

Course Guide 2027-28



WESTWOOD COLLEGE AND LEEK HIGH SCHOOL

Combined Offer for Post-16 Education



Contents

Course Outline	3
Communication regarding your child	4
Application Process	5
Entry Requirements	6
A Level Courses	8
A Level Art (Fine Art/Textiles)	8
A Level Biology	9
A Level Chemistry	10
A Level Design & Technology: Product Design	11
A Level Drama and Theatre Studies	12
A Level AQA Extended Project Qualification	13
A Level English Language	14
A Level English Literature	15
A Level French, German and Spanish	16
A Level Geography	17
A Level History	18
A Level Mathematics	19
A Level Further Mathematics	20
Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies (Core)	21
A Level Media Studies	22
A Level Physical Education (PE)	23
A Level Photography	24
A Level Physics	25
A Level Psychology	26
A Level Sociology	27
Vocational Courses	28
BTEC Pearson Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business	28
BTEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition	30
BTEC Level 3 AAQ BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate)	31
BTEC Sport Level 3	32

Course Outline

Please use this guide to understand the offer at Westwood College and Leek High School for Post 16 Education.

We have a broad offer to suit all ability levels. We want to ensure our students leave us well equipped for University, Apprenticeships or employment. In Year 12 and 13, students will study the equivalent of 3 A Levels. Employers and universities do not stipulate more than 3 A Levels as an entry requirement therefore, we are providing our students with a solid foundation for whatever their next steps are. We will make an exception for some students to study the equivalent of 4 A Levels but this will be in exceptional circumstances.

Our general entry requirements are 5 GCSE passes including English and Maths. Some courses have their own entry requirements. We may consider applications from students with lower grades in exceptional circumstances.

All students will have the following on their timetable:

Standard Timetable	Number of lessons per week
Subject 1	4
Subject 2	4
Subject 3	4
Tutor time	1
Study sessions	3

Each subject is studied for 4 lessons per week.

We will endeavour to offer students their top 3 choices, however, we may need to have conversations about their pathway and we reserve the right to withdraw courses due to insufficient numbers.

Alongside their examination subjects, there is a wider extra-curricular and super-curricular offer which includes:

- Biology Visit to Anglesey
- New York Visit
- HE/Apprenticeship Convention in Manchester
- Keele University Open Day/Employability course
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Students' Union
- Year 13 Prom Committee
- Mentoring/Volunteering
- Inspire Cafes - Super-curricular masterclasses
- Work Experience week

Communication regarding your child

Arbor is used to communicate between home and school. Using this platform enables families to find details of:

- Target Grades for all subjects: These will be aspirational and achievable based on GCSE outcomes.
- Progress Reports: Available at regular points throughout the year
- Attendance
- Communication between home and school

All Year 12 students will sit progress tests in the Summer Term.

All Year 13 students will sit Trial exams in the Autumn Term.

Application Process

October 2027

- P-16 Open Evening. Tours of WWC and LHS are available if you are not able to attend one of these
- Online Course Booklet and Application Form released

11th December 2026

- Deadline for applications

January – February 2027

- You will be invited for a guidance meeting to discuss your future pathway

March 2027

- You will be invited to take part in taster lessons to help you make your course choices
- You will receive your conditional offer from us (or we may decline your place if you do not meet requirements for our programme)

June 2027

- Induction Day – meet the teachers and tutors, take part in lessons and find out more about life at WWC and LHS Post-16

19th August 2027

- GCSE Results Day! We will notify you to confirm your place. If you have not achieved the grades you were hoping for, please do not worry. Contact us to discuss options and alternative pathways on 19th and 20th August.

September 2027

- Your first day begins!

Entry Requirements

The general entry requirement to our combined P16 programme is 5 GCSE passes including English and Maths. Each subject has specific requirements detailed below.

Subject	Entry Requirements
Art	5 in GCSE-Art (could be subject to a personal portfolio and general entrance requirements)
Biology	2 x 6s in GCSE Science or 6 in GCSE Biology
Chemistry	2 x 6s in GCSE Science plus 5 in GCSE Maths or 6 in GCSE Chemistry plus 5 in GCSE Maths
Design	5 in GCSE Design (if studied at GCSE) or 5 in a related GCSE (could be subject to a personal portfolio and general entrance requirements)
Drama	5 in GCSE Drama (if studied at GCSE) or evidence of performance ability/experience plus general entrance requirements
Extended Project Qualification - EPQ (AS)	General entrance requirements
English Language	5 in GCSE English Lang/Lit
English Literature	5 in GCSE English Lang/Lit
French/German/Spanish	5 in GCSE of language chosen
Geography	5 in GCSE Geography (or 5 in English Lang/Lit plus general entrance requirements)
History	5 in GCSE History (or 5 in English Lang/Lit plus general entrance requirements)
Mathematics	6 in GCSE Mathematics
Further Mathematics	7 in GCSE Mathematics
<i>Core Maths (AS)</i>	4 in GCSE Mathematics

Media	5 in Media (if studied at GCSE) or general entrance requirements
P.E.	5 in GCSE PE (if studied at GCSE) or proven ability/involvement in sport plus general entrance requirements
Photography	5 in GCSE Art-related subject (could be subject to a personal portfolio and general entrance requirements)
Physics	2 6s in GCSE Science plus 5 in GCSE Maths or 6 in GCSE Physics and 5 in GCSE Maths
Psychology	5 in English Lang/Lit, 5 in Maths and 5 in Science
Sociology	5 in GCSE English Lang/Lit
BTEC Business (1 A Level)	General entry requirements
WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Food Science & Nutrition (1 A Level)	General entry requirements
BTEC National Diploma in Health & Social Care (2 A Level equivalent)	General entry requirements
BTEC Sport (available as 1 or 2 A Level equivalent)	General entry requirements

We reserve the right to withdraw courses if there are insufficient numbers. This is based on staffing and availability of resources within school.

Individual circumstances may be taken into account if entry requirements have not been met but these may need to be evidenced. The decision is at the discretion of the Head of School.

A Level Courses

A Level Art (Fine Art/Textiles)

Course Code: AQA 7202/7204

Aims:

Both Fine Art and Textiles encourage students to practically explore ideas through a wide range of visual media, techniques and processes. Students will develop technical skills, conceptual thinking and a greater understanding of historical and contemporary Arts.

Content:

These creative, practical subjects allow students to increase their visual literacy whilst developing their understanding of the creative process. Students will use a wide range of materials, techniques and processes relevant to each endorsement and engage with contextual sources including art history, theory and critical source material using this to underpin ideas and practical work. The course is designed around the requirements of the AQA specifications for both courses.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	• Themed introductory project- • Component 1 - Personal Investigation (NEA). A sustained practical unit, the topic of which is of the student's choosing.	Worth 60% of final grade. Work completed in Year 12 and into Year 13 up until January.
13	• Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment (ESA).	Worth 40% of final grade. From February to April of Year 13. Culminating in a 15-hour practical assessment in controlled conditions

Course specific entry requirements:

Studying Art at GCSE level is essential to allow students to progress to A Level. In addition to this general entry requirements are required.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

These courses equip students with transferable skills that will support them in both further study and a range of creative careers. Our past students have gone on to study at degree level at prestigious arts universities including Goldsmiths University of London, Edinburgh College of Art, Falmouth University and Loughborough University, and have gone on to successful creative career pathways.

A Level Biology

Course code: AQA A Level Biology 7402

Aims:

- To allow students to develop a thorough understanding of the biological principles and practices.
- To develop a love of science and see the relevance and application to everyday life
- To promote awareness of the social and ethical implications of biology

Content:

The specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of biology. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics, and they are assessed through the written papers. The Practical Endorsement will also support the development of practical skills.

Curriculum Map

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	1. Biological Molecules 2. Cells 3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment 4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms	Paper 1 2 hours 35% Based on modules 1-4 91 marks including 15 marks extended response questions Paper 2 2 hours 35% Based on modules 5-8 91 marks including 15 marks comprehension questions
13	5. Energy transfers in and between organisms 6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments 7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems 8. The control of gene expression	Paper 3 2 hours 30% Based on modules 1-8 78 marks including a 25-mark essay Practical endorsement in Biology

Course Specific Entry Requirements:

GCSE Grade 6/6 in Combined Science or Grade 6 in Biology. GCSE Grade 5 in Maths.

Future destinations/ Career Pathways:

Job opportunities that link into A Level Biology are vast, including, biochemistry, pharmaceuticals, medicine, agriculture, microbiology and environmental science. There are Level 4 Higher Apprenticeships that can be studied following this A Level.

A Level Chemistry

Course Code: AQA A Level Chemistry 7405

Aims:

- Studying composition and structure: Investigating the atoms, molecules, and elements that make up the universe.
- Problem-solving: Developing practical and manipulative skills to solve problems in chemistry-related contexts.
- Addressing global challenges: Utilizing chemical principles to tackle issues in energy, health, food security, and environmental protection.

Content:

A-Level Chemistry (AQA) will enable students to build on concepts and skills that will have been developed at GCSE. Students will analyse and evaluate scientific knowledge and apply it to unfamiliar situations, demonstrate and describe practical techniques and processes, and develop an understanding of chemical concepts using real world chemical applications drawn from modern applications in industry and in the environment.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	Atomic Structure, Amount of Substance, Bonding, Energetics, Kinetics, Equilibria, Periodicity, Group 2/7, Period 3 Alkanes, Halogenoalkanes, Alkenes, Alcohols, Analysis	In class assessment and Y12 Trial Exams
13	Thermodynamics, Rate Equations, K _p , Electrochemical Cells Transitional Metals Optical Isomerism, Aldehydes and Ketones, Carboxylic acids, Aromatics, Polymers, Biochemistry, Synthesis, Analysis.	Formal Exams x2, 2hr Papers

Course specific entry requirements:

GCSE Grade 6/6 in Combined Science or Grade 6 in Chemistry. GCSE Grade 5 in Maths.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

Chemistry is a highly respected subject required for a range of careers including Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Dentistry, Engineering, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and Veterinary Science.

A Level Design & Technology: Product Design

Course Code: Pearson 9DTO

Aims:

- Develop creative problem-solving and design thinking skills.
- Design products that meet user needs and create positive experiences.
- Develop practical skills using CAD, 3D printing, prototyping and traditional techniques.
- Understand sustainable design and how it can address global challenges.

Content:

Year 12

Year 12 focuses on developing and refining practical design skills. Students explore creative methods for generating ideas, develop new presentation techniques and learn to use a wider range of tools, machinery and materials than at GCSE. They will also develop their understanding of iterative design, working in a way that reflects design practice at university and in professional design studios.

Year 13

Year 13 focuses on a substantial design-and-make project, which accounts for 50% of the overall A-level. Students respond to a real-world design brief, working with feedback from clients to develop high-quality ideas. They will research, design and manufacture a final product, applying and refining the skills, techniques and knowledge developed in Year 12 before rigorously testing and evaluating their work.

Theory

Across both years, students develop their understanding of materials, manufacturing processes and modern production. This knowledge is assessed in the final examination at the end of Year 13 and accounts for the remaining 50% of the A-level.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	A range of 2- & 3-week projects	2.5hr written exam
13	A single design and make project	2.5hr written exam

Course specific entry requirements:

Grade 5 at GCSE in D&T.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

Product Design, Industrial Design, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Stage & Set Design, Mechanical Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Architecture, Materials Science.

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies

Course Code: OCR H459

Aims:

- Interrogate Drama and Theatre: To critically analyse and understand a range of drama and theatre from different historical periods and cultures and to apply knowledge and understanding to create and develop original drama performances and explore different theatrical styles and genres.
- Critical Analysis and Theory: To engage with the work of others and understand a range of theatrical practitioners, including their methodologies and influence on contemporary theatre.
- Develop Performance Skills: To refine acting, directing, and design skills through practical work, focusing on character development, stagecraft, and emotional expression.

Content:

Component 1/2 (Performance): Practical work is assessed either as a performer or a designer. Component 1 includes a coursework portfolio. Component 3/4 (Written Exams): Students take written exams where they analyse performances and deconstruct theatrical texts. Texts studied: Sweeney Todd, Frankenstein, Othello.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	Practitioners in Practice: devised performance and Coursework	Performance and coursework
13	Presenting and Performing Texts: Scripted exam Written papers on set texts: Sweeney Todd, Frankenstein and Othello	Performance 2 x written papers

Course specific entry requirements:

Grade 5 or above GCSE Drama

Future Career/ destination pathways:

The course provides opportunities in theatre, film, TV, teaching, and arts administration. Specific roles include acting, directing, stage management, lighting design, sound design, and costume design. The qualification also builds transferable skills like communication, project management, and creativity, which are valuable for various careers.

A Level AQA Extended Project Qualification

Course Code: AQA 7993

Aims:

Develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills, extend planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills.

Produce one of the following:

- 5000-word essay
- Artefact with 1000-word essay
- Event with 1000-word essay

Content:

Taught element includes research skills, ICT skills, project management, academic referencing, source analysis, professional presentation.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	Taught element Plan project Research Begin to write project	Final project Logbook Project plan Source analysis Presentation
13	Complete writing project Present findings Reflection	

Course specific entry requirements:

Typically, an average grade profile of 6 and above.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

The project is about skill development, so will help with the transition to university, apprenticeships and employment. The student also has freedom to select the topic, which means it can be linked to their future plans to support that journey.

A Level English Language

Course Code: AQA 7702

Aims:

- **Explore how language is used** across spoken, written, and digital texts, considering audience, purpose, and context.
- **Study language diversity and change**, examining how language varies by region, social group, gender, and evolves over time.
- **Apply linguistic concepts and theories** to analyse real-world texts using appropriate terminology.
- **Develop independent research and writing skills**, including a language investigation and crafting original writing for different audiences.

Content:

Students explore how language is used in real-world contexts, analysing both spoken and written texts from a variety of genres. They study how language reflects audience, purpose, and context, and investigate how it varies by region, gender, age, occupation, and social background. The course includes the study of language change over time and how children acquire language. Students learn to apply linguistic theories and terminology to analyse texts in depth. The Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) involves two pieces: a language investigation on a topic of the student's choice, and a piece of original writing with commentary. The course develops analytical, research, and creative communication skills.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	An introduction to language levels Meanings and representations Child language development	Paper 1: 2 hours 30 minutes 40%
12 & 13	NEA: Language investigation and original writing	3500-word folder 20%
13	Language diversities Language change Opinion articles	Paper 2: 2 hours 30 minutes 40%

Course specific entry requirements:

5 in GCSE English Language

Future Career/ destination pathways:

Media & Communication, Marketing & Advertising, Education & Research, Law & Public Sector.

A Level English Literature

Course Code: AQA 7717

Aims:

- **Develop critical, independent reading skills** by exploring a range of literary texts, forming personal responses, and engaging with different interpretations.
- **Analyse how writers use language, form, and structure** to create meaning and effect across poetry, prose, and drama.
- **Understand the influence of context** by studying texts in relation to their historical, social, and cultural backgrounds.
- **Enhance comparative and academic writing skills** through structured argument, use of evidence, and engagement with literary criticism.

Content:

Students explore a wide range of **literary texts** from different periods and genres, including **poetry, prose, and drama**. Students study **set texts** closely, developing analytical skills and understanding of **literary theory and critical viewpoints**. Contextual knowledge is key, with emphasis on the **historical, political, and social influences** on texts. The **Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)** involves an **independent critical study** of two texts, allowing students to apply critical theories and personal interpretations. The course encourages independent thinking, detailed textual analysis, and an appreciation of literature's role in society.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	An introduction to tragedy	Tragedy Anthology Project
12	William Shakespeare: <i>Othello</i> John Keats: selected poems Arthur Miller: <i>Death of a Salesman</i>	Paper 1: 2 hours 30 40%
12	NEA: Poetry and Prose	2500-word folder 20%
13	Khaled Hosseini: <i>The Kite Runner</i> Margaret Atwood: <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> William Blake: <i>Songs of Innocence & Experience</i>	Paper 2: 3 hours 40%

Course specific entry requirements: 5 in GCSE English Literature

Future Career/ destination pathways: Media & Publishing, Education & Academia, Creative & Arts, Communication & Marketing, Law & Public Sector.

A Level French, German and Spanish

Course Codes: AQA 7652, 7662, 7692

Aims:

- Enhance linguistic skills
- Develop capacity for critical thinking
- Develop knowledge about society and culture
- Engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials
- Develop as an independent researcher through the language of study

Content:

Course content in all three languages consists of three core topic areas, and two additional cultural topics. Students will also get the opportunity to conduct their own research into any field of their choice that links to the studied language.

1. Social issues and trends
2. Political and artistic culture
3. Grammar
4. Works: Literary texts and films

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	Aspects of society: current trends Artistic culture Set text 1 (Film) Individual Research Project	100% - Examination Paper 1: Listening, reading, and writing (40%)
13	Set text 2 (Novel) Aspects of society: current issues Aspects of Political Life Individual Research Project	Paper 2: Writing (30%) Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

Course specific entry requirements:

Minimum GCSE grade 5 or equivalent in the chosen language.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

International Business – *Sales, marketing, and customer service for global companies.*
Diplomacy & Government – *Foreign office, civil service, and embassy roles.*
Tourism & Hospitality – *Travel agencies, airlines, hotels, and tour operations.*
Media & Publishing – *Journalism, editing, and content creation with international focus.*
NGOs & International Development – *Humanitarian work and project coordination.*
Cultural Institutions – *Museums, cultural exchange programs, and heritage organizations.*

A Level Geography

Course code: Pearson 9GE0

Aim:

The aim of Edexcel A Level Geography is to develop students' understanding of the interactions between people and the environment, both locally and globally. It encourages critical thinking about contemporary issues such as climate change, globalisation, resource management, and inequality.

Content:

The curriculum combines physical and human geography topics. It explores how natural systems and human activities interact, addressing contemporary issues like environmental change, resource security, and development. The course emphasises practical skills through fieldwork and independent investigation, preparing students to analyse complex geographic data, think critically, and understand the challenges facing our world today.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
1	• Theme 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards • Theme 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change (Coastal Landscapes) • Theme 3: Globalisation • Theme 4: Shaping Places (Regenerating Places) • Four fieldwork days in North Wales, Liverpool and Leek	Paper 1 – Physical Geography (2 hours 15 minutes, 30% of A Level) Paper 2 – Human Geography (2 hours 15 minutes, 30% of A Level) Paper 3 – Synoptic Investigation (2 hours 15 minutes, 20% of A Level)
2	• Theme 5: The Water Cycle & Water Insecurity • Theme 6: The Carbon Cycle & Energy Security • Synoptic / Applications (Paper 3) players, attitudes & actions, futures & uncertainties • Independent Investigation	Independent Investigation (NEA / Coursework, 20% of A Level) A fieldwork-based project (3,000-4,000 words) on a topic aligned with the spec

Course specific entry requirements:

5 in GCSE Geography (or 5 in Eng. Lang/Lit plus general entrance requirements)

Future destinations/ Career Pathways:

Urban Planner / Town Planner – Working on the design and development of towns, cities, and infrastructure projects. **Environmental Consultant** – Advising organizations on how to reduce environmental impact and comply with regulations. **GIS Specialist (Geographic Information Systems)** – Analysing spatial data for purposes like mapping, planning, and environmental management.

A Level History

Course Code: OCR History AH0

Aims:

- To develop learners' analytical and independent thinking skills.
- To encourage engagement with a broad range of historical topics.
- To foster the ability to evaluate historical evidence and sources effectively.
- To promote an understanding of different historical interpretations

Content:

The course consists of three examined units, and a topic-based essay (coursework):

- British Period Study and Enquiry (25%) – The Stuarts and the origins of the Civil War 1603-1660
- Non-British Period Study (15%) – The Cold War 1941-1995
- Thematic study and historical interpretations (40%) – Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992
- Topic based essay (20%) – a topic chosen by the student.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	The Cold War 1941-1995 The Stuarts and the origins of the Civil War 1603-1660	In-class assessment and Trial Exams
13	Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992 Topic based essay	End of course external exams Topic based essay

Course specific entry requirements:

Ideally, students will have achieved a minimum grade 5 in History GCSE, plus general entrance requirements. We are willing to discuss entry requirements with students on an individual basis.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

The study of A level History can lead to various university degrees, such as in History, Politics, Law, and Philosophy, and opens pathways to various careers in areas like law, teaching, journalism and the civil service.

The skills developed, including critical thinking, research, analysis, and communication, are highly valued by both universities and employers across many different sectors.

A Level Mathematics

Course Code: Edexcel 9MA0

Aims:

- Understand mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence, fosters enjoyment and provides a strong foundation for progress to further study.
- Extend range of mathematical skills and techniques.
- Understand coherence and progression in mathematics and how different areas of mathematics are connected.
- Use mathematical knowledge to make logical and reasoned decisions in solving problems both within pure mathematics and in a variety of contexts and communicate the mathematical rationale for these decisions clearly.

Content:

- Pure Mathematics
- Statistics
- Mechanics

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	Pure Mathematics: Involves abstract topics like algebra, functions, trigonometry, and calculus, which builds a strong foundation for applied mathematics.	• In-class assessment: October, December, April and June
13	Mechanics: Focuses on motion, forces, and how and why objects move, linking closely to physics. Statistics: Involves making sense of complex data, using analytical methods to draw conclusions from information sets.	• Internal assessment & Trial Exams • External Papers (Pure 1, Pure 2 and Statistics & Mechanics) each lasting 2 hrs)

Course specific entry requirements:

Students are expected to have sat the Higher tier at GCSE Mathematics and achieved a minimum of a Grade 6. Only in exceptional circumstances would a Grade 5 be considered, but this would be done through consultation with the Head of Mathematics as well as careful analysis of the student's individual exam papers on a case-by-case basis.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

An A-Level Mathematics course prepares students for diverse career paths by fostering critical skills, leading to further study in mathematics, finance, engineering, data science, and other STEM fields.

A Level Further Mathematics

Course Code: Edexcel 9FM0

Aims:

- Understand mathematics and mathematical processes in ways that promote confidence, foster enjoyment and provide a strong foundation for progress to further study.
- Understand coherence and progression in mathematics and how different areas of mathematics are connected.
- Apply mathematics in other fields of study and be aware of the relevance of mathematics to the world of work and to situations in society in general
-

Content:

- Core Pure Mathematics
- Decision Mathematics
- Further Statistics

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	Core Pure Mathematics: This is a compulsory section covering advanced mathematical concepts, including complex numbers, matrices, vectors, proof, and differential equations.	• In-class assessment: October, December, April and June
13	Further Statistics: Explores probability distributions, hypothesis testing, and regression analysis. Decision Mathematics: Introduces algorithms and techniques for solving problems in areas like scheduling, resourcing, and optimization.	• Internal Assessment & Trial Exams • External Papers (Core Pure 1 & 2, Decision 1 and Further Statistics 1 each lasting 1 Hour and 30 Minutes)

Course specific entry requirements:

Students are expected to have sat the Higher tier at GCSE Mathematics and achieved a minimum of a Grade 7. Experience of studying the Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics is advantageous but not a requirement.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

An A-Level Further Mathematics qualification is a strong foundation for a wide range of demanding university degrees and careers, particularly in STEM and finance, including Engineering, Computer Science, Data Science, Physics, Economics, and Actuarial Work.

Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies (Core)

Course Code: AQA 1350

Aims:

- Consolidate GCSE Skills: Build upon and deepen understanding of key mathematical topics learned at GCSE.
- Develop Practical Skills: Enhance competence in applying mathematical techniques to real-life situations, such as personal finance, data analysis, and modelling.
- Improve Confidence: Increase students' confidence and competence in using mathematics to solve problems.
- Support Other Subjects: Provide a strong mathematical foundation to support the study of subjects like sciences, Psychology, Business, and Geography at A-Level.
- Prepare for Future: Equip students with the mathematical and statistical skills needed for higher education, technical qualifications, and various professional careers.

Content:

- Analysis of Data: skills in collecting, analysing, and interpreting statistical data.
- Mathematics for Personal Finance: understanding concepts like taxes, savings, mortgages, and student loans.
- Mathematical Modelling: developing the ability to model real-world situations using mathematical concepts.
- Critical Evaluation: Evaluating and critiquing arguments, methods, and data models.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	Compulsory Content: Listed above	• In-class assessment: October, December, April and June
13	Optional Content: • Statistical Techniques • Critical Path Analysis • Graphical Techniques	• Internal Assessment & Trial Examinations) • External Papers (Paper 1 and then either 2A, 2B or 2C each lasting 90 mins)

Course specific entry requirements:

Students are expected to have achieved a minimum of a Grade 5. In exceptional circumstances we would consider students who have achieved a Grade 4 on a case-by-case basis.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

A Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) prepares students for careers requiring data analysis, financial skills, and problem-solving, opening doors to fields like engineering, IT, finance, accounting, data science, and research.

A Level Media Studies

Course Code: OCR H409

Aims:

- Develop Critical Understanding – to help students develop a *critical and analytical understanding* of how media products communicate meanings, represent people and issues, and influence audiences.
- Explore Media in Context – to encourage exploration of the *social, cultural, historical, and political contexts* in which media products are produced and consumed.
- Enhance Creative and Practical Skills – to enable students to apply their knowledge and understanding through *creative production work*, demonstrating technical skills and understanding of media language.
- Foster Independent Thinking and Research – to promote *independent research, reflection, and evaluation* in relation to both theoretical and practical aspects of media, preparing students for further study or employment in media-related fields.

Content:

Students study a range of TV, film, music, advertising, news, magazines and online media, exploring media language, representation, audiences and industry.

The NEA (20%) involves researching, planning and creating a media product in response to an annual OCR brief, demonstrating creativity, technical skills and audience awareness.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	Introduction to Core Media Concepts, Evolving Media Forms, Representation, News and Advertising, NEA: Research and Planning	Initial assessment Textual Analysis Trial Examinations
13	NEA: Production Long Form TV Drama, News and Politics Media Theory	30% of final award Examination Questions Formal Trial Examination

Course specific entry requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE Media Studies and/or English preferred OR General Entry Requirements.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

Media Production, Journalism and Publishing, Marketing, Advertising and PR – Opportunities in brand promotion, campaign design, social media management, and public relations. Digital Media and Communication, Creative Industries – Entry into graphic design, photography, animation, or game design.

A Level Physical Education (PE)

Course Code: OCR H555

Aims:

- To allow students to gain an understanding of the scientific and socio-cultural factors that underpin physical activity.
- To allow students to demonstrate their ability as either performer or coach.

Content:

The specification is divided into 5 main areas which cover exercise physiology, sports psychology and socio-cultural issues in sport, as well as practical performance and the evaluation and analysis of performance.

Students will develop knowledge of anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology, biomechanics, contemporary issues in sport and society, skill acquisition and sports psychology. This will be examined across three papers in the summer of Year 13.

The coursework requirements are to demonstrate students' core and advanced skills when either performing or coaching in one sport, and their ability to evaluate and analyse a performance for improvement. These will be internally assessed before being externally moderated.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	Unit 1 – Physiological Factors affecting performance Unit 2 – Psychological Factors affecting performance	Paper 1 – Physiological Factors affecting performance. 2hrs, 90, marks, 30%. Paper 2 – Psychological Factors affecting performance. 1hr, 60 marks, 20%.
13	Unit 1 – Physiological Factors affecting performance Unit 3 – Socio-Cultural Issues in Sport Unit 6 – Evaluating and Analysing Performance for Improvement	Paper 3 – Socio-Cultural Issues in Sport. 1hr, 60 marks, 20%. Unit 5 – Practical moderation, 15% Unit 6 – EAPI, 15%

Course specific entry requirements:

GCSE Grade 5 in GCSE PE or at least grade 5 in Science. Ideally compete in one sport at club level or above.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

Progression routes include: PE Teacher, Nutritionist, Physiotherapist, Leisure Management, Sports Development, Personal Trainer, Nutritionist, Sports Journalist, Volunteer opportunities, Sports Coaching, the Armed Services, Police and Fire Service.

A Level Photography

Course Code: AQA 7206

Aims:

We aim to inspire our Photography students to see the world creatively, think critically about images and use Photography as a means of personal expression, communication and artistic inquiry. Our students become skilled in both digital and physical image making in their broadest forms, exploring a wide range of photographic equipment, techniques and processes.

Content:

Photography is a creative, practical subject that allows students to increase their visual literacy whilst developing their understanding of the creative process. Students will use digital SLR cameras to shoot images and will explore wide range of techniques and processes including darkroom processing and digital image manipulation. Students will engage with contextual sources throughout the course including historical technologies and developments, theory and critical source material using this to underpin ideas and image making. The course is designed around the requirements of the AQA specification.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	• Introductory projects and technical workshops. • Component 1 - Personal Investigation (NEA). A sustained practical unit on a genre or theme within Photography.	Worth 60% of final grade. Work completed in Year 12 and into Year 13 up until January.
13	• Component 2 -Externally Set Assignment (ESA).	Worth 40% of final grade. From February to April of Year 13. Culminating in a 15-hour practical assessment in controlled conditions.

Course specific entry requirements:

Studying Art/Media Studies/Design at GCSE level is desirable but not essential. In addition to this general entry requirements are required.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

Photography A Level equips students with transferable skills that support students in both further study and a range of creative careers. Our past students have gone on to study Photography at degree level at prestigious universities including Falmouth University, Manchester Metropolitan University and Staffordshire University, and have hen gone on to successful career pathways in the Photographic industry.

A Level Physics

Course Code: A-Level Physics 7408

Aims:

- To allow students to develop a thorough understanding of the physical principles and practices.
- To develop a love of science and see the relevance and application to everyday life.
- To challenge thoughts and practices, developing skills that can be used in the wider world.

Content:

Theoretical physics supported throughout by practical experiments performed by students. Abstract concepts such as waves, fields and radiation, combined with concrete concepts such as mechanics, materials and thermal physics. A strong emphasis on developing problem-solving skills for real world applications, much of which will involve the application of mathematical techniques. The Practical Endorsement will also support the development of practical skills.

Curriculum Map:	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
Year 12	Measurement and errors Particles and Radiation Waves Mechanics and materials Electricity	In-class assessment & Trial Exams
Year 13	Further Mechanics Thermal Fields and their consequences Nuclear Practical skills & data analysis Turning Points	Paper 1 Measurement and errors, Particles and Radiation, Waves, Mechanics and materials, Electricity, Periodic Motion. 85 marks (34%) 2 hours Paper 2 Thermal, Fields and their consequences, Nuclear. 85 marks (34%) 2 hours Paper 3 Practical skills & data analysis, Turning Points. 80 marks (32%) 2 hours

Course specific entry requirements:

GCSE Grade 6/6 in Combined Science or Grade 6 in Physics. GCSE Grade 5 in Maths on higher tier papers.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

Job opportunities that link into A Level Physics are vast, including all forms of Engineering e.g. Mechanical, Civil, Electronic and Electrical, Aeronautical, Chemical; numerate degrees such as Accountancy, Banking, Economics; pure physics degrees such as Astronomy and Nuclear Physics, as well as pathways into Semiconductors, Telecommunications, Medicine, Pure Physics Research.

A Level Psychology

Course Code: AQA 7182

Aims:

- To develop a love of Psychology through learning, understanding and evaluating topics.
- To understand the many underlying factors that influence our behaviour.
- To be able to apply psychological knowledge and skills to the wider world.

Content:

Students will learn a wide range of psychological topics (listed below) from different psychological approaches. They will learn a variety of research methods which will allow them to gain knowledge on how to design, conduct and analyse research. In skills lessons students will develop essential knowledge, application and evaluation skills, which will be crucial to their final examinations.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	Attachment Memory Social Influence Biopsychology Research Methods	In-class assessment & Trial Exams
13	Clinical Psychology and Mental Health Approaches Forensic Psychology Schizophrenia Relationships Issues and Debates	All units are assessed by three two-hour examinations at the end of Year 13. Each exam is out of a total of 96 marks and contributes to 33.3% of the A level grade

Course specific entry requirements:

Level 5 in: English Language / Literature, Maths and Science

Future Career/ destination pathways:

There are many careers that will use Psychology directly or indirectly. Here are a few examples: Clinical Psychologist, Educational Psychologist, Sports Psychologist, Medicine, Law, Politics, Counselling, Teaching, Probation Service, Nursing, careers in Design and many more. Psychology is offered at many top universities and A-Level Psychology is the first step on the road that can lead to practice in the field of psychology.

A Level Sociology

Course Code: AQA 7192

Aims:

- To develop a love for Sociology through learning and analysing different topics.
- To develop a strong foundation of the theoretical world of sociology and the research methods used to study it.
- To be able to apply sociological knowledge to social issues.

Content:

The specification covers a wide range of topics (listed below) which allow students to gain in-depth sociological knowledge. Students will learn a variety of sociological research methods which will allow them to gain knowledge on how to design and conduct research. Students will develop essential knowledge and analysis skills, which will be crucial to their final examinations.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	Families and Households Education Theory and Methods Methods in Context	In-class assessment & Trial Exams
13	Crime and Deviance Theory and Methods Beliefs in Society	All units are assessed by three two-hour exams at the end of Year 13. Each exam is out of a total of 80 marks and contributes to 33.3% of the A level grade

Course specific entry requirements:

Grade 5 in English Language / Literature

Future Career/ destination pathways:

Sociology is recognised as being a useful subject for many occupations which require an understanding of people and social interactions. These include: Marketing, Business, Teaching, Law, Public Services, Health Service, Social Work, and working with children to name but a few.

Vocational Courses

BTEC Pearson Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business

Course Code: Pearson 601/7159/5

Aims:

- The Extended Certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the business sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses.
- The course aims to provide students with a breadth of knowledge and skills that would support them starting a small business or support the transition to working for a large organisation.
- A key aim is to develop students' key research skills, report writing skills and to create an interest in the dynamic nature of commerce.

Content:

Unit 1 - Explore the features of businesses: how they are organised, the environment in which they operate and the role of innovation and enterprise to business success.

Unit 2 - Marketing aims and objectives for existing products/services, understand the importance of relevant, valid and appropriate research to meet customer needs.

Unit 3 - The purpose and importance of personal and business finance. They will develop the skills and knowledge needed to understand, analyse and prepare financial information

Unit 22 - Develop research skills and understanding of the role marketing information plays in identifying and satisfying customers' needs.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	Unit 1: Exploring Business Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign	Coursework (Sep-May) Controlled Assessment (May)
13	Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance Unit 22: Marketing	External Exam (Jan) Coursework (Jan-May)

Course specific entry requirements:

General entry requirements.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

A broad introduction to many topics, which can lead to a variety of pathways both in university and in employment. Marketing, finance, logistics, human resources, public relations, research, advertising, customer service and more.

BTEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition

Course Code: 601/4552/3 WJEC

Aims:

- Understand nutrition and the role of nutrients in the body.
- Plan balanced diets to meet individual nutritional needs.
- Prepare and present complex dishes using advanced techniques.
- Apply food safety and hygiene practices.
- Explore food science through experiments and problem-solving.
- Investigate current issues in food science and nutrition.

Content:

Students will discover the science behind the food we eat! They will explore nutrition, food safety and food production, developing the knowledge and practical skills to make informed decisions about food. Through practical cooking, scientific investigations and independent research, students will apply their learning to real-world challenges in the food industry.

Qualification Structure

Unit	Unit Title	Assessment
1	Meeting Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups	Internal & External
2	Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat	External
3	Experimenting to Solve Food Production Problems	Internal
4	Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition	Internal

Units 1 and 2 are mandatory, whereas units 3 and 4 are 'optional'. Optional means that students will complete either unit 3 or 4.

Course specific entry requirements:

General entry requirements. A grade 5 or above at GCSE is desirable.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

This qualification can support progression to higher education and careers in food and nutrition, including: Food Science and Technology, Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Public Health and Nutrition, Food Product Development and Manufacturing, Food Safety and Quality Control, Hospitality and Catering, Sports Nutrition and Fitness, Health Promotion and Nutrition Research.

BTEC Level 3 AAQ BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate)

Course Code: Pearson 610/3964/0

Aims:

Students will learn about the health and social care sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in health and social care-related subjects. This is a 1 A-level equivalent qualification.

Content:

The course covers aspects of science that relate to health such as the immune system and infectious disease, the cardiovascular and respiratory systems and the biology of common diseases such as cancer and diabetes. This scientific content is studied alongside aspects of social care practice such as the role of social workers and organisation of the NHS.

Curriculum Map:

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	Unit 1: Human Lifespan and Development You will learn about the stages of human development and the factors that can negatively impact on normal development, link to social care practice. Unit 3: Principals of Social Care and Practice Focused on the principals and health and social care practice. You will be selecting, analysing and evaluating relevant information.	Unit 1 – Externally assessed Unit 3 – Internally assessed via a series of reports.
13	Unit 2: Human Biology and Health In this unit you will study the organisation of the human body into cells, tissues, organs and organ systems. You will also look at the impact of disease on the body systems. One of 4 optional units (TBC) • Health, Social Policy and Wellbeing • Promoting Health Education • Safe Environments • Health Science	Unit 2 – Externally assessed via examination Unit 4 – Internally assessed via a series of reports.

Course specific entry requirements:

General 6th Form entry requirements, previous Level 2 qualification would be an advantage but not essential.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

This course will prepare you well for many science-based and health and social care careers including: Nursing, Paramedic Science, Occupational Therapy, Public Health, Social work, Childcare, Physiotherapy.

BTEC Sport Level 3

Course Code: Pearson VCJ12

Aims:

- To develop scientific knowledge in the areas of sport and exercise.
- To provide students with the practical skills of leadership to support their progression to sports careers.
- To develop knowledge of the sports industry and the potential careers available

Content:

The course consists of either 4 units (single) or 9 units (double award). Examples of topics covered are: Anatomy and Physiology, Fitness Training, Professional Development, Sports Leadership, Fitness Testing, Practical Sports Performance, Skill Acquisition, Sports Psychology, Business in Sport. Some units are externally assessed via an examination while others are internally assessed through production of written coursework or leadership tasks.

Curriculum Map:

National Extended Certificate - Single Award

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	Unit 1 – Anatomy and Physiology Unit 2 – Fitness and Training	External examination in May of Y12 for both units 1 and 2
13	Unit 3 – Professional Development Unit 4 – Sports Leadership	Internally moderated coursework for both units 3 and 4

National Diploma - Double Award

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
12	Unit 23 – Skill Acquisition Unit 7 – Practical Sports Performance	Internally moderated coursework for both units 23 and 7
13	Unit 22 – Business in Sport Unit 5 – Fitness Testing Unit 6 – Sports Psychology	Unit 22 is externally examined in January of Year 13. Other units are internally moderated.

Course specific entry requirements:

General Entry Requirements, GCSE grade 4 in PE or Science or BTEC Sport Level 2 grade Merit preferred.

Future Career/ destination pathways:

Progression routes include: PE Teacher, Sports Therapist, Nutritionist, Leisure Management, Sports Development, Personal Trainer, Nutritionist, Sports Journalist, Volunteer opportunities, Sports Coaching, the Armed Services, Police and Fire Service.