GEORGE ABBOT

SIXTH FORM

Subject Guide
2022-23

Sixth Form Subject Guide

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Biology

COURSE CODE

AS Level	601/4624/2	7401
A Level	601/42625/4	7402

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 or above in GCSE Biology (Treble Science) or a 6 or above in the Biology exams in GCSE Combined Science.
- 6 or above in GCSE Combined Science or an average of a 6 or above in Treble Science (i.e. an average of 6 or above in Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs).
- 6 or above in GCSE Maths.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

The AS course is divided into four main areas:

3.1 Biological Molecules - monomers, polymers, carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, enzymes, DNA, RNA, ATP and water.

3.2 Cells - eukaryotic, prokaryotic, microscopy, cell cycle, cell division, transport across membranes, cell recognition and immune system.

3.3 Organisms exchange substances with their environment - SA: Volume, gas exchange, digestion and absorption and mass transport.

3.4 Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms - DNA genes and chromosomes, protein synthesis, genetic diversity, taxonomy, species diversity.

The A2 course is divided into four main areas:

3.5 Energy transfers in and between organisms - photosynthesis, respiration, energy and ecosystems and nutrient cycles.

3.6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environment - survival and response, receptors, control of heart.

3.7 Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems - inheritance of characteristics, populations, evolution, speciation, studying populations in ecosystems.

3.8 The control of gene expression - DNA and proteins, gene expression, genome projects, gene technologies.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

- Paper 1 - 1 hr 30 mins 75 marks, 50% of AS mark and covers any section of AS course.
- Paper 2 - 1 hr 30 mins 75 marks, 50% of AS mark and covers any section of AS course.

A Level

- Paper 1 - 2 hours, 35% of A2 mark and covers AS topics 1-4.
- Paper 2 - 2 hours, 35% of A2 mark and covers A2 topics 5-8.
- Paper 3 - 2 hours, 30% of A2 mark and covers all AS topics and A2 topics 1-8.

NEXT STEPS

Degrees in Biological Sciences, Medicine, Veterinary Sciences, Biochemistry, Physiotherapy, Sport and Exercise Science, Physiology, Natural Sciences and many more.

CAREER INFORMATION

Biology is an excellent choice of subject for people who want a career in health and clinical professions, such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, sport science, pharmacy, optometry, nursing, zoology, botany, marine biology or forensic science.

EXTRA COSTS

£400 (approximately) for field course in the summer term of Year 12. Approximately £40 for textbook, revision guide, exam practice workbook, maths skills guide and Biological Sciences Review Subscription.

Business

COURSE CODE

AS Level AQA 7131
A Level AQA 7132

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 in GCSE English and Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.
- 5 in GCSE Business if studied.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

The study of strategic decision making should build on the study of decision making in the functional areas. Students will also be asked to consider:

- Financial performance measures.
- The influences of corporate social responsibility, ethical and environmental issues.
- The difficulties in forecasting future trends.
- The impact on stakeholders of strategic decisions and their response to such decisions.

All topics lend themselves to studying and engaging with the business world. The specification and assessment should encourage students to follow business developments and think critically about contemporary business issues. Most of the assessment material is based on real business situations.

ASSESSMENT

A Level

Assessment is based on knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation. There are three external exams:

- Paper 1: Business 1 (two hour written exam worth 100m and 33% of the course).
- Paper 2: Business 2 (two hour written exam, worth 100m and 33% of the course).Three data response compulsory questions worth approximately 33 marks each and made up of three or four part questions.
- Paper 3: Business 3 (two hour written exam, worth 100m and 33% of the course). One compulsory case study followed by approximately six questions.

NEXT STEPS

You could go on to university to study a Business Management, Economics, Marketing, HR or Finance related degree. Alternatively work as an apprentice in HR, finance or marketing. Some students may be very enterprising and with their acquired business skills will set-up in business.

CAREER INFORMATION

Business can help you in whatever career you decide to follow. Specifically it will help in: Accountancy, Banking, Marketing, Human Resources, Production, Economics, Education, or Law.

EXTRA COSTS

AQA A Level Business textbook: Surridge and Gillespie

Chemistry

COURSE CODE

AS Level Edexcel 8CH01
A Level Edexcel 9CH01

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry (Treble Science) or a 6 or above in the Chemistry exams in GCSE Combined Science AND
- 6-6 or above in GCSE Combined Science or an average of a 6 or above in Treble Science (i.e. an average of 6 or above in Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs) AND
- 6 or above in GCSE Maths.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

This course will try to give you the skills and understanding to make decisions about the way chemistry affects your everyday life by studying a wide range of topics including: Atomic structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding and Structure, Redox, Inorganic Chemistry and the Periodic Table, Formulae, Equations and Amounts of Substance, Organic Chemistry, Modern Analytical Techniques, Energetics, Kinetics, Equilibrium, Acid-base Equilibria, Transition Metals.

In addition, Chemistry allows you to develop a range of generic skills requested by both employers and universities. You will build up a range of practical skills that require creativity and accuracy. As you become more skilled you will take responsibility for selecting appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods, recording your observations and findings accurately and precisely as well as critically analysing and evaluating the methodology, results and impact of your own and others' experimental and investigative activities.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

Two 1 hour and 30 minute papers containing a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing;

- Paper 1: Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry
- Paper 2: Advanced Organic and Physical Chemistry.

A Level

Two 1 hour and 45 minute papers containing a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing;

- Paper 1: Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry.
- Paper 2: Advanced Organic and Physical Chemistry.

One 2 hour and 30 minute paper containing a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing;

- Paper 3: General and Practical Principles in Chemistry.

NEXT STEPS

Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry in Combination, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Pharmacology, Physiology, Biochemistry, Bioscience, Biological Sciences, Food Science, Geology.

CAREER INFORMATION

Chemistry is essential for careers in the chemical industry (R&D production, sales etc.) medicine, veterinary science, chemical engineering, forensic science and pharmacy. It will also be an asset to anyone wanting to pursue a career in environmental science, quality control, analysis.

EXTRA COSTS

You will need to cover the cost of an exam board specific text book and revision guide.

Computer Science

COURSE CODE

AS Level AQA 7516
A Level AQA 7517

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum 6 in GCSE Maths compulsory.
- Minimum 6 in GCSE Computer Science if completed, OR
- Prior experience, knowledge and aptitude for programming if GCSE not completed.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Students study a variety of theory-based units including Fundamentals of Programming, Data Structures, Data Representation and Computer Systems. They will also study Algorithms, Theory of Computation and Databases. Students will develop their practical programming skills and develop their approach to problem solving.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

- 50% = 1 x On-screen exam (1hr 30 mins) (75 marks)
- 50% = 1 x Written exam (1hr 30 mins) (75 marks)

A Level

- 40% = 1 x On-screen exam (2hr 30 mins) (100 marks)
- 40% = 1 x On-screen exam (2hr 30 mins) (100 marks)
- 20% = Non-examined assessment in practical programming (75 marks)

NEXT STEPS

A Level Computer Science students go on to study a variety of subjects at degree level. Universities and employers actively welcome students who have developed key skills such as programming, problem solving and with a sound understanding of the various computing strands. Specific higher education courses include Software Management, Networks and Communications, Multimedia Computer Science, IT Management and Advanced Programming.

CAREER INFORMATION

Studying A Level Computer Science can be the starting point for a career in the ever-expanding and developing IT and Computing industries. Students who study the subject have gone into Teaching, Hardware Engineering, Software and Program Development, Web and Digital Communications, Network Management and IT Support Services.

EXTRA COSTS

Students are encouraged to purchase a course textbook for around £19 and there may be opportunities to attend an enrichment trip, to enhance their subject knowledge.

Dance

COURSE CODE

A Level AQA 7237

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 4 in GCSE Dance.
- Minimum 4 in GCSE English due to written component of the course.
- Students would benefit from additional vocational training.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Core content is delivered through the areas of Performance, Choreography, and Critical Engagement. Students will understand performance skills required for dance, and also develop group choreography linked to a specific practitioner. The learning of one compulsory set work will also take place throughout the course as part of the theory written exam. Topics of study include the following:

- Topic 1: 20th Century History of Modern Dance.
- Topic 2: Rambert Dance Company 1966- 2002.
- Topic 3: Set Work - Rooster by Christopher Bruce.
- Topic 4: History of American Jazz - Origins and Development.
- Topic 5: American Jazz Dance.
- Topic 6: Set Work - Singin' in the Rain by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen.

ASSESSMENT

A Level

- Component 1: Performance and Choreography. 50% (80marks). Assessed through a Solo linked to a specific practitioner, a Performance in a Quartet, and a Group choreography.
- Component 2: Critical Engagement. 50% (100marks). Assessed through a written paper lasting 2hours and 30minutes, based on knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two set works.

NEXT STEPS

Combined with other A Levels, this course provides a positive base for many arts based degree programs. It also provides excellent skills for those considering careers in sport or physical education. Previous A Level Dance students have gone on to higher education programs at Winchester, Surrey, Brighton, and DeMontfort Universities, as well as vocational training at notable establishments including Trinity Laban, London Studio Centre, and Bird College of Performing Arts.

CAREER INFORMATION

Careers in dance can include teaching, choreography, performance, dance movement therapy, journalism, events management or arts/dance administration. Due to a range of practical and theoretical skills gained through this course, students would do well in careers where good communication, presentational and organisational skills are necessary. Students who want a career in the management of others will undoubtedly benefit from having taken this course.

EXTRA COSTS

Students are encouraged to attend the theatre trips and workshops organised throughout the year. Links with the University of Surrey allow students to participate in workshops and performances, as well as providing Higher Education possibilities.

Drama

COURSE CODE
A Level

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
- 4 or above in GCSE Drama.
- Students should be regularly taking part in performances and or Drama clubs both in and out of school. Students should be regularly attending as many live theatre productions as possible.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?
The A Level Curriculum lets you focus on what Drama and Theatre means to you. Within this course students will be performing fun and challenging roles, staging new and exciting plays, experimenting with scenery, props, lighting and sound and learning skills and knowledge of the subject. The Theatre Studies A-level is the ideal choice for anyone who is creative and wants to be challenged.

ASSESSMENT
A Level

We follow the Edexcel 2016 Examination Specification:
- Component 1 (40%): Devise an original performance, perform an extract from the set text and learn about the chosen theatre practitioner. This component will be internally assessed and externally moderated.
- Component 2 (20%): two group performances, both will be key moments from the set text. This component will be externally assessed by a visiting examiner.
- Component 3 (40%): written examination in which you write a live theatre review, analyse a set text and explore how a text could be re-imagined for a contemporary audience The written examination is 2 hours and 30 minutes and is worth 80 marks.

NEXT STEPS
A Level Theatre Studies is a perfect course for any student wishing to go on to train at Drama School, previous students have gone on to be hugely successful at some of the top Drama schools in the country including: The Guildford School of Acting, RADA, Rose Bruford, East 15 and Drama Centre. Many successful Drama students also go on to study Acting, Theatre, Directing, Design or Performance-related Degrees at some of the country's best universities. In addition to those who a single honours degree, a degree in Drama combined with a wide variety of other subjects, or many other non-drama degrees, benefit from the skills and knowledge learned during the Drama A Level and proves especially popular with students wanting to forge a career in journalism, media and law.

CAREER INFORMATION
Careers are possible in all aspects of theatre including: acting, backstage, directing, technical, community theatre, drama therapy, administration as are careers in film, television, journalism, human resources, social professions, education and other areas where good communication, presentational and organisational skills are necessary. An A level in Theatre Studies is ideal for anyone considering a career in education, medicine, law, psychology, any career where interpersonal skills are important.

EXTRA COSTS
Students are required to purchase two play texts in advance of the course, which they will be studying for Components 2 and 3, your Drama teacher will let you know which plays you need to purchase in your inductions session. Within the course, students will be invited to watch a minimum of three professional performances, the details for which you will be notified of at least two months in advance of the trip.

Design Technology: Design Engineering, Product Design

COURSE CODE

A Level OCR H404, H406

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 in GCSE Product Design, Engineering or Control Technology.
- As the new courses have a greater requirement for Maths and Science, we would recommend students gain at least a 6 in these subjects.
- Students can opt for either the Design Engineering or Product Design - it is not possible for them to take both as it is the same overall qualification.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

During the two year course, students will study a range of materials. They will develop a technical understanding of how products function and how they are made to appropriately support the design and manufacture of their own design solutions. Students will learn about wider design principles and the effect of design on users and the world we live in.

Learners will identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes/products. They will develop their subject knowledge, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture. Students will develop a critical mind through enquiry and problem solving, exploration, creation and evaluation of iterative designs. We encourage freedom in approaches towards designing and making so as not to limit the possibilities of project work or the materials and processes being used.

The OCR content requires students to apply mathematical and scientific knowledge, understanding and skills. This content reflects the importance of Design and Technology as a pivotal STEAM subject.

The Design Engineering content of this title is focused towards engineered and electronic products and systems; the analysis of these in respect of function, operation, components and materials, in order to understand their application and uses in engineered products/systems that have commercial viability. The Product Design content of this title is focused towards consumer products and applications; their analysis in respect of materials, components, and marketability to understand their selection and uses in industrial and commercial practices of product development.

ASSESSMENT

A Level

- A non-examined 'Iterative Design Project' is a substantial design, make and evaluate project centred on the iterative processes of explore, create and evaluate. It is worth 50% of the A Level qualification. Students will be required to identify a design opportunity or problem from a context of their own choice, and create a chronological portfolio supported by real–time evidence of their project development. Innovative approaches will be required resulting in a final prototype that can be tested against the user and the market.
- The 'Principles' examination paper is worth 26.7% (80 marks) of the A Level qualification and assesses analysis of existing products, technical knowledge and understanding of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes and techniques and allows students to demonstrate their understanding of design thinking and wider social, moral and environmental issues that impact on the design and manufacturing industries. The paper is 1 hour 30 minutes long.
- The 'Problem Solving' paper is worth 23.3% (70 marks) of the A Level qualification and requires learners to apply their knowledge and understanding through higher level thinking skills, reflecting on the viability of products and possible design solutions in context and being able to

make critical judgements on the most appropriate methods and outcomes. The paper is 1 hour 45 minutes long.

NEXT STEPS

Design & Technology is accepted by the vast majority of universities as an acceptable qualification for entry into many higher education courses. Examples of possible courses include: Architecture, Automotive Design, Industrial Design, 3D Product Design, Engineering, Design & Marketing and many more.

CAREER INFORMATION

Students will gain skills that are useful in a wide range of jobs, in further study of design or engineering and in their personal life. They will develop decision making skills, including the planning and organisation of time and resources when managing a project as well as building and developing on their knowledge and understanding from GCSE, whilst also having the freedom to focus in more depth on areas of design and technology that most interests them. This allows access to a range of future career aspirations in the design and engineering industries, leading to future careers in product design, engineering, architecture, fashion and graphic design; it will develop thrit design and thinking skills that open up a world of possibility, providing the tools to create the future.

EXTRA COSTS

Students will have access to a range of materials provided by the department, however, they will be required to purchase their own sketching/drawing equipment. Contributions will be required for materials and some electronic components used in major projects.

Economics

COURSE CODE

AS Level 7135
A Level 7136

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 in English and Maths.
- 6 in GCSE Business if studied.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

How do rational consumers make their decisions in the market place? Why is profit not viewed as good thing by an economist? What are the best macroeconomic policies for the UK economy in the post 'Brexit' era? Why do footballers earn huge salaries while nurse do not? If you are interested in current affairs and world issues, then economics is the subject for you! Core Micro and Macro Economics includes:

- How markets work, why markets fail and how markets are regulated.
- How the national economy is managed and by who, inequalities in the global economy, trade vs aid, the labour market and the role of the Central Bank.

ASSESSMENT

A Level

- 3 Papers: Micro, Macro and Synoptic papers.
- All worth 33.3% of final grade.
- 80 marks.
- 2 hours in length.

NEXT STEPS

A good way to prepare for the A level economics course is to spend time each day reading the economics section of the BBC News website. This will introduce the language and key issues of economics.

Good films to watch include; 'Freakonomics - The Movie' - this gives a good insight into human behaviour in making economic decisions. A current release is 'The Big Short' which gives an insight into the problems of The Credit Crisis.

CAREER INFORMATION

Many students go to university where they take a wide range of courses including pure economics, economics and management, accounting & finance, business studies, with the many choosing economics with another subject e.g. economics and history or economics with a language. To enter banking or finance, economics BSc would be advantageous. Did you know that economics graduates are among the UK's top earners?

EXTRA COSTS

Textbook AQA Economics by Ray & James Powell.

English Language

COURSE CODE

A Level AQA 7702

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 in GCSE English Language.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Students will develop an understanding of the key concepts and theories around language study, as well as developing grammatical, theoretical and conceptual understanding of language. They will explore how language is used to construct our ideas, our identities and our world. Students will explore how language is employed as a means of symbolic expression to assert power in society, for example in the world of work. Learners will explore ideas in relation to language Diversity and Change considering how each generation adapts the English Language for their own uses. Students will explore variation in terms of language use looking at varieties of and attitudes towards ethnic, regional, social and global varieties of English. Furthermore, they will consider how children acquire and develop language and different modes of communication.

ASSESSMENT

A Level

- Paper 1 – Language, the Individual and Society – 2.5 hour exam – 40% of A level.
- Paper 2 – Language Diversity and Change – 2.5 hour exam – 40% of A level.
- Non-exam assessment – Language in Action coursework folder – 20% of A level.

NEXT STEPS

Each year, several students use this A level as a springboard to a university degree course. Many courses are available such as Linguistics, Journalism, Creative Writing as well as many other combined degree courses.

CAREER INFORMATION

Many students find this A level helpful to prepare them for the world of work, since it develops their language, analytical and creative writing skills. Previous students have gone to work in a wide variety of areas such as Law, Teaching, Journalism, Marketing and the Performing Arts.

EXTRA COSTS

Students will be asked to purchase their own copy of the Cambridge AQA English Language textbook for self-study and revision purposes. This is easily available for around £20.

English Literature

COURSE CODE

A Level AQA 7712

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 in GCSE English Literature.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

The A level course is designed to introduce students to the topic of 'Love Through the Ages', through which students will analyse, connect and compare a variety of texts from the three genres of drama, prose and poetry, ranging from the 19th to the 21st century. Some of our current texts include Shakespeare's 'Othello', 'The Great Gatsby', 'The Feminine Gospels' by Carol Ann Duffy, 'All My Sons' by Arthur Miller and 'Spies' by Michael Frayn.

ASSESSMENT

A Level

- Paper 1 - Shakespeare, Poetry and Prose – 3 hours – 40% of A level.
- Paper 2B – Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the present day – 40% of A level.
- Non-exam assessment – coursework based on theme of Gothic fiction – 20% of A level.

NEXT STEPS

Many students go on to study English Literature at university and some combine English as part of a combined degree course. Whichever subject is taken on, students report that this A level develops their analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as helping them to produce concise, precise and well-presented written arguments. It also enriches their understanding of the wide range of literature available, widening their access to a greater range of books to be read for pleasure throughout life.

CAREER INFORMATION

English Literature students can access a wide variety of careers, having proven their academic qualities in this rigorous and respected A level subject. Some students go into Teaching, others enter the world of Business or Journalism or Law, as well as many other areas.

EXTRA COSTS

Students are advised to buy the AQA English Literature A Oxford textbook and are also expected to provide their own copies of around 5 core texts, possibly to the value of around £50. AQA provides a free copy of the required poetry anthology.

Fine Art

COURSE CODE

A Level WJEC Eduqas A Level Art and Design (Fine Art) A651QS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 or above in either, Art or Textiles at GCSE.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

This exciting new Year 12 course brings together Painting, Printmaking and Sculpture. Through experimental mini-projects in each area, students have the opportunity to develop a range of sophisticated skills and ideas in order to build up a portfolio of work. The course is also reinforced by an art historical context that hopes to challenge the students through different ways of thinking about and making work. Life drawing and gallery visits also form an important part of the course. There are few schools that can offer such a range of activities taught by specialists in each field. It complements the other visual art A Levels but is also ideal as a single art subject. It is an excellent course for those considering further education in the Arts, and the strengths of the department are well known by many art colleges.

Students should have a passion in Art and an interest in visual culture and the curiosity to learn more. They should enjoy looking at other artists' work and exploring your own ideas and experimenting with different ways of working to achieve their personal goals.

Enrichment opportunities include: Life Drawing with The Outreach Programme run by The Royal Academy of Arts, trips abroad for example New York and Paris, visiting artists and talks, gallery visits.

ASSESSMENT

A Level

The A level consists of 2 components as follows:

- Component 1: Personal Investigation (60% of A Level), internally assessed, externally moderated.
- Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40% of A Level) – (15 hour practical exam), internally assessed, externally moderated.

NEXT STEPS

Students can (as with other A Level courses) use their points from this A Level to go on to university. This is also an ideal course for those wishing to go on to further education, on to an Art Foundation Course (advised), or direct entry to university. Students regularly gain places on the most prestigious Foundation courses such as Farnham, Epsom and Camberwell.

CAREER INFORMATION

Careers include any art related industries: the media, galleries, design, architecture, teaching, as well as being an artist!

EXTRA COSTS

An A3 sketchbook and a set of good pencils are essential and basic oil and acrylic paints would be useful. These are all available from the school shop. Access to a digital camera would also be helpful.

French

COURSE CODE

AS Level 7651
A Level 7652

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 or higher in GCSE French.
- If you are a native speaker that hasn't completed the GCSE, you will be accepted on the course providing you can pass a written assessment with a 6 or higher.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Students work on a range of contemporary subjects including the changing nature of the family, the 'cyber-society', place of voluntary work, heritage, contemporary francophone music, cinema: the 7th art form.

The A Level will assist students in developing a broad range of valuable skills and qualities, in addition to purely linguistic skills.Students will gain appreciation of contemporary society, discuss a range of topical issues, learn to debate and to improve their ability to present an argument, and will learn to summarise information they read and hear. Furthermore, learners will develop skills to respond imaginatively to spoken and written texts, as well as to weigh up the pros and cons of various issues they study and come to an informed conclusion.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

- 45% = Paper 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing (90 marks).
- 25% = Paper 2 – Written exam including a translation into French and an essay on a set film or text (50 marks).
- 30% = Paper 3 – Speaking exam (60 marks).

A Level

- 50% = Paper 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing including translation from French into English (100 marks).
- 20% = Paper 2 – Two essay either one based on a film or a set text or two essays on a set text. (80 marks).
- 30% = Paper 3 – Speaking which consists of an individual research project and discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on stimulus card (60 marks).

NEXT STEPS

A Level French students go on to study a wide range of subjects at degree level. Universities and employers welcome students who have studied languages as they tend to have the ability to understand the dynamics of communication, as well having developed skills of self-reliance, flexibility and adaptability.

CAREER INFORMATION

The UK loses about £50bn a year in lost contracts because of a lack of language skills in the workforce. Students who study the subject have gone on to enjoy careers in business services, broadcast journalism, education, banking/finance, diplomacy, manufacturing/engineering and construction, travel/tourism and international organisations such as the EU, FIFA, the World Trade Organization and the UN.

EXTRA COSTS

Students are required to purchase a course textbook for around £22.50 and other resources e.g. Grammar Workbook, Film/Book Study Guides.

Further Maths

COURSE CODE

AS Level 8FM0
A Level 9FM0

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 8 in GCSE.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Further vectors, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations. Students get to choose between:

- Further Statistics.
- Further Mechanics.
- Further Decision Maths.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level: 2 written exam papers:

- 50% = Paper 1. Core Pure Mathematics – 1 hour 40 (80 marks).
- 50% = Paper 2. Further Maths Options – 1 hour 40 (80 marks).
- (Paper 2 covers two of the following options Further Pure, Statistics, Mechanics or Decision).

A Level: 4 written exam papers:

- 25% = Paper 1. Further Pure Mathematics 1 – 1.5 hours (75 marks).
- 25% = Paper 2. Further Pure Mathematics 2 – 1.5 hours (75 marks).
- 25% = Paper 3. Further Maths Option 1 – 1.5 hours (75 marks).
- 25% = Paper 4. Further Maths Option 2 – 1.5 hours (75 marks).

NEXT STEPS

Students can move on to study a wide range of subjects at University. Most Russell Group universities require students to have studied both Maths and Further Maths to study Mathematics at their university. In addition, Natural Sciences and Medicine degrees require a very good A level Maths grade virtually without exception. A level Further Maths will support the study of Engineering to a high level.

CAREER INFORMATION

Studying A-Level Maths can be the starting point for a career in analytical or problem solving career. Mathematical modelling particularly in the Pharmaceutical industry attracts a number of Maths graduates, Actuaries within the Insurance sector, Accountancy and Finance in general are all places of work where Mathematics graduates are consistently employed.

EXTRA COSTS

Students may be required to purchase several textbooks and calculator for £20 each.

Geography

COURSE CODE

AS Level Eduqas 601/8848/0
A Level Eduqas 601/8847/9

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 in GCSE Geography.
- 6 in GCSE English Language.
- 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Students will study a range of human and physical geography extending their understanding from GCSE, as well as learning new content.

- Component 1: Coastal Landscapes & Changing Places.
- Component 2: Water & Carbon cycles; Global Governance; Processes and patterns of global migration and global governance of the Earth's oceans.
- Component 3: Tectonic Hazards; Economic growth and challenge in China & Weather and Climate.
- Component 4: Students have the opportunity at A-Level to complete an independent research project, drawing on data and skills they have learnt and used in fieldwork.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

- 60% = Component 1 (2 hours 15 minutes)
- 40% = Component 2 (1 hour 15 minutes)

A Level

- 80% = 3 written papers (Component 1 - 1 hour 45 mins, Component 2 - 2 hours and Component 3 - 2 hours 15 mins).
- 20% = Component 4: A written investigation based on fieldwork and the data collected from it.

NEXT STEPS

Geography students can go on to study a range of different subjects at degree level, beyond the standard geography degree. Universities and employers actively welcome students who have studied geography due to the wide understanding of the world and its key interactions. Specific courses include Geography, Environmental Science and Geology.

CAREER INFORMATION

Studying A Level Geography can open doors into careers such as civil engineering, coastal and river management, energy resources, waste management and geology.

EXTRA COSTS

Students are required to attend a residential field trip to the Gower, costing approximately £220.
There is an enrichment trip to Iceland running, which costs approximately £900.

German

COURSE CODE

AS Level 7661
A Level 7662

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 or higher in GCSE German.
- If you are a native speaker that hasn't completed the GCSE, you will be accepted on the course providing you can pass a written assessment with a 6 or higher.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Students study a range of contemporary subjects including the changing state of the family, the digital world, youth culture and cultural life in Berlin, past and present.

The A Level will assist students in developing a broad range of valuable skills and qualities, in addition to purely linguistic skills. Students will gain appreciation of contemporary society, discuss a range of topical issues, learn to debate and to improve their ability to present an argument, and will learn to summarise information they read and hear. Furthermore, learners will develop skills to respond imaginatively to spoken and written texts, as well as to weigh up the pros and cons of various issues they study and come to an informed conclusion.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

- 45% = Paper 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing (90 marks).
- 25% = Paper 2 – Written exam including a translation into German and an essay on a set film or text (50 marks).
- 30% = Paper 3 - Speaking exam (60 marks).

A Level

- 50% = Paper 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing including translation from German into English (100 marks).
- 20% = Paper 2 – Two essay either one based on a film or a set text or two essays on a set text. (80 marks).
- 30% = Paper 3 – Speaking which consists of an individual research project and discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on stimulus card (60 marks).

NEXT STEPS

A Level German students go on to study a wide range of subjects at degree level. Universities and employers welcome students who have studied languages as they tend to have the ability to understand the dynamics of communication, as well having developed skills of self-reliance, flexibility and adaptability.

CAREER INFORMATION

The UK loses about £50bn a year in lost contracts because of a lack of language skills in the workforce. Students who study the subject have gone on to enjoy careers in business services, broadcast journalism, education, banking/finance, diplomacy, manufacturing/engineering and construction, travel/tourism and international organisations such as the EU, FIFA, the World Trade Organization and the UN.

EXTRA COSTS

Students are required to purchase a course textbook for around £22.50 and other resources e.g. Grammar Workbook, Film/Book Study Guides.

Graphics

COURSE CODE

A Level AQA 7203

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 or above in GCSE Graphics, or one of the Visual Arts subjects.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Students will have the opportunity to develop their skills and learn new methods to address design layout, illustration, computer graphics, typography, advertising, animation and packaging design problems.

ASSESSMENT

A Level

They will be assessed through a portfolio of work and an externally set assessment.

- Component 1: Personal Investigation 60% of A-Level.
- Component 2: Externally set assignment 40% of A-Level.

Projects for the portfolio will be set by the department and will allow a number of skills to be covered by the candidate. Externally set assignments will provide students with a choice of design briefs which will lead up to the preparation and development of a final piece to be produced during a supervised period.

NEXT STEPS

Many students have gone on to Art College to follow a General Art and Design Foundation course at institutions such as Epsom, Kingston, Wimbledon and Farnham. Past students have subsequently gone on to degree courses. Some students have gone directly to Graphic Design, Architecture and Illustration degree courses.

CAREER INFORMATION

Graphics can help students follow a number of career paths including Graphic Design, Animation, Product Design, Display Design, Automotive Design, Concept Art, Marketing and Media. Past students have found the skills that they have developed invaluable for communicating ideas in a huge range of careers.

History

COURSE CODE

AS Level AQA 7041
A Level AQA 7042

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- We will consider every applicant on their own merits. Because of the demands of reading and essay writing in the History course, a 6 in History and English Language is advisable.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

There are three components:

- 1L: The quest for political stability: Germany, 1871–1991. From the Kaiser to modern Germany, via Weimar, the Nazis and the Cold War period, this is a fascinating course that will give huge insight into ideas and ideologies, the role of key individuals and some of the most interesting events of the 20th century.
- 2E: The English Revolution, 1625–1660. This depth study will be surprisingly relevant to contemporary life as it ranges through questions of democracy, religious toleration and freedom of speech while uncovering one of the most fascinating eras of British history.
- A Non-Examined Assessment (individual historical investigation) on a topic of personal interest with a 100-year span which does not overlap the content of the taught units.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

- Papers 1L and 2E are examined separately, in exams lasting 1.5 hours each. Each paper is worth 40% of the overall A Level mark.

A Level

- Papers 1L and 2E are examined separately, in exams lasting 2.5 hours each. Each paper is worth 40% of the overall A Level mark. The NEA is worth 20% of the overall A Level mark.

NEXT STEPS

History A Level is a rigorous qualification which prepares students well for the demands of a university degree because it trains students in their ability to conduct independent research, select and deploy data and write concise and effective essays. It is valuable for students who wish to study directly related degrees but also shows breadth when applying for courses such as medicine and law.

CAREER INFORMATION

In practice, only a few students enter careers in which they apply their specialist historical knowledge directly (e.g. research degrees, teaching, museum or archive work, and librarianship). The majority apply their skills to careers not directly related to History, but in which they have much to contribute. These include journalism and the arts, computing, finance, banking, accountancy, the legal profession, commercial and industrial management, the civil and public services, retailing, leisure services, health and social services, charities, voluntary organisations, the police, the probation service, the armed forces, the security services.

EXTRA COSTS

The department has textbooks for use in school but it is advisable for students to buy their own copies of the core textbooks (two books, approx. £23 each, less for digital versions). We offer a range of enrichment activities over the two years. These are not compulsory and may include a day of lectures by professional historians in direct support of the A Level course. (Approx. £40 including travel by coach) and a trip to Berlin, by air, staying in a hostel, with a packed itinerary of sites of true historical interest. (Approx. £450).

Law

COURSE CODE

A Level AQA 7162

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 in English Language and English Literature GCSE.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

The A level course centres around the following:

- The nature of law;
- The practical application of the law in Britain today;
- An exploration into criminal (law for example: offences against the person, homicide, theft) and civil law (for example: negligence, occupiers liability) as well as contract law (how legally recognised agreements are formed, performed and breached);
- It will also give you an insight into the workings of the country's legal system and the political process.

Law is a subject which will expand general knowledge, improve vocabulary and develop lateral thinking and practical problem-solving skills. Students will also start to develop analytical and evaluation skills which support persuasive, evidence based argument building. These skills act as a valuable foundation for any subject students may choose to study at university; or they will help inform them ready for industry. We offer a trip to the Royal Courts of Justice, and where possible, the opportunity to be involved in a moot. We also hear from outside speakers with legal expertise.

ASSESSMENT

A Level

- 100% = Three written exam papers (2 hours/paper)

NEXT STEPS

Law, international relations, history, journalism and criminology.

CAREER INFORMATION

Law provides a good basis for a wide range of careers in business, charity, the courts, the legal profession, the civil service, teaching and journalism - to name a few. Students might see themselves as a barrister, a solicitor, legal executive or legal secretary. Alternatively, they might want to choose law because it is a fascinating course which will help develop transferable skills such as analysis and problem-solving.

EXTRA COSTS

Learners are advised to purchase the official course text book.

Maths

COURSE CODE

AS Level 8MA0
A Level 9MA0

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 in GCSE Maths.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Pure mathematics including; solving equations and graph sketching. Geometry, calculus, exponentials and logarithms. Statistical analysis and representation, normal distribution, probability models, mechanical mathematics including; kinematics, statics, moments and vectors.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

2 written exam papers:

- Paper 1. Pure Mathematics – 2 hours (100 marks).
- Paper 2. Statistics and Mechanics – 1 hour (50 marks).

A Level

3 written exam papers:

- Paper 1. Pure Mathematics 1 – 2 hours (100 marks).
- Paper 2. Pure Mathematics 2 – 2 hours (100 marks).
- Paper 3. Statistics and Mechanics – 2 hours (100 marks).

NEXT STEPS

A level Maths students can move on to study a wide range of subjects at University. Obviously Maths itself but in addition Natural Sciences and Medicine degrees require a very good A level Maths grade virtually without exception. A level Maths will support the study of Engineering, Psychology or Economics at degree level.

CAREER INFORMATION

Studying A-Level Maths can be the starting point for a career in analytical or problem solving career. Mathematical modelling particularly in the Pharmaceutical industry attracts a number of Mathematics graduates, Actuaries within the Insurance sector, Accountancy and Finance in general are all places of work where Maths graduates are consistently employed.

EXTRA COSTS

Students may be required to purchase a course textbook and calculator for around £20 each.

Media Studies

COURSE CODE

A Level Eduqas B680QS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 4 in GCSE English Language.
- 4 in GCSE English Literature.
- Students must: take a genuine and active interest in a range of media forms, including texts outside of their 'comfort zone', be ambitious and creative, be able to write analytically, using sophisticated vocabulary when responding to texts.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Students develop both a theoretical and practical understanding of audio-visual, print and online media products. They will also apply various media theories, perspectives and debates, covering all concepts under the 'theoretical framework' (Media Language, Audience, Representation, and Industry). Students will cultivate skills in critical thinking, applying an analytical mind to modern media and its effects on society.

ASSESSMENT

A Level

- 35% = Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes.
- 35% = Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes.
- 30% = Component 3: Cross-Media Production Non exam assessment.

NEXT STEPS

A-Level Media students go on to study various subjects at degree level at some of the most prestigious schools in the UK. Universities and employers note that Media students have developed a breadth of knowledge and analytical skills which are invaluable to higher studies. Specific higher education courses include Marketing, Media and Popular Culture, Film and Television Production, Film Studies, Event and Project Management and English Literature.

CAREER INFORMATION

Studying A-Level Media can lead to a number of dynamic career opportunities. Students have gone on to exciting and practical apprenticeships in television production and film, as well as digital marketing and graphic design. The entertainment, public relations, and marketing industries provide a wide range of employment opportunities in Film, Television, Radio and E-Media.

Music

COURSE CODE

EDUQAS Music A Level A660QS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 or above in GCSE Music.
- Instrumental or vocal lessons in at least one instrument from an outside teacher.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Students will study in depth a variety of genres of music from diverse musical heritages and will develop a holistic understanding of the way different pieces are structured and created. They will widen their understanding of harmony and tonal relationships through technical studies. Students will also develop their own practical musicianship as performers and composers.

ASSESSMENT

A Level

Component 1: Performance

- 25 - 35 % of the course. 6 - 8 mins (25%) or 10 - 12 mins (35%) recital, in front of a visiting examiner. The recital can be a combination of solo and ensemble pieces, or a purely solo recital.

Component 2: Composition

- 25 - 35 % of the course. Two compositions (4-6 mins, 25%), or three compositions (8-10 mins, 35%). At least one composition (for either weighting) must be in a response to a brief set by EDUQAS and reflect the musical characteristics and conventions of those covered in Area of Study A - the Western Classical Tradition.

Component 3: Appraising

- 40% of the course. This area of study is assessed through a 135-minute exam paper, sat at the end of Year 13, with questions relating to three Areas of Study:
  - A - Western Classical Tradition.
  - C - Musical Theatre.
  - E - Into the Twentieth century.

Questions will include: set work analysis with a score, extended responses on a wider context, unprepared extracts of music with and without a score and comparison questions. This component includes listening questions.

NEXT STEPS

A-Level Music students go on to study a wide range of subjects at degree level, ranging from academic musical degrees to engineering or research-based degrees. Universities and employers are keen to accept students who show the level of independent learning, dedication and attention to detail that high-standard musicians embody. Specific higher education music-related courses include Music, Music Performance, Musical Theatre Performance, Actor-Musician Studies, Sound Engineering, Sound Production, Music Therapy and Music with Computer Studies. Students interested in Sound Production or Sound Engineering need to also be taking Physics and Maths in addition to Music at A Level.

CAREER INFORMATION

Studying A-Level Music can be the starting point for a career in the multi-million pound arts industries. Students who study the subject have gone into instrumental teaching, freelance composing, school and university teaching, music therapy, conducting, sound recording, music publishing, orchestral playing, accompanying and solo professional performance. Several of our former students are performing in London's West End.

PE

COURSE CODE

AS Level OCR H155
A Level OCR H555

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 in GCSE Physical Education.
- 6 in GCSE Core and Additional Science or 6 grade in Biology.
- Students should be regularly competing and receiving coaching in at least 1 sport.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Students study a variety of theory-based units on Anatomy and Physiology, Exercise Physiology, Biomechanics, Sport and Society, Technology in Sport and Skill Acquisition. They will also learn how to improve their own practical performance & analysis skills in their chosen sport.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

- 70% = 2 written exam papers (1 hour 15 mins. each) (70 marks per paper).
- 30% = Non examined practical assessment in 1 sport with a live or recorded analysis of their own performance (60 marks).

A Level

- 70% = 3 written exam papers (1 x 2 hours, and 2 x 1 hour) (90 & 60 marks).
- 30% = Non examined practical assessment in 1 sport with a live or recorded analysis of their own performance (60 marks).

NEXT STEPS

A-Level PE students go on to study a wide range of subjects at degree level. Universities and employers actively welcome students who have developed key skills such as leadership and an ability to work in teams when playing sport, in addition to academic achievement. Specific higher education courses include Physiotherapy, Sport and Exercise Science, Sports Development, Sports Management and Physical Education teaching.

CAREER INFORMATION

Studying A-Level PE can be the starting point for a career in the ever-expanding sport & leisure and health & fitness industries. Students who study the subject have gone into teaching, sports physiotherapy, sports/leisure management, personal training, sports development and sports coaching.

EXTRA COSTS

Students will attend an enrichment trip in Year 12 to enhance their subject knowledge, which will require a payment of around £20.

Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies)

COURSE CODE

AS Level AQA 7061
A Level AQA 7062

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 in GCSE English Language.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Religious Studies is a thought provoking subject and our contemporary themes will inspire lively classroom discussion! All topics are approached and examined with an emphasis on Christianity.

Topics for Philosophy – Religious Authority, God, Death and the Afterlife, Challenges from Science and Secularism, Function of Religion (including Liberation Theology), Problem of Evil, Religious Experience, Religious Language and Miracles.

Topics for Ethics – Equality, Justice, Honesty, Religious Identity, Feminism, Sexual Identity, Religious Pluralism, Ethical Theories (with reference to Abortion, Cloning, Euthanasia and Capital Punishment), Status of Animals, Meta-Ethics (Right and Wrong), Free Will and Conscience.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level: Two papers

- Paper 1: Philosophy and Ethics (2 hours) 67%.
- Paper 2: Study of Christianity (1 hour) 33%.

A Level: Two papers

- Paper 1: Philosophy and Ethics (3 hours) 50%.
- Paper 2: Christianity and dialogues (3 hours) 50%.

NEXT STEPS

Philosophy and Ethics is a popular and well regarded course which leads to a wide range of subjects at university, including, but by no means limited to, Religious Studies and Philosophy. Philosophy is unique in its questioning approach. This is exemplified by Socrates who exclaimed that "the unexamined life is not worth living". Students will learn to construct logical arguments and argue from a variety of viewpoints. They will understand challenging concepts and learn to empathise with others. It is an ancient subject which branches across all fields, thereby complementing most academic disciplines at degree level.

CAREER INFORMATION

An excellent 'people qualification' for those wishing to pursue a career in education, law, management, social work, media and politics to name just a few.

EXTRA COSTS

Students will be encouraged to purchase a text book for around £20 to promote home learning. However, this is not obligatory and textbooks will be available in class.

Photography

COURSE CODE

A Level AQA 601/8088/2

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 4 or above in one of the GCSE Arts subjects.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

The course is an art based A Level but has cross-curricular links with many other subjects. Some of the work is of a scientific nature and the subject also requires analysis of visual and imaginative concepts. However, the 'art' of the photography is crucial to achieving personal success.

Most students start the course without having any prior knowledge of darkroom photography and some have not studied at GCSE, so it is important to realise that though they will be taught a variety of skills, there is a steep learning curve and students will need to apply concepts and procedures at a high level.

Learners will work on themes and topics in answering design briefs. The use of critical studies and information on technological, social and environmental aspects is integral to the investigation process. Studies will be undertaken in a range of photography styles such as: Portraiture; Still life; Documentary/photo journalism; Landscape and Nature.

You will be introduced to photography through:

- the use of the camera, film, lenses, filters and lighting;
- aperture, depth of field and shutter speed;
- developing and printing;
- experimentation (darkroom and digital);
- composition;
- presentation, layout and mounting;
- Adobe PhotoShop.

Students are encouraged to visit exhibitions both locally and nationally (London) and look at the work of photographers. It is important to research and build on skills taught in lesson so that students can develop further; this may involve reading books or magazines and investigation into: darkroom skills, film, digital photography, PhotoShop and camera based skills.

Over the two years of the course students will visit exhibitions. The faculty has also organised trips abroad such as India, Italy, Paris, Barcelona and New York, these offer exciting opportunities for photography.

ASSESSMENT

Year 12

Foundation year where students learn, experiment and build practical skills in both digital and darkroom photography as well as learning the critical and analytical skills needed for the A Level photography course. Work will be project based and determined by the learner and teacher, and assessed by the teacher.

A Level

The A level consists 2 components as follows:

- Component 1: Personal Investigation (60% of A Level), internally assessed, externally moderated.
- Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40% of A Level) – (15 hour practical exam), internally assessed, externally moderated.

NEXT STEPS

Many students go on to Art College to follow a General Art and Design Foundation course at institutions such as the University of the Creative Arts (UCCA), who have bases at Farnham and Epsom, London Institutes - Central St. Martins, and Wimbledon, Kingston and Reigate. Past students have also gone on, either from foundation, or directly to degree courses in: Photography, Fashion Photography, Film and Animation degree courses at Universities such as Bournemouth, Southampton, and Falmouth. A Level photography students have also continued on to study related courses in journalism, graphics, fashion, advertising, media and communication courses. Some students may wish to get a job in the photography industry after leaving school.

CAREER INFORMATION

Photography is useful for careers in the Media, Fashion, Visual Arts and Communication industries. For example, it is an asset to anyone wanting to pursue a career in the following fields; commercial, press or fashion photography, Film, Television, Magazine features editor, journalism, graphic design, stylist, Art director, communication and PR, website design, gallery and museum curator.

EXTRA COSTS

Students will need a film SLR camera and will need to purchase their own photography paper, films and sketchbooks (which can be bought at school). Access to a digital camera will also be necessary.

Physics

COURSE CODE

AS Level 7407
A Level 7408

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 or above in GCSE Physics (Treble Science) or a 6 or above in the Physics exams in GCSE Combined Science. AND
- 6-6 or above in GCSE Combined Science or an average of a 6 or above in Treble Science (i.e. an average of 6 or above in Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs). AND
- 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Subject content: measurements and their errors, particles and radiation, waves, mechanics and materials, electricity, further mechanics and thermal physics, fields and their consequences, nuclear physics, options, astrophysics, medical physics, engineering physics, turning points in physics, electronics.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

- Paper 1: Sections 1 to 5. Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 70 Marks, 50% of AS, 70 Marks of short and long questions split by topic.
- Paper 2: Sections 1 to 5. Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 70 Marks, 50% of AS, 70 Marks of short and long questions split by topic including questions on practical skills and data analysis. 30 multiple choice questions.

A Level

- Paper 1: Sections 1 to 5 and 6.1 (Periodic motion). Written exam: 2 hours, 85 marks, 34% of A-level Questions, 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content.
- Paper 2: Sections 6.2 (Thermal Physics), 7 and 8 Assumed knowledge from sections 1 to 6.1 Written exam: 2 hours, 85 marks, 34% of A-level Questions, 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content.
- Paper 3: Section A Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis Section B: Students enter for one of sections 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13. Written exam: 2 hours, 80 marks, 32% of A-level Questions, 45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis. 35 marks of short and long answer questions on optional topic.

NEXT STEPS

Degree in Physics, Engineering, Medicine, Biophysics, Geophysics

CAREER INFORMATION

To quote Vishanti Lall from the Institute of Physics "Everyone knows that with a Physics degree on your CV, the world is your oyster".

EXTRA COSTS

You will require a hard-backed lab book that we sell for £5. Other books, magazines and revision guides will be available to buy.

Politics

COURSE CODE

AS Level 8PLO
A Level 9PLO

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 or above in English Language.
- 6 or above in History, Geography or English Literature.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Politics is a dynamic subject that offers students the opportunity to develop an insight into current affairs as they unfold. Political developments are studied in their historical context and combined with an understanding of political concepts, ideologies and systems. Students critically examine contrasting political positions and use rigorous analysis to develop their understanding. Students are encouraged to put their ideas to the test in classroom debate and independent study. There are 3 components:

1. UK Politics: Considers democracy and participation in the UK, exploring the foundations of democracy and the opportunities to participate that exist in the UK; the role of political parties in the political system, communicating political views and shaping ideas; the impact of different voting systems, the media and the behaviour of voters at elections
2. UK Government: Focuses on aspects of governing the UK and the key institutions involved. Students examine Britain's unique constitution and look at the structure, role and powers of Parliament, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. In addition, students will consider the relationship between the different institutions in the UK and with the EU. Students also consider the core political ideologies that underpin the political system, liberalism, conservatism and socialism. In addition, they have the opportunity to explore in greater depth the ideology and thinkers associated with one of the following anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism or nationalism.
3. Government and Politics of the USA: Concentrates on the USA; students study the US Constitution, its foundations, principles and the arguments surrounding its operation today; the role, membership and powers of the three branches of government, Congress, the Supreme Court and the President. Students also examine democracy in the USA; presidential elections, political parties and pressure groups. In addition, students study civil rights in the USA, setting this in a historical context and considering the implications for modern US society. Throughout this component students make comparisons with the UK and analyse the strengths and weaknesses of each.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

- UK Politics and UK Government are assessed in two 1 hour 45 minutes written examinations in June. Both exams are a mixture of shorter questions and essays. (The results from these examinations will not count towards the final A2 result).

A Level

- UK Politics, UK Government and the Government and Politics of the USA are examined in three written examinations of 2 hours in June (each worth 33.3% of the total A Level). All exams are a mixture of shorter questions and essays.

NEXT STEPS

The Politics course provides students with the analytical skills to evaluate a broad range of political developments. Most students are keen to continue their studies to A2 and then onto university to study a variety of courses including Politics, Law, International Relations, PPE, History, Economics Journalism, and Criminology.

CAREER INFORMATION

Politics is highly regarded by leading universities as a subject that develops analytical skills and encourages independent thought; these abilities can be adapted to a wide range of subjects and enable students to follow a wide range of professional career paths for example politics, journalism, law, business and economics. Many students undertake work experience with a Member of Parliament; this provides them with a unique insight into the way politics operates in this country.

Psychology

COURSE CODE

A Level AQA 7182

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 in English (Literature or Language).
- 5 in Maths.
- 5 in Science or Biology.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Students will study a broad variety of theoretical units including, Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology, Research Methods and Approaches; including Biopsychology in the first year. Units taught during the second year are, Gender, Aggression, Schizophrenia, Issues and Debates. Students will have the opportunity to carry out their own practical research in these different topic areas.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be taught for the A level unless they opt for psychology as their 4th option.

A Level

- There are three papers, each paper is 2 hours and out of a total of 96 marks.
- Each paper is worth 33.3% of the final A Level mark.
- Paper 1 covers introductory topics (Year 1 content).
- Paper 2 covers psychology in context (Year 1 & 2 content).
- Paper 3 covers issues and options in psychology (Year 2 content).

NEXT STEPS

Studying psychology offers students the opportunity to understand some of the causes of human behaviour, and develop skills and knowledge that is easily applicable to everyday life and also learn transferable mathematical and scientific research skills. These are skills that are actively welcomed by employers and universities. Specific higher education courses include Psychology, Behavioural Sciences, Neuroscience, Social Work, Education, and Physiotherapy.

CAREER INFORMATION

Psychology is a versatile subject which develops transferable skills useful for many careers. A psychology degree can lead on to a professional qualification and career in psychology, including clinical, educational and occupational psychology. These careers require a post-graduate doctorate qualification and work experience to be completed. Other related careers include teaching, educational services, health care, social care, forensics, human resources, business, counselling, research and many more.

Sociology

COURSE CODE

AS Level AQA 7191
A Level AQA 7192

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 in English Language.
- 6 in GCSE Sociology if studied previously.
- 6 in GCSE Sociology if previously studied.
- Or 6 in a Humanities subject if Sociology has not been previously studied.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Sociology is the study of society and in particular, the different groups we belong to and the institutions that affect us, for example: education, the family, the mass media, religion and the law. Students will also examine how research into these areas is carried out.

Sociology will offer the opportunity to look at the society in which we live, with 'fresh eyes'. Learners will be required to challenge many of their taken-for-granted assumptions about some of our traditional institutions.

Students should take Sociology if: they can make balanced judgments after weighing up the evidence; enjoy thinking 'outside the box'; are interested in how gender, social class and ethnicity influence our lives; question the way society is organised; are interested in contemporary issues.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be taught for the full A Level.

AS Level

- Paper 1: Education with Methods in Context. (90 minute written exam worth 50%).
- Paper 2: Research Methods and Topics in Sociology. (90 minute written exam worth 50%).

A Level

Assessment is based on knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation. There are three external exams:

- Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods. (2 hour written exam worth 33% of the course).
- Paper 2: Topics in Sociology (Families and Beliefs in Society) (2 hour written exam worth 33% of the course).
- Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods. (2 hour written exam worth 33% of the course).

NEXT STEPS

A Level Sociology is very good preparation for university, where strong essay writing skills are very important. Universities recognise that sociology A Level provides students with a very good foundation in social, political and policy knowledge. Sociology is regarded as a demanding and rigorous A Level which combines well with any other combination of subjects. Graduates of sociology have higher Levels of employment than many other subjects.

CAREER INFORMATION

Students in the past have gone to pursue a range of careers including social work, research, journalism, teaching, medicine, politics, the civil service, police, work within the media, as well as taking jobs in the service sector.

Spanish

COURSE CODE

AS Level 7691
A Level 7692

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 or higher in GCSE Spanish.
- If you are a native speaker that hasn't completed the GCSE, you will be accepted on the course providing you can pass a written assessment with a 6 or higher.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Students work on a range of contemporary subjects including modern and traditional value, cyberspace, equal rights, modern day idols, Spanish regional identity and cultural heritage. The A Level will assist you in developing a broad range of valuable skills and qualities, in addition to purely linguistic skills.

Students will gain appreciation of contemporary society, discuss a range of topical issues, learn to debate and to improve their ability to present an argument, and will learn to summarise information they read and hear. Furthermore, learners will develop skills to respond imaginatively to spoken and written texts, as well as to weigh up the pros and cons of various issues they study and come to an informed conclusion.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

- 45% = Paper 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing (90 marks).
- 25% = Paper 2 – Written exam including a translation into Spanish and an essay on a set film or text (50 marks).
- 30% = Paper 3 - Speaking exam (60 marks).

A Level

- 50% = Paper 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing including translation from Spanish into English (100 marks).
- 20% = Paper 2 – Two essay either one based on a film or a set text or two essays on a set text. (80 marks).
- 30% = Paper 3 – Speaking which consists of an individual research project and discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on stimulus card (60 marks).

NEXT STEPS

A Level Spanish students go on to study a wide range of subjects at degree level. Universities and employers welcome students who have studied languages as they tend to have the ability to understand the dynamics of communication, as well having developed skills of self-reliance, flexibility and adaptability.

CAREER INFORMATION

The UK loses about £50bn a year in lost contracts because of a lack of language skills in the workforce. Students who study the subject have gone on to enjoy careers in business services, broadcast journalism, education, banking/finance, diplomacy, manufacturing/engineering and construction, travel/tourism and international organisations such as the EU, FIFA, the World Trade Organization and the UN.

EXTRA COSTS

Students are required to purchase a course textbook for around £22.50 and other resources e.g. Grammar Workbook, Film/Book Study Guides.

Textiles

COURSE CODE

AS Level Foundation Year
A Level WJEC Eduqas A653QS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 4 or above in one of the GCSE Arts subjects.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

The course is concerned with the following main areas of textile design: printed textiles; creating a silk screen-printed fabric length, stitched textiles, which includes machine embroidery fashion design digitally manipulating designs using Photoshop. Students will also be developing a range of skills using the design process, including observational drawing, research methods, design skills and fashion illustration.

The Textiles Department at George Abbot is unique and students will be offered exciting opportunities. In the past, students have participated in school fashion shows, and visited other major exhibitions. Educational visits abroad, undertaken with other Visual Arts students, have been a great cultural experience and inspiration for coursework. The Faculty has been to places such as: India, Paris, Venice, Milan, Rome, Florence, Barcelona and New York.

Students should visit current local and major exhibitions; be aware of key fashion events such as London Fashion Week, read online Fashion news and magazines such as Vogue, or Textiles Industry Magazines to keep up-to-date with the fashion/textile design industry.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

- Year 1 A Level – the year will be devoted to one project throughout to create a portfolio of drawings, designs and practical skills in fabric embellishing and screen-printing.

A Level

The A level consists of 2 components as follows:

- Component 1: Personal Investigation (60% of A Level), internally assessed, externally moderated.
- Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40% of A Level) – (15 hour practical exam), internally assessed, externally moderated.

NEXT STEPS

Many students go on to Art College to follow a General Art and Design Foundation course at institutions such as the University of the Creative Arts (UCCA), who have bases at Farnham and Epsom, London Institute - Central St. Martins, London College of Fashion and Wimbledon, Kingston and Reigate. Past students have subsequently gone on to degree courses in Printed Textiles at Winchester, Decorative Textiles at Hull, Knit and Weave at Nottingham and Fashion and Textile Design at Central St Martins. Some students choose to enter directly onto a degree courses in Textile Management at Manchester or Fashion Journalism at the London College of Fashion. There is an ever-increasing range of such courses offering textiles combined with communication, languages, theatre, science, business or technological skills all aiming to train dynamic young people for the global textile and fashion industry.

CAREER INFORMATION

Textiles Design is useful for careers in the Fashion and Interior industry. It will also be an asset to anyone wanting to pursue a career in the following fields; textiles or fashion design, fashion photography, journalism, retail, buying and merchandising, fashion and textile marketing, communication and PR, many careers within the media industry - fashion magazines, film, television and website design,

accessory, millinery, costume design, fashion forecaster or stylist, sports wear designer, gallery and museum curator.

EXTRA COSTS

Using departmental resources is an option; however, the majority of students prefer to purchase their own fabrics, threads, patterns and beads for a more personal response. All students will need to purchase a portfolio, sketchbooks, artists' materials, and sewing equipment. It will not be necessary for students to purchase a sewing machine as the department's open access policy allows students to use school equipment during lunches, lessons and after school.

BTEC Applied Science

COURSE CODE
BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Science

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
- 5 in Sciences.
- 5 in Maths.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?
Students will study each of the key scientific disciplines (chemistry, biology and physics) spending equal time on each discipline in Year 12. They will also gain a firm grounding in general scientific investigation techniques. In Year 13, students will develop these skills and also undertake an optional unit in genetics.

ASSESSMENT
Year 1
- Unit 1 – Principles and Applications of science 1 - external examination.
- Unit 2 – Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques - internally assessed coursework.

Year 2
- Unit 3 – Science investigation skills -externally assessed by written taskbook.
- Unit 11 – Genetics and genetic engineering – externally assessed.

NEXT STEPS
Students should come to the course with an interest in science and prepared to work hard in order to complete the course. The course is respected by a wide variety of universities and is useful for a variety of science based further study. Students will leave the course with a good selection of "soft skills" including being able to manage their time, deliver work to deadlines, use a variety of ICT resources and present to a group.

CAREER INFORMATION
The BTEC in Science is worth an amount of UCAS points depending on what is achieved at the end of the course. The BTEC is also an excellent initial step towards a vocational course with an element of science.

EXTRA COSTS
Appropriate textbooks and study guides will be recommended.

BTEC Business

COURSE CODE

BTEC Extended Certificate in Business Equivalent to 1 A Level

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 4 in English and Maths.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Students will apply their learning through practical assessments in the form of internally assessed assignments and externally assessed tasks and written exams. They will learn about the various business functions and how they operate, personal finance and the wider business environment. This includes: exploring businesses, developing a marketing campaign, personal and business finance, recruitment and selection process.

ASSESSMENT

Year 1

- 3 internally set and marked assessments on Exploring Businesses.
- 1 externally written assessment of Developing a Marketing Campaign.

Year 2

- 1 internally written assessment on Personal and Business Finance.
- 2 internally set and market assessment on Recruitment and Selection Process based on their recruitment and selection experience.

NEXT STEPS

BTEC Nationals offer learners modern, work-related qualifications which open the door to higher education and a career because they are each designed with a clear purpose to support defined progression routes into higher education or employment, develop independent research and study skills essential for success at university and offer the students transferable skills that would be desired by any employer.

CAREER INFORMATION

Business can help in whatever career students decide to follow. Specifically it will help in: Accountancy, Banking, Marketing, Human Resources, Production, Economics, Education, or Law.

BTEC Children's Play, Learning and Development (CPLD)

COURSE CODE

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Children's Play Learning and Development

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 in English.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

- An understanding of physical growth and development of the child from birth to 8 years old.
- About cognitive development including intellectual understanding and speech development and the factors that will influence this both positively and negatively.
- About emotional and social development in children.
- About literacy and numeracy and how these are developed and supported.
- A range of theories that support development of a child.
- About keeping children safe in different areas.
- About first aid and how to respond to emergencies in a care setting.
- A range of theoretical learning perspective and their advocates.
- How to apply what you have learnt in the workplace – 50 hours work experience is a requirement.

ASSESSMENT

Year 1

- 2 internally set and marked assessments on 'Play and Learning' based on your work experience.
- 1 written examination testing Children's development – this may be delayed if it is felt that the student is not ready.

Year 2

- 1 external board set and marked task on 'Development of children's communication, Literacy and numeracy skills' – this will involve 6 hours of time including a 3 hour planning session and a 3 hour exam.
- 3 internally set and marked assessments on 'Keeping children safe' based on your work experience and an assessed 'emergency situation' response.

NEXT STEPS

Students will have developed a range of essential employability skills such as cognitive and problem-solving skills, applying expert and creative solutions, using systems and technology and interpersonal skills: communicating, working collaboratively, negotiating and influencing others. In addition, students will have developed interpersonal skills including self-management, adaptability and resilience, making them very employable in a range of situations linked to children and the health services.

CAREER INFORMATION

This is an excellent course which can be used as entry to a range of careers with children, either in nursery care, education or in the health services. College, University and work based training or education all follow on from it.

EXTRA COSTS

Students will be required to buy the text book which is £30. They also have to carry out 50 hours work experience for which they will require a DBS check. In addition, we will take them out on trips and they will gain a First Aid Qualification. This requires a contribution of £70.

Certificate and Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition

COURSE CODE

L3 Certificate in Food Science and Nutrition
L3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 in Science AND
- 5 in Food Preparation and Nutrition.
- You must complete the L3 Certificate in Food Science and Nutrition to continue the Diploma.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

- Detailed information about nutrients and nutritional needs of specific target groups.
- To plan and cook a variety of food ingredients such as cereals, meat, fish, eggs, dairy, fruit and vegetables to produce a range of complex dishes to meet nutritional needs.
- High levels of practical food skills alongside planning, organisation and evaluating skills.
- The nutritional value of food and the effect of this on individuals, as nutritional requirements can vary according to age, health, religion and lifestyle choices.
- An understanding of food hygiene – identification and minimising risks.
- About the causes of food poisoning, bacteria and how to control them, the role of the environmental health officer and the laws connected to safe practice.
- 'How to experiment with food to solve Food production problems'.
- This unit of work is about physical and chemical functions of ingredients.
- How to carry out practical science investigations into industry related food problems.

ASSESSMENT

Year 1

- 50% = external examination (+ 15 minutes reading time); a combination of short and extended questions and a case study.
- 50% = Internal controlled assessment – set by the examining board. A 9½ hour assessment involving selecting dishes with the emphasis on nutrition and skills, planning, making and evaluating a set of dishes (often a 3 course menu). The practical examination is a 3½ hour assessment counted as part of the assessment (50%).

Year 2

- 50% = 1 externally assessed 8 hour detailed piece of work to be taken in May of the final year of study. Students will be asked to identify a range of issues related to micro-organisms and make a food safety resource linked to a specific scenario. For this exam, students are allowed notes.
- 50% = by internal controlled assessment – students will have to solve a food production problem; set by the examining board. The time allowance is 12 hours and includes planning, researching, carrying out food science investigations/experiments, analysing, discussing and concluding.

NEXT STEPS

Students will have developed good or excellent food preparation skills and know and understand how a variety of ingredients and components can be used and how these can be adapted and made into dishes or meals for a variety of diets. Students will understand the effects of heat and other processing techniques on nutrients and components and will be very aware of the importance of food safety in both practical food work and in manufacturing, so are highly sought after for their skills and ability to multi-task.

CAREER INFORMATION

This course is accepted as a qualification for entry on to a variety of University courses that are not related to the diploma. It is a very useful qualification for degrees such as: Dietetics, Food Science, Nutrition and Food Science, Consumer Studies, Business and Marketing, Hotel and Institutional Management, Teaching and Health related courses. Beyond university, students pursue careers in Dietetics, Food Product Research and Development, Primary and Secondary school teaching, Hotel Management, Marketing and Advertising.

EXTRA COSTS

£15 per year contribution for experimental work, £30 for the L3 text book, cost of ingredients and trips.

Cambridge Technicals in IT

COURSE CODE

Cambridge Technicals Level 3 in IT (5840) 1 A Level equivalent

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- BTEC Digital IT Level 2 Merit or above OR
- GCSE Computer Science 5 OR
- 5 GCSEs at a minimum of 5 or above including English and Maths
- A keen interest in and an aptitude for developing IT skills that are transferrable into the IT industry (see HOD).

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Students will follow the Introductory Diploma in IT qualification, as well as the Application Developer pathway.

This pathway focuses on the development of a range of applications across platforms and sectors. Students will demonstrate the skills of writing specifications, and the design, build, testing and implementation of applications.

The qualifications aim to develop students' knowledge, understanding and skills of the principles of IT and Global Information Systems.

Students will gain an insight into the IT sector as they investigate the pace of technological change, IT infrastructure, and the flow of information on a global scale, and the importance of legal and security considerations.

ASSESSMENT

Year 1 Units will include:

- Unit 1 – Fundamentals of IT (Mandatory exam).
- Unit 3 – Cyber Security (Optional exam).
- Unit 17 – Internet of Everything (Optional coursework).

Year 2 Units will include:

- Unit 2 – Global Information (Mandatory exam).
- Unit 6 – Application Design (Mandatory coursework).

NEXT STEPS

The Cambridge Technicals in IT is designed to give students a firm starting point for any future progression from the course be it to University or into an apprenticeship or full employment. It also provides a basis for progression into a broad range of roles within the IT sector when supported by relevant qualifications at level 2, such as GCSE English and Maths, and/or at level 3, such as Maths and Physics to progress onto university to study Computer Science, Cyber Security or Application Development.

CAREER INFORMATION

Students will also develop professional, personal and social skills through interaction with peers, stakeholders and clients, as well as theoretical knowledge and understanding to underpin these skills. These will support the transferable skills required by universities and employers such as communication, problem solving, time management, research and analytical skills.

EXTRA COSTS

Students are encouraged to purchase course textbooks for around £25 each and there may be opportunities to attend an enrichment trip to enhance their subject knowledge.

BTEC Sport

COURSE CODE

BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Sport 601/7220/4 1.5 A level equivalent

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 in GCSE Physical Education.
- 5 in GCSE Core and Additional Science or 5 grade in Biology.
- Students should have a firm interest in Sport and preferably regularly partaking in sport outside of school.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

A BTEC is a vocational based course where students learn by completing projects and assignments based upon realistic sporting vocational situations, activities and demands. They focus on a particular subject area and develop a range of specialist skills and enhance sporting knowledge.

ASSESSMENT

Year 1

- Fitness Training and Programming Unit (scenario based exam, externally assessed).
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry Unit (written coursework, internally assessed).
- Anatomy and Physiology Unit (written examination set and marked externally, 1.5 hours, 90 marks).

Year 2

- Practical Sport Unit (written coursework, internally assessed).
- Sports Leadership Unit (written coursework, internally assessed) Application of Fitness Testing Unit (written coursework, internally assessed).
- Sports Psychology (written coursework, internally assessed).

NEXT STEPS

BTEC Sport students go on to study a wide range of subjects at degree level. Universities and employers are always searching for confident, responsible and independent students, in addition to their academic achievement. BTEC Sport is ideal to instil and further those qualities. Previous BTEC Sport students have gone on to study Physiotherapy, Sport Science, Sports Development, Sports Management and Physical Education teaching.

CAREER INFORMATION

BTEC National qualifications are valued by employers and higher education (Universities and Colleges). The course can be used towards entrance to Higher Education leading to careers in Sport. These jobs can include Sports Coaching, Teaching, Sports Therapy, Nutrition and Sports Psychology. The Extended Certificate can also be used alongside other vocational qualifications such as: Leisure Management, Recreation Management, Coaching and Personal Training.

EXTRA COSTS

Students can chose to pay £55 to purchase a course textbook, a revision book, a course t-shirt and to attend a minimum of two enrichment trips to enhance their subject knowledge. In the past these have been visits to sporting venues as well as external lectures.