

Princes Risborough School

Sixth Form Options Booklet

September 2022 Entry



WELCOME TO THE SIXTH FORM

Our Sixth Form offers all of its applicants a strong chance of success. A Level and Level 3 BTEC programmes, as well as the chance to combine the two open the doors to a wider range of future pathways, from Oxbridge to graduate apprenticeships. Smaller class sizes, familiar surroundings and quality first teaching helped ensure that **well over 90% of our students gained entry to their first choice universities in 2021** and indeed our Sixth Form has been **consistently rated 'Good' by OFSTED**. Our Sixth Form bridges the gap between GCSEs and adult life. It opens the doors to many exciting university and employment opportunities. Students can study a wide range of academic and vocational subjects and develop their skills through a variety of leadership opportunities and activities. Our ultimate aim is for all our students to go on to be successful in their chosen careers and we are confident that the education they receive here will make this happen.

Sixth Formers are ambitious; most progress to university, while others choose to gain access to further education, training or employment in their selected field through apprenticeships. Ofsted May 2017

The PRS Programme

To ensure that all students have an engaging & challenging experience in the sixth form students benefit from the following programme of study:

- **3 A Level or BTEC Subjects** (27 options)
- **Additional Optional Qualifications**
 - Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
 - Online University Courses (MOOCS)
 - 4th A Level/BTEC
 - GCSE English & Maths
 - Duke of Edinburgh's Awards
 - Sports Coaching Certificates - FA Playmaker, Sports Coaching Level 1-3
- **Independent Study & Home Study**
 - Free device September 2022 to ensure access to digital resources
- **Student Leadership**
 - Head Students & Deputy Head Students
 - Interact
 - Leading Clubs
- **Extra-curricular**
 - Debating Society
 - Young Enterprise
 - Book Club
 - Sports Clubs, Performing Arts Clubs & many more
- **Volunteering**
 - Community Volunteering Programme
 - In-school Volunteering Programme
- **Trips**
 - World Challenge 2023
 - Departmental Trips
- **Career Support**
 - Work Experience
 - Careers Days & Meet the Employer

STUDY

Post-16 study requires independent learners. In addition to timetabled classes, Sixth Form students work in the purpose built Sixth Form Study Centre for private study. This is a quiet environment and its design is based on good practice found in university libraries. This is supervised full time to support students.

Students will be timetabled for lessons for three or four subjects plus eight hours per week of private study which must be spent in the Sixth Form Study Centre. Students have greater freedom with the remaining few study periods and can choose to leave early and study at home if they prefer.

Strong relationships and higher quality teaching and learning in the Sixth Form enable A Level students to make good progress. They take pride in their school and work quietly and independently during study periods. Ofsted May 2017

TYPES OF SIXTH FORM COURSE

A Level: The majority of the courses on offer are traditional A Levels. At least two, and normally three A Level passes [or BTEC Level 3 equivalent] are needed for progression onto a degree course. Traditional A Levels are assessed either completely on exams or a mixture of exams and coursework.

BTEC National [Level 3]: This course is the equivalent of one, two or three A Levels, depending upon the number of units studied. Almost all universities accept BTEC National on equal footing with A Levels. Passes are graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* which are equivalent to E, C, A and A* at A Level. An Extended Certificate in BTEC National is worth the same as one A Level, a Diploma is equivalent to two A Levels and an Extended Diploma is equivalent to three A Levels.

Mixing A Levels and BTEC: At Princes Risborough, students are encouraged either to study all A Levels or BTEC Nationals or to mix A Levels with BTEC National. Many of our students have gained entry to Russell Group universities studying A Levels but also mixing A Level and BTEC National. This year we are offering courses in the following subjects:

<u>Applied Science</u>	<u>Dance</u>	<u>Geography</u>	<u>Politics</u>
<u>Art & Design</u>	<u>Drama</u>	<u>Health & Social Care</u>	<u>Psychology</u>
<u>Biology</u>	<u>Economics</u>	<u>History</u>	<u>Sociology</u>
<u>Business Studies A Level</u>	<u>English Language</u>	<u>Information Technology</u>	<u>Sport</u>
<u>Business Studies Single</u>	<u>English Literature</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>	<u>Sport Double</u>
<u>Business Studies Double</u>	<u>Fashion & Textiles</u>	<u>Further Mathematics</u>	<u>Sport Triple</u>
<u>Chemistry</u>	<u>Film Studies</u>	<u>Physics</u>	

It provides a selection of academic and some applied courses with clear routes to further study or employment. Ofsted May 2017

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

In addition to A Level and BTEC subjects, students have the option of completing the EPQ, which involves personal research and study on a topic of their choice. The EPQ is highly regarded by universities as it demonstrates students' ability to manage an extended research project.

MONITORING, TRACKING & ACADEMIC MENTORING

Students benefit from knowing how they are progressing so reports are issued every half term. Private Study is supervised by a full time member of staff who will hold regular interviews with students to set and review targets and, if necessary, tackle any underachievement issues.

The strongest examples seen by inspectors occurred in the Sixth Form. Here, teachers use their good subject knowledge and assessment skills to design engaging learning tasks and then use probing questions to challenge learners' understanding. As a result, Sixth Formers make strong progress in lessons and over time. Ofsted May 2017

WORK EXPERIENCE

All Year 12 students are expected to undertake a week of work experience in July. Ideally, this should be something linked to future career aspirations and which can feature significantly on a job or university application.

Sixth Formers told inspectors that they particularly value the extra support and the useful and impartial careers information and guidance that the school offers. Ofsted May 2017

HOW TO APPLY

The Application Form shows our full range of subjects and individual entry requirements. Entries are generally received by the end of the autumn term but late entries may be considered. Applicants will receive a conditional offer in the spring which will be confirmed after GCSE results. The [online application form](#) and admissions policy can be found on our website www.princesrsborough.bucks.sch.uk

The application form sets out the subjects that we expect to offer next year.

Please note that:

- (i) A Level courses last for the full two years and so, once started, the subjects will be guaranteed. All courses are dependent upon applicant numbers and will be confirmed prior to the start of the new academic year.
- (ii) Late applications may be accepted in exceptional circumstances, however these applicants may not get their first choice of subjects due to teaching groups being full.
- (iii) If a student changes their subject choice after submitting the application form, we may not be able to accommodate the revised subjects as teaching groups, and staffing, will have already been organised.
- (iv) Information in the Options Booklet is subject to change.

If you have any questions once you have had a chance to read through the Sixth Form Prospectus, telephone the school on 01844 345496 and ask for a member of the Sixth Form Team.

Please complete the [online application form](#), which includes agreeing to our relevant policies, by **Monday 1st February 2022**.

Please note that students will be invited to select their academic and co-curricular enrichment opportunities once they have joined the school in September.

Some learners take up leadership roles, for example charity fundraising, becoming student ambassadors or leading assemblies. This contributes well to their development as responsible citizens. Ofsted May 2017

Leadership of the sixth form is a strength of the school. Ofsted May 2017

TIMETABLE FOR ENTRY

NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER **Research the subjects** that would best suit your higher education and career aspirations.

3 DECEMBER Attend our live Sixth Form Taster Day for existing Year 11 students [external applicants can arrange to visit the school]

JANUARY 2022 Look at how your predicted GCSE grades fit in with the sixth form subject requirements.

Discuss your suitability for the courses you are interested in with staff at your school. At Princes Risborough School this will happen during the 'Year 11 Information, Advice and Guidance interviews' in January. All our students will meet with a senior member of staff to discuss choices post-16, here or elsewhere. Predicted GCSE grades and your attitude to learning will be used to assess your suitability for our sixth form.

FEBRUARY **Submit your [application](#) by Monday 1st February 2022.**

MARCH/APRIL All applicants should receive a decision via email by March 2022. Please contact us in early April if that is not the case.

JUNE/JULY All students holding a conditional offer are invited to an Induction Day on **Thursday 23rd June 2022**. This is a provisional date so please check our website nearer the time. On this day, students will have the opportunity to meet and work with prospective and present sixth formers, as well as the staff likely to be teaching and tutoring them.

AUGUST The GCSE results PRS Enrolment day is **Thursday 25th August 2022**

Internal candidates with a conditional offer will know on GCSE results day whether they have qualified for a place in the sixth form.

Applicants who are new to the school who have a conditional offer of a place are invited into school on GCSE results day to confirm their offer and to take up their place. Details about the day will be issued nearer to the time. They should bring a copy of all their results with them, including any GCSEs obtained earlier than May/June 2022, and proof of eligibility to study e.g. passport.

All applicants must check that they qualify for their specific subject choices when they confirm their place.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Detailed information about the courses we offer, admissions policy and entry requirements can be found on the Sixth Form section of the school website

www.princesrisborough.bucks.sch.uk

CONTACT US

If you have questions about the Sixth Form courses, entry requirements or about Sixth Form life please contact:

Mr Instone (Assistant Headteacher/Head of Sixth Form)

- minstone@prsbucks.com
- 01844 345496 and choose the 'Sixth Form' option

CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

WHICH SUBJECTS SHOULD I STUDY?

The combination of A Levels, BTECs and the Leadership Programme enables our students to create their own personal curriculum in the Sixth Form, tailored to their aspirations and aptitudes.

Many schools publish a column structure which limits the combinations of subjects that pupils can pick. The Princes Risborough School curriculum has so much choice that this model would be complex and place many limitations on what could be chosen. Instead, we would rather start from a position where pupils have a free choice and then accommodate as much as we can. Over the past few years, we have been able to accommodate the majority of first choices. Of course, there will be some limitations to what can be offered. It is important to note that all courses offered are subject to demand.

The majority of our students progress to university after studying in our Sixth Form, so we do advise students to consider the combination of subjects that will enable them to keep their options open for a range of degree courses they may wish to follow. The table below is by no means exhaustive but will provide some guidance. The following websites also provide a wealth of information regarding higher education entry requirements.

[UCAS](#)

[Informed Choices](#)

[Discover Uni](#)

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

ADVICE FROM THE SCHOOL

The first decision to make is which subjects to study in Year 12. Some students find it very difficult to choose their A Level &/or BTEC subjects. There are several points that you should bear in mind.

1 **Is the combination of subjects I am considering appropriate to my future Higher Education/career aspirations?**

Complementary combinations might be Biology/Chemistry/Physics or Mathematics, or English Literature/Politics/Geography or History. The subjects involve similar study-skills and work patterns, as well as having some concepts or procedures in common. A word of warning, though - some subjects have so much in common that it may be advisable to study only one and not both e.g. Economics and Business.

If you do not see such a pattern, it may be worth reviewing your choices, although it is better to choose individual subjects rather than 'areas' in the first instance.

Again, you can obtain advice on this from the Sixth Form Team. In addition, university and college prospectuses and the UCAS website (Course Search) will give a clear indication of the A Level and BTEC subjects required for specific courses. Prospectuses can be requested online from the university. It is an excellent idea to do some research and plan ahead for your future. If you know what you wish to study, or career path you wish to pursue, you can match your subject choices to your aspirations. You may also consider attending some virtual university open days after your GCSE examinations next summer.

2 **Can I study a subject that I have not studied before?**

In several cases the answer is – “yes”. Read the page on the subject you are interested in and then speak to the relevant teacher. Some subjects, such as economics and politics, are not offered lower down the school. It is important that you find out as much as you can about a new subject so you can be sure you will like it.

We advise you not to take more than two unfamiliar courses, unless there are clear reasons related to progression to a particular career or Higher Education course.

3 **Must I include the subject I wish to study at university?**

The majority of our Sixth Form students proceed to Higher Education where an enormous variety of courses are available. The good spread of subjects we offer allows access to all courses, provided the correct choices are made at the end of Year 11.

For some courses at university you *must* have studied the relevant course: for instance, biology to read a straight biology degree. However, it is important to realise that for many courses an A Level/BTEC in that subject is not necessary. For instance, a degree course in psychology or law does not assume study of that subject at A Level; in fact, the early part of the course could be repetitive for those who have done so. See the University Course Requirements section.

4 **Will universities accept BTEC Level 3?**

In most cases, the answer is yes. Sometimes they will want to see a BTEC Level 3 subject combined with A Level subjects, for other courses an all-BTEC programme will be acceptable. As with all courses, it is essential to check individual entry requirements but the vast majority of our BTEC students have used their qualifications as entry for universities.

4 **How should I make my choice?**

Ability and motivation to study at depth is important. You will find all sixth form subjects significantly harder than anything you did at GCSE. **If you are struggling with a subject at GCSE you will probably not cope with it at A Level.**

Check that the chosen subjects are useful combinations, so that skills can be transferred. In this way, work in one subject can help with others.

And, enjoyment is crucial! You will be studying each subject for several hours each week, and for two years. It is therefore important to choose subjects you think you will like, especially as you may continue one or more of these subjects at university level for three or four years.

THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO SEEK ADVICE

Listen to what your teachers say and do not be afraid to ask for guidance.

ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL COURSES

Please note all subject information is correct at the time of writing but may be subject to change before September 2022.

Higher Education Entry Requirements

University Subject	Essentials	Useful Subjects
Accountancy		Maths, Business/Economics, Science related
Archaeology & Anthropology		Geography, History, Sciences
Architecture	Portfolio , although art need not be studied formally	Art, Maths, Physics
Art & Design	Art	Other design related subject
Biochemistry	Chemistry, Biology	Maths, Physics
Biology	Biology , Maths	Chemistry
Biomedical Sciences	Chemistry, Biology	Maths, Physics, Applied Science
Business Studies, Business Management etc		Maths, Business, Economics
Chemical Engineering	Chemistry, Maths, Physics	
Chemistry	Chemistry, Maths	Another Science
Computer Science	Maths	Information Technology
Dance	Dance	Drama, Music, English, Biology, Sport
Dentistry	Chemistry with two of Biology, Physics & Maths	
Drama	English, Drama	Film Studies, Dance, Sport
Economics	<i>Maths</i>	Economics, History, Geography
Engineering	Maths , Physics	
English	English	History, Film Studies
Fashion	Textiles	Art
Film, TV and Media		English, Drama, Film Studies
Geography	Geography	Maths, Economics, Politics, Biology
Geology	Chemistry + Maths/Physics/Biology/Applied Science	Geography
History	History	Economics, English, Politics, Sociology
History of Art		Art, English, History,
Human, Social & Political Science		A mixture of arts, sciences & humanities is preferred, Politics, Sociology
Law		History, Politics, Psychology, Sociology
Marketing		Business, Psychology, Sociology, Maths, Art
Material Science	2 from Chemistry/Maths/ Physics/Biology	
Mathematics	Maths , Further Maths	Physics,
Medicine	Chemistry, Biology , Maths	Physics, contrasting subject e.g. English, History, Geography
Natural Sciences	Three of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths	
Pharmacology	Chemistry + two of Biology, Physics and Mathematics	
Philosophy		Maths, Politics, History, Sociology
Physics	Maths, Physics	Chemistry,
Physiotherapy	Biology	Dance, Sport
Politics	One essay based subject	Politics, Sociology, History
PPE	Maths	One essay based subject
Psychology	<i>Biology or other Science / Maths</i>	Psychology, Sociology
Social Studies		Mathematics, Sociology
Sports Coaching	Sport	Dance
Sports Science	Science/Sporty	Biology, Psychology
Veterinary Science	Chemistry, Biology , Maths	Physics

Subjects in **bold** are those which are absolutely essential, those in *italics* are required by the majority of courses, although there are some courses which do not require these. Check individual university entry requirements.

APPLIED SCIENCE - BTEC L3 EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

With an estimated 5.8 million people employed in the Applied Science industry across the UK (that's 20% of the workforce), there's plenty of opportunity for a career in this sector. Learning and applying scientific thinking creates critical thinkers and will drive the next generation of innovation and growth. Principles and concepts combined with skills and real-life applications across a range of scientific disciplines – that's what BTECs in Applied Science are all about. You'll be assessed through practical, task-based and written assessments, which means it's about so much more than just remembering facts and formulae: with a BTEC you're drawing on your knowledge and understanding to apply what you know in realistic situation

AREAS OF STUDY

In the first year of study students will complete 2 mandatory units which cover a variety of topics across all three sciences. Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Applied Science can be gained at the end of the year pending successful completion. In the second year students will go on to complete a further 2 optional units, successful completion of which will result in achievement of Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Science.

Year 1 – Applied Science Mandatory Units

Unit 1 - Principles and Application of Science - externally assessed written exam

Unit 2 - Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques - internally assessed assignments

Unit 3 - Science Investigation - externally assessed practical task

Unit 8 - Optional unit - assessed by assignments

ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed in the form of assignments which are set and marked internally, a practical task set and marked by Pearson and a written exam set and marked by Pearson. The assignments form 42% of the overall grade and externally marked components form 58%. In the assignments, students will be expected to:

- write up the findings of their own research
- use case studies to explore complex or unfamiliar situations
- carry out projects for which they have choice over the direction and outcomes
- demonstrate practical and technical skills using appropriate equipment, procedures and techniques.

Externally assessed components comprise

- examination – all learners take the same written assessment at the same time
- set task – learners take the assessment during a defined window and demonstrate understanding through completion of a vocational task.

In order to achieve the Extended Certificate you must complete both years, however a certificate can be gained after one year in certain circumstances. Resit opportunities are available.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Normal Sixth Form entry requirements plus minimum grade 5 in two Sciences.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: Pearson Edexcel 601/7436/5

Next Steps

BTEC Applied Science gives students a good grounding to go straight into laboratory based employment such as lab technicians, or to advance into further study, and is particularly suitable for progression onto vocational, science based degree programmes such as Nursing or Applied Science. Equally the BTEC Applied Science is suitable for progression onto a range of higher education programmes when combined with other A levels or equivalent.

ART & DESIGN - A LEVEL

Studying A Level Art enables you to develop your personal style and identity as an artist. The course aims to further your knowledge, skills and understanding of the world of Art, Craft and Design and emphasises the necessity of self-reliance and independent work. The first year of the course concentrates on building skills and working in different media. Students explore printmaking, photography, drawing and painting with the opportunity to venture into 3D sculpture work. During the second year, students produce their personal project that builds on the skills they have developed in year 1. Students have the opportunity to produce an in depth investigation into their chosen theme. This becomes the basis for their Personal study where students endeavour to explore the work of artists and designers and compare it to their own work. Students are guided in visual literacy and an understanding of concepts in Art and Design.

AREAS OF STUDY

Students study Art, Craft and Design which gives them flexibility to work with 2 different disciplines. Fine Art, Photography, Graphic Communication, Art Textiles and Three Dimensional Design are the disciplines that the students can choose from.

ASSESSMENT

During the first year, you will complete 2 units of work. Both units of work are thematic enquiries. The full A Level requires you to produce an investigative piece of work of your own choosing as well as a 3000 word essay which links into your own practice as an artist. There is also another Externally Set Assignment (with a 12 hour exam). The assessment of A Level occurs at the end of the summer term and is in the form of an exhibition.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Normal Sixth Form entry requirements plus GCSE Art grade 6 or above. Entry requirements are occasionally negotiable.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: Pearson Edexcel (9AD0)

OPPORTUNITIES

Gallery visits, specialist workshops, a trip abroad to visit galleries.

NEXT STEPS

A Level Art can be the foundation stone upon which a huge variety of Degree and Higher Education courses are built. For instance; Fine Art, Ceramics and Glass, Sculpture, Metalwork, Silversmithing, Jewellery, 3D Design, Photography, Film and TV, Computer Animation etc. The usual pathway is A Level Art, BTEC Foundation Course in Art and Design then a degree course. (One may alternatively opt to do a foundation degree). Art Schools that students have successfully applied to include Central St Martin's, Falmouth Art School, Bournemouth Art School, Camberwell School of Art and Oxford Brookes University.

A Level Art is a valuable qualification to gain whatever other courses you are taking as it demonstrates to universities/employers that you have the capacity for creative thought and an enquiring mind. Possible careers include artist, architect, community worker, fashion designer, graphic designer, illustrator, textile manufacturer, advertising executive, multimedia worker and museum curator.

BIOLOGY - A LEVEL

Referred to as the 'science of life', the Biology A Level course is designed for those who are passionate about Biology and have an interest in exploring the biological world around them. Biology is an exciting, practical science that explores all living things and allows you to gain an in-depth understanding of all living organisms on our planet, including how they function as well as how they rely on one another to survive. You start understanding and respecting the diversity of life forms across this little world of ours – called Earth.

The study of Biology also helps students to build up skills in research, problem solving, organisation and analytical skills. Given the group work that occurs throughout the course, students also develop good teamwork and communication skills.

AREAS OF STUDY

- Biological molecules, cells, exchange, mass transport
- Variation, evolution, inheritance
- Photosynthesis, respiration, energy transfers
- Nervous coordination, muscle contractions, homeostasis
- Genetics and genetic technologies

Practical skills are assessed throughout the course. There are 12 required practicals which cover a variety of apparatus and techniques.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is by 3 exams at the end of Year 13, and ongoing assessment of practical skills for the additional practical endorsement. All components contain synoptic assessment of the whole course.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Normal Sixth Form entry requirements plus minimum two grade 6s in GCSE Science subjects; or a minimum grade 6 in GCSE Biology.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: AQA (7402)

NEXT STEPS

A Level Biology is usually studied with other science-based subjects and can lead to the following degree course: Biomedical Sciences, Biochemistry, Dentistry, Dietetics, Earth Sciences, Environmental Science, Forensic Science, Geology, Medical Science, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, and Veterinary Science. It is a particularly good choice for people who want to pursue a career in health and clinical professions. The course is also a good basis for sales or marketing careers in scientific industries e.g. pharmaceuticals and healthcare PR.

The Biology course can be taken as a stand-alone subject or to complement Chemistry, Physics, BTEC Applied Science or Psychology.

BUSINESS STUDIES - A LEVEL

The course allows students to develop an understanding of up-to-date and contemporary business concepts with a particular focus on business decision making. Students will learn to use a variety of quantitative decision making techniques that will not only help them when studying the course but also for entering the world of work. Students will study different approaches to marketing, human resource management, operations and finance as well as an in-depth look at strategic decision making and corporate change management.

AREAS OF STUDY

You will study four themes of work.

Year 1 – Decision making to improve performance.

Students will study a brief introduction to business that looks into the nature of decision making, key business stakeholders and the importance of legal ownership. Then study decision making in the four functional areas in more depth: marketing, finance, human resources and operations.

Year 2 – Business strategy and decision making

Students build on their knowledge from year 1 by looking at how all of the functional areas come together, allowing for synoptic decision making. Then students will study the different strategies for business success with focus on strategic position, direction and the management of any change.

ASSESSMENT

Students are assessed by three externally set written examinations.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Prior study of Business is not essential. Normal Sixth Form entry requirements plus at least a 5 in English or a similar subject involving essay writing (this does not have to be Business GCSE) and at least a 5 in Maths.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: AQA (7132)

OPPORTUNITIES

Students are expected to get involved with a number of business projects that the school runs allowing them to put theory into practice.

Next Steps

An A Level in Business allows students to have access to a wide range of possible careers and higher education opportunities. Students will acquire a variety of transferable skills throughout the course that will benefit them in the world of work, whatever they choose to do. Students will develop analytical, evaluative and quantitative reasoning skills that are in great demand in industry and are seen by universities and colleges as being of great value. Possible careers include accountant, banker, stockbroker, actuary, economist management consultant, human resource management, marketing and insurance.

BUSINESS STUDIES - BTEC LEVEL 3

BTEC BUSINESS CAN BE STUDIED AS ONE OF TWO QUALIFICATIONS:

EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS is equivalent in size to one A Level where you will complete four units. BTEC business is ideal for those that excel at research tasks and prefer an ongoing assessment style (coursework) as opposed to A Level Business that is assessed entirely through external examination. To study this select 'Business 1'.

- **Exploring business:** This is a coursework assessed unit which looks at two organisations, one national and one local and how their business environment is different. Students will investigate the role of legal ownership, stakeholders and the external business environment and how they influence the two businesses' success.
- **Developing a marketing campaign:** This unit is an externally assessed controlled assessment that will be completed in exam conditions after a series of lessons preparing for the investigation. Students will spend the year exploring and understanding the various components of a successful marketing campaign.
- **Personal and business finance:** This is an externally assessed exam unit that examines students' understanding of both personal and business finance.
- **Recruitment and selection process:** This is a coursework assessed unit where students will investigate the recruitment and selection process in a large business.

DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS is equivalent in size to two A Levels where you will complete eight units. To study this select 'Business 1' AND 'Business 2'

- **Managing an event:** This is a coursework assessed unit where students plan and carry out a business event. Students must carefully plan the event's marketing, finance and the logistics involved.
- **Investigating customer service:** This is a coursework assessed unit that investigates different customer service techniques. Students will investigate a business as well as demonstrating the ability to provide a high level of customer service.
- **International business:** This is a coursework assessed unit that requires students to investigate a range of firms that operate globally. Students will learn how and why they operate across a number of different countries and some of the complexities involved.
- **Principles of management:** This is an externally assessed controlled assessment unit where students will have to advise on a number of different business decisions. Students will spend the year exploring and understanding different techniques to business management and leadership.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Normal Sixth Form entry requirements apply.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: Pearson Edexcel - Extended Certificate - 601/7159/5
Diploma - 601/7157/1

Next Steps

The course allows students to gain confidence through developing independent learning skills. Students learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course, for example, collecting, analysing and interpreting data, communication and identifying and developing the links between different parts of the subject.

A BTEC in Business combines well with almost all other BTEC and A Level subjects and a range of university courses. BTEC Business students develop the skills that employers are looking for, so you may consider a very wide range of employment opportunities which can also include further training. BTEC Business can lead to university degree courses and careers similar to those for A Level Business.

CHEMISTRY- A LEVEL

"The chemists are a strange class of mortals, impelled by an almost insane impulse to seek their pleasures amid smoke and vapor, soot and flame, poisons and poverty." - Becher, a chemist from the 17th Century.

Chemistry is a highly respected and valuable subject to study at A Level, allowing further study of chemical concepts at greater depth. In Chemistry, the course provides a flexible approach where the specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of chemistry. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they're assessed both through written papers and, with the Practical Endorsement.

AREAS OF STUDY

Year 12

- Foundations in Chemistry - encompassing, broadening and deepening skills from GCSE Science, and ensuring learners develop important quantitative techniques involved in measuring masses, gas and solution volumes, including use of volumetric apparatus.
- Periodic Table and Energy - inorganic and physical chemistry, the applications of energy use to everyday life and industrial processes, and current environmental concerns associated with sustainability
- Core Organic Chemistry - carbon based chemistry and its important applications to everyday life, and important practical skills necessary for any further scientific study use of Quickfit apparatus for distillation, heating under reflux and purification of organic liquids

Year 13

- Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements - the study of energy, reaction rates and equilibria, and the periodic table. This module draws heavily on prior modules and allows development of quantitative techniques involved in determination of pH and rate
- Further Organic Chemistry and Analysis - introducing several new functional groups and emphasises the importance of organic synthesis. This module also adds NMR spectroscopy to the instrumentation techniques used in organic and forensic analysis.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is by 3 exams at the end of year 13, and ongoing assessment of practical skills for the additional practical endorsement. All components contain synoptic assessment of the whole course.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Normal Sixth Form entry requirements plus minimum two grade 6s in GCSE Science subjects; or a minimum grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry. A grade 6 in Mathematics is advised.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: OCR (H432)

NEXT STEPS

Combined with other Sciences at A Level, Chemistry can lead to further study at university such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Sports Science, Engineering and Environmental Science. Even if you don't choose to take any science further, studying Chemistry A Level shows employers and further education providers that you have problem solving skills and are able to understand difficult concepts. Chemistry degrees are well known for having strong job prospects; there's a growing need for those who have not only advanced science know-how, but also have creative capabilities. Particular job areas include in analytical chemistry, engineering, healthcare research, forensic science and pharmacology, as well as outside science in accounting, consultancy, journalism and teaching.

DANCE - BTEC L3 EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

BTEC Extended Certificate is designed for students who have a passion for dance and will provide students with a wide variety of performance and appreciation skills that can be taken into higher education, it is also an excellent progression from the BTEC TECH award.

This course is the equivalent of 1 A level so can be combined with other complementary subjects within Sixth Form study. It allows you to develop your style as an individual performer and develop your skills ready for vocational courses or degree level study.

The technique classes will focus on developing posture, alignment, flexibility and control. This course also offers the opportunity to gain an additional level 3 qualification by completing the Rambert Contemporary Grades, which PRS is the first organisation in the country to complete. The additional opportunities that are available within this course allows you to fully immerse yourself in the performing arts and allows you to experience and embody the passion of the theatre through additional performances and the department's passion and professional experience.

AREAS OF STUDY

Unit 1: Investigating practitioners' work (externally set and assessed).

We investigate the work of performing arts practitioners and develop critical analysis skills and contextual understanding of how practitioners communicate themes in their work. We look at: Matthew Bourne, Bob Fosse, Akram Khan, Martha Graham and Christopher Bruce

Unit 2: Developing skills and techniques for live performance (internally assessed)

Exploring technical performance skills with a focus on developing skills and techniques in at least two different performance styles.

Unit 3: Group performance workshop (Externally set and assessed) work collaboratively to create a performance in response to a given stimulus.

Jazz Dance techniques: practical development, application and performance of Jazz Dance
OR

Contemporary Dance techniques: technique classes and performances based on professional works.

ASSESSMENT

This course has a practical focus with 2 of the 3 units being coursework based, the Unit 1 written exam is externally set and marked

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Normal Sixth Form entry requirements plus some dance experience, either GCSE, BTEC or outside dance lessons. (Entry requirements are occasionally negotiable).

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: Pearson Edexcel **(601/7233/2)**

OPPORTUNITIES

Theatre visits, specialist workshops and performance opportunities and working with the Royal Academy of Dance.

NEXT STEPS

This course can lead into degree courses in dance, performing arts and arts administration. This qualification is also a good grounding for dance teaching qualifications with the ISTD or RAD. This could also lead to full time vocational training at places such as: Urdang Academy, London Studio Centre, Millennium Performing Arts, Doreen Bird, LIPA and Stella Mann.

As well as being a dancer, particular job roles include community worker, drama therapist, director, presenter, teacher and lecturer, and stage manager.

DRAMA - BTEC L3 EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

This course immerses you in the performing arts and allows you to experience and embody the passion of the theatre through additional performances and the department's passion and professional experience.

BTEC Extended Certificate is designed to provide students with a wide variety of performance and appreciation skills that can be taken into higher education and is an excellent progression from the BTEC TECH award. This course is the equivalent of 1 A level so can be combined with other complementary subjects within Sixth Form study. It allows you to develop your style as an individual performer and develop your skills ready for vocational courses or degree level study.

The technique workshops will focus on developing characterisation, stage presence and vocal techniques.

AREAS OF STUDY

Unit 1: Investigating practitioners' work (externally set and assessed).

We investigate the work of performing arts practitioners and develop critical analysis skills and contextual understanding of how practitioners communicate themes in their work. We look at: Stanislavski, Brecht, Berkoff, Boal and Frantic Assembly

Unit 2: Developing skills and techniques for live performance (internally assessed)

Exploring technical performance skills with a focus on developing skills and techniques in at least two different performance styles.

Unit 3: Group performance workshop (Externally set and assessed) work collaboratively to create a performance in response to a given stimulus.

Improvisation: Practical exploration of improvisation techniques based on a range of stimuli.

ASSESSMENT

This course has a practical focus with 2 of the 3 units being coursework based, the unit 1 written exam is externally set and marked

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Normal Sixth Form entry requirements plus some drama experience, either GCSE, BTEC or outside drama lessons. (Entry requirements are occasionally negotiable).

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: Pearson Edexcel (601/7233/2)

OPPORTUNITIES

Theatre visits, specialist workshops and performance opportunities.

NEXT STEPS

Dance and Drama are excellent complementary subjects to study alongside each other, if both subjects are chosen then additional units are studied in one of the subjects to take the qualification to 2 A-level equivalents and therefore a National Diploma in Performing Arts is studied.

This course can lead into Degree courses in Drama, performing arts and arts administration. This qualification is also a good grounding for Drama teaching qualifications with LAMDA.

This could also lead to full time vocational training at places such as: LAMDA, RADA, Guildford School of Acting. As well as acting, particular job roles include community worker, dancer, drama therapist, director, presenter, teacher and lecturer, and stage manager.

ECONOMICS - A LEVEL

The course allows students to develop an understanding of relevant economic concepts and theories. Students will learn how to apply economic concepts and theories in a range of contemporary contexts. Students will be required to analyse, explain and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy and the role of citizens, businesses and governments within it. This course provides an excellent grounding to study Economics or a finance related degree at university. Economics graduates are some of the country's top earners.

AREAS OF STUDY

You will study four themes of work.

- **Theme 1 – Introduction to markets and market failure** - Students will investigate how markets work, how consumers and firms behave in certain markets and what causes markets to fail.
- **Theme 2 – The UK economy - performance and policies** - Students will investigate the economy as a whole, on a macro level. This will include methods of influencing the behaviour of people and firms on a national level.
- **Theme 3- Business behaviour and the labour market** - This theme requires students to look into more detail at how firms behave in different market contexts and how the labour market works.
- **Theme 4 – International economics** - This theme explores international economics, the role of the financial sector, emerging economies and global poverty and inequality.

ASSESSMENT

Students are assessed by three externally set examinations.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Prior study of Business is not essential. Normal Sixth Form entry requirements apply plus at least a grade 6 in English or a similar subject involving essay writing and at least a grade 6 in Maths.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: Pearson Edexcel (9EC0)

OPPORTUNITIES

The school is developing close links with businesses in the area, which allows guest speakers to work with the students in school.

NEXT STEPS

An A Level in Economics allows students to have access to a wide range of possible careers and higher education opportunities. Students will acquire a variety of transferable skills throughout the course, including analysing and evaluating business and economic information from different sources, developing written communication skills and learning how to solve problems. Such skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers, universities and colleges as being of great value. Possible careers include accountant, economist, risk analyst, investment banker, statistician, actuary, civil servant, quantity surveyor and in government.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE - A LEVEL

In A Level English Language you will become a master of communication. Understanding why people say what they say, when they say it. Mastering language and how it works unravels a fascinating understanding of how the human mind works and how humanity communicates its fundamental wants and needs.

This is a very popular option, which can serve as a route to studying English, Linguistics, Advertising, Marketing or Media at University. Additionally, and more importantly, the course provides the opportunity for students to develop their understanding of the impact that language has on society and will learn to look beyond the surface level of texts, whether they be written or spoken or both. Students will also have the opportunity to study how the English language works in action, and will learn about the history of language and how as children we develop speech ourselves. Students will learn how to become critical, analytical, evaluative and how to form and express their ideas articulately and convincingly.

AREAS OF STUDY

Year 12

- Introduction: Text producers and receivers; mode and genre; Language use and users; The linguistic frameworks; Introduction to analysing texts
- Textual variations and representations
- Language Diversity; Language of gender, occupation, class, power, region and the individual
- Original Writing Coursework

Year 13

- Child Language Acquisition
- Language Change - from old English, the printing press, standardisation to the use of emojis and pictures replacing the written word
- Language Investigation Coursework
- Revision and Exam Practise

ASSESSMENT:

The A Level Course consists of 2 Papers and 2 NEAs (coursework):

Paper 1: teaches candidates to analyse spoken and written texts. Students will be expected to compare texts. They will also be expected to explore and analyse child language development.

Paper 2: teaches candidates to develop ideas on language diversity and change. They will also be expected to write their own opinion article making linguistic ideas accessible to non-specialists.

NEA (coursework): Pupils will have the opportunity to choose and complete their own language investigation on an area of language and linguistics which fascinates them. They will also study different types of writing and create their own original piece following a style model of their choice.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Students should have a passion for English and a commitment to the subject. Normal Sixth Form entry requirements plus a minimum grade 5 at GCSE English.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: AQA: 7702

NEXT STEPS:

An A Level in English Language provides opportunities and careers in: marketing, advertising, journalism, media, broadcasting, recruitment, education, teaching, teaching English as a foreign language, translating and law. The skills taught and mastered within this course are transferable to most careers - many jobs will require mastery of communication.

ENGLISH LITERATURE - A LEVEL

English Literature is fundamentally about understanding life, art and the world around us through an examination of how people write and create, why they are motivated to write and how audiences read and react. Importantly at A Level, Literature is not simply an extension of GCSE study, the course looks far beyond the GCSE view of texts. This is not just more of the same.

As an A Level Literature student you are invited to become a critical reader with your own voice and your own opinions. Through the lens of tragedy or political and social protest writing we interrogate texts and the societies that produce them. Students need to be committed to doing independent reading and research; the more you put in the more you get out of this course of study.

AREAS OF STUDY

Aspects of Tragedy

- Shakespeare: Othello
- Shakespeare: Richard II
- F.Scott Fitzgerald: The Great Gatsby

Political and Social Protest Writing

- Atwood: The Handmaid's Tale
- Blake: Songs of Innocence and Experience
- Hosseini: The Kite Runner

Coursework

- Poetry study- studying a collection of poetry through a critical lens. Potential to complete a piece of creative writing during this option.
- Prose study- an independent study on a self-selected prose text using a lens of Feminist or Marxist theory.

ASSESSMENT:

- 80% of the English Literature course is tested through two terminal examinations- one open book and one closed book.
- 20% independent coursework folder. Two essays completed in class time.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Students should have a passion for English and a commitment to the subject. Normal Sixth Form entry requirements plus a minimum grade 5 at GCSE English.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: AQA Specification Lit B 1 (7717)

NEXT STEPS

An A Level in English Literature followed by a degree in the subject can lead to many possible careers. English graduates have strong prospects and there are a lot of applicable and relevant jobs available. Particular job roles include editor, publisher, teacher (in the UK or abroad), journalist, author, librarian, marketer, HR manager and PR executive.

FASHION & TEXTILES - A LEVEL

Fashion and Textiles is a creative and innovative course, aimed at students who have shown a strong interest in the world of Fashion and Textile Design at GCSE level and enjoy the challenge of problem solving. Students will have the opportunity to develop their skills in pattern cutting, surface decoration, designing and garment construction. They will continue to advance their portfolio presentation skills to showcase and communicate their ideas.

Alongside the practical element of the course, students will also immerse themselves in the history of fashion, from the 1900's to the modern day. Gaining an understanding of the impacts society had on fashion and the evolution of silhouettes. Students will continue to build upon their GCSE theory knowledge focusing on their specialism of Textiles.

This is a vibrant and exciting 2 year course, resulting in students creating their own NEA (non-examined assessment), manufacturing high quality garments and enhancing their theoretical knowledge.

AREAS OF STUDY:

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industries.

They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning into practice by producing a prototype of their choice.

Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment is made up of 3 components, these are:

- Paper 1 (25%) - Technical Principles.
- Paper 2 (25%) - Designing and Making Principles.
- NEA (Non-examined assessment) (50%) - A substantial design and make project.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Standard Sixth Form entry requirements plus minimum grade 6 in GCSE Design and Technology with Textiles.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: AQA (7562)

NEXT STEPS:

An A Level in Fashion and Textiles is recognised by universities due to its robust academic content as well as its practical nature. Fashion degrees teach transferable skills such as presentation, research and communication, as well as how to be creative with raw materials and how to succeed in a competitive environment. Particular job roles, as well as fashion designer, include retail buyer, manager, merchandiser, textile technologist, fashion journalist and PR manager.

FILM STUDIES - A LEVEL

Film Studies at A Level invites students to take a front row seat in the vibrant world of cinema. Film Studies students are invited to create and interrogate the representation of our world through the medium of film. We watch and analyse a range of films from different genres and countries and explore and evaluate the presentation of social reality and contribution of films to Film itself.

There is a strong theoretical element in Film Studies including narrative theory and the auteur. Complementing this is a strong practical strand of film making that makes this a unique opportunity to be creative at A Level whilst also honing critical thinking skills.

AREAS OF STUDY:

- British Cinema and social reality
- Global Cinema
- American Cinema- both Classical Hollywood of the 1930's and from 2005 onwards.
- Documentary Film
- Silent film
- Experimental film

ASSESSMENT

Practical production (either a short film or screenplay) 30% of final assessment.
Written paper 70% of the final assessment.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Standard Sixth Form entry requirements plus minimum grade 5 in English or another essay based subject.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: WJEC A67OU10 AND 20

NEXT STEPS

A degree in Film Studies could lead to a wide range of careers. There is potential to move into practical work, in which the British Film Industry excels or to follow an academic path after A Level study. Careers might include: production designer, film director, film/video editor, location manager, programme researcher, camera operator, producer, production coordinator; as well as a career in advertising, arts administration, community arts worker, concept artist, event manager, marketing executive, PR officer, talent agent, VFX artist.

GEOGRAPHY - A LEVEL

For those interested in current issues and their surrounding environment this subject focuses on the interrelationships between people and their environments. The course provides the opportunity to study questions, issues and problems which arise from these relationships. This course encourages students to think critically on a range of issues, develop possible solutions to current environmental problems and consider moral, cultural and political dimensions to problem solving and decision making.

Geography is all about the 'big picture' and should be front and centre in the lives of Sixth Form Geographers from COP 26 and the impacts on all our lives to the Spanish volcano Cumbre Vieja.

AREAS OF STUDY

The two elements of this course are Physical Systems and Human Interactions and an enquiry approach to learning.

Physical systems

- Coastal landscapes
- Earth's life support systems
- Geographical skills

Human interactions

- Changing spaces; making places
- Global migration
- Power and borders
- Geographical skills

Geographical debates

This paper students look at three themes from: Players; Attitude and Actions and Futures and uncertainties. They will be based on two content areas from the following list.

- Hazardous Earth
- Disease dilemmas
- Geographical skills

Independent Investigation

Students investigate a topic relating to the course content and produce a three to four thousand word report.

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 - 1 hour 30 minutes long (22% of total A Level)

Paper 2 - 1 hour 30 minutes long (22% of total A Level)

Paper 3 - 2 hours 30 minutes long (36% of total A Level)

Independent Investigation (20% of total A Level)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Geography is not compulsory. Normal Sixth Form entry requirements plus a minimum grade 5 in English or another essay based subject such as Citizenship or History is required.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: OCR (H481)

OPPORTUNITIES:

The course requires students to undertake a four day residential field trip to Somerset Local field trips.

NEXT STEPS

A level Geography can lead to a degree in Human or Physical Geography, Environmental Science or Disaster Management. This opens the door to a vast range of careers such as cartographer, surveyor, planner and developer, teacher, town planner, international aid worker, landscape architect and market researcher.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE - BTEC QCF LEVEL 3 EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

The BTEC in Health and Social Care would interest learners who are passionate and motivated to learn about this increasingly significant and relevant sector of employment. This could include working with children or older adults in a variety of different roles.

This BTEC National qualification provides a broad introduction to the sector that gives learners transferable knowledge and skills, through applied learning. The Extended Certificate is equivalent to one A Level.

AREAS OF STUDY

Students will complete 4 units over two years. Three of the units are mandatory and one is optional:

- Unit 1 - Human Lifespan and its developing needs (assessed externally)
- Unit 2 - Working in Health and Social Care (assessed externally)
- Unit 5 - Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs (assessed internally)
- Unit 10 - Sociological Perspectives (assessed internally)

ASSESSMENT

Units 1 and 2 will be externally assessed through exams which are sat in January (Unit 1) and June (Unit 2) of year 12.

The mandatory synoptic unit (Unit 5) requires students to apply learning from across the qualification to the completion of a defined vocational task. For Unit 5, students will complete reports relating to the care and support provided for individuals which draw together how underpinning values and principles are applied through working practices, including multi-disciplinary working. Learners complete the task using knowledge and understanding from their studies of the sector and apply both transferable and specialist knowledge and skills. Students will be encouraged to draw on their broader learning so they will be prepared for the assessment in Year 13.

The final internally assessed unit will be the optional Unit 10: Sociological Perspectives. Students will be required to complete independent research and to report what they have observed in specific scenarios.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Normal Sixth Form entry requirements apply. Students will be required to meet deadlines as there are strict rules about meeting set deadlines in BTEC and should be prepared to research independently.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: Pearson Edexcel (B3XHEF)

NEXT STEPS

The qualification prepares learners for a range of higher education courses, apprenticeship opportunities or job roles related to the Health and Social Care sector. It is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels. Possible careers include social worker, mental health worker, counsellor, therapist, community development worker, special education needs coordinator, health service manager and youth worker.

HISTORY - A LEVEL

History is a fascinating subject to study at A Level and offers students a highly valued and respected qualification which is versatile in terms of the doors it can open at university. The study of History at A Level develops the ability of students to gain both a breadth and depth of historical knowledge, be able to explain and debate using supporting evidence and undertake independent research.

You will study key events and historical themes in British, Russian and American History through a mixture of discussion and source based class work. A keen interest in History is essential. Moreover, wide background reading is necessary in order to achieve competence in this course. For success in A Level History, good essay writing skills are also required.

AREAS OF STUDY

British History - consists of the study of Monarchical and Republican rule in Britain in the seventeenth century. You will learn about the fall of Charles I and the English Civil War; Republican rule under Cromwell and the restoration of the Monarchy.

Russian History - deals with the demise of the Tsarist State and the creation of the Soviet State from 1894 to 1924. You will learn about revolutionary activity in Russia in the years 1894-1917; the response of successive governments to opposition to their rule; and the consolidation of the revolution of October 1917 under Lenin and the Bolsheviks - events that affected not just Russia but the entire world.

American History - explores civil rights and race relations in the USA between 1850 and 2009. You will learn about the changing geography of the civil rights issue; the changing portrayal of civil rights issues in fiction and film; and various depth studies concerning the move towards greater equality including the civil rights movement under Martin Luther King and Barack Obama's successful 2008 presidential election campaign.

Coursework - the analysis and evaluation of interpretations of British foreign and imperial policy between 1880 and 1990. You will learn about the scramble for Africa, the First World War, the Second World War, Britain and the Cold War and Decolonisation and the end of the Empire. This is an internally assessed coursework unit.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be through a combination of coursework and written examinations.

- **Paper One: Breadth Study with Interpretations 30%** (Britain, 1625-1701: Conflict, Revolution and Settlement)
- **Paper Two: Depth Study 20%** (Russia in Revolution, 1894-1924)
- **Paper Three: Themes in Breadth with Aspects in Depth 30%** (Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA, 1850-2009)
- **Coursework 20%** (British Imperial and Foreign Policy, c.1880-1990)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Normal Sixth Form entry requirements apply. Prior study of GCSE History is not essential. Minimum grade 5 in GCSE History or a similar essay based subject.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: Pearson Edexcel 9H10

Route C: Revolutions in early modern and modern Europe

NEXT STEPS

The course lays a solid foundation for further historical study. In addition it is one of the most flexible of qualifications, History provides an excellent pathway to degrees such as Law, English and Philosophy and beyond that to a range of interesting careers. Graduates go on to careers in teaching, government, financial services, arts and media, marketing and consultancy, tourism, retail, manufacturing and engineering, law, libraries, archives and museums, voluntary and social services, IT and communications, medicine, the police and armed forces, as well as further academic study.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - BTEC National LEVEL 3 EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

EXTENDED CERTIFICATE in ICT is equivalent in size to one A Level where you will complete four units. BTEC ICT is ideal for those that excel at research tasks and prefer an ongoing assessment style (coursework). To study this select 'BTEC ICT'.

This qualification is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information, alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT.

Equivalent in size to one A Level. 4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external. Mandatory content (83%). External assessment (58%).

In BTEC ICT you will study the following units:

- **Unit 1: Information Technology Systems - Externally assessed examination.** Information technology (IT) systems have a significant role in the world around us and play a part in almost everything we do. Having a sound understanding of how to effectively select and use appropriate IT systems will benefit you personally and professionally.
- **Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information. Externally assessed Controlled Task.** You will examine the structure of data and its origins, and how an efficient data design follows through to an effective and useful database. You will examine a given scenario and develop an effective design solution to produce a database system.
- **Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business** You will explore different social media websites, the ways in which they can be used and the potential pitfalls when using them for business purposes. You will develop a plan to use social media strategies for business purposes to achieve specific aims and objectives.
- **Unit 5: Data Modelling** In this unit, you will investigate the fundamentals of the decision-making process. You will find out how using data modelling provides the computational ability to compare consequences, and determine a preferred course of action. You will develop the skills and techniques necessary to create complex spreadsheets in order to produce accurate information that informs decision making.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Normal Sixth Form entry requirements apply.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: Pearson Edexcel (601/7575/8)

Next Steps

The course allows students to gain confidence through developing independent learning skills. Students learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course, for example, collecting, analysing and interpreting data, communication and identifying and developing the links between different parts of the subject.

A BTEC in ICT combines well with almost all other A Level and BTEC subjects and a range of university courses. BTEC ICT students develop the skills that employers are looking for, so you may consider a very wide range of employment opportunities which can also include further training. BTEC ICT can lead to university degree courses and a very wide range of careers.

MATHEMATICS - A LEVEL

For those who would like to take on the challenge of gaining a much deeper understanding of the meaning of Mathematics. Mathematics A Level presents excellent training for problem solving and other related intellectual skills which can be transferred to other subjects e.g. Science, Business Studies, and Technology.

It is a highly regarded qualification for entry to both university and other careers e.g. Science, Engineering, Computing, Architecture, Economics, Accountancy and Teaching. Pure Maths and Applied Maths are studied in parallel for 2 years for Maths A Level. The AS Maths Qualification is optional at the end of Year 12.

AREAS OF STUDY

Pure Maths covers Algebra, Coordinate Geometry, Differentiation and Integration. Focus in Applied Maths is on Statistics and Mechanics. There is a great emphasis on Problem Solving in both areas.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Normal Sixth form entry requirements plus minimum GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: Pearson Edexcel (9MA0)

OPPORTUNITIES

Visits to hear lectures on how mathematics is used in industry give an insight into how mathematical techniques are used in the outside world.

NEXT STEPS

Mathematics A Level is excellent groundwork for any degree/further education but is specifically required for degrees including; Mathematics, Engineering, Economics, Physics and Statistics. Possible careers are varied and include teaching, technical careers, financial services, management, consulting and computing.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS - A LEVEL

Further Mathematics is an excellent opportunity for students who enjoy mathematics to study a broader range of topics. It is highly recommended for students wishing to study Mathematics or related subjects at degree level.

AREAS OF STUDY

Complex numbers, Matrices, Linear transformations, Proof and Vectors. There is also an option Module in further mathematics which gives the candidates the choice between further pure, further mechanics and further statistics.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Normal Sixth form entry requirements plus minimum GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics. Must be studied in addition to A Level Mathematics as a 4th subject

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: Pearson Edexcel (9FM0)

PHYSICS - A LEVEL

"This job is a great scientific adventure. But it's also a great human adventure. Mankind has made giant steps forward. However, **what we know is really very, very little compared to what we still have to know.**" - Higgs Boson physicist Fabiola Gianotti.

The last part of this quote is the reason to study Physics. Here in the UK we are at the forefront of science with the Diamond particle accelerator in Hartwell, Oxford, and the Culham Centre for fusion energy in Abingdon to name just 2 of the exciting scientific advancements in our local area. Studying Physics will give you the skills to link the experimental nature of science to the knowledge and understanding you will gain learning about the fundamentals of physics. This will give you an appreciation of the possibilities physics has for society now and in the future.

AREAS OF STUDY

- Particles, electricity, mechanics, materials
- Quantum phenomena and waves, momentum, circular
- Simple harmonic motion, gravitational and electric fields
- Magnetic fields, nuclear and an optional topic

Practical skills are assessed throughout the course. There are 12 required practicals which cover a variety of apparatus and techniques.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is by 3 exams at the end of year 13, and ongoing assessment of practical skills for the additional practical endorsement. All components contain synoptic assessment of the whole course.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Normal Sixth Form entry requirements plus minimum two grade 6s in GCSE Science subjects; or a minimum grade 6 in GCSE Physics. A grade 6 in Mathematics is advised.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: AQA (7408)

NEXT STEPS

Students who complete this A Level can go on to study a diverse range of courses at top tier Universities. Degree courses which generally require A Level Physics include: Biomedical Sciences, Biochemistry, Computing, Electronics, Economics, Engineering, Environmental Science, Forensic Science, Geology, Medical Science, Medicine, Meteorology, Optometry, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, and Veterinary Science.

POLITICS - A LEVEL

Politics is a challenging and enjoyable A Level for students who are engaged with the world around them. For inquiring minds the course offers a stimulating opportunity to discover and acquire insights into how modern democracy works in an ever changing and diverse world.

The course is a highly respected academic A Level, with skills and knowledge useful for those intending to study History, Law, Economics, Business/Management and the Social Sciences. The range of topics to be covered is broad, with UK / US democracies under the microscope alongside political ideologies.

AREAS OF STUDY

Unit 1 - The politics of the UK. This covers all aspects from voting and pressure groups to the actual workings of the government/judiciary and the constitution.

Unit 2 - The politics of the USA. This covers the same ground as Unit 1: participation, pressure groups, voting systems to the actual workings of the very different type of government that the USA has, with an additional section on civil rights. Also included in this is a comparative element between the two very different democracies.

Unit 3 - Political ideologies. It covers liberalism, socialism, conservatism and anarchism.

ASSESSMENT

All three units are assessed through written examinations at the end of Year 13.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Normal Sixth Form entry requirements apply. Minimum grade 5 in GCSE History or a similar essay based subject such as English.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: AQA (7152)

NEXT STEPS

Students of politics may consider courses in: history, English, American studies, economics, international relations, political science, politics and PPE (philosophy, politics & economics). Careers open to politics graduates include the Civil Service, the Diplomatic Service, journalism, media, law, public relations and parliamentary work. Corporate graduate employers appreciate the rigorous academic skills acquired through a degree in politics.

PSYCHOLOGY - A LEVEL

Psychology is the study of human behaviour, and the thoughts and emotions that influence behaviour. It looks at the ways and biological reasons for the way people think, act, react, and interact. Psychology will help students to develop a scientific understanding of human behaviour and help to develop the critical thinking and research methodology skills necessary for many degree level courses.

Psychology can be useful in any job which involves dealing with people. Those intending to work in the caring professions, the police force and other services, as well as those aiming to work in the media, sports psychology, personnel, marketing, sales and market research will find something of relevance and interest in Psychology.

AREAS OF STUDY

Students will complete 3 units over two years:

- Research methods
- Psychological themes through core studies
- Applied psychology

ASSESSMENT

All three units are externally assessed through exams which are sat at the end of year 13.

- **Research methods** - 2 hour examination, worth 30% of the qualification
- **Psychological themes through core studies** - 2 hour examination, worth 35% of the qualification
- **Applied psychology** - 2 hour examination, worth 35% of the qualification

All of the components include elements of synoptic assessment - this means that each paper will also assess students' understanding of the links between different parts of the subject.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

As this is a challenging course, minimum grade 5 in GCSE English Language, Mathematics and Science are required. You do not need to have studied psychology before.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: OCR (H567)

NEXT STEPS

Psychology is an interesting, challenging and exceptionally useful subject which is advantageous to a wide variety of different careers.

The qualification prepares learners for a range of higher education courses, apprenticeship opportunities or job roles related to understanding the behaviour and motivations of people such as health and social work, education, counselling, advertising, marketing, HR, legal and police work. When taken as part of a programme of study including other A levels or BTEC National qualifications, it can lead to higher education courses such as Psychology, Criminology, Forensic Psychology and Sport Psychology.

SOCIOLOGY - A LEVEL

Are you interested in society and how it works? Finding out about how individuals and groups behave, why events happen and the impact this can have on communities and us as individuals? In that case you should be considering a Sociology A level.

This will help you examine the ways in which social structures (e.g. family, class, religion or the economy) social institutions (e.g. media, education, political, language) and social groups (sex, gender, race) affect human attitudes, actions, and opportunities.

The subject also explores the various ways in which both individuals and groups build, maintain, and alter social organisation and order.

Throughout the course students will acquire the essential knowledge and understanding of sociological thought and methods, together with the application of a range of skills.

AREAS OF STUDY:

Students will complete 5 units over two years. Four of the units have mandatory content, with a choice of one optional unit:

- Families and Households
- Education
- Theory and Methods
- Crime and Deviance
- Media (optional) or Beliefs in Society (optional)

ASSESSMENT

All units are externally assessed through exams which are sat at the end of year 13.

Paper 1 - Education with Theory and Methods - 2 hour examination, worth 33.3% of the qualification

Paper 2 - Topics in Sociology - 2 hour examination, worth 33.3% of the qualification

Paper 3 - Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods - 2 hour examination, worth 33.3% of the qualification

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Normal Sixth Form entry requirements plus a minimum of grade 5 in English Language or similar essay based subject is essential. No prior learning of Sociology is required.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODE: AQA (7192)

NEXT STEPS

The course lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Sociology and related subjects in higher education as well as a diverse range of careers in welfare, education, social research and central and local government. This includes psychology, social work, criminology, journalism, marketing, teaching and politics but to name a few.

SPORT - BTEC NATIONAL LEVEL 3

The school is fortunate enough to have excellent indoor sports facilities, this enables all students to access a wide range of high standard sporting activities in and out of curriculum time. This course enables students to learn more about how the body moves and responds to exercise, the effects of training, coaching and leading sports activities and the importance of maintaining fitness. The course expands on many of the ideas and concepts already encountered by those who have studied GCSE Physical Education or BTEC Sport at Level 2.

In addition to the Btec Sport course we are also keen for our students to complete a number of coaching awards run by National Governing Bodies, these are nationally recognised qualifications which will enable students to gain work in the sports coaching industry. Students studying the Sport 2 and 3 courses here at Princes Risborough School will also gain an extra qualification in the 1st4Sport award, this is a general coaching award recognised nationally. More information on this award and the NGB awards is available below.

AREAS OF STUDY:

The course can be studied at three levels

Sport 1 – Extended Certificate (Equivalent to 1 A Level)

- Anatomy & Physiology *
- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing*
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry
- + 1 optional unit

Sport 2 – Diploma (Equivalent to 2 A Levels)

- The 3 core units in the Extended Certificate listed above plus:
- Practical Sports Performance
- Coaching for Performance
- Sports Leadership
- Investigating Business in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry*
- Skill Acquisition
- + 1 optional unit

Sport 3 – Extended Diploma (Equivalent to 3 A Levels)

- The 8 core units from the Diploma above plus
- Research Methods in Sport
- Development and Provision of Sport & Physical Activity*
- + 4 optional units

ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed through written coursework and external exams. There are a number of units within the course which lend themselves to practical teaching.

* *External assessment*

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

For students who opt for Sport 2 or 3 we also include the [1st4Sport Level 3 Certificate in Coaching](#) as well as subsidised NGB coaching awards.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

This is a challenging, but rewarding subject that requires a great degree of theoretical understanding, most of which is applied through coursework, although it must be noted that there is external exam assessment. It is not necessary for students to have studied GCSE Physical Education or BTEC Sport Level 2, Standard Sixth Form entry requirements will apply.

EXAM BOARD & COURSE CODES: Pearson Edexcel

- BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport (601/7218/6)
- BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport (603/0460/1)
- BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma Sport (603/0459/5)

OPPORTUNITIES

When studying the Sport course here at Princes Risborough School we encourage you to become involved in aspects of sports development here at school. Opportunities include Festival planning for our Primary school sports programme, organisational roles for community events such as Kop Hill Climb. We also see a strong link between the Btec Sport and sports coaching, therefore we encourage you to take up opportunities to enhance your qualifications through 1st4Sport Level 1-3 qualifications, NGB coaching courses and First aid for sport.

Sport 1	Sport 2	Sport 3
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport	BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport 1st4Sport L3	BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma Sport 1st4Sport L3
	Optional NGB Coaching Courses	
	FA Playmaker, FA Introduction to Football, EBBA Introduction to Basketball, England Badminton Foundation Award, English Cricket Board Support Coach, England Netball Level 1.	

NEXT STEPS

This course provides a transition for those intending to study related courses in Higher Education and for others who do not wish to go on to further study, it provides a balanced, broad based course, worthwhile in its own right. The course aims to develop the students' understanding of the factors influencing performance, the skills needed to analyse, evaluate and improve performance, and the capacity to think critically about the factors in performance.

Many students will progress onto a Sports related course at University, an apprenticeship within the sports industry, or a full or part time coaching role. Other possible careers include physiologist, fitness centre manager, teacher and lecturer, sports administrator, sports therapist, event manager, and activities manager.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME AND “EVERY STUDENT A LEADER”

Student leadership is a key part of our Sixth Form. Whether as a Deputy Head Student [Year 12] or Head Student [Year 13], involvement in the Senior Student Team ensures our students are able to make a positive difference not only to the Sixth Form but to the whole school. Our “**Every student a leader**” programme makes it clear that students are expected to pursue Sixth Form Leadership activities

Community volunteering: Many of our Sixth Form students will enhance their applications for university or employment by volunteering to help local charities and good causes. Obviously, there is a degree of overlap with Interact but this might take the form of working in a charity shop or volunteering to help with community youth activities.

Debating/Current affairs: Depending upon membership, this group has ranged from an informal discussion circle, talking about current affairs, to a formal debating society, competing with other schools.

Deputy Head Students/Head Students: Deputy Head Students are selected early on in Year 12 and have significant involvement with the Student Council and the House System. Head Students are appointed towards the end of Year 12 and are the most senior students in the school.

Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards: Sixth Form students will be able to build upon the success of their Bronze DoE awards with the facility to complete their Silver and Gold awards.

Interact: The school has its own Interact branch which is part of the Rotary Club family. Interact members organise events to raise money for local, national and international charities as well as finding time to try out team building activities such as gliding, sailing and Dragon Boat racing. Interact members have also volunteered to help out with the Forget Me Not Cafe at the Princes Centre and the Kop Hill Climb.

Sixth Form Book Club: This allows students who are interested in books and literature to discuss the book of the week in a relaxed setting. Many of our members have progressed to the study of literature at university.

Volunteering in lessons and clubs: Our aim is for all Sixth Form students to be positive role models and what better way to do so than to volunteer to support main school lessons and clubs. That way, they can pass on their knowledge and experience to younger students and encourage them to be positive and responsible at the same time.

Young Enterprise: Young Enterprise is a national competition which allows students to start and run their own company. The scheme is a fantastic opportunity for students to enhance their leadership skills, entrepreneurial flair and have the opportunity to work as a team. Like any company, all the decisions on what to sell, where to sell and the prices charged are decided by the students. Young Enterprise gives students the opportunity to develop: confidence, communication skills, organisational skills, problem solving, teamwork and resilience, the skills that employers and universities look for alongside academic achievements.

CURRENT SIXTH FORM COSTS

Sixth Form study does incur certain costs. Many of these are linked to events, trips and visits that directly support subject learning. Where these are a core part of the curriculum we will request a voluntary contribution to cover the costs incurred.

The upfront voluntary contributions for the 2022 entry are as follows:

Safe Drive Stay Alive presentation at the Wycombe Swan Theatre – November	£ 2.00
Elevate Year 12 Study Skills Programme (on site) – various dates	£20.00

All Year 12 students will be provided with an electronic device to facilitate online learning.

Students who have financial difficulty will be able to apply for a 16-19 bursary (please see below). Details will be given in the first week of term.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT, 16-19 BURSARY FUND

What is the 16-19 Bursary Fund

The fund is made available from the government through its funding body for 16-18 year olds - to provide assistance to students whose access to, or completion of, education is inhibited by financial constraints or barriers. Details of the bursary and application process will be shared with all students and their parents/carers upon entry to the Sixth Form.