interesting."

## Who could be teaching me?

Mrs Caroe has 11 years of experience in teaching Level 3 ICT and is an examiner for OCR. Mr Fletcher has 9 years experience in teaching Level 3 ICT and is a specialist in web development. He is also an examiner for Pearson.

## Former Students

Alex Warden is now studying game design at University of Liverpool.

Aleksandra Dimitrova has gone on to study Accounting and Finance at Manchester Metropolitan University.

# 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 enable 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 taught by two teachers, one who focuses on pure topics and the other on applied topics. Our Maths department have a wealth of experience teaching A Level.

## 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

Riley Bedford is now studying Medical Engineering at Cardiff University.

Lois Robinson has gone on to study Medicine and Surgery at Lancaster University.

Esther Davies has gone on to get a Degree Level Apprenticeship with Samsung.

# 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 enable 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, Mrs Davies or Mrs Jolly who between them 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

Alex Keen is now studying Aerospace Engineering at University of Sheffield.

Thomas Emmett is now studying Physics at Durham University.

# Music Performance

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



## Why study Music Performance?

This qualification gives learners transferable and high-order skills that are valued by higher education providers and employers, for example performance techniques, communication skills and team working. It also gives them an opportunity to focus on their personal vocal/instrumentation technique.

## Where can this course lead?

This course is for students who want to continue their studies of music through applied learning and who aim to progress on to higher education. The course also opens doors for those who wish to go on to work in the music or creative sectors, developing the necessary skills along the way. There are a variety of pathways that can lead on from studying music, these including higher education courses in production and/or performance and apprenticeships.

## Who could be teaching me?

Mrs Hynes has 23 years teaching experience across a wide range of exam boards at Sixth Form level. She is well used to ensuring that students play to their strengths to fulfil their potential and develop their musicianship and technical skills.

## What would I study?

The course has 3 mandatory units across the qualification, Theory and Harmony, Music Industry and Ensemble Performance. There is also a further optional unit from a selection of additional units, e.g. solo performance, composition, improvisation and session skills.

## Former Students

It has been a while since Music has been offered at A Level, but historically students have continued on to university both to study music and continue as a hobby alongside their other course choices.

# 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 across a broad range of industries such as health, environmental and technology. 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.

## Who could be teaching me?

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

Mr Blackham’s background in theoretical and particle Physics ensures that explanations of difficult concepts and ideas are fully understood by using first-hand practical experience, knowledge, and an up-to-date approach to problem solving.

Mr Langan has extensive knowledge regarding the industrial and practical applications of Physics and conveys the huge advantages of studying Physics to solve real-world problems to help shape the future.

## 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.”

## Former Students

Alex Keen is now studying Aerospace Engineering at University of Sheffield.

Thomas Emmett is now studying Physics at Durham University.

# Product Design

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in GCSE Design & Technology



## 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 45 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

Dominic Clarke is now studying General Engineering at University of Sheffield.

Lola Murray has gone on to study Graphic Design at Liverpool Hope University.

# 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 our own 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?

Mrs Cawson is a social science specialist who is passionate about academic experiences and education. With expert knowledge in psychology, she will guide you through your A Level studies.

## Former Students

Miguel Vilches Melson has gone on to study Advanced Psychology at University of Leeds.

Francesca Houghton is now studying Psychology at Sheffield Hallam University.

# 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, philosophy, medicine, administration and the media. Religious Studies A Level can lead to many exciting career paths and opportunities drawing on the skills and knowledge developed through the course.

## What do students think?

“I love the opportunity to consider issues from different people’s perspectives. I think I have really developed my analytical skills through studying RS.”

“I chose RS as I wanted to develop my critical thinking skills. I really enjoy considering the ethics around an issue and this course has enabled me to do that.”

## Who could be teaching me?

Miss Fletcher has over 18 years experience teaching A Level Religious Studies as well as being a senior examiner for the Philosophy and Ethics paper.

Mrs Turnbull holds an MA in Theological and Religious Studies from The University of Cambridge and has been teaching A Level Religious Studies for 8 years.

## Former Students

Imogen Baines is now studying Law with Criminology at Edge Hill University.

Laila Cozier has gone on to study Business and Society at University of York.

# Sociology

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



## Why study Sociology?

Studying sociology helps you understand how society works and the forces that shape human behaviour. You'll explore topics like inequality, culture, and social change, gaining insight into issues such as race, class, gender, and education. Sociology equips you with critical thinking, research, and analytical skills, preparing you for careers in fields like social work, education, law, and business. It's a great choice if you're curious about people and want to make a positive impact on the world.

## Where can this course lead?

Sociology opens the doors to a broad range of pathways, including the study of Sociology at University and careers such as social and market research, law, local and central government and media to name a few.

The study of society and how humans behave, there are many opportunities and career routes to follow from studying Sociology.

## Who could be teaching me?

Mrs Brickhill, a passionate sociology teacher who will be combining her teaching expertise and degree level research to guide students to success.

## What do students think?

"Sociology has allowed me to explore how different perspectives, such as Marxism and feminism, explain the way society operates. It's challenging, but I love how relevant it is to everyday life"

"Sociology has opened my eyes to the inequalities that exist in society and how they affect people's lives. I have enjoyed learning about how these inequalities can be challenged and addressed"

## Former Students

This course was introduced in 2025, and current students are hoping to go on and study degrees such as Sociology, Psychology and Social Sciences. It will equip you for a broad range of university study.

# Spanish

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



## Why study Spanish?

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 increasingly 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 Spanish go on to a wide range of careers such as translation, business, travel and tourism and engineering.

In our ever-changing European landscape the ability to rely on English is reducing and the importance of Spanish as the language of European business and politics is growing. The ability to speak Spanish also opens up opportunities with South American companies.

Spanish can be studied with a wide range of other subjects at university such as International business, Law and Mathematics.

## Who could be teaching me?

Mr Owen and Mrs Bainbridge are both extremely experienced A level MFL teachers, and Mrs Bainbridge has taught A level Spanish for over 20 years.

## What do students think?

Previous students of A Level MFL have said that they really enjoy focusing on studying topics in the context of the country, finding the cultural aspect really interesting.

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

## Former Students

You would be the first cohort to study A Level Spanish at Bishops' and this is an exciting time for the MFL department. We have had many successful previous linguists from other A level language cohorts who have gone on to study them at University.

# BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

## Sport

**Entry requirements:** Grade 5 in GCSE PE or equivalent.  
Alternatively, a Grade 5 in Science and English.



### Why study Sport?

Since the UK hosted events such as the 2022 Commonwealth Games and Women's Football Euros, there has been significant growth in employment areas such as coaching, fitness and event management. Sport now accounts for 3.7% of the UK workforce. Students will develop employability skills, cognitive problem-solving skills, critical thinking, self-management skills and the ability to work collaboratively.

### Where can this course lead?

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 might be, Personal Training, Sports and Leisure management, Coaching, Police training, teaching.

### Who could be teaching me?

Mr Mitchell, Mr Lucas, Miss O'Brien and Miss Evans provide expertise and experience in teaching Level 3 Sports Courses.

### 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 way this course is examined, having coursework units has suited my style of learning."

### Former Students

Ellis Hancock is now studying Sport and Exercise Science at Nottingham Trent University.

Noah Taylor has gone to Leeds Beckett University to study Physical Education.

# 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 to 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 of experience in teaching and examining A Level Theatre Studies. He is experienced in producing drama teaching resources on a national scale and is an expert in assessing the performance element of the course.

## 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

Ryan Moynihan went to Lancaster University to study Film.

Ruby Roberts-Nightingale is now studying History and Film at University of Liverpool.

# Next Steps

We hope that you have enjoyed exploring all our courses. If you would like to apply please visit:

**[bishopschester.co.uk/sixth-form/apply-now](https://bishopschester.co.uk/sixth-form/apply-now)**

## Application Process:

1. Once applications are submitted and choices reviewed\* we will create the subject option blocks.
2. We will confirm course choices with a conditional offer.
3. Following your GCSE results, you will be invited to enrol if you have met the entry criteria.

\*Please note that whilst we will do our best to accommodate your choices at the application stage, some combinations may clash as the subject blocks are created. Students will be contacted if this is the case. Similarly, we cannot guarantee a course will run if it does not meet the minimum numbers and we will contact you if this is the case. In the case of a course being oversubscribed, then we will use your GCSE results to determine enrolment.

It is important to make the right course choices, so please visit our website, speak to our teams and read our prospectus to support your decision making. There is a wealth of experience and support available and our Sixth Form team are always happy to discuss your options with you.





 @Bishopsbluecoatsixthform  @BishopsChester  
Vaughans Lane, Great Boughton, Chester, Cheshire, CH3 5XF  
01244 313806  
[bishopschester.co.uk](http://bishopschester.co.uk)

[aowen@bishopschester.co.uk](mailto:aowen@bishopschester.co.uk)  
[sixthform@bishopschester.co.uk](mailto:sixthform@bishopschester.co.uk)