



Redhill Academy Sixth Form Curriculum Brochure



A welcome from the Sixth Form

We are extremely proud of our Sixth Form. We have outstanding academic standards, excellent teaching and very high expectations of all our students. Our job is to ensure that you leave Redhill reaching your full potential. You will receive outstanding teaching and guidance, which will include your own personal Sixth Form Tutor. You will be closely monitored and supported to enable you to not only achieve excellent results, but to also grow into a person who will successfully take their place in society.

The Redhill Academy Sixth Form is also driven by a desire to see students 'aim high' in life and, as such, actively encourages students to apply to university or advanced apprenticeship. We run a specially tailored and successful programme with the University of Cambridge for students applying to Oxbridge or to study Medicine. We are thrilled that this year we once again have the largest number of students ever applying to Oxford and Cambridge and Medicine/Veterinary Medicine courses. We encourage all our Sixth Form students to become involved in the wider life of the school and we offer a range of opportunities, all of which helps to produce well-rounded individuals ready to take on the world.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us via the Sixth Form office. We look forward to meeting you all.

OUR REDHILL TEAM



Mr Edwards
Director of Post-16



Mrs Barlow
Headteacher



Ms Warren
Deputy Head



Miss Burch
Assistant Head



Miss Dudley
Administrator



Miss Koppoe
Academic Mentor



OUR OAKWOOD TEAM



Miss Lake
Associate Assistant
Headteacher



Mr McNeil
Curriculum Lead
Sport



Mrs Perry
Curriculum Lead
Health & Social Care



Miss Aplin
Sixth Form
Administrator





Redhill Trust Minimum

Entry Requirements

All students must attain five 9 - 4 grades at GCSE, with preferably a 5 in either English Language or Mathematics. Individual subjects require specific grades in a particular subject at GCSE. Please refer to the individual subject information for details or the grid in this booklet.

All students are expected to choose 3 A-Levels, or one Level 3 BTEC course, which they will study for 2 years. In addition students will choose to study an enrichment course which they will follow in Year 12. There is also an option for students gaining a grade 7 in Mathematics to study Further Maths.

All students without a grade 4 in either English language or Mathematics will be required to follow a course which will enable them to achieve this whilst in the Sixth Form.

All students will be interviewed by a member of the Sixth Form team. This will enable them to make an informed choice about the best subjects to suit their individual needs. Parents are welcome to discuss these choices with the Sixth Form team following the interview.

Subject Specific Entry Requirements

A level subject	Entry requirements
Art	GCSE grade 5 in Art. If Art not studied at GCSE we will look at each individual case
Biology	GCSE 6 in Biology GCSE or a combined Science grade 6,6
Business Studies	GCSE grade 5 in English Language
Chemistry	GCSE 6 in Chemistry GCSE or a combined Science grade 6,6
Computer Science	GCSE Computer Science grade 5
Dance	GCSE grade 5 or above in Dance will be an advantage but not essential if from a dance background
Drama & Theatre Studies	GCSE grade 5 in Drama
English Language	GCSE grade 5 in English Language
English Literature	GCSE grade 5 in English Literature and English Language
French	GCSE grade 5 in French
Further Maths	GCSE Maths grade 7
Geography	GCSE grade 5 in Geography
German	GCSE grade 5 in German
History	GCSE grade 5 in History
Maths	GCSE Maths grade 6
Media Studies	GCSE grade 5 in English Language
Music	GCSE grade 5 in Music or grade 5 ABRSM theory
PE	GCSE grade 5 PE
Philosophy, Religion & Ethics	GCSE grade 5 in English Language
Photography	Interest in photography
Physics	GCSE 6 in Physics GCSE or a combined Science grade 6,6
Politics	GCSE grade 5 English Language
Product Design – Resistant Materials	GCSE grade 5 in D&T. If D&T not studied at GCSE we will look at each individual case
Psychology	GCSE grade 5 in Biology or Combined Science
Sociology	GCSE grade 5 in English Language
Spanish	GCSE grade 5 in Spanish
Textiles	GCSE grade 5 in D&T Textiles. If D&T not studied at GCSE we will look at each individual case
BTEC subject	Entry requirements
Health & Social Care	GCSE grade 4 in English Language
Sport	GCSE grade 4 in English Language. Having studied a sport related course at GCSE/ Level 2 would be an advantage

Exam Board: OCR

A-Level Art

'Fine Art is that in which the hand, the head and the heart of man go together' John Ruskin

Why Fine Art?

Range: Whether you intend to pursue a career in the arts or follow a path that is un-related to art, having an A-Level in Fine Art can show that you have a wide range of skills, and another side to your talents.

Creative Thinking: Many employers are looking for creative thinking skills; art allows you to develop and demonstrate these skills.

A skill for life: On completion of either AS or A-Level Courses, you will leave with technical skill in a wide range of media, knowledge & understanding that will enrich your appreciation and enjoyment of the arts.

What can I expect?

The A-Level in Fine Art has been designed to develop an adventurous and enquiring approach to Art and Design. In particular, the aim of the A-Level is to develop intellectual, imaginative and creative powers. Students will build up a broad skill base, which will give them the opportunity to refine and extend technical, expressive and experimental skills. Students will explore a wide range of media and materials, from huge scale paintings to small scale etchings.

Students extend their knowledge and understanding of art through explorative study

and investigation, as well as visits to galleries and artists' studios where they will get the opportunity to do life drawing.

What do I need?

Students wishing to take the A-Level in Fine Art should be open minded and willing to try new things. They should have an enjoyment of Art, both in terms of creating their own work as well as an enthusiasm to know more about artists, designers and the contexts in which they operate. It is recommended that students have studied GCSE Art before undertaking the course and obtained a grade 5. If you do not have the GCSE you will need to submit a portfolio and academy staff will liaise with you regarding the portfolio.

What about the future?

Progression: A-Level Fine Art can allow you to progress on to a wide range of Degrees within the arts, spanning out to specialisms such as Design, Architecture, Fashion, Education, Film etc. Our students also use their A-Level in Art as a means to gain the UCAS points to get onto the Degree of their choice. Fine Art is a recognised subject at Russell Group Universities such as Oxford. Most students complete a Foundation studies course before choosing a specialised area to study at degree.

Biology

Exam Board: OCR

A-Level Biology

Why Biology?

Biology allows you to better understand the world around us from the biological molecules that make up organisms, down to the macrostructure of an ecosystem. Biology is a rapidly developing area and an in depth understanding of the subject gives you the skills and knowledge needed to make informed decisions about contentious issues such as cloning, stem cell research and xenotransplantation.

What can I expect?

During the two year A-Level course in Biology we study a huge variety of topics including cell structure, the human transport systems, plant transport, ecology and conservation, homeostasis, the biochemistry of respiration and photosynthesis and genetics.

Through studying Biology you will also develop many different skills. For example:

Practical skills required to manipulate scientific equipment with precision to gather accurate results

Analytical skills required to analyse and evaluate data and draw conclusions

Problem-solving skills which allow you to apply the knowledge that you have gained to unfamiliar situations

What do I need?

A grade 6 in Biology GCSE or a combined Science

grade 6,6. A high standard of Maths will be required.

What about the future?

There are a number of University courses and careers which Biology A-Level can lead into. For example medicine, dentistry, biochemistry, genetics, physiotherapy, sports science, nursing, midwifery, pharmacology and environmental science. Biology also has links with many other subjects including Chemistry, Physics, Maths, PE and Geography.

“In science the credit goes to the man who convinces the world, not to the man to whom the idea first occurs.” ~ Francis Darwin

Business Studies

Exam Board: AQA

A-Level Business Studies

Why Business Studies?

Fancy yourself at the head of a successful business? Or maybe you want to work for a large company with a multitude of development opportunities and career options?

No matter what your vision for Business Studies, this A-Level provides an academically challenging and modern course of study for those who are interested in the dynamic world of business. It has a strong strategic focus and uses real life business case studies and examples from day 1. You will develop the knowledge and skills needed to analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions – all skills that are needed for further study and / or employment.

What can I expect?

The content is designed to spark engagement and interest through topics and issues that are relevant in today's society. You will study key contemporary developments such as digital technology, sustainability, business ethics and globalisation.

Year 1 focusses on management decision making to improve performance through marketing, finance, operations and human resources functions.

Year 2 takes the content up to a strategic level looking at many of the practical models, concepts and theories used by senior corporate leaders in today's challenging business environment.

What do I need?

Minimum grade 5 in English Language.

The course is demanding and covers a whole range of skills from business maths through to essay writing. Therefore good numeracy and literacy skills, along with a passion for business and an interest in the current economic environment are important. You do not need to have studied Business at GCSE or BTEC to take this as an A-Level option.

What about the future?

Business studies is a very popular choice of degree for many students, and the employability rates for students with business degrees is exceptional. Alternatively, the A-Level develops many skills that employers are interested in. Industries as diverse as chemicals, utilities, fashion, health, retail and construction all require functional managers with a clear understanding of systems, efficiency and operational issues. Opportunities exist in management and analysis roles with employers in the private, public and voluntary sectors.

Chemistry

Exam Board: OCR

A-Level Chemistry

Why Chemistry?

Chemistry is a vibrant and exciting subject. It is involved in everything around us - from the making of new materials to understanding biological systems, from the food we eat to the medicines which keep us healthy and from the quality of the water we drink to keeping the air we breathe pure.

What can I expect?

The course involves the study of organic and inorganic chemistry. It leads seamlessly from the ideas studied at GCSE and provides an excellent foundation of knowledge required to study any type of Chemistry at university and. A-Level Chemistry lessons are diverse in their delivery and combine the study of theory with practical laboratory work. This course is assessed at the end of year 13 by 3 exam papers. In addition A level students will be assessed by their teachers on their practical skills, which will involve the pass/fail of 12 practical's.

What do I need?

An enquiring mind, an interest in science and strong problem solving, mathematical, communication and organisational skills are highly desirable. A grade 6 in Chemistry GCSE or a combined Science grade 6,6. A high standard of Maths will be required.

What about the future?

Chemistry is an essential qualification for a large number of careers, e.g. medicine, dentistry, biochemistry, engineering, pharmacology, forensic science and many more. Chemistry can open up a vast number of prospects within or outside the area of Science. Potential employers values the skills that are developed during the study of this subject. It can be used as an entry qualification for a wider variety of courses at higher education and indicates that an individual has very strong academic ability.

Computer Science

Exam Board: OCR

A-Level Computer Science

Why Computer Science?

Computer Science is a theoretical and practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, that can look at the natural world through a digital prism. Our Computer Science qualification will value computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

What can I expect?

The aims of this qualification are to enable you to develop:

An understanding and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including: abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation.

The ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so.

The capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.

The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science.

Mathematical skills.

Group work and independence.

What do I need?

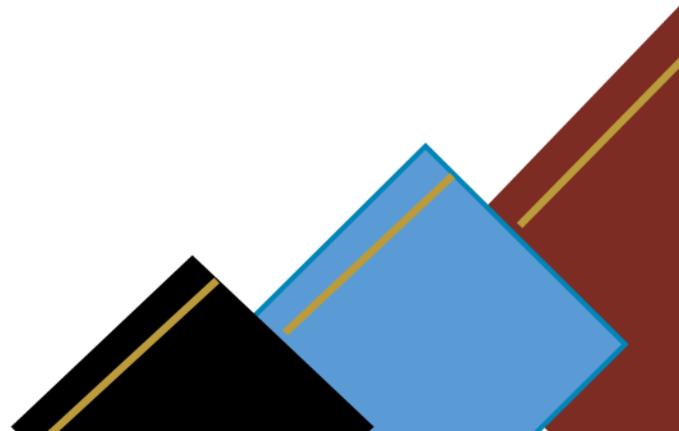
GCSE Computer Science grade 5 or above. A high standard of Maths is required.

What about the future?

Computer Science opens a world of opportunities, from IT Support Technician, Network Engineer, Software Engineer to Web Designer or Games Developer.

"Whether you want to uncover the secrets of the universe, or you want to pursue a career in the 21st century, basic computer programming is an essential skill to learn." –

Stephen Hawking



Dance

Exam Board: AQA

A-Level Dance

Why Dance?

Dance is a dynamic subject which encourages the development of creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. The course aims to inspire a lifelong passion and appreciation for dance.

What can I expect?

The course reflects both historical and current dance practices. There are in-depth academic areas of study, where critical engagement is required. This is in equal balance to the understanding and application of technical skills required for choreography and performance. You can expect physical and mental hard work with great artistic and academic rewards.

What do I need?

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Dance will be an advantage but not essential if from a dance background.

A love of dance is essential. The skills of creativity, diligence and resilience are required.

What about the future?

Progression to degree level Dance is a natural development. The skills developed through A-Level Dance can lend themselves to many areas of the Creative Industries, as well as Dance-specific careers such as professional dancers, choreographers, teachers, dance therapists, fitness and wellbeing instructors, dance critic, development, administration and marketing.

Drama and Theatre Studies

Exam Board: Edexcel

A-Level Drama & Theatre

Why Drama & Theatre?

Studying drama and theatre at A-Level gives you the opportunity to explore a wide range of play texts, theatre genres and dramatic styles as a performer, director and audience member. Through a range of creative and inspiring components, you will develop your skills to experiment with practical ideas, deepen your understanding of building and presenting performance work as an actor or designer and develop your ability to evaluate the drama and theatre created and watched. This course is ideal for anyone who is inspired by drama and theatre and keen to progress as a performer, director and/or designer. The course is highly regarded due to its practical and theoretical demands.

What can I expect?

The course will be assessed through a combination of a written examination and non-examined assessment. The non-examined assessment will include performance or design work based on texts studied and devised material explored. Through written and practical responses, you will be expected to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of complete play texts and key extracts, the work and methodologies of influential theatre practitioners and companies, and scripted and devised performance.

What do I need?

A Grade 5 or above at GCSE level is essential and wider experience of drama and theatre is desirable. If you have not taken drama at GCSE level but have an aptitude for performance work, this will be considered. The course is practically demanding and students are expected to experiment with contrasting performance styles and forms. In order to succeed, you will need to demonstrate the skills of commitment, collaboration and determination throughout the rehearsal and performance process. In addition, the theoretical demands of the course are high and you should be able to evaluate the drama and theatre explored, created and watched with understanding and insight.

What about the future?

The study of drama and theatre opens a pathway to many possible careers within the performing arts industry including: acting for stage or screen, directing, producing, writing, technical or design work with a focus on lighting, sound, costume, make up or set, teaching and theatre in education, drama therapy, community drama work. In addition, the skills gained through the study of drama and theatre can lead to successful careers in various fields: law, media, publicity, business management, social work and many more.

English Language

Exam Board: AQA

A-Level English Language

Why English Language?

English Language offers a common core of analytical methods, topics and skills which have proven value. This course will help you to deepen and develop your analytical skills, enabling you to study texts beyond their surface meaning, as well as understanding how language is constructed and used to create meaning, both in the spoken and the written word. The course will also offer you opportunities to investigate, through a data-led approach, how language is used in different contexts such as: the work place, different regions and social and gender groups.

What can I expect?

You can expect to study how language is used in different time periods and contexts and to investigate the language development of children. You will also be given the chance to create a piece of original writing and produce a language investigation.

What do I need?

GCSE Grade 5 in English Language.

An enthusiasm for debating common language issues and analysing texts in detail.

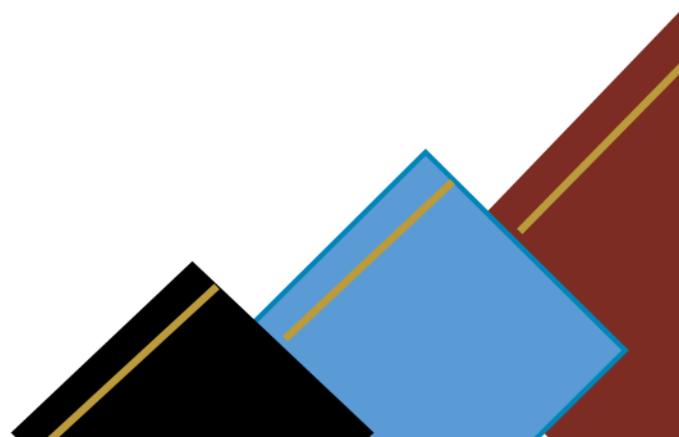
What about the future?

English Language students often go into the creative arts, media and publishing, using their skills as writers and analysts. Careers to consider: Journalist, Advertising, Copywriter, Law, Education, Medicine and Languages.

"The limits of my language are the limits of my world."

Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951)

Philosopher of mathematics, mind and Language



English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

A-Level English Literature

Why English Literature?

In English Literature you will learn how to actively and critically engage with a diverse range of texts in a way that goes far beyond the realms of GCSE. You'll engage in enlightening discussion and healthy debate on the course. Our aim is not to tell you what to think, but to develop your own skills of analysis, interpretation, critical reasoning and, most importantly, self-expression. These are all essential skills for today's global environment.

What can I expect?

You will study a range of complete texts, including 'Hamlet,' poetry by Christina Rossetti, 'A Doll's House' and, a favourite of students, 'The Great Gatsby.' You will also consider how literature makes sense of, and is influenced by, the context in which it was produced. You will conduct research into historical periods such as: the Victorian era, the 'Roaring Twenties' and 'The Great Depression.' Within all of this, you will develop a robust critical framework that enables you to interpret texts from a variety of perspectives. Just watch how a text is transformed when viewed through the lenses of feminism, Marxism and

What do I need?

Grade 5 in English Literature and English Language.

A love of reading critically.

What about the future?

Careers to consider: School teacher, Journalism and writing, Publishing, TV, Radio, Film, Drama and Music.

“When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young.”

— Maya Angelou

French

Exam Board: AQA

A-Level French

Why French?

- Speaking a new language helps you to get to know other people and cultures.

- French is the only other language besides English which is spoken across all five continents and is the mother tongue of over 200 million people.

- More than 250 million people speak French as a second language.

- Learning another language opens your mind to new ideas and new ways of looking at the world.

- An ability to speak French is a huge advantage in the international job market, not only in France but also in countries such as Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, and large parts of North and sub-Saharan Africa.

- France is one of the world's biggest economies and the number three destination for foreign investment.

What can I expect?

The A-Level course in French builds upon and rapidly expands and enhances the knowledge gained at GCSE. Communication skills flourish, along with knowledge of grammar for a more in-depth understanding of the language.

You will study a variety of topics including contem-

porary French music and cinema, the digital world and the role of charity in France.

Throughout the two year course you will work with a French Assistant through the school's links with the British Council. You will also get the opportunity to take part in the annual French trip to Paris which includes visiting a variety of famous landmarks and touristic sites as well as a trip to an authentic French market.

What do I need?

GCSE French is essential at grade 5.

What about the future?

There is a wealth of opportunities for students with French at A-Level and beyond. Language skills are highly prized in business and even small businesses can require staff who can communicate on a European and global platform. Finance, Marketing, Sales, Customer Services, Engineering and IT businesses all regularly require Modern Foreign Language speakers in high profile roles, as well as the more obvious opportunities in the Travel and Tourism industries, Translation and Interpreting work and Teaching.

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart"
- Nelson Mandela

Further Mathematics

Exam Board: AQA

A-Level Further Mathematics

Why Further Maths?

To study Further Mathematics at A-Level requires a real passion and enjoyment of the subject, and is ideally suited to gifted and talented mathematicians. It is a challenging qualification, which both extends and deepens your knowledge and understanding beyond the standard A-Level. Further Mathematics qualifications are highly regarded and are warmly welcomed by universities. Students who take Further Mathematics are really demonstrating a strong commitment to their studies, as well as learning mathematics that is very useful for any mathematically rich degree.

What do I need?

GCSE Maths Grade 7 is the entry requirement.

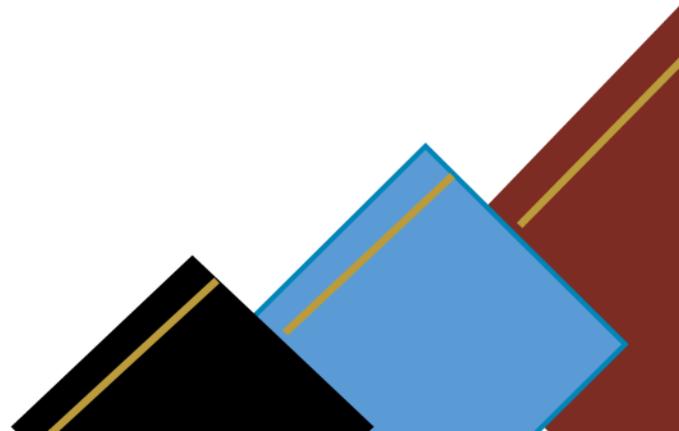
What about the future?

If you are planning to take a degree such as Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Finance/Economics, etc., or perhaps Mathematics itself, you will benefit enormously from taking Further Mathematics.

What can I expect?

Further Maths provides a chance to explore new and/or more sophisticated mathematical concepts. As well as learning new areas of pure mathematics, such as matrices and complex numbers with the possibility of completing further modules in either statistics, including poisson distribution and bivariate data, and mechanics including work, power and energy. Decision Mathematics gives you an understanding of how processes can be optimised using analytical powers.

“As far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain; and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality.” Albert Einstein



Geography

Exam Board: Edexcel

A-Level Geography

Why Geography?

Geography is a subject for our times. Geography is inherently multidisciplinary, requiring students to work across both physical and social sciences. Geographers learn how to analyse data, use GIS systems, turn maps from a two-dimensional representation of a country's physical contours into a tool that illustrates social attributes or attitudes: not just where people live, but how, what they think and how they vote.

Geography is highly valued by universities as an A-Level choice. The Russell Group report names geography as one of the eight facilitating subjects. This is a subject most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and choosing facilitating subjects will keep more options open to you at university. It gives you an in depth insight in to the world, its cultures and its concerns.

Geography also opens up a wide variety of career opportunities from sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location to managing the effects of hazards and climate change. For careers in the world of business, an understanding of global economics forms an important part of geography. If you are thinking of a career in law, human rights, international relations or welfare then geography gives you the opportunity to consider relevant issues such as; *How do we measure development? What*

are the consequences of migration on societies?

If you are working towards a future course in medicine or veterinary medicine then geography is a good choice to give your A-Level options the breadth that universities seek, as you will gain a clear understanding of how the environment affects health and survival of people, animals and ecosystems as well as enhancing your skills of writing essays and extended reports.

What can I expect?

You will learn in a wide variety of ways such as by using maps, GIS, data analysis, photos, videos and news reports. You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher level thinking skills and demonstrate your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing. You will improve or gain an ability to work constructively in a team environment, gain cultural awareness and learn project management skills. You will also be expected to complete an Individual Investigation using the fieldwork and enquiry skills gained during the residential field trip to Wales.

Topics covered include: Tectonic Hazards, Globalisation, Glaciated Landscapes, Regenerating Places, Water Insecurity, Energy Security, Superpowers and Migration, Identity and Sovereignty.

What do I need?

You need a strong interest in the subject and a grade 5 in GCSE Geography.

German

Exam Board: AQA

A-Level German

Why German?

In an increasingly globalized world, studying German gives students access to the language, culture, and marketplace of three leading European nations: Switzerland, Austria, and Germany.

German the most spoken language in the European Union and the tenth most spoken language in the world.

Germany is Europe's largest economy.

Speaking a new language helps you to get to know other people and cultures.

Learning another language opens your mind to new ideas and new ways of looking at the world.

What can I expect?

The A-Level course in German builds upon and rapidly expands and enhances the knowledge gained at GCSE. Communication skills flourish, along with knowledge of grammar for an in-depth understanding of the language. You will study a variety of topics including the digital world and youth culture in Germany, traditions and festivals, German art and architecture and the culture and history of Berlin.

You will also get the opportunity to work with a Swiss national through the school's link with Thurgau University.

What do I need?

GCSE German is essential at grade 5.

What about the future?

There is a wealth of opportunities for students with German at A-Level and beyond. Language skills are highly prized in business and even small businesses can require staff who can communicate on the European platform. Finance, Marketing, Sales, Customer Services, Engineering and IT businesses all regularly require Modern Foreign Language speakers in high profile roles, as well as the more obvious opportunities in the Travel and Tourism industries, Translation and Interpreting work and Teaching.

“To have another language is to possess a second soul”

- Charlemagne

“A different language is a different vision of life”

- Federico Fellini

Government and Politics

Exam Board: AQA

A-Level Government and Politics

Why Politics?

Politics affects all of us, from the tuition fees for university study to decisions about funding for the NHS. If you have a natural curiosity about the world, the way it is structured and how power is distributed then Politics may be the subject for you. The study of Politics enables students to scrutinise the decisions being made, and consider alternative solutions. This course aims to help students to think, to critically evaluate and to be creative in thought, and to be prepared to be active young citizens.

What can I expect?

Students will explore the way in which both the UK and USA are governed, and will draw comparisons and contrasts between them. We will study how leaders are elected and how they use their skills to lead. A study of political ideas including liberalism, conservatism and socialism and one other ideology to be selected will underpin the course. This course aims to bring real issues alive in the classroom, with independent thought, debate and discussion encouraged.

What do I need?

GCSE English Language grade 5 or above.

Politics students tend to come from a written background rather than maths or science, as essay writing skills are essential to exam success. This course works particularly well with History as there are many common themes, especially in Year 13. The most important factor to consider is whether you have a genuine interest in current affairs and political issues.

What about the future?

An A-Level in Politics can lead to a range of further study and career opportunities. Students can go on to study Politics, social policy, PPE and related courses at university, with potential employment including working in the civil service, politics itself or any career that requires up-to-date knowledge of the modern world.

‘Man (and woman) is by nature a political animal.’

- Aristotle

History

Exam Board: OCR

A-Level History

Why History?

Knowledge of History is vital for understanding key issues in the world today. It is an interesting course which offers students the opportunity to study a variety of British and non-British topics from different time periods.

What can I expect?

History is an exciting and well respected A-Level. You will experience a wide variety of teaching methods. Through individual and group work you will learn how to analyse and interpret a wide range of historical sources and you will have debates on key issues.

In A-Level History you will study:

Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest 1035-1107

Russia 1894-1941

Civil rights in the USA 1865-1992

A topic of your choice for your independent study

What do I need?

GCSE History grade 5 or above. A keen interest and enthusiasm for History and an understanding of its intrinsic value.

What about the future?

An A-Level in History provides a suitable foundation for the study of History or related courses at university. By fostering certain personal qualities and skills, an A-Level in History is also a valuable qualification as part of a general education as it encourages students to improve as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers.

Mathematics

Exam Board: AQA

A-Level Maths

Why A-Level Maths?

The main reason for studying Mathematics to an advanced level is that it is interesting and enjoyable. People like its challenge, its clarity, and the fact that you know when you are right. The solution of a problem has an excitement and a satisfaction. You should also be aware of the wide importance of Mathematics and the way in which it is advancing at a spectacular rate. Mathematics has a pervasive influence on our everyday lives and contributes to the wealth of the country.

What do I need?

GCSE Maths Grade 6 is the entry requirement.

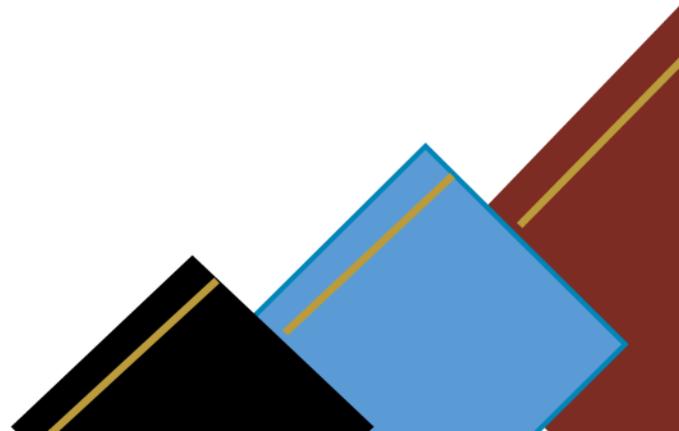
What about the future?

Many careers lend themselves to highly numerate individuals who succeed at A-Level maths, including (but not limited to) Actuarial work, Accountancy, Engineering and Medical Statistics.

What can I expect?

The pure Mathematics is a selection of higher level algebra including co-ordinate geometry with traditional calculus and trigonometry. The statistics module overlaps with some GCSE content and delves further into looking at the mathematical models surrounding many theoretical probability and data driven situations. You will study applications of mathematics in mechanics, including Newton's laws of motion and vectors.

“The difference between the poet and the mathematician is that the poet tries to get his head into the heavens while the mathematician tries to get the heavens into his head.” - GK Chesterton



Media Studies

Exam Board: AQA

A-Level Media Studies

Why Media Studies?

The media plays a huge part in most of our lives. Television, radio, print media, cinema and the internet all channel information. Media Studies is about understanding how the media shapes and influences the way we live. In the course you will investigate who produces media texts, who consumes them and what values and messages are found within them.

What can I expect?

You will gain an insight into the different elements of the media and how they target specific audiences. This subject will help you to be more analytical when thinking about different media texts and give you the opportunity to be more creative when producing your own texts.

What do I need?

You must have interest in the Media and a Grade 5 in English Language.

You must be able to show technical ability, ideally in Photoshop, Adobe Premier Editing, Audacity, Dreamweaver and/or Mediator.

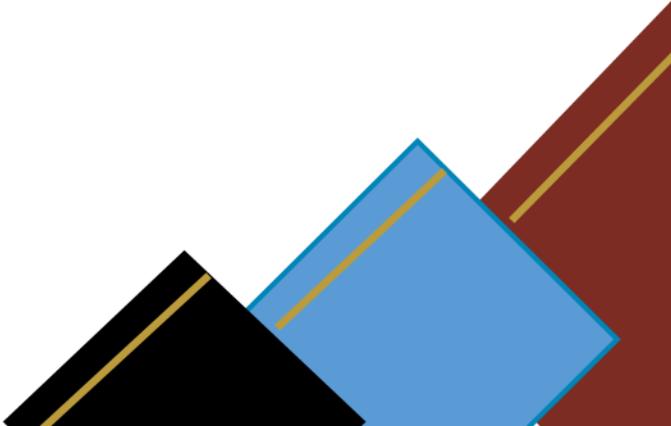
What about the future?

Media Studies is a popular course at universities.

Careers to consider: Journalism, Marketing, Media (TV and Radio), Acting and the Entertainment Industry.

“Whoever controls the media, controls the mind”

- Jim Morrison



Music

Exam Board: Edexcel

A-Level Music

Why Music?

Studying music at A-Level gives you the power to engage with music more deeply as a performer, composer and listener. A greater appreciation of how and why music is written will also be gained. The Edexcel A-Level Music course is a highly regarded syllabus. This course is for anyone who has a keen interest in creating and listening to different styles of music and who wishes to broaden their experience and deepen their understanding of Music.

What can I expect?

Students will study topics such as performance, composing to a given brief, listening and analysing set works using a music anthology. The listening and analysing aspect of the course requires a lot of in depth analysis of set works. Knowledge of music theory is a necessity.

What do I need?

A grade 5 or above at GCSE level or Grade 5 ABRSM theory. You must also be able to play an instrument to grade 5 standard. This course is a demanding course. It is much more detailed and in depth than GCSE Music and is extremely academic. Performing is only a small percentage of the final grade. Students should have a persistent attitude and be prepared to put hard work into practising.

They should be able to discuss critically, plan rehearsals and practice schedules, independently research topics, interpret scores and be prepared to play regularly in front of fellow class mates.

What about the future?

Possible career routes include performer, professional musician, composer, music agent, artistic director, music therapy, sound technician, sound engineer, producer, singer, marketing, publisher, musical director, private teacher, lecturer, software writer, software development, TV industry, concert management, radio industry, instrumentalist, music arranging, music recording, film music, lyricist/writer, administration, teacher.

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.” – Plato

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

Exam Board: OCR

A-Level Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

Why Philosophy, Religion and Ethics?

PRE offers students the opportunity to question the philosophical and ethical ideas that are present within different religious and non-religious worldviews. These are important as, even if we are not from a religious tradition, as humans, they inform and shape the society and the values that we live by.

Everyday life reflects these dilemmas of thought. These problems have been the source for some of the most influential and persistent of human questions; how should we live? What are we here for? Are we free? Is there a purpose to it all? What is right and what is wrong and on what basis can we make these decisions? PRE explores a wide variety of answers to these questions, encouraging students to come to their own conclusions.

What do I need?

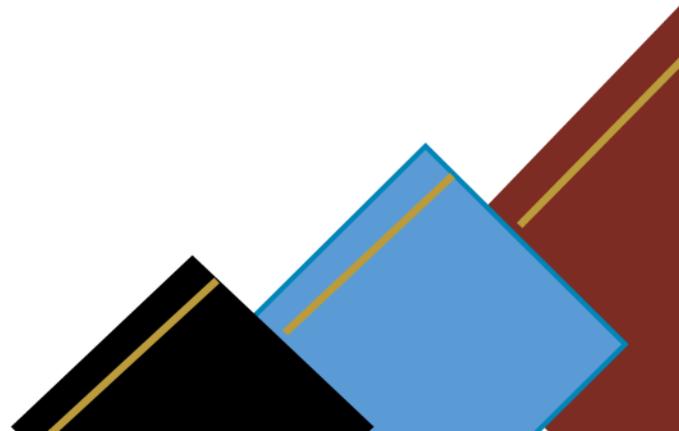
GCSE English Language grade 5 or above.

Skills and Future Opportunities

PRE develops desired skills such as critical thinking, analysis and the ability to form and communicate arguments which are desired in many fields including the medical profession, the Civil Service, advertising and marketing, journalism, investment banking and politics.

It compliments many fields such as the sciences, mathematics and law because it demands processes of reason and logic.

Finally, it also develops emotional intelligence and an awareness of the diversity of belief and practice in the world around us; this is useful if you are planning on going into a career which involves working with and caring for people in society such as social work, caring, nursing and education amongst many more.



Photography

Exam Board: OCR

A-Level Photography

Why Photography?

Range: You will gain specific and transferable skills

Creative Thinking: Many employers are looking for creative thinking skills; photography allows you to develop and demonstrate these skills.

A skill for life: The course will deepen your understanding of the visual world, and the various roles and functions photography has performed across different time periods and cultures. You will gain both technical, ICT and analytical skills that will enrich your appreciation of the arts and the way you see the world.

What can I expect?

The Photography A-Level gives candidates a rounded exposure to different aspects of photography, allowing them to display their abilities in a variety of disciplines. The aim of the A-Level is to develop intellectual, imaginative and creative powers. Students will build up a broad skill base, which will give them the opportunity to refine and extend technical skills. Students will explore a range of different approaches to the discipline, including both digital and more traditional approaches. They will extend their knowledge and understanding of photography through explorative study and investigation, as well as visits to galleries.

What do I need?

Students wishing to take the A-Level in Photography should be open minded and willing to try new things. Whilst there is a lot of technical and ICT input into the course, it is essentially an art-based approach to photography, and falls within the art department. No drawing (or art) skills would be needed to pass the course, and students would not need any prior photography experience.

What about the future?

Progression: A-Level Photography can allow you to progress onto a wide range of degrees both within and outside of the arts. Possible careers in Photography and related industries include: Freelance Practice, Photojournalism, Curating, Education, Publishing, Exhibiting, Research and Picture Editing, Medical, Documentary, and Fashion Photography, Film, Television, Video and Games.

"Look and think before opening the shutter. The heart and mind are the true lens of the camera"
Yousuf Karsh

Physics

Exam Board: OCR

A-Level Physics

Why Physics?

Physics is fundamental to our understanding of how the universe works and sits right at the heart of technology development. Studying Physics helps you develop skills employers' value – an ability to grasp concepts quickly, a determination to find coherent answers, not to mention problem-solving, analytical, and mathematical and IT skills.

What can I expect?

Core content

- 1 Measurements and their errors
- 2 Particles and radiation
- 3 Waves
- 4 Mechanics and materials
- 5 Electricity
- 6 Further mechanics and thermal physics
- 7 Fields and their consequences
- 8 Nuclear physics

Option Unit

What do I need?

Strong mathematical skills as 40% of the exam papers assess mathematical ability. A grade 6 in Physics GCSE or a combined Science grade 6,6.

What about the future?

The A-Level Physics course will prepare you for progression to undergraduate study, enabling you to enter a range of academic and vocational careers in astronomy, armed forces and defence solutions, engineering, medicine, meteorology and climate change, nanotechnology, oil and gas, renewable energy, scientific research, space exploration industries, telecommunications and research and education.

Product Design: Resistant Materials

Exam Board: AQA

A-Level Product Design

Why Product Design 3D

Think about the objects that you love. Your mobile phone with its delicious curves was designed on a computer screen. The car you yearn for started life as a reduced-size clay model. A building that you admire sprang from the drawing board of an architect. It's not a new phenomenon. Our fascination with 3D design goes back to flint arrow heads and earthenware pots.

What can I expect?

In Year 12 you will develop an understanding of a broad range of materials, with emphasis on the life cycle of products, manufacture and final disposal. You will also consider the broader issues for the designer including the environmental sustainability of products and consumer safety. You will learn all of this through a combination of practical workshop activities and classroom based theoretical study.

In Year 13 the specification offers candidates the opportunity to design, manufacture and test a product of their choice. This is submitted for assessment and contributes to 50% of the A-Level course. The remaining 50% of the course is assessed through two written exams at the end of Year 13.

What do I need?

A-Level Product design is the natural progression for those who have studied Design & Technology at GCSE, you will need to have gained a grade 5 in the subject. If you didn't do the subject at GCSE we will look at each individual and assess your suitability.

STUDENT QUALITIES

Independent learning skills

Interest in design and its impact on society

Creativity

Practical skills

Can meet deadlines

Research skills

Design and drawing ability.

What about the future?

Architecture, Automotive Design, Engineering, Ergonomic Design, Graphic Design, Product Design and Teaching are all possibilities.

"Design is good thinking made visual" - Saul Bass

Psychology

Exam Board: AQA

A-Level Psychology

Why Psychology?

Psychology is a fascinating subject because it aims to explain **you**. Psychology tries to explain what makes us who we are; are we entirely the products of our environment? Or does our biology play a more important role? How does our behaviour reflect evolutionary pressures over our ancestral history? We study a range of topics to try and discover these answers, but at a little over a century old Psychology is still a relatively young science, and therefore there are many questions we still do not know the answers to.

What can I expect?

During the new A-Level course you will be introduced to some of the foundations of Psychology such as the approaches from which different Psychologists explain human behaviour. We will also study biopsychology and issues and debates within the discipline, and these will be a common theme underpinning the topics we study.

What do I need?

A grade 5 in Biology GCSE or a combined Science

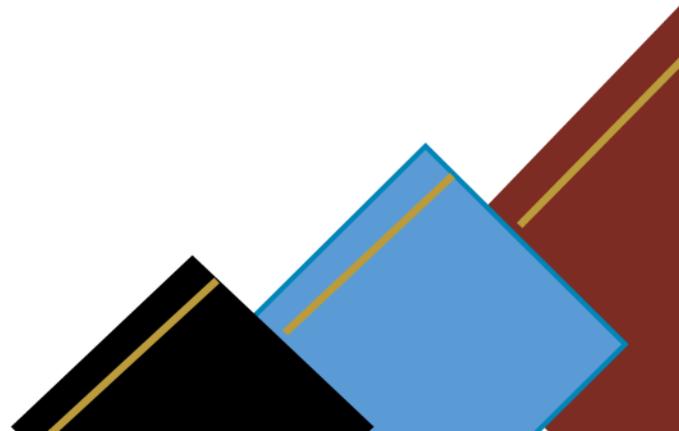
grade 5. A high standard of English and Maths is required.

What about the future?

Psychology provides a useful foundation for any job, as you will always be dealing with people, whatever career you follow. Studying psychology provides you with a vast number of options. Just some of the potential career options open to you include: education, social work, psychology, advertising, counselling, the police force and many more.

Like all science, psychology is knowledge; and like science again, it is knowledge of a definite thing, the mind.

James Mark Baldwin



Sociology

Exam Board: AQA

A-Level Sociology

Why Sociology?

In terms of the history of the Earth, it's only yesterday that mankind was living in the caves and the day before when we were swinging from branch to branch with the other creatures. And yet in what is really the blink of an eye we have developed into a complex society with a wide number of problems and opportunities to live with. In Sociology we explore what it means to live in society today.

Do you like to think?

Do you enjoy a good argument?

Are you interested in questions like:

- ◆ Why do women actresses get paid less?
- ◆ Who is most likely to commit crime?
- ◆ Who is most likely to underachieve at school?
- ◆ Should we be "proud" to be British?

What can I expect?

In Year 12 students will study topics such as Culture and Identity, the Sociology of Education and Research Methods. In Year 13 students will study Crime and Deviance and the Sociology of the Media. Sociological theory is central to the study of sociology therefore this is taught in both Year 12 and Year 13.

What do I need?

A Grade 5 in English Language GCSE and the ability to produce excellent written work – you will be writing a lot of essays in Sociology!

What about the future?

The subject is really useful for most careers and courses including Teaching, Nursing, Law, Politics, Journalism, TV and Drama and many jobs within the Criminal Justice System. Previous students are currently employed as Solicitors, Police Officers, Social Workers, Nurses and Teachers!

Spanish

Exam Board: AQA

A-Level Spanish

Why Spanish?

Speaking a new language helps you to get to know other peoples and cultures.

More than 350 million people speak Spanish as a native language and it is spoken in 22 countries over the world!

Learning another language opens your mind to new ideas and new ways of looking at the world.

The vitality of Spanish and Latin America's culture is reflected through music, art, cinema and it will teach you to appreciate other cultures as well as yours.

An ability to speak Spanish and English is a huge advantage in the job market.

What can I expect?

The AS and A2 courses in Spanish build upon and rapidly expand and enhance knowledge gained at GCSE. Communication skills flourish, along with knowledge of grammar for an in-depth understanding of the language. You will work more independently than at GCSE, although you are well-supported throughout the course.

What do I need?

GCSE Spanish is essential at grade 5.

What about the future?

There is a wealth of opportunities for students with Spanish at A-Level and beyond. Language skills are highly prized in business and even small businesses can require staff who can communicate on the European platform. Finance, Marketing, Sales, Customer Services, Computer Games. Engineering and IT businesses all regularly require Modern Foreign Language speakers in high profile roles, as well as the more obvious opportunities in the Travel and Tourism industries, Translation and Interpreting work and Teaching.

"The limits of my language are the limits of my world"

- Ludwin Wittgenstein

Sport and Physical Education

Exam Board: OCR

A-Level PE

Why PE?

This course provides students with a programme aimed at understanding and evaluating sport and physical activity. Strong emphasis is placed on the application of theory to practical issues such as participation, performance and skill acquisition. If you love playing and watching sport, keeping fit and healthy and are interested in how the body works, you will enjoy this course.

What can I expect?

COURSE STRUCTURE

The Exam: The exam element of the course is worth 70% of the final grade. The majority of your lessons will be theory based.

Content includes; applied anatomy and physiology, Skill acquisition, sport psychology, sport in society, exercise physiology, sport and society and sport and technology.

This is assessed through three separate exam papers.

The practical: The practical element of the course is worth 30% of the final grade.

The student is assessed in one sport, as either a performer OR coach (15% of final grade).

They must also complete a piece of course-work, this is a performance analysis and evaluation (15% of final grade).

What do I need?

You must be a competent performer in one sports and a general interest in sport is essential. You need to have a genuine interest in sport and physical education.

The course is theory based and hard work is definitely required. A grade 5 in GCSE PE is required to take this A-Level subject.

What about the future?

A' level PE is excellent preparation for university, you will have to work independently and be responsible for much of your practical grade. It sits very well with Biology, Physics and Psychology as there are cross over topics on these courses.

A' level PE is an excellent academic qualification for those considering studying it further at university or perhaps wanting a career in the sport industry. Past students have gone on to university, become physiotherapists, personal trainers, sport coaches, PE teachers, joined the army, become professional sports people, managers of leisure facilities and sports psychologists.

Textiles

Exam Board: AQA

A-Level Design and Technology Fashion and Textiles

Why Fashion and Textiles?

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 in to practice by producing 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.

In Year 13 the specification offers candidates the opportunity to design, manufacture and test a product of their choice. This is submitted for assessment and contributes to 50% of the A-Level course. The remaining 50% of the course is assessed through two written exams at the end of Year 13.

What do I need?

A-Level Fashion & Textiles is the natural progression for those who have studied Design and Technology with a textiles focus at GCSE or students that have studied Art at GCSE . If you have studied Design and Technology you will need a grade 5 at GCSE, however, if you didn't do the subject at GCSE we will look at each individual and assess your suitability.

What about the future?

Fashion designer, Materials Engineer, Interior designer, Industrial/Product Designer, Ergonomist, Graphic Design and Teaching are all possibilities.

“Design is good thinking made visual” - Saul Bass

BTEC Health and Social Care

Exam Board: Edexcel

BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care

Why Health & Social Care?

This course is the equivalent of completing three A-levels. This allows you to study a more practical qualification whilst still giving you the opportunity to progress to university or a higher apprenticeship. In addition to time spent studying in school you will also complete a substantial work experience element of the qualification.

What can I expect?

You will explore the key aspects of growth and development, and the experience of health and wellbeing. You will learn about factors that can influence human growth, development and human health and a number of theories and models to explain and interpret behaviour through the human lifespan.

Work experience

You will be completing a minimum of 100 hours in at least 3-4 placements. Only 20% of the total hours can be completed in an early year's setting and the remaining 80% of the total hours must be completed in other appropriate Health and Social Care settings.

What do I need?

GCSE grade 4 in English Language and enthusiasm for health care and social care is important.

What about the future?

Careers in Health & Social Care include the following. They include a mixture of pathways to these careers, including going to university.

Nursing – Adult and Children, Midwifery, Paramedic, Nutritionist and a Health Care Assistant

Teaching, Social worker, Youth worker, Health visitor, Police, The British Army, The Royal Air Force and The Royal Navy

BTEC Sport

Exam Board: Edexcel

BTEC Level 3 National Extended

Diploma in Sport (3 A Levels)

Why BTEC Sport?

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport give a broad insight into the diversity of disciplines and careers available in sport and offers you the full spectrum of potential exit routes including university, scholarships, employment and apprenticeships. If you love playing, coaching, watching, analysing sport, this is certainly the subject for you. You will just be focusing on sport and the range of activities and knowledge like no other subject.

What can I expect? Course Structure, The Exams:

There are 4 exams (1 external and 3 internal). The external exam is like any other exam, revise and take the test. The 3 internal exams are slightly different. You will be able to take 4 pieces of paper into the exam with you that has you research notes on. This information can be used in your exam.

The coursework and practical

There are 10 units that are coursework based, within each unit you will have coursework which will include practical/presentations, evaluation/analysis and also research.

What do I need?

A grade 4 in English Language. GCSE. Having studied a sport related course at GCSE/Level 2 would be an advantage.

What about the future?

BTEC Sport in PE is excellent preparation for university, you will have to work independently and be responsible for much of your practical grade. It sits very well with Biology, Physics and Psychology as there are cross over topics on these courses.

PE is an excellent academic qualification for those considering studying it further at university or perhaps wanting a career in the sport industry. Past students have gone on to university, become physiotherapists, personal trainers, sport coaches, PE teachers, joined the army, become professional sports people, managers of leisure facilities and sports psychologists.

T-LEVEL
1

EQUIVALENT

3
A LEVELS

1

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2

RANGE OF INDUSTRIES
YOUR PATH INTO A WIDE RANGE OF INDUSTRIES
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A T LEVEL WILL PUT YOU LEAPS AHEAD – YOU’LL KNOW MORE, HAVE REAL EXPERIENCE AND BE READY TO SUCCEED

Bruce Boughton,
Lovell Partnerships

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YOUR PATH INTO A WIDE RANGE OF INDUSTRIES
YOUR PATH INTO A WIDE RANGE OF

T Levels: Education and Childcare

T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

What are T Levels?

T Levels are technical education courses which follow GCSEs. One T Level is roughly equivalent in size to three A levels. These 2-year courses have been developed with employers so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work. Employers involved in designing the T Level in Education and Childcare include Ellesmere Children's Centre, Interserve Learning and Employment and Cromwell Consulting Ltd.



What do they involve?

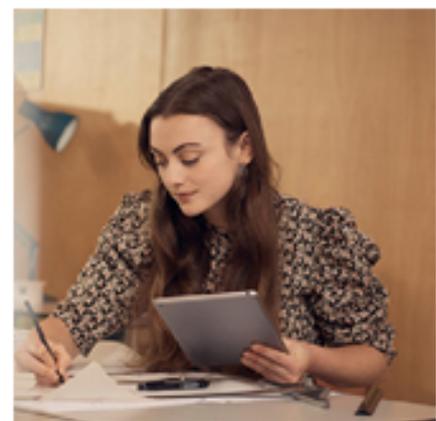
T Level courses contain the following elements:

- a technical qualification, which will include:
 - core theory, concepts and skills for an industry area
 - specialist skills and knowledge for an occupation or career
- an industry placement with an employer lasting at least 45 days

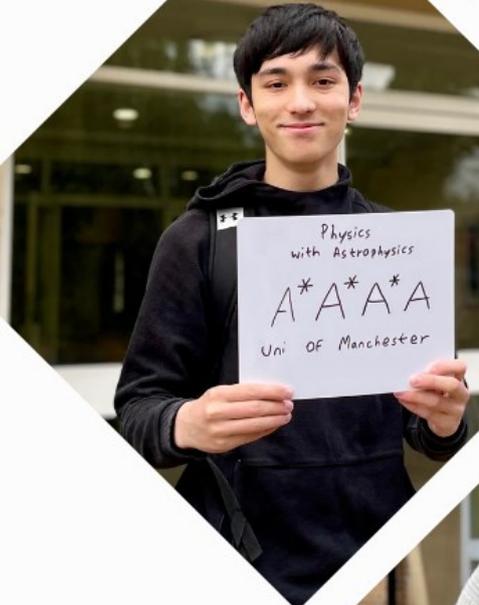
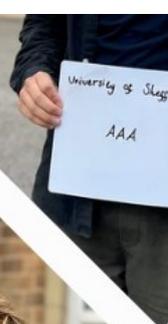


What are the entry requirements?

There are no nationally set entry requirements for starting a T Level. Each college, school or independent learning provider sets their own requirements. For more information, check with the relevant school or college - you can search for your nearest provider at www.tlevels.gov.uk



To search for T Levels near you, visit TLevels.gov.uk



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