



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS



**2011 / 2012
COURSE DETAILS**

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Congleton High School Sixth Form web-site. Please take time to browse the web-site to find out how we can offer you every opportunity to further your education and provide you with a friendly and supportive environment in which to learn. We aim to provide the courses that meet your interests and career aspirations.

Why choose Congleton High School Sixth Form?

We are confident that we can offer you every opportunity to further your education and provide you with a friendly and supportive environment in which to learn.

- We have a good record of examination success, with our students regularly achieving an A Level points score above the national average.
- Our sixth form is big enough for us to offer a wide range of courses but still enables us to focus on students as individuals.
- Our students particularly appreciate the good relationships that have been built between them and our staff and they know that their academic progress and personal development is monitored and supported.
- As part of an 11-18 school, the Sixth Form benefits from high quality teaching that understands how to build on students' previous knowledge and skills.
- We offer clear and informed careers and university help and advice. The vast majority of our students achieve their preferred university choice, including Oxford and Cambridge.
- Engineering status enables us to provide additional qualifications to provide a flying start for a career in engineering.
- Our Sixth Form Centre was opened in 2007, with facilities purpose-built to enhance the learning of our students.

How to apply

Complete an application form, indicating your preferred choice of subjects. Hand in your form to school reception or the sixth form office or post it to school at Congleton High School, Box Lane, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 4NS.

You will then be invited to attend an informal meeting to discuss your choices.

Please note that at this stage all offers of courses are provisional and subject to your obtaining the relevant entry requirements, student demand and availability on the timetable.

To find out more about joining us contact the Sixth Form office on 01260 387000 or email: enquiries@congleton.cheshire.sch.uk

Teaching and learning

In our Sixth Form you will generally work within small teaching groups, supported by a team of well qualified, specialist staff. Our teachers are committed to working within a structure that encompasses students from the ages of 11-18. They are used to dealing with the needs of students of all ages and well understand the difficulties many face in making the transition from GCSE to your Sixth Form studies. They will encourage you and aid you in making that jump in your learning. Staff work hard to develop close, positive relationships and are determined to ensure you achieve your maximum potential.

Support and Guidance

When you join our Sixth Form, you will participate in our Induction Programme. You will be taught how to adapt to the new study skills and more independent style of learning that will be expected in the Sixth Form and will be told about the numerous opportunities open to you.

You will belong to a tutor group and will meet your Tutor each day to register and in longer, timetabled sessions each fortnight. Your tutor will provide help, guidance and support on issues that affect you and will help you to keep your studies on the right track. We like to maintain close links between school and home so if problems occur, they can be resolved quickly. In addition, when you are ready to move on from school, we will help direct your next step by offering comprehensive guidance on Higher Education, UCAS applications, training courses or employment.

Extended Learning

All sixth form students participate in our extended learning programme (Option K) so that they have the opportunity to enhance their programme of study by gaining additional qualifications. We have such a wide range of courses that there really is something for everyone. The full offer is published in the spring of each year as we introduce new courses each year but generally includes, amongst many others Philosophy AS Level, Government and Politics AS Level, a practical course in the performing arts and the chance to complete a work experience placement.

Taking opportunities

We provide a number of ways in which you can develop personally as well as academically. Our Personal Achievement and Service Scheme (PASS) encourages Sixth Formers to run clubs, coach sports, work with younger children at our school or at local primary schools or to take part in other voluntary activities. We take part in a number of charity fund-raising activities – raising large amounts of money but having fun as well! You could be part of our Sixth Form Leadership Group that meets regularly to put across the views of students. There are also lots of social events to take part in – you may even be organising them yourself!

A huge range of extra-curricular opportunities allows you to enhance your life in the Sixth Form. The school has excellent recreational and sporting facilities, which include a full-size floodlit astro-turf pitch and a leisure centre. You can enjoy cultural activities such as taking part in drama and musical productions or going on visits to theatres and art galleries. Every year we organise a number of residential and day trips in the UK and abroad. These have included trips to New York and London, field trips and even a visit to Trnetham Monkey Forest for the Psychologists!

How to choose your Individual Learning Pathway

You can choose the learning pathway which best suits your ability and interests and suits what you want to do next. Each pathway has a set of entry requirements, as shown opposite. These grades are the minimum that you need. There is a course for everyone at Congleton High school.

If you do not have the entrance requirements for an Advanced course, you will be able to apply for an Intermediate course, tailored to meet your needs. Remember: some students may take a 3 year approach to their studies.

Choose your pathway and courses carefully, thinking about what you enjoy and are good at, in addition to what you should do to prepare for a job or career.

We also have a wide range of Enrichment Courses which earn extra points for Higher Education and are valued by employers. You will follow one of these alongside your main programme of study.

How to choose your Sixth Form Course

Begin by reading the notes on the subjects in which you are most interested. Read the notes on the other subjects too; it does not take long and you may be surprised at how interesting a subject which you have not thought of doing sounds.

You may wish to continue with subjects you studied at GCSE Level, or you may want to start a new subject that can only be studied at AS/A2 Level. You may want to pick a mix of academic and vocational (applied) courses. You will have the opportunity to do all this at Congleton High School Sixth Form.

If you expect to perform well at GCSE we recommend that you choose up to four Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Levels in Year 12. You will continue to study three of these in Year 13 to complete the Advanced (A or A2) Level part of the qualification. Hence, after two years of study, you will leave with three A Levels and one AS Level. However, the facility is also available for you to take up a new AS Level in Year 13, either replacing one of your A Levels or in addition to your three A Levels.

If you are unlikely to achieve five passes at GCSE at grade B or above, you should take a look at the range of Intermediate courses that we offer. You should take the opportunity to discuss your needs and interests with us as we aim to tailor the course to suit you.

Before making a decision, ask yourself these questions.

1. Am I interested enough in this subject to study it for so many periods a week for the next year or two years? Nine hours a fortnight plus homework is a long time to be spending on a subject in which you personally may have little real interest.
2. Do I know enough about what the subject involves? Staff have written about their subjects but cannot say everything in one article. Talk to them at the Congleton High School Post 16 Opportunities Evening or at school and ask any questions that you have. Ask them for any further information you may want. The contact details for each subject are enclosed.
3. Have I got the ability to make a success of the subject? Prior qualifications recommended for each subject are given. When you complete the Application Form, the staff who know you well are asked to comment on your suitability for each subject. Talk to them about your chances of succeeding in their subject.

4. Is my combination of subjects sensible? There is more to choosing a Sixth Form course than just looking to see which subjects you fancy. The subjects must be compatible with each other; they must, in other words, add up to a combination which is recognised as a sound basis for a job or further study. Here is where the expert advice of a Careers specialist is useful: we are talking about your future. You are urged to make an appointment to discuss your plans with the Connexions adviser. Alternatively, take time to have a look at the Fast Tomato web-site to help you to research your future plans.

We have included details of the courses that we hope to offer in September 2012. Applicants should note that we reserve the right to withdraw courses should they not attract sufficient numbers.

Each subject will be allocated to an option block on the timetable. Whilst we will do all that we can to accommodate the preferred choices of all applicants, certain subject combinations may not be available.

ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES

APPLIED ART & DESIGN

Examination Board: AQA

Why take Applied Art and Design?

The creative arts are one of our fastest growing industries, worth £77 billion a year to the UK economy – an eighth of our entire national wealth and creating employment for two million people. In the UK we are renowned for the high calibre of our art and design graduates who are employed throughout the world in the international design industries.

Are you the sort of person who is visually aware and enjoys working in a creative environment? Do you like to experiment with ideas and techniques to find innovative methods of solving problems? Do you admire good design and want to extend your knowledge of graphic design, fashion design, textiles, architecture, digital image making, 3D-Studies and many more aspects of art and design? Do you see yourself working in the design industry environment?

If this sounds appealing to you then Applied Art and Design could be the course for you.

What is the course content?

This is a double award course that is the equivalent to two A Levels. It consists of 6 units in Year 12 and 6 units of study in Year 13, some of which are mandatory and some of which you can select on the basis of personal preference to help you progress towards your chosen career. These could include Graphic Design, Fashion, Textiles, Fine Art, 3D Design and others.

If you want to specialise in a particular aspect of design you are able to select several units that allow you do this. For example, Sculpture, 3D Design and Spatial Design would allow you to follow a '3D' pathway. There are other clusters of units available and students are given an opportunity to make their own choices.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Independent research
Practical, theoretical and technical tuition
Individual support, guidance and feedback on progress
Lectures and discussion
Gallery visits

Assessment includes internal marking of all units and external moderation of most units.

All assessment is through 'portfolio' assessment that takes place at the end of each year (there is no timed examination for this course).

What skills does Art and Design develop?

You will be encouraged to generate ideas and to find creative solutions to design problems, fundamental to working to a brief. The course will help you plan and organise your time more effectively, working through the design process to realise your intentions.

You will develop your technical and practical skills through structured tuition. You will also develop and use verbal and written communication and ICT skills. All units relate closely to working within a professional design-based setting and responding to a client's requirements.

Presentation techniques are central to all art and design courses.

For many students the course offers the opportunity to learn many new and more complex processes including photographic screen making for silk-screen fabric printing. There are many other techniques and processes that will also be included in the course and could involve using glazes, ceramics and digital image making.

What subjects complement Art and Design?

Suggested subjects might include Media Studies, English, History, Psychology, Geography, ICT, Physics and Chemistry. Sciences are useful for Photography, Film, Architecture and Product Design career progression.

What careers or further studies could Art and Design lead to?

This course provides a good opportunity to progress directly on to an Art and Design degree course. Students are given the opportunity to see the wide choice on offer at the UCAS Art and Design Course Fair at the GMEX Centre, Manchester.

Former Art and Design students have gone on to university to study Architecture, Surface Pattern Design, Fashion and Textiles, Fashion Management and Marketing, Graphic Design, Photography, Footwear, History of Art, Film and Media, Illustration, Jewellery Design, Product Design and Ceramics and Glass Design.

Fashion Management and Marketing is a useful stepping-stone to a career as a 'buyer' for a large fashion retail company and can lead to senior management positions. Film and Media provides opportunities in video game produce and animation. Product Design can lead to careers in concept design for the car industry. Teaching at both primary and secondary levels can also be accessed via this course.

What qualifications are recommend to study this course?

It is recommended that you have GCSE Grade B Art and Design.

**For further information please contact Mrs H Vale,
Curriculum Team Leader, Art.**

ART & DESIGN

Examination Board: AQA

Why take Art and Design?

Would you like to develop a personal way of working, to experiment with new techniques and to fulfil your creative potential? If you enjoyed GCSE Art and Design this is an opportunity to carry on with your artwork and develop your skills further by taking A Level Art and Design.

You will be encouraged through the provision of a supportive environment that is sensitive to your individual needs and be helped to prepare for progression to Advanced Level in the second year.

If this sounds appealing to you then AS Art and Design could be the course for you.

What is the course content?

The course is similar to GCSE but requires a greater depth, commitment and understanding. It is possible to include aspects of art and design that reflect particular interests and strengths such as 3D, graphics and textiles. Work will be in response to a given or negotiated starting point.

The course is made up of two units in Year 12 and a further two units in Year 13.

AS (Year 12)

Unit 1 (Practical assignment)

Unit 2 (Formal examination consisting of four weeks preparation time and 5 hour timed piece under examination conditions)

A2 (Year 13)

Unit 3 (a practical annotated assignment with 3000 word conclusion)

Unit 4 (an external assignment with a 15 hour timed piece under examination conditions)

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Independent research

Practical, theoretical and technical tuition

Individual support, guidance and feedback on progress

Lectures and discussion

Trips and visits to galleries

Assessment includes one formal examination per year.

What skills does Art and Design develop?

The course will help you plan and organise effectively. Researching analytical skills and problem solving techniques are integral to the course, working through the design process to realise your intentions. You will be developing your technical skills and using verbal and written communication and ICT skills. High quality presentation is central to all art and design courses.

Art develops your creativity, which is desired by future employers in any industry.

You will also be learning new techniques that are relevant to your theme or chosen way of working.

What subjects complement Art and Design?

Suggested subjects might include Media Studies, English, History, Psychology, Geography, ICT, Physics and Chemistry. Sciences are useful for Photography, Film, Architecture and Product Design career progression.

What careers or further studies could Art and Design lead to?

There are many careers in design that are accessed through an Art and Design degree course. Students are given the opportunity to see the wide choice on offer at the UCAS Art and Design Course Fair at the GMEX Centre, Manchester in November.

In addition, the qualification can be used to support application to university to study a wide range of other subjects outside Art and Design.

Former Art and Design students have gone on to university to study Architecture, Surface Pattern design, Fashion and Textiles, Fashion Management and Marketing, Graphic Design, Photography, Footwear, History of Art, Film and Media, Illustration, Jewellery Design, Product Design and Ceramics and Glass.

Fashion Management and Marketing is a useful stepping-stone to a career as a 'Buyer' for a large fashion retail company and can lead to senior management positions via this route. Film and Media provides opportunities in video game production and animation. Product Design can lead to careers in concept design for the car industry.

Some students who do not wish to follow an Art and Design career have used their A Level in Art to help them secure places on courses as diverse as English, Geology, Bio-Chemistry, Primary School teaching and other non-art degree courses.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

It is recommended that you have GCSE Grade B Art and Design.

**For further information please contact Mrs H Vale,
Curriculum Team Leader, Art**

BIOLOGY

Examination Board: OCR

Why take Biology?

The most amazing thing in the Universe is the existence of life! So, what could be more interesting than the study of living things and what makes them tick? Studying Biology will allow you to understand what organisms are made of, how cells work together and carry out the living processes of respiration, photosynthesis, excretion, digestion, transport, inheritance and reproduction. You will learn the scientific basis of healthy lifestyles, human disease, growth, development, how organisms interact in the environment and how they evolve to produce new species.

Biology is a fascinating and challenging subject that should appeal to those students with an interest in the scientific study of living things. Many people are fascinated by the human body and much of the course involves the study of humans as organisms at many levels of organisation. The course also involves studying organisms such as viruses and bacteria as well as plants and animals and how they function and interact. 'New Biology' topics such as DNA structure and function, genetic engineering and biotechnology also form part of the study of Biology.

What is the course content?

The AS Biology course follows the OCR specification and is made up of three units: Units 1 and 2 are assessed by written examination and Unit 3 by assessment of investigative and practical skills.

The A2 Biology course is a further three units:

Units 4 and 5 are assessed by written examination and Unit 6 by assessment of investigative and practical skills.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Teaching and learning is very varied in Biology lessons and will include discussions, lectures, practical work, fieldwork, independent research, group work and student presentations.

At AS formal assessment is by a written examination for Units 1 and 2. Unit 3 is an Investigative Skills Assessment (ISA) and involves the assessment of practical skills where students must carry out practical work and collect data, process the data and complete a written test. The ISA is set externally by the examination board, but marked internally.

What skills does Biology develop?

Biology will develop your analytical skills as well as your abilities to assimilate information and use your understanding to explain biological phenomena and concepts. Your technical and practical skills will also develop, as will your ability to analyse and evaluate experimental data and procedures. The key skills of communication, use of number, ICT, independent work, problem solving and working with others form an important part of the study of Biology.

What subjects complement Biology?

Biology goes particularly well with Chemistry, PE, Psychology and Geography although many students combine Biology as their 'science A Level' with modern languages, English, Drama, IT, Sociology or Maths. If you wish to study a Biological Science at University you should really choose A Level Chemistry along with Biology.

What careers or further studies could Biology lead to?

A Level Biology forms a good basis for the study of many degrees at University including Biology, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Medicine, Molecular Biology, Genetics, Zoology, Botany, Environmental Sciences, Pharmacology, Physiotherapy and Veterinary Science etc.

Studying Biology at A Level would also be useful as a general qualification to support an application to study other unrelated subjects.

A qualification in Biology is a useful stepping stone to a career in Biological Research in industry, Universities or research laboratories, Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, Animal Care, Horticulture, Teaching and many other areas.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

We recommend that you have at least Grade B in GCSE Science and GCSE Additional Science.

If you have taken Triple Science at GCSE, we recommend that you achieve at least Grade B in Biology.

Students in the past who have had the minimum recommendations have found AS and A level difficult. However, students with the commitment and motivation can achieve success.

Students of Applied Science will not be able to study Biology at A Level as the Applied course does not give the necessary foundation on which to build at A Level.

For further information please contact Mrs Sellers or Mr Thomas.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Examination Board AQA

Why take Business Studies?

You don't have to aspire to be the next Alan Sugar or Richard Branson to take Business Studies! This subject is for anyone – we all come into contact with businesses every day of our lives and this subject will give you a greater insight to the workings of business and industry. It is a dynamic combination of economics, accountancy, marketing, administration and law.

What is the course content?

For the Advanced Subsidiary Award you will complete 2 modules:

Unit 1 – Planning & Financing a Business

Unit 2 – Managing a Business

The Advanced Level Award will require a further two units to be completed:

Unit 3 – Strategies for Success

Unit 4 – The Business Environment & Managing Change

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Teaching will involve a variety of methods including group work, class discussions and individual research. As the world of business is constantly changing you will need to have an enquiring mind and be able to keep pace with current affairs through the use of newspapers and the internet. Business Studies involves finding solutions to business problems and you may be required to present your findings in the form of presentations and reports.

Assessment will take place through two written examinations for AS level and A2 examinations for A2.

What skills does Business Studies develop?

You will develop an enquiring mind. The use of Business scenarios will enable you to recognise, define, analyse and evaluate problems in the world of business and be able to communicate these ideas and solutions to a variety of audiences. You will also have to use your ICT skills in order to research and present your ideas. This subject will give you an understanding of the commercial world around you.

What subjects complement Business Studies?

Business Studies combines well with other subjects offered within the department (i.e. Economics and Law), but is also frequently combined with a variety of other subjects, e.g. Modern Languages, Information Technology, Mathematics, Media Studies, Psychology and Humanities subjects.

What careers or further studies could Business Studies lead to?

It will provide you with a broad based preparation for careers in management, accountancy, banking, marketing, retail or simply running your own business!

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

It is not necessary for you to have followed a course in Business Studies at GCSE. Studying Business requires the manipulation of figures, so it is recommended that applicants should have a grade B or above in Mathematics and English.

For further information please contact Mrs N Wiggins, Deputy Curriculum Team Leader of ICT & Business.

CHEMISTRY

Examination Board: OCR

Why take Chemistry?

Chemistry provides us with an understanding of how the world around us works! It can create new substances to fight disease, to feed the World's population, to provide new materials for modern technology and, potentially, to explain life itself.

It is the study of the nature of matter - how and why things are and how we can use them. If you enjoy thinking, practicals and finding out about the Universe, this course will suit you!

What is the course content?

The course includes topics such as Group chemistry, Carbon chemistry, Environmental and Green chemistry, Rates of Reactions, Spectroscopy, Bonding and Equilibria.

Chemistry is essentially a practical subject and you will have many opportunities to experience a wide range of processes and techniques including quantitative analysis and synthesis of compounds.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Learning experiences will include research, practicals, demonstrations, discussion, problem solving, presentations, application of knowledge and data handling and presentation.

Assessment will consist of 2 modules with examinations for AS in Year 12 and a further 2 modules assessed by examination in Year 13 for A level. In addition, there are assessments of practical skills required for both AS and A levels.

You could be assessed informally on all skills developed by the course.

What skills does Chemistry develop?

Practical skills and techniques will be developed throughout the course. Thinking skills, problem solving, application of knowledge, writing concise answers and learning numerical methods are particularly developed by this course.

What subjects complement Chemistry?

Chemistry provides an understanding fundamental to biological and physical sciences as well as Geography and Earth Science.

The skills developed during the course and the demand to think both logically and creatively make Chemistry fit in well with many other subjects. Former students have combined Chemistry with a variety of subjects including Psychology, Biology, Physics, Mathematics, P.E. Geography, Languages and English.

What careers or further studies could chemistry lead to?

There is a wide range of careers where chemistry is essential, such as Veterinary Science, Medicine, Pharmacy, Pharmacology, Geology, Materials Science, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Chemistry, Toxicology and Biochemistry.

It can also form a useful A level for further studies at university or college in Biology or Physics, Astronomy, Law, Sports Science, Geography and Accountancy.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

We recommend that you have at least Grade B in GCSE Science and GCSE Additional Science. If you have taken Triple Science at GCSE, we recommend that you achieve at least Grade B in Chemistry. Students in the past who have had the minimum recommendations have found AS and A level difficult. However, students with the commitment and motivation can achieve success.

Students of Applied Science will not be able to study Chemistry at A Level as the Applied course does not give the necessary foundation on which to build at A Level.

**For further information please contact Miss Bentley,
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader**

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY (IMAGE MANIPULATION)

Examination Board: AQA

Why take Digital Photography?

Are you creative, artistic and wishing to explore computer-manipulated imagery? Do you experiment with both traditional aspects of photography and develop your images inventively by manipulation using Photoshop?

If you enjoyed GCSE Art and Design or Media, then this is an opportunity to develop your creativity and skills further by taking A Level Digital Photography.

If this sounds appealing to you then Digital Photography could be the course for you.

What is the course content?

The course is similar to GCSE Art and Design in terms of the four marking criteria, but requires a greater depth, commitment and understanding in digital photography. Through developing traditional photographic techniques, researching photographers/digital artists and experimenting with image manipulation, students will produce work in response to a starting theme.

The course is made up of two units in Year 12 and a further two units in Year 13.

AS (Year 12)

Unit 1 (Practical assignment)

Unit 2 (Formal examination project and 5 hour timed piece under examination conditions)

A2 (Year 13)

Unit 3 (a practical annotated assignment with 3000 word conclusion)

Unit 4 (an external assignment with a 15 hour timed piece under examination conditions)

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

You will be encouraged through the provision of a supportive environment that is sensitive to your individual needs and be helped to prepare for progression to Advanced Level in the second year.

You should expect:

Independent research

Practical, theoretical and technical tuition

Individual support, guidance and feedback on progress

Lectures and discussion

Trips and visits to galleries

Assessment includes one formal examination per year.

What skills does Digital Photography develop?

The course will help you plan and organise effectively. Researching analytical skills and problem solving techniques are integral to the course, working through the design process to realise your intentions. You will be developing your technical skills and using verbal and written communication and ICT skills. High quality presentation is central to all art and design courses.

Digital Photography develops your creativity, which is desired by future employers in any industry. You will also be learning new techniques that are relevant to your theme or chosen way of working.

What subjects complement Digital Photography?

This course would go very well alongside A Level Art and Design. It would also complement subjects such as Textiles, Media Studies, ICT, English, History, Psychology, Geography and Chemistry.

What careers or further studies could Digital Photography lead to?

There are many careers and further education courses in design that can be accessed through Digital Photography. In an increasingly technological and digital world, areas such as Visual Communication, Graphics, Illustration, Web based design, Advertising, Animation, Media, Film, Architecture, Digital Art, Fashion photography, Journalism and Product Design are all possible as career progression.

In addition, the qualification can be used to support application to university to study a wide range of other subjects outside Digital Photography.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

It is recommended that you have GCSE Grade B Art and Design.

For further information please contact Mr N Baxendale, Art.

DRAMA

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why take Drama?

If you are curious about issues and ideas and have a creative instinct for communicating your views, then Drama is the ideal subject for you. You may be keen on acting, writing or on the visual and technical side of theatre and wish to develop your skills in some or all of these areas. Equally you will be interested in going to the theatre to see plays performed by different theatre companies.

What is the course content?

The course demands practical, creative and communication skills in almost equal measure. You will extend your ability to create drama and theatre, either in a performing or production role. You will also be required to write about drama and to develop your powers of analysis to become an informed critic. The course will involve taking part in drama productions, as well as studying plays and playwrights.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

The AS course deliberately focuses on working with plays. In this way the course aims to bridge the gap between GCSE and Advanced level, by providing an opportunity to study plays from the point of view of a director, designer, performer and critic. The qualification is designed to enable students to acquire a knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre as well as to develop their performing and analytical skills. Assessment will be a combination of written examinations and practical assessments throughout the course.

What skills does Drama develop?

The full advanced level aims to extend their knowledge by enabling students to apply what they have learned in their own creative work. In devising theatre, students alternate roles between being playwright, performer, designer and director. In performing theatre students are required to apply their knowledge, skills and understanding within the structure of a director's interpretation of a play.

What subjects complement Drama?

Drama can be taken with any combination of subjects but the most obvious combinations would include, Music, Media Studies, English, Psychology, and Sociology, History and French.

What careers and further studies could Drama lead to?

This AS and Advanced GCE can lead to further study in Drama, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts in Higher Education at degree or HND level. It can be used as part of your course to broaden your studies and may lead on to a career in the performing arts industries.

Drama and Theatre Studies AS and Advanced Level complements a range of subjects and is useful in building confidence and improving interpersonal skills in a range of careers, from Teaching to Management.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

A grade B at Drama GCSE is desirable and a grade C or above in GCSE English is essential. An active interest in performing and an enthusiasm for developing your skills is required.

**For further information please contact Mrs G Davis,
Curriculum Team Leader, Creative Arts and Media**

EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE (CACHE QCF Level 3 Diploma)

Examination Board: CACHE

Why take Level 3 Diploma in Early Years and Childcare?

This course is aimed at learners who need the knowledge and understanding of child development and education to prepare them for working with children in a variety of job roles and settings.

What is the course content?

The course is broken down into a series of mandatory and optional units to help develop students' knowledge and experience of working with children.

The mandatory units explore how to communicate with children, policies and procedures that are required in settings, how children develop, the roles of the practitioner, building relationships, safeguarding, health and safety and working as a multi-professional team.

The optional units look a range of issues developing in early years and childcare; these include caring for the physical and nutritional needs of children, supporting children who experience poverty, supporting creativity for children, supporting children with attendance issues in statutory education and supporting children in education with mental health problems.

There will be a range of assessment methods used for the diploma but students should be prepared to complete coursework, professional discussions, reflective practice and a professional development log from a work placement. To support their learning and as part of the assessment for the course students will be expected to complete an extended period of work placement and will need to be successfully CRB checked prior to starting.

What skills does a Level 3 Diploma in Early Years and Child Care offer?

This course will enable you to become an independent learner. It will enable you to develop the skills and empathy needed to work with children. You will also gain confidence in your interpersonal skills which will enable you to confidently work in an Early Years setting.

What subjects complement a Level 3 Diploma in Early Years and Childcare course?

The CACHE Diploma in Early Years and Childcare course fits with a variety of subjects particularly Health and Social Care, Psychology and Sociology. Similar skills will be required in all of these subjects.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

It is strongly recommended that to study Child Care and Education you have at least 5 GCSEs that include Maths, English and Science.

You do not need to have studied BTEC Children's Care Learning and Development or GCSE Health and Social Care, but it would be an advantage. However all

applications will be considered on an individual basis. A CRB check will need to be completed.

What careers or future studies could Early Years and Childcare lead to?

A level 3 qualification in Child Care and Education would provide opportunities to progress onto a higher education degree course or into employment in an Early Years setting. Although this qualification would not equip you to take on a supervisory role in the workplace, it would provide excellent foundation skills for a variety of job roles.

For further information please contact Miss J. Heys, Social Sciences Teacher or Mrs G. Taylor, Assistant Head.

ECONOMICS

Examination Board: AQA

Why take Economics?

Does the question 'Why?' interest you? Do you have an inquiring mind and want to know why businesses and governments make the decisions they do? Do you hear people complaining about the cost of things, that they aren't like they used to be? Do you want to be able to explain why to them? Do you want a qualification that is highly respected and valued by employers and universities? If so, then Economics is the subject for you!

What is the course content?

You will take 2 modules for Advanced Subsidiary Level:

Unit 1 Markets and Market Failure

Unit 2 The National Economy

The A2 modules comprise of:

Unit 3 Business Economics and the Distribution of Income

Unit 4 The National and International Economy

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Teaching will involve a variety of methods including group work, class discussions, role plays and individual research. Economics is one of the most up-to-date and topical subjects you can study and so you need to be able to keep pace with current affairs through the use of newspapers, TV and the Internet.

Assessment will take place through written examinations for both AS level and A2.

What skills does Economics develop?

Studying Economics will help you to develop a strong vocabulary, excellent evaluative skills, effective research skills and the ability to write efficiently, analysing and solving complex economic problems. The course encourages you to develop the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems by applying rules and the ability to communicate opinions and conclusions clearly and succinctly. It will help you substantiate arguments and to develop an enquiring and critical mind.

What subjects complement Economics?

It links particularly well with English, Business Studies, Maths, Law and History. However, the skills developed will complement virtually any subject.

What careers or further studies could Economics lead to?

As such, A Level Economics provides an excellent background for many University courses and for careers, not only in Economics, but also in Journalism, Broadcasting, Local and Central Government, Public Relations, a range of Management and Commercial areas, Law, Politics and Finance.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

No previous knowledge of Economics or Business is required. The course involves a great deal analysis of data. It is therefore highly recommended that you to have attained at least a Grade B in Maths. An enquiring mind and a determination to work hard will also be useful!

For further information please contact Mr Curry or Mr J Davis

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Examination Board: AQA (Specification B)

Why take English Language?

An understanding of how language works is absolutely essential if you want to examine communication and interaction between people. In this subject you will learn how language is acquired during childhood. Furthermore, you will learn how language has changed since Anglo-Saxon times and is constantly changing in the age of the Internet. You will analyse speech and writing and develop your own writing skills in using different styles to suit different purposes and audiences. You will learn how to discuss language and to understand its roots and its grammar. You will create your own texts and learn how to adapt and change texts created by others. If you enjoy discussions, reading and writing then this is a subject that will suit you. English Language blends analytical skills with creative flair to make this both a challenging and exciting subject.

What is the course content?

For the Advanced Subsidiary Award you will complete two modules. The examination module assesses your ability to analyse texts using a series of linguistic frameworks, as well as looking at language in its social context. The other module is a creative writing coursework component, assessing your ability to write in a variety of formats for specific audiences.

For the Advanced Level Award you will complete two further modules in:

Language Development module (comprising Language Acquisition and Language Change) and a coursework module in which you carry out an investigation into an aspect of language that you have chosen. Please note that the coursework also includes a 'creative response' to the coursework.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

You will engage in discussions, carry out research, give presentations and take part in workshops. You will be encouraged to think more deeply about the different audiences and purposes of your own writing. You will learn how to analyse your own writing as well as that of others. You will write in different styles for a variety of purposes and audiences. You will study different styles such as advertising, legal documents, literary texts, even the latest jargon used on the Internet.

Assessment will be by a combination of examinations and coursework over the two years (40% coursework, 60% examination at both AS and A2 level).

What skills does English Language develop?

This course will make you think about how language is used – all around you - all the time!

Taking English Language is hard work! In order to get the most out of the course you have to enjoy reading and writing. Discussions are often lively and good fun. You will have to learn how to discuss language and understand grammar. But don't worry, you'll be taught the terms you need to do this.

What subjects complement English Language?

English Language is a very versatile subject. It can be combined with any of the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences or Vocational A Level courses. It can also offer a refreshing alternative to students taking Maths and Science courses. It also offers excellent opportunities to cover Key Skills in Communication and Information Technology.

What careers or further studies could English Language lead to?

This course provides a good foundation for further English Language studies at college or university. You can use your A Level as part of an entrance qualification for degree courses at university. Many students progress to degrees in Art, Social Sciences or Humanities. English Language A Level will also be useful as a general qualification to support an application to study something completely different.

If you do not go on to Higher Education, the skills that you have acquired in reading, writing, analysis and communication will be valued by employers in a wide range of occupations.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

If you wish to take English Language it is recommended that you have passed GCSE English at grade B or above. You should have an open mind and enjoy discussing controversial topics and exploring concepts. You should be keen on writing imaginatively and originally and should be able to adapt your style to suit different purposes.

For further information please contact your English teacher.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Examination Board: OCR

Why take English Literature?

Do you enjoy reading? Quite simply the AS and A2 courses are all about reading. You will read a wide selection of novels, plays and poems. Some of these texts will be modern and some will have been written hundreds of years ago. Once you have read them you will be expected to talk about them and write about them. Studying Literature will help you develop your communication skills and broaden your understanding of human nature. Classes are smaller than at GCSE and there will be many opportunities to extend your study outside the classroom by taking part in visits to lectures and trips to the theatre.

What is the course content?

In total you will study a minimum of twelve major texts, however you will be encouraged to read many more.

For the AS course you will complete two modules, which will include the study of a minimum of six texts, which may in some cases be extracts from texts and must include:

- Post-1900 literature
- Poetry 1800-1945
- Prose 1800-1945
- A literary-critical text

One of the modules will be coursework; the other will be assessed by examination.

If you wish to complete the full A Level you will study two further modules. Again, one of the modules in the second year is coursework, whilst the other module is an examination response to a series of texts that you will study throughout the year, including:

- A Shakespeare play
- One drama and one poetry text from pre-1800

This coursework unit will include three texts which can be from any period, or across periods, and must include one prose and one poetry text.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

You will discuss issues from every area of life and broaden your understanding of human nature.

You will read novels, plays and poems and once you have read them you will be expected to talk about them and write about them.

Some texts may be difficult to grasp on a first reading but what we do expect is for you to persevere. You must show initiative and be keen to explore.

AS and A Level Literature offers the opportunity to complete one unit in each year as a coursework assignment. The coursework allows you to choose your own area of focus and carry out your own research, though help from your teacher will always be

available. At the end of your first year you will take one examination to achieve your AS grade and at the end of your second year you will take one examination to achieve the full A Level award. Examinations will combine both open and closed book methods (40% coursework and 60% examination at both AS and A2 level).

What skills does English Literature develop?

Over the duration of the course you will develop an understanding and an awareness of how meaning is made in literature.

You will learn to justify your views and argue a case that is backed by sound, thoughtful evidence.

You will explore techniques and be able to explain how a work of literature excites a range of emotions in readers.

You will learn how a writer's choice of form, structure and language helps him/her to express meaning.

You will learn how writers create character, argument and how they use imagery.

You will compare styles and make relevant connections between texts.

You will be able to produce informed, independent opinions and judgments based on your reading.

You will become familiar with a range of literary-critical approaches.

Ultimately we want you to find an informed, personal voice to express your feelings about the literature that you read.

English Literature also offers plenty of opportunities to develop Key Skills in Communication and IT, which will be signposted throughout the course.

What subjects complement English Literature?

English Literature is a very versatile subject. It can be combined with any of the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences or Vocational A Level courses. It can also offer a refreshing alternative to students taking Maths and Science courses. It also offers excellent opportunities to cover Key Skills in Communication and Information Technology.

What careers or further studies could English Literature lead to?

This course provides an excellent foundation for further English Literature studies at college or university. You can use your A Level as part of an entrance qualification for degree courses at university. Many students progress to degrees in Art, Social Sciences or Humanities. English Literature A Level will also be useful as a general qualification to support an application to study something completely different.

If you do not go on to Higher Education, the skills that you have acquired in reading, writing, analysis and communication will be valued by employers in a wide range of occupations.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

It is recommended that you should achieve at least a grade B at GCSE English Literature and GCSE English

For further information please contact your English teacher.

Fashion and Clothing (BTEC NATIONAL Diploma)

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why take Fashion and Clothing?

You might choose to take Fashion & Clothing to further a career in the textiles and fashion industry, to support your other choices of A Level, or as an enjoyable and practical learning experience.

What is the Course Content?

Year 12

Unit 127 - Fashion Visualisation

You will learn about the variety of techniques that are used to present fashion ideas by investigating the role of the fashion illustrator. Using mixed media you will develop your own style of fashion drawings and this can include tracing and using computer images to help show your ideas.

Unit 107 - Exploring Textiles

You will learn a wide variety of textiles techniques including printing, dying, weaving, knitting, tapestry, embroidery stitches, appliqué, couching, smocking, piping, pleats, buttonholes, darts, etc. You will produce samples and learn from studying contemporary and historical designers. You will need to show an ability to review, analyse and fully evaluate your work.

Unit 126 - Fashion Marketing

You will develop skills, knowledge and understanding of basic fashion marketing principles and techniques, as well as how they can be applied to fashion products and services.

Year 13

Unit 128 - Garment Production

Students will produce a garment that will extend their knowledge and skills in industrial production and processes.

Unit 129 - Accessory Production

Students will produce an accessory that will extend their knowledge and skills in industrial production and processes.

Unit 130 - Fashion Presentation Techniques

You will develop skills, knowledge and understanding, through exploration, to the purpose and relevance of a range of traditional and contemporary fashion presentation media and techniques.

Educational visits include opportunities to attend annual trips to the Clothes Show in Birmingham, as well as local fashion stores, museums and a trip to London. A Junior Buyer from Next has also been invited into school to speak to Fashion and Clothing students.

The CHS Fashion Show is an opportunity for you to help organise, support and model clothes made in school.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

The course is assessed on 100% coursework. You will creatively display their samples and learning in A3 sketchbooks. They will be assessed on each subsection

of the curriculum. You will be regularly made aware of your progress and set targets for further success. The grading system is Distinction (A), Merit (B) and Pass (C).

What subjects complement Fashion and Clothing?

English, Business, Art, ICT, Product Design, Science. Languages can be a crucial part of the Textiles business as there are often opportunities for travelling the world within this industry.

What careers or further studies could Fashion and Clothing lead to?

Fashion and Clothing could lead you to further studies or a career in an enormous range of occupations, here are just a few suggestions but it is a creative industry and anything is possible:

- Fashion Design
- Interior Design
- Graphic Design
- Weaving
- Garment Technician
- Fashion Buyer
- Machinist
- Sales Manager
- Furnishings Design
- Automotive Interiors
- Quality Manager
- Fashion Illustration
- ICT in Textiles
- Printmaking
- Marketing
- Fashion Photography
- Homeware Design
- Running your own business!

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

It would not be necessary but obviously beneficial for you to have some previous experience in GCSE Textiles Technology, Option K - BTEC Level 2 Award in Fashion and Clothing, Art, Languages, Business, Science or English.

For further information please contact Miss T Paling in the Design and Technology Department

FRENCH

Examination Board: AQA

Why take French?

Why should we learn a foreign language? Is it because our future lies mainly with other European countries? Is it because 70% of companies conduct business with other countries? Is it because we need to understand better other cultures? Or is it because language learning increases our intellectual capacity? Would you like to travel or work in France or a French-speaking country and be able to communicate really effectively in French? Are you interested in French society or culture? Would you like to improve your understanding of French and be able to speak it reasonably fluently?

If so, then why not study French at AS or A level?

What is the course content?

The AS/A level French courses are an extension of the GCSE course. They continue to concentrate on the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing but also introduce you to a wider range of vocabulary, an in-depth study and grammar and increased knowledge of culture and society. All of this will enable you to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively, giving your own ideas and opinions on many topics, including controversial political and contemporary issues.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

With increased access to French via satellite TV, the Internet and use of interactive software, students have more opportunities than ever before to work independently on the acquisition of language skills and many students enjoy this aspect of Sixth Form work. Students are also taught in class, developing discussion skills on current issues. Throughout, there is continual reference to and study of the grammar. There is also the opportunity to study a cultural topic in depth.

The course is modular with the AS course comprising 2 modules, the completion of which will enable you to progress to the Advanced level (A2) course, comprising a further 2 modules. Once attained, the AS award stands as a qualification in its own right.

What skills does French develop?

The study of French enables you to develop as a communicator. It will enable you to develop your overall intellectual capacity and your understanding of other cultures as well as giving you a greater understanding of your own language and culture.

What subjects complement French?

Spanish, German, English, History, Art, IT, Geography and many, many more all complement French. It is possible to study a modern language in combination with almost anything.

What careers or further studies could French lead to?

As well as jobs and courses specialising in language work (translating, interpreting, teaching, linguistics) there is a wide range of jobs where a language can be a real asset, particularly with our close links with Europe. Some of these jobs require school leavers and others require a degree either with or without a French content. Possibilities include secretarial work, the Civil Service, travel and tourism, hotel and catering, journalism, fine art and antiques, law, insurance, marketing, sales, accountancy and distribution (import/export).

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

Applicants for French AS are strongly recommended to have at least a grade B at GCSE.

**For further information please contact Mrs D Wilkinson,
Curriculum Team Leader, Modern Languages**

GEOGRAPHY

Examination Board: AQA

Why take Geography?

Why is our weather changing? What is happening to Antarctica? Why has the rate of child murder increased in China? If you are the type of person that questions everything, Geography is for you!

Geography is the most cross-curricular of all subjects; whatever other subjects you choose, this one will complement it. Don't forget the opportunity for field studies too. Geography will equip you with an enquiring approach, formidable discussion skills and will enable you to practice a wide range of key skills.

What is the course content?

AS

AQA Unit One – Physical and Human Geography. This unit includes the study of rivers and their management, population studies and cold environments, as well as a choice between health issues and energy.

AQA Unit Two – This is a geographical skills paper based upon the fieldwork undertaken for unit one. Fieldwork is a 3 day residential in Conway as well as day trips to Manchester and Stoke.

A2

AQA Unit Three – Contemporary Geographical Issues. You will study world cities, plate tectonic and associated hazards, as well as world biomes and the associated issues.

AQA Unit 4b – a synoptic paper where students receive pre-released material 2 months prior to the exam. You will then have to make decisions about the issues and argue their validity.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Teaching is through a variety of styles, such as discussion, Power Point presentations and research. There are also on-line materials and lessons. A large proportion of the skills lessons will be delivered through ICT lessons.

You will practice exam techniques whenever appropriate to ensure a solid understanding of expectations.

The formal examinations comprise one 2 hour exam for unit 1 as well as a 1 hour exam on the fieldwork skills.

At A2 there is a 1½ hour exam on unit 4b as well as a 2½ hour exam on unit 2.

What skills does Geography develop?

Geography develops the skills of communication and discussion, ICT, research and data and resource interpretation. Due to its depth and range it is a subject that is accepted for degree courses whether it is a BA or BSC.

What subjects complement Geography?

The vast majority of subjects complement Geography, especially Biology, Business Studies, Economics, Maths, Politics and History - the list is endless.

What careers or further studies could Geography lead to?

Geography is well thought of by universities and employers as a subject that develops transferable and meaningful life skills. Since this course provides a good foundation for further geographical related studies, many of our students have chosen to continue with either pure Geography or environmental based studies. It can also provide a solid base for related social studies. As a broad study area related to both humanities and science, it is a useful general qualification to support almost any subject at degree level.

Almost any career or degree course will accept Geography as it is the bridge between the Humanities and Science, as well as a subject that develops essential skills. From an employment point of view it can lead to almost any job specification from pilot to architect. Just a small selection of the careers you may follow could be travel and tourism, the armed forces, surveying, aviation, teaching, civil, engineering, weather forecasting or the civil service.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

It is recommended that you have grade B or above at GCSE Geography although a B grade in Science and Business Studies could be an alternative.

For further information please contact Mrs F Wilson-Jones, Curriculum Team Leader, Humanities.

GERMAN

Examination Board: AQA

Why take German?

Why should we learn a foreign language? Is it because our future lies mainly with other European countries? Is it because 70% of companies conduct business with other countries? Is it because we need to understand better other cultures? Or is it because language learning increases our intellectual capacity? Would you like to travel or work in Germany or a German-speaking country and be able to communicate really effectively in Germany? Are you interested in German society or culture? Would you like to improve your understanding of German and be able to speak it reasonably fluently?

If so, then why not study German at AS or A level?

What is the course content?

The AS/A level German courses are an extension of the GCSE course. They continue to concentrate on the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing but also introduce you to a wider range of vocabulary, an in-depth study and grammar and increased knowledge of culture and society. All of this will enable you to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively, giving your own ideas and opinions on many topics, including controversial political and contemporary issues.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

With increased access to German via satellite TV, the Internet and use of interactive software, students have more opportunities than ever before to work independently on the acquisition of language skills and many students enjoy this aspect of Sixth Form work. Students are also taught in class, developing discussion skills on current issues. Throughout, there is continual reference to and study of the grammar. There is also the opportunity to study a cultural topic in depth.

The course is modular with the AS course comprising 2 modules, the completion of which will enable you to progress to the Advanced level (A2) course, comprising a further 2 modules. Once attained the AS award stands as a qualification in its own right.

What skills does German develop?

The study of German enables you to develop as a communicator. It will enable you to develop your overall intellectual capacity and your understanding of other cultures as well as giving you a greater understanding of your own language and culture.

What subjects complement German?

French, English, History, Art, IT, Geography, Maths, Engineering and many, many more subjects complement German. It is possible to study a modern language in combination with almost anything.

What careers or further studies could German lead to?

As well as jobs specialising in language work (translating, interpreting, teaching, linguistics) there is a wide range of jobs where a language can be a real asset, particularly with our close links with Europe. Some of these jobs require school leavers and others require a degree either with or without a German content. Possibilities include secretarial work, the Civil Service, travel and tourism, hotel and catering, journalism, fine art and antiques, law, insurance, marketing, sales, accountancy and distribution (import/export).

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

Applicants for German AS are strongly recommended to have at least a grade B at GCSE.

**For further information please contact Mrs. D Wilkinson,
Curriculum Team Leader, Modern Languages**

APPLIED Health and Social Care

Examination Board: OCR

Why take Health and Social Care?

This course is for anyone who wants to develop and sustain an interest in Health, Early-Years Care and Education, Social Care and issues affecting the care sector. You will develop knowledge and understanding of Health, Early Years and Education and Social Care. You will build upon your own skills of research, evaluation and problem solving. You will develop into an effective independent learner. This is the course for anyone who has an interest in working within the caring professions. You will take Health and Social Care if you love people and have a desire to care.

What is the course content?

Health and Social Care can be studied as a single or double award at both AS and A2 level. It is taught in units of work, the number depends on the award being studied:

AS Award (3 units):

- **Promoting Quality Care:** This unit is externally assessed.
- **Communication in Care Settings:** This Unit is portfolio assessed and you will complete a report into the communication skills used in one Care Setting.
- **Promoting Good Health:** This unit is portfolio assessed and you will plan and develop your own Health Promotion Campaign.

AS Double Award (6 units):

- **Promoting Quality Care:** This unit is externally assessed.
- **Communication in Care Settings:** This Unit is portfolio assessed and you will complete a report into the communication skills used in one Care Setting.
- **Promoting Good Health:** This unit is portfolio assessed and you will plan and develop your own Health Promotion Campaign.
- **Working in early-years care and education:** This Unit is portfolio assessed and you will complete a guide to the early years care and education in the Congleton area.
- **Complementary Therapies:** This Unit is portfolio assessed and you will complete an investigation into complementary therapies and write-up a case study.
- **Caring for older people:** This unit is externally assessed.

A2 Award (6 units):

- **Care Practice and provision:** This unit is portfolio assessed and you will produce an investigation into how demographic factors have influenced the provision of Health, Social Care and Early Years services in our local area.
- **Child Development:** This unit is portfolio assessed and you will complete a child study of a child up to the age of eight, looking at development and play.
- **Social Trends:** This unit is externally assessed.

A2 Double Award (12 units):

- **Care Practice and provision:** This unit is portfolio assessed and you will produce an investigation into how demographic factors have influenced the provision of Health, Social Care and Early Years services in our local area.
- **Understanding Human Behaviour:** This unit is externally assessed.
- **Child Development:** This unit is portfolio assessed and you will complete a child study of a child up to the age of eight, looking at development and play.

- **Mental-Health Issues:** This unit is portfolio assessed and you will conduct an investigation into a mental health service provider.
- **Social Trends:** This unit is externally assessed.
- **Research methods in Health and Social Care:** This unit is portfolio assessed and you will produce your own research report.

Assessment

The assessment for both the single and double award, whether it is at AS level or A2 is divided into 33% external Assessment and 67% portfolio. The external assessment is in the form of a 90 minute examination.

What skills does Health and Social Care develop?

This course will enable you to become an independent learner. You will develop research skills, you will be able to question objectively, analyse, discuss and formulate alternative approaches to the delivery of a variety of caring services. You will develop an understanding of development and how needs can best be met.

What subjects complement Health and Social care?

Health and Social Care fits with a variety of subjects particularly Psychology, Sociology, Child Development, English, PE and Media Studies. Similar skills will be required in all of these subjects.

What careers could Health and Social Care lead to?

This course provides an excellent foundation for entry into any of the caring professions including Nursing, Childcare and any type of caring work. It can also take you into Social Work, Teaching and other university courses such as Social Studies, Psychology and higher level Health Studies. You will also develop study skills which will equip you for further study on any university course.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

It is strongly recommended that to study a Health and Social Care course you have at least 5 GCSEs that include Maths, English and Science. You do not need to have studied GCSE Health and Social Care. However all applications will be considered on an individual basis.

For further information please contact Miss J. Heys, Health and Social Care Teacher or Mrs G. Taylor, Assistant Head.

HISTORY

Examination Board: AQA

Why take History?

"It's just about studying old stuff isn't it? What use will that be to me?"

Well, there is much more to it than that. Studying History gives you the background to the issues and events that make today's headlines. History also helps you to understand people's motives, attitudes, beliefs and behaviour. History is a guide not only to the past but also to the present and the future.

What is the course content?

At Congleton High School we follow the AQA syllabus for AS and A2. This covers both British and World History components.

AS Units 1 & 2 Unit 1 covers Tsarist Russia 1855 – 1917 and investigates the rule of the last three Tsars as they struggled, and ultimately failed, to reform Russia. Unit 1 is assessed by a January exam. Unit 2 studies the impact of Stalin's leadership of the USSR 1924-1941. This unit assesses the political, social and economic impact of the rule of Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union, from the death of Lenin in 1924 to the outbreak of war with Germany in 1941. Unit 2 is assessed by a June exam.

A2 Units 3 & 4 Unit 3 investigates the Making of Modern Britain 1951 – 2007. It assesses the impact of the policies of important individuals such as Macmillan, Wilson, Thatcher and Blair and how their ideas changed Britain's relationship with the world. Unit 3 will be assessed by a June exam.
Unit 4 is an historical enquiry – The Civil Rights Movement in the USA 1865 - 1965. This Unit debates the change of historical interpretation over time, students will study various people and events within the Civil Rights movement over a 100 year period before assessing the most significant phase within it. This Unit is externally assessed, by students submitting a 3,000 word written assignment at the end of Year 13.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Teaching will involve a variety of methods including class discussions, group work, individual research and presentations. Assessment will be continual with formal assessments in the shape of coursework and examinations.

What skills does History develop?

Good historians are good communicators. The skills that you will develop in History will enable you to make valid judgements, to analyse differing views and be able to draw up your own balanced opinions. You will learn to defend your views whilst listening and responding to opposing ideas. The skills developed through the study of History will enhance your career; in debating skills, writing reports, dealing with clients, presenting your case and making judgements.

What subjects complement History?

History combines well with many subjects, but the communication skills acquired while studying AS and A level English will complement those in History. However History is an interest in its own right and can be studied with any combination of subjects at AS / A Level.

What careers or further studies could History lead to?

History is a subject that can be taken further should you make a move into higher education. Your further studies could continue with history as a subject in its own right. This could involve further specialisation in one of many different areas of local, national or international history or possibly a closer study of social or political history. Alternatively many colleges and universities offer courses where history can be studied in combination with other subjects.

How about careers? So you don't want to be a History teacher? Well, you don't have to be one. There are many career paths which value the skills you will acquire during A level studies. The ability to evaluate evidence and then produce a coherent and sustained argument is a core skill in many professions. Those who have studied History in the past have followed many different careers including journalism, law, the media, finance and business.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

Whilst it is not essential to have studied History at GCSE, it is recommended that applicants will have achieved at least a grade B. Those who have not studied GCSE History but have a B grade in English Language subjects may also be suitable.

**For further information please contact Mr M Hickton,
Assistant Curriculum Team Leader**

Hospitality and Catering (BTEC Level 3 SUBSIDIARY diploma)

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why take Hospitality and Catering?

The Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Hospitality is designed to enable participants to focus on the skills and knowledge required by supervisors and managers in the Hospitality industry. A mix of theory and practical learning will be employed and development of food preparation and service skills. This course is 100% coursework.

What is the Course Content?

Mandatory units

- The hospitality industry
- Providing customer service in hospitality
- Principles of supervising customer service performance in hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism

Selected optional units

- Food and drinks service
- European food
- Contemporary world food
- Planning and managing a hospitality event

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

You will learn through a variety of lectures, catering demonstrations, practical workshops, practical tasks, discussion groups, audiovisuals, information technology and visits.

More importantly, you will learn through hands-on experience within a local restaurant.

There will be further opportunities for real-life working experiences within the Catering and Hospitality industry, plus the chance to work in restaurants and hotels in and around the Congleton area.

You will be assessed through assignment based work in the form of written reports, essays or projects, observations of practical work, personal development journals and power point presentations. You will also be assessed on your work placements in restaurants and hotels. You will be regularly made aware of your progress and set targets for further success.

What subjects complement Hospitality and Catering ?

English, Business, Art, ICT, Product Design, Science. Languages can be a crucial part of the Hospitality and Catering business as there are often opportunities for travelling the world within this industry.

What further studies and careers can Hospitality and Catering lead to?

- University degree in Hospitality Management, International Tourism Management or Event Management.
- Many opportunities exist in the fast-moving Hospitality and Catering industry in such places as hotels, restaurants, conference centres, public houses with food, the leisure industry, welfare and education catering, outside caterers, specialist catering outlets and visitor attractions.
- During your studies you will also learn about the many other different jobs available in the hospitality industry.

What qualifications are recommended to study Hospitality and Catering?

It would not be necessary but is obviously beneficial for students to have some previous experience in GCSE Catering or Food Technology to grade B, or any Technology related course, or a B grade GCSE in one or more of the following subjects: Art, Languages, Business, Science or English.

For further information please contact Mrs Stanier or Mrs Thorpe in the Design and Technology Curriculum Area.

APPLIED INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Examination Board: OCR

Why take Applied ICT?

This is a full time course for those who wish to prepare for entry into employment in the vocational sector or who seek a progression route to a degree programme in a university. The six unit Applied GCE is the equivalent to an A level course.

What is the course content?

Students will study the following units:

Year	Unit Title	Assessment
12	Using ICT to Communicate.	P
12	How Organisations Use ICT.	E
12	ICT Solutions for Individuals and Society.	P
13	Working to a Brief	E
13	Digital Imaging and Artwork	P
13	Developing and Creating Websites	P

Assessment: E = External, P = Portfolio.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Students will learn through projects, assignments, individual and group work, written and oral presentations. Over the 2 years there is one externally assessed exam based on a pre-release case study, an externally set and assessed project brief and four pieces of coursework assessed within school.

What skills does Applied ICT develop?

Students will develop problem-solving skills through the practical application of information and communication technology, the ability to analyse, appraise and make critical judgments about the use of information and communication technology systems. In addition they will also develop the interpersonal skills necessary for communicating with others.

What subjects complement Applied ICT?

ICT complements all A/AS courses, especially Media Studies and Mathematics. The skills and knowledge developed on this course will be invaluable for all studies at this level.

What careers and further studies could Applied ICT lead to?

Colleges and universities offer a wide range of courses linked directly to ICT from web page design to network management, but the skills gained on the course would prove useful as a general qualification to support an application in any subject area. ICT is a part of every career these days. Whether you are working in a shop or Prime Minister you will come into contact with ICT in the work place. Due to the increasing reliance of businesses on ICT the demand for ICT qualified candidates is

always high. Careers in ICT are varied and interesting from designing the latest computer game to creating ICT systems that enable the latest airliner to fly safely.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

An interest in ICT is essential at advanced level. A grade B in Mathematics and a grade C in English GCSE will help you cope with the demands of the course. An AiDA/CiDA/DiDA in ICT would also be most valuable but not a requirement.

**For further information please contact Mr C Curry,
Curriculum Team Leader, ICT**

LAW

Examination Board: AQA

Why take Law?

Are you interested in finding out how the legal system in England and Wales works? Do you want to acquire an understanding of our legal system that can be applied to everyday life? Do you want to study a course that is constantly developing to ensure that it remains up to date and that regularly draws on stories and topics from current affairs? Do you want to study a subject that will prepare you for a career in law or any business related profession? If so, then this is the subject for you!

What is the course content?

You will take 2 modules for Advanced Subsidiary Level:

Unit 1 Law Making and the Legal System

Unit 2 The Concept of Liability

The A2 modules comprise of:

Unit 3 Criminal Law (Offences against the Person)

Unit 4 Civil Law (Tort of Negligence) and Concepts of Law

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Teaching will involve a variety of methods including group work, class discussions, role plays and individual research. Laws are constantly changing so you will need to have an enquiring mind and be able to keep pace with current affairs through the use of newspapers and the internet. Visits to the Law Courts, Parliament and other Legal institutions are planned to assist you to broaden your knowledge.

Assessment will take place through written examinations for both AS level and A2.

What skills does Law develop?

Studying Law will help you to develop a strong vocabulary, excellent evaluative skills, effective research skills and the ability to write efficiently, analysing and solving complex legal problems. You may be required to participate in role play situations, during which your verbal reasoning and quick thinking skills will be put to use. The course encourages you to develop the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems by applying rules and the ability to communicate opinions and conclusions clearly and succinctly. It will help you substantiate arguments and to develop an enquiring and critical mind.

What subjects complement Law?

It links particularly well with English, Business Studies, Psychology, Sociology, and History. However, the skills developed will complement virtually any subject.

What careers or further studies could Law lead to?

As such, A Level Law provides an excellent background for many University courses and for careers, not only in Law, but also in Journalism, Broadcasting, Local and Central Government, Public Relations, and a range of Management and Commercial areas.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

No previous knowledge of Law is required. The course involves a great deal of reading, note-taking and essay writing. It is therefore highly recommended that you have attained at least a Grade B in English. It is essential that you have the ability to remember dates and cases and having studied a subject such as History would be beneficial. An enquiring mind and a determination to work hard will also be useful!

For further information please contact Mrs N Wiggins, Deputy Curriculum Team Leader of ICT & Business

MATHEMATICS

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why take Mathematics?

Do you relish the challenge of solving problems?

Do you enjoy algebra?

Do you have the ability to think through problems in logical and analytical way?

Are you prepared to work consistently hard to achieve your potential?

If the answer is yes to these questions then you should consider studying mathematics in the Sixth Form

What is the course content?

Pure Mathematics is taken by all students, and includes topics such as algebra, trigonometry, graphs and functions and introduces many important new ideas. Many of the topics in pure mathematics are interesting in their own right, but they are also an important foundation for other branches of mathematics, especially mechanics and statistics. All students studying mathematics at AS level take two modules in pure maths as part of their course and those who go on to take A level Mathematics take a further two modules.

Applied Mathematics. All students studying mathematics at AS level take one module in applied maths as part of their course and those who go on to take A level Mathematics take one further module. The applied modules that you will study over the two years are

Decision Mathematics- this looks, amongst other things, at how to solve problems involving networks (e.g. computer, road, rail and telephone networks). Problems might include finding the shortest route by road from one city to another or perhaps the cheapest way of laying telephone cables to connect towns. You meet a range of methods, or algorithms, which enable such problems to be tackled. There are important applications of decision mathematics in very different areas such as in electronic circuits and the scheduling of tasks in the construction industry.

Mechanics- this is an important subject in the study of Engineering, Physics and some other sciences. This option applies mathematics to physical problems and examines topics such as the motion of objects, and how they respond to the action of forces. You will learn the technique of mathematical modelling, which turns a complicated physical problem into a simpler one that can be analysed and solved using mathematical methods. Mechanics suits students with a particular interest in engineering and/or physics.

You may also have the choice of studying Statistics as an applied module through Option K.

Statistics – this is about the collection, presentation, analysis and interpretation of data. Statistics are collected by governments, scientific researchers and commercial enterprises for a variety of reasons. Students studying statistics also look at probability theory. Many of the ideas you will meet in statistics have applications in a wide variety of other fields and knowledge of statistics is particularly useful to those taking subjects such as Biology, Psychology, Geography, Sociology, Economics and Business Studies.

Good algebraic skills are required within all the disciplines of both Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Mathematics will be taught by first developing the required skills and techniques and then applying them to arrive at a solution to problems. Homework will be set nearly every lesson and assessments under test conditions will take place every few weeks. You will require a high degree of self-motivation and time management. When you decide to study mathematics you are expected to complete all tasks to the best of your ability and seek help whenever necessary. Your teachers will always be willing to help you between lessons if you are having difficulty completing a task. In Year 12 you will take the first of the three AS modules in January and get the results in March. The other two AS modules are taken in June with results in August.

What skills does Mathematics develop?

Aside from the obvious mathematical skills that you will develop during the course, studying mathematics at this level will allow you to develop organisational and analytical skills. The ability to apply these to a variety of tasks will help in other subjects.

What subjects complement Mathematics?

Mathematics can be studied alongside most subjects, adding a new dimension to your studies.

What careers or future studies could Mathematics lead to?

Mathematics is a highly regarded and sought after qualification. This course provides a good foundation for further studies in a wide range of courses at university or college and for a number of careers. This range extends far beyond the obvious ones of Engineering, Maths and Physics to also include

- Economics
- Medicine
- Architecture
- Accountancy
- Teaching
- Psychology
- Environmental studies
- Computing
- Information Technology
- Law

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

Students studying at this level will have completed the Higher Plus level GCSE course and obtained at least a good grade B and preferably Grade A or A*

For further information please contact Mrs E Hindle, Curriculum Team Leader, Mathematics

MEDIA STUDIES

Examination Board: OCR

Why take Media Studies?

Today's society is media-saturated. It is said that the distinction between reality and the media-reality presented to us is becoming increasingly blurred. This course offers you the opportunity to find out for yourself. It is also said that the large institutions and organisations, which produce this vast amount of media, actively and consciously, shape our perceptions of ourselves and the world around us. Knowledge is power, and this course will give you the knowledge to decide for yourself about how manipulative contemporary media is.

What is the course content?

AS

Foundation Portfolio

This unit will assess candidates' ability to plan and construct media products using appropriate technical and creative skills; as well as assessing their ability to show knowledge and understanding of the process as a whole when evaluating their own work. Candidates will work within the moving image sector of media.

Key Media Concepts – TV Drama

This unit is broken down into two sections.

The first section assesses candidates' media 'textual analysis' skills and their understanding of the concept of representation, and will involve analysing a short, unseen, moving image extract.

The second section assesses the candidates' knowledge and understanding of media institutions and their production processes, distribution strategies, use of technologies and related issues concerning audience reception and consumption of media texts.

A2

Advanced Portfolio

The overall brief is almost identical to that of AS, except that at A2 the candidates will be required to work at a higher level of sophistication and skill base. This unit develops the skills of presentation that are required for further study at higher levels within education and in the workplace.

Critical Perspectives in Media

This unit will assess candidates' knowledge and understanding of media concepts, contexts and critical debates, through their understanding of one contemporary media issue and their ability to evaluate their own practical work in reflective and theoretical ways.

Section A – Theoretical Evaluation of Production

This requires candidates to answer two questions in relation to their production portfolio. They will be required to describe and evaluate their skills development over the course of the *whole* of their production work. They will then be asked to evaluate one produce in relation to one theoretical concept.

Section B – Contemporary Media Issues

This unit requires candidates to answer a question based on a topic studied in class. The topic will require an understanding of contemporary media texts, industries, audiences and debates. Candidates will acquire knowledge and understanding of the historical, the contemporary and the future, in relation to the chosen topic.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Students will be formally assessed through a combination of coursework and modular examinations. The coursework element will be linked directly to the practical production units. Teaching and learning is wide and varied and includes a combination of independent research projects, investigations, debates and discussions, lectures and practical assignments. They will also undergo extensive training to improve their technical knowledge and skill base with regard to a wide range of technical equipment and software.

What skills does Media Studies develop?

Media Studies encourages and actively promotes independent study. Students are expected to take ownership of their own education and undertake in-depth research assignments. They develop time management strategies in order for them to prioritise their workload. In addition, through a range of detailed discussions, students develop their confidence in expressing their ideas both in written and oral format. Students will also develop extensive skill in the technical area of media. They will be given the opportunity to explore advanced digital presentation software products, along with more advanced filming techniques such as split screen, green screen and animation.

What subjects complement Media Studies?

Media Studies is both a practical and an academic subject and is highly compatible with most of the subjects available in the post-16 curriculum, including, Art, Photography, Drama, ICT, English, Psychology and Sociology.

What careers or further studies could Media Studies lead to?

This course provides an excellent foundation for further Media Studies related qualifications at college or university. There are numerous career prospects that link both directly and indirectly with Media Studies, for example: film production, radio, journalism, advertising and promotional institutions and departments. In addition this subject also prepares students for the next stage in their educational and personal development whether that be in the work place or in higher education. This course provides an all round education and equips students with a wide range of personal and professional skills which they will find useful in all walks of life. Media Studies will also be useful as a general qualification to support an application to study something completely different.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

Although this subject does not need to have been studied at GCSE, it is highly recommended that students should have achieved a minimum of B grade in GCSE English and English Literature but all applications will be treated on an individual bases.

**For further information please contact Mrs Brookes,
Curriculum Team Leader, Media Studies.**

MUSIC AND MUSIC TECHNOLOGY (BTEC National Diploma)

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why take BTEC Music and Music Technology?

We are offering students the opportunity to take an entirely practical based music course that also allows students to expand their understanding of music technology. If you enjoy performing and wish to develop your skills further, this is the best course for you. There will be no composition requirements or formal listening examination. This course carries points worth 2 A Levels therefore it is an excellent way to boost points for University. It could also be possible to opt to do more work in the Option K time which would allow students to achieve points worth 3 A Levels. This course is also a very different course to the A Level and it could be possible to opt to do both courses.

What is the course content?

There are six Core units over the two-year course. In addition you will be able to select six Specialist units to complete. All of the units will be based around you completing challenges or projects, for example, you could be asked to perform a one hour concert to Year 7 students based on Popular Music or to set up the recording studio to help a band record their first CD.

The main performance activities throughout the course will require you to complete solo or ensemble performances. These will need to be in a variety of styles but you will have some choice within the repertoire.

Full details of the specification:

www.edexcel.com

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Throughout the course you will be expected to provide detailed evidence of your work. This will be through recorded performances and written work. You will need to perform to a variety of audiences from informal situations, to primary school students to more formal recitals. You will also be encouraged to develop your ability to improvise in a variety of styles.

This will be a fabulous course for the student who enjoys performing!

What subjects complement BTEC Music?

Typically, students combine the subject with other Performing Arts, Media and Fine Arts courses. The subject also has a naturally affinity with the study of Language, both our native language and, increasingly, with Modern Foreign Languages.

For some students, BTEC Music offers a complete contrast to their other subject choices (e.g. For those who are studying Science and Maths courses).

What careers or further studies could BTEC Music lead to?

For any careers centred on musical performance or composition, BTEC Music is very useful. Students may go on to read music at University and Musical Conservatoires,

or to embark on a joint-honours course in order to keep their options deliberately wide. For work in Broadcasting, Media and especially Primary School Teaching, the study of Music has a special value.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

Ideally, you will have completed the GCSE Music Course and would have achieved a Grade C or above. This, however, is desirable rather than essential. It is essential that you play a musical instrument to a competent standard.

**For further information please contact Miss Blundred,
Curriculum Team Leader, Music**

MUSIC

Examination Board: AQA

Why take Music?

If you have an enthusiasm for musical performance and would like the opportunity to create and develop original music, then this course is for you. The subject has particular appeal to those students who enjoy working in collaboration with others. The course also has an appealing and balanced academic content. This is a very formal course that will allow students to access some of the top University courses. If music is likely to be a subject that you may wish to study further, this is a good course to choose.

What is the course content?

There are 6 Units over the two-year course. They are based around the three essential elements of musical study and expression: 'Listening and Appraising' (this involves detailed study of set pieces) 'Composition' and 'Performance' (an ensemble performance/solo recital). Units 1, 2 & 3 run concurrently in Year 12, as do Units 4, 5 & 6 in Year 13.

Full details of the specification:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/qceasa/mus.html>

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

This ranges from whole-group seminar-style teaching and learning to individual tutorials. For practical music-making, this will range from whole-group to smaller ensembles. Private study and practise are important requirements. Assessment is generally informal and you will be encouraged to be self-critical whilst developing the skills to artistically criticise the work of others. Formal testing does occur, mainly through the submission of written assignments. These are invariably linked to the set works for study.

What skills does Music develop?

Of course, the principal skills of musicianship are the main focus. Musical performance, creative ability and analytical skills are developed through listening and historical research. Your skills in music-technology applications will also improve (use of recording equipment, sequencing software packages). The course of study will also improve your communication skills in a general way.

What subjects complement Music?

Typically, students have combined the subject with other Performing Arts, Media and Fine Arts courses. The subject also has a naturally affinity with the study of Language, both our native language and, increasingly, with Modern Foreign Languages. For some students, Music offers a complete contrast to their other subject choices (e.g. For those who are studying Science and Maths courses).

What careers or further studies could Music lead to?

For any careers centred on musical performance or composition, Music at AS/A2 is, not surprisingly, essential. Students have gone on to read music at University and Musical Conservatoires. They have, quite often, chosen to embark on a joint-honours

course in order to keep their options deliberately wide. For work in Broadcasting, Media and especially Primary School Teaching, the study of Music has a special value.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

Ideally, you will have completed the GCSE Course and would have achieved a Grade B or above. This, however, is desirable rather than essential. It is essential that you play a musical instrument and a recommended minimum level would be about Grade III performance standard for the first year and Grade V for the second and final year.

**For further information please contact Miss Blundred,
Curriculum Team Leader, Music**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Examination Board: AQA

Why take Physical Education?

Do you enjoy sport as a player or spectator? Are you keen to develop skills in a specialist area? Do you have a wide knowledge of Physical Education and enjoy reading supporting literature? Do you have ambitions to make a career in the sport or leisure industry or do you just want to get more out of recreational sport? Can you work as a team member and on your own?

If the answer to any of these questions is “Yes” then this course could suit you!

What is the course content?

The AS course consists of two units:

Unit 1 – Opportunities for and the effects of leading a healthy and active lifestyle.

In this unit you will develop an understanding of the physiological and psychological processes, which separately and together affect movement and performance. Topics studied include:

- Health, Exercise and Fitness
- Nutrition
- Cardiac and Circulatory systems
- Movement Analysis
- Principles of Training
- Skill Acquisition
- Opportunities for participation

Unit 2 – Analysis & Evaluation of physical activity as a performer and/or in an adopted role.

You will complete two practical assessments in any of the following roles:

- Practical performer
- Official
- Leader/coach

This can be taken from one or more practical activities.

In order to achieve good marks on Unit 2 students should be actively involved in their sport outside of school either as a performer, official or coach as time allocated to the development of these skills on the course is limited.

Section B on the written exam paper will also examine how you can relate your theoretical knowledge to the practical situation.

Once you have been successful at AS, you can continue onto A2, where the theoretical concepts studied at AS are taken further.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

You will be taught the theoretical aspects of the course through discussion work, lectures and practical experiences. You will be expected to take on increasing

responsibility for your own learning by preparing and presenting talks to your group, and researching topics using the Learning Resource Centre and internet. You will be assessed through your homework, contributions to class discussion work, and more formal unit tests, usually once or twice each half term.

What skills does Physical Education develop?

You will learn subject specific skills such as a wider knowledge of Physical Education and sport, improvement in your personal performance in one or more physical activities, development of your ability to observe and evaluate the performance of others, and improvement of your ability to apply theory to practice.

You will also improve more general skills such as using ICT, research, presentation and discussion skills.

What subjects complement Physical Education?

Physical Education has a broad subject content and so can be combined with many other subjects. In the past, students have found that Biology, Chemistry, Psychology and Sociology have particularly complemented their Physical Education course.

What careers or further studies could Physical Education lead to?

Former Physical Education students have gone to University and studied subjects including Physiotherapy, Teaching, Sports Medicine, Business Management, Journalism, Sports Coaching and Sports Science.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

Students wishing to study the AS level in Physical Education should have achieved at least a grade B at GCSE level. Students would also benefit from having a C grade in Science. Any students who studied BTEC Sport at Key Stage 4 should have achieved a Merit in order to progress to AS Physical Education. A genuine interest in sport (preferably including participation in extra curricular activities) is obviously expected!

**For further information please contact Mrs. L. Salt,
Curriculum Team Leader, Physical Education**

PHYSICS

Examination Board: OCR

Why take Physics?

We are born with a curiosity to understand the world around us. To ask questions such as “How did the universe begin?” “How does the sun keep shining?” and “How do mobile phones work?” If you find that the more answers you discover the more questions that you want to ask, then you are on your way to being a physicist.

As well as being concerned with deep fundamental questions, physics forms the basis for much of present and future technology. For example, when CD players were developed, it was crucial that the physics of lasers and the interaction of light with matter were well understood. This in turn depended on an understanding of atomic and quantum physics.

What is the course content?

The course consists of 3 modules in year 12 leading to an AS level. These include:

Module 1: Mechanics

Module 2: Electrons, waves and photons

Module 3: Practical skills in Physics

If you carry on to year 13 to achieve an A2 level you will study a further 3 modules.

These include:

Module 4: The Newtonian world

Module 5: Fields, Particles and frontiers of Physics

Module 6: Practical skills in Physics

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Practical work will be an integral part of study to reinforce knowledge and understanding as well as develop specific skills.

There will be complete investigations and problem solving activities as well as opportunities to extend individual interests in topics. Assessment will focus on aspects of planning, carrying out, analysing and evaluating experiments.

Other activities would include note taking, discussion, written questions requiring short and extended answers, concept modelling, researching and analysing data including full use of ICT and presentations to various audiences.

What skills does Physics develop?

The skills developed during the physics course include:

Practical skills including those of dexterity and organisation.

Skills of generalisation and interpretation of results.

Investigative skills.

Ability and confidence in the subject.

Manipulation of data.

What subjects complement Physics?

Many students in the past have combined Physics with Chemistry, Design and Technology and Maths.

What careers or further studies could Physics lead to?

This course provides a good foundation for further Physics related studies at college or university. Physics opens the door to an amazing world. Employers rate Physics qualifications very highly. As a Physicist your studies may lead you to work in many areas:

As a Meteorologist.

As an Electrical or Mechanical Engineer.

As a Doctor or other areas of medicine.

In Finance.

In Marketing, Business and Management.

In Astronomy.

It will also be useful as a general qualification to support an application to study different courses, such as Mathematics and Engineering.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

We recommend that you have at least Grade B in GCSE Science and GCSE Additional Science. If you have taken Triple Science at GCSE, we recommend that you achieve at least Grade B in Physics. You will also need to achieve at least grade B in Maths.

Students in the past who have had the minimum recommendations have found AS and A level difficult. However, students with the commitment and motivation can achieve success.

Students of Applied Science will not be able to study Physics at A Level as the Applied course does not give the necessary foundation on which to build at A Level.

**For further information please contact Mr E Tyrrell,
Curriculum Team Leader, Science**

Product Design (3-D Design)

Examination Board: AQA

Why take Product Design?

This course will appeal to students who have an enquiring technological mind and an interest in gadgets and product design. You will enjoy designing and making things from wood, metal and plastics at an advanced level, and have a creative skill in presenting ideas to a high graphical level. Throughout the course the design aspect is an integrated process that involves the consideration of various human needs then producing a response in the form of a 3D product.

What is the course content?

The full A Level course requires successful completion of 4 units. (Units 1 and 2 in year 12, units 3 and 4 in year 13)

Unit 1 – Materials, Components and Application (EXAM)

- 50% of AS, 25% of A Level
- 2 hour written paper
- Based primarily on Materials and Components and consisting of three sections
 - Section 1 contains compulsory limited response questions
 - Section 2 offers a choice of one question from two
 - Section 3 contains one compulsory question

Unit 2 – Learning Through Designing and Making (COURSEWORK)

- 50% of AS, 25% of A Level
- Coursework – approximately 50 hours
- Design folder and manufactured outcome

Unit 3 – Design and Manufacture (EXAM)

- 25% of A Level
- 2 hour written paper
- Based primarily on Design and Manufacture and consisting of two sections
 - Candidates answer three questions: one question from three in each section, plus a final question from either section.

Unit 4 – Design and Making Practice (COURSEWORK)

- 25% of A Level
- Coursework – approximately 60 hours
- Design folder and manufactured outcome

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Taking Product Design will help you to study the design of real products so that you can participate in today and tomorrow's rapidly changing technological world. You will become a critical and informed user of products, and become a designer and innovator. The course will help you to think and do something creative to improve the quality of life for everyone.

You will become self-motivated - a creative, problem solver. You will look for needs, wants and opportunities and respond to them by developing a range of design ideas and by improving your skills to make and evaluate end products and systems. You will combine practical skills with an understanding of aesthetics, social issues, environmental issues, function, and industrial practices.

You will be encouraged to take a broad view of design and technology, to develop your capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

What skills does Product Design develop?

Product Design is a subject for those students who are excited by activities associated with the development and making of high quality products. It is a subject where you are required to be proactive and not just reactive. You must go and ask, search out, look for, look at, experiment with, practice, test, discuss.

What subjects complement Product Design?

Product Design combines well with Maths and Physics where further study in Engineering is the aim. Other subjects that complement Product Design are Art, English, Business Studies and ICT.

What careers or further studies could Product Design lead to?

This course provides a good foundation for either further design related studies at college or university or as a general qualification to support a career in the following areas:

Architecture	Fashion Design	Interior Design
Art & Design	Furniture Design	Materials Design
Biotechnology	Marketing	Physics
Computer Graphics	Graphic Design	Systems Analysis
Design Engineering	Industrial Design	Textiles Technology

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

Students embarking on this 'A' Level course are recommended to have achieved a minimum B grade GCSE pass in a Design Technology subject or a Merit in BTec Engineering.

For further information please contact your Technology Teacher.

PSYCHOLOGY

Examination Board: AQA

Why take Psychology?

Why do we remember some things and forget others? What triggers our reactions to stress? What makes some behaviours abnormal and others normal? Why do we become attracted to certain people? Why do some people conform to rules and others disobey them? If you are intrigued to know the answers to any of these questions then Psychology will appeal to you. The subject will help you to understand why people might behave or think in the way that they do.

What is the course content?

You will study an introductory unit on Psychology, including details on its history and key approaches, followed by two units at AS and two units at A2.

AS Unit 1

Module 1: COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY (Memory) - In this module we examine how psychologists have explained why we remember certain things and learn about strategies to help improve memory. We also examine the usefulness of eyewitness testimony in crime investigations.

Module 2: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (Attachment) – In this module we study why we become emotionally attached to certain people during childhood and how this varies across cultures. Secondly we examine what happens if we don't form an emotional bond during our early years. Lastly we examine the effects of day care on children's development.

Module 3 – RESEARCH METHODS – This topic deals with different types of research methods and their advantages and disadvantages. We also look at how research is designed, carried out and analysed.

AS Unit 2

Module 4: BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY (Stress) – During our lives we will all experience stress in some form and this module explains how the body responds, physiologically, with such pressures. We also address how we as individuals can learn to cope with stress through the use of techniques such as meditation and positive thinking.

Module 5: PSYCHOPATHOLOGY (Abnormality) – In this module we look at how what is normal varies between cultures, historical periods and between individuals. We investigate how psychologists have attempted to explain 'abnormalities' such as phobias. Lastly we look at how abnormality can be treated including drugs, psychoanalysis and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.

Module 6: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (Social Influence) – In this topic we study why, in many situations, people follow the majority, despite supposedly having free will. We consider the impact of minority groups. We also debate why, in certain situations, people obey authority unquestioningly.

A2 Modules:

If you were to progress to A2 level, topics that you would study include, in Unit 4: Biological Rhythms and Sleep; Aggression and Eating Behaviour. Unit 5 encompasses Psychopathology (e.g. Depression, Phobias and Schizophrenia), Psychology in Action (e.g. Media Psychology and the Psychology of addictive behaviour) and Research Methods (where you will carry out small scale psychological investigations).

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Teaching and Learning:

A range of teaching and learning styles are employed throughout the course including: co-operative learning structures, class discussion and debates; individual and group research; presentations; curriculum based trips e.g. to Trentham Monkey Forest to study animal behaviour; note taking; and participating in mock experiments to consolidate understanding.

Assessment:

Formal assessment at AS includes two 1 hour 30 minute papers each based on Units 1 and 2 respectively. Both papers will be sat in May.

Formal assessment at A2 includes one 1 hour 30 minute paper based on Unit 3 and one 2 hour paper based on Unit 4.

Informal assessment might include question and answer, presentations, critical thinking activities, discussions, use of interactive whiteboards, flashcards and sequencing activities etc.

What skills does Psychology develop?

Psychology provides you with the opportunity to develop both personal and academic qualities. By the end of the course you will be able to question commonly held assumptions. You will have a better understanding of individuals and the social world around you. You will develop key skills in organisation, essay writing, evaluation, analysis, discussions and doing presentations.

What subjects complement Psychology?

Psychology fits with most subjects. For example scientists (particularly Biologists) often take Psychology as there is a scientific element to the subject (and it is considered to be a science by universities) or just to do something that is based on the social world rather than the physical one. Psychology certainly complements Sociology, PE, Media Studies, History and fits very nicely with English in both its forms, as similar skills are required.

What careers or further studies could Psychology lead to?

The course provides a good foundation for either further Psychology related studies at college or university, or as a general qualification to support a career in: Clinical Psychology; Medicine; Dentistry; Physiotherapy; Sport Psychology; Nursing; Midwifery; Health Studies; Speech Therapy; Social Work; Police Force; Criminology; Personnel Management; Marketing; Scientific and Social Research; Teaching; Counselling and the list goes on... It will also be useful as a general qualification to support an application to study something completely different.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

It is strongly recommended that to succeed on a course in Psychology you have at least 5 GCSEs at grade C or above, that include at least Grade B in English Language and English Literature and a Grade B in either Maths or Science. However all applications will be considered on an individual basis.

For further information please contact Miss J Boulton, Social Sciences Curriculum Team Leader or Mrs J Sanders, Social Sciences Assistant Curriculum Team Leader.

PUBLIC SERVICES

(BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma)

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why take the BTEC in Public Services?

Are you interested in finding out more about the huge range of opportunities available in the public services, such as Police, Emergency Fire Services, Security, Prison Services or the Armed Services?

Do you want to develop a wide range of skills and knowledge that any employer will value?

Or perhaps you already know that you want a career in this sector but you want to develop the skills that recruiters will look for.

If so, this course will be suitable for you.

What is the course content?

To achieve the BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Public Services, you must complete three Mandatory Units:

- Government, Policies and the Public Services
- Leadership and Teamwork in the Public Services
- Citizenship, Diversity and the Public Services

and optional units taken from a wide range of choice which might include:

- Physical Preparation, Health and Lifestyle for the Public Services
- Behaviour in Public Sector Employment
- Crime and its Effects on Society
- Career Planning for the Public Services
- Understanding the Impact of War, Conflict and Terrorism on Public Service

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

You will do lots of group work and practical activities throughout the course. You will also complete individual research. Visiting speakers from public Services such as the Royal Navy, the RAF, the Police Force and the Fire Service will be invited to speak to you and visits to Public Service organisations will be arranged. Assessment is continuous. You will have a number of internally assessed coursework assignments to complete.

What skills does it develop?

The course allows you to develop your knowledge of public services, including the roles and responsibilities within them and to develop the skills that working in public services requires, such as team-working, communication, taking responsibility for your own performance and behaviour.

What subjects complement BTEC Public Services?

The BTEC in Public Services can be studied alongside Intermediate or Advanced Level courses.

What careers could Public Services lead to?

The course provides a good foundation for either further Public Services related studies at college or university or as a qualification to support a career in: the Army; the Navy; the RAF; the Police Force; the Fire Service; the Ambulance Service; the Civil Service; Social Work; Criminology; Personnel Management; Teaching; and the list goes on... It will also be useful as a general qualification to support an application to study something completely different.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

Ideally you will have 5 GCSEs at Grades C or above. However all applications will be considered on an individual basis and, above all, you will need to have an interest in and enthusiasm for the modules chosen for this qualification.

For further information, please contact Miss Boulton, Social Sciences Curriculum Team Leader.

SOCIOLOGY

Examination Board: AQA

Why take Sociology?

Why does the crime rate always seem to be rising? Is the nuclear family the norm? Why do people join cults? Why do some people fail and others succeed in the education system? Why do so many people live in poverty while others live in the lap of luxury?

If you have ever asked yourself any of these questions, would like to debate such issues or are intrigued to know the answers, then Sociology will appeal to you. The subject will help you to understand the way that society influences the way in which we, as individuals think, feel and behave, and get you to question commonly held assumptions.

What is the course content?

You will study an introductory unit on Sociology, followed by two core units at AS and two units at A2.

AS Modules:

Unit 1

THE FAMILY – In this unit we study cross-cultural variations of the family; the diversity of contemporary family life in Britain; sociological theories of the family; domestic violence and child abuse; the historical development of the family; social policy; childhood and old age; and the division of domestic labour in the home.

Unit 2

EDUCATION – In this unit we study the historical development of the education system; contemporary issues in education; sociological theories of education; inequalities in education, relating to class, ethnicity and gender; and social policy.

SOCIOLOGICAL METHODS – In this unit you will look at sociological research methods in the context of the Sociology of Education and in other areas of Sociology.

A2 Modules:

Unit 3

BELIEFS IN SOCIETY – In this unit we will examine religious organisations, such as cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements; sociological theories of ideology, science and religion; the debate as to whether the influence of religion has declined; and participation in religious organisations by different social groups focussing on age, gender, class and ethnicity.

Unit 4

CRIME AND DEVIANCE - In this unit we will examine the social construction of crime and deviance; the usefulness of crime statistics; sociological theories of crime and deviance; the treatment of different groups by law enforcement agencies; victims of crime; crime and the media; suicide; green crime; and punishment.

THEORY AND METHODS – You will investigate sociological theory and research methods in the context of the Sociology of Crime and Deviance and in other areas of Sociology.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Teaching and Learning:

A range of teaching and learning styles are employed throughout the course including: co-operative learning structures, classroom discussion and debates; individual and group research; presentations; curriculum based trips e.g. to Stoke-On-Trent Crown Court to experience a real trial; and note taking.

Assessment:

Formal assessment at AS includes a 1 hour paper on Unit 1 and one 2 hour paper on Unit 2. Both of these units will be taken in May.

Formal assessment at A2 includes one 1 hour 30 minute paper based on Unit 3 and one 2 hour paper based on Unit 4.

Informal assessment might include question and answer, meeting targets presentations, discussions, use of interactive whiteboards, critical thinking activities, flashcards and sequencing activities etc.

What skills does Sociology develop?

Sociology provides you with the opportunity to develop both personal and academic qualities. By the end of the course you will be able to question commonly held assumptions. You will have a better understanding of the social world around you and how this affects individual behaviour. You will develop key skills in organisation, essay writing, evaluation, analysis, discussions and doing presentations.

What subjects complement Sociology?

Sociology fits with most subjects, particularly Psychology, PE, Media Studies, History and English, in both its forms, as similar skills are required.

What careers could Sociology lead to?

The course provides a good foundation for either further Sociology related studies at college or university or as a general qualification to support a career in: Social Work; Health and Social Welfare; Speech Therapy; Police Force; Criminology; Journalism and the Media; Tourism and Leisure; Law; Trainee Management; Personnel Management; Marketing; Scientific and Social Research; Teaching; and the list goes on... It will also be useful as a general qualification to support an application to study something completely different.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

It is strongly recommended that to do a course in Sociology you have at least 5 GCSEs at grade C or above and that include at least Grade B in English Language and English Literature. However all applications will be considered on an individual basis.

For further information please contact Miss J Boulton, Social Sciences Curriculum Team Leader or Mrs J Sanders, Social Sciences Assistant Curriculum Team Leader.

SPANISH

Examination Board: AQA

Why take Spanish?

Why should we learn a foreign language? Is it because our future lies mainly with other European countries? Is it because if we can communicate in English and Spanish we can talk to 2/3rds of the world population? Is it because 70% of companies conduct business with other countries? Is it because we need to understand better other cultures? Or is it because language learning increases our intellectual capacity? Would you like to travel or work in Spain or a Spanish-speaking country and be able to communicate really effectively in Spanish? Are you interested in Hispanic society or culture? Would you like to improve your understanding of Spanish and be able to speak it reasonably fluently? If so, then why not study Spanish at AS or A level?

What is the course content?

The AS/A level Spanish courses are an extension of the GCSE course. They continue to concentrate on the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing but also introduce you to a wider range of vocabulary, an in-depth study and grammar and increased knowledge of culture and society. All of this will enable you to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively, giving your own ideas and opinions on many topics, including controversial political and contemporary issues.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

With increased access to Spanish via satellite TV, the Internet and use of interactive software, students have more opportunities than ever before to work independently on the acquisition of language skills and many students enjoy this aspect of Sixth Form work. Students are also taught in class, developing discussion skills on current issues. Throughout, there is continual reference to and study of the grammar. There is also the opportunity to study a cultural topic in depth in Year 13.

The course is modular with the AS course comprising 2 modules, the completion of which will enable you to progress to the Advanced level (A2) course, comprising a further 2 modules. Once attained the AS award stands as a qualification in its own right.

What skills does Spanish develop?

The study of Spanish enables you to develop as a communicator. It will enable you to develop your overall intellectual capacity and your understanding of other cultures as well as giving you a greater understanding of your own language and culture.

What subjects complement Spanish?

German, French, English, History, Art, IT, Geography and many, many more subjects complement Spanish. It is possible to study a modern language in combination with almost anything.

What careers or further studies could Spanish lead to?

As well as jobs or courses specialising in language work (translating, interpreting, teaching, linguistics), there is a wide range of jobs where a language can be a real asset, particularly those dealing with South America and Europe. Some of these jobs require school leavers and others require a degree either with or without a Spanish content. Possibilities include secretarial work, the Civil Service, travel and tourism, hotel and catering, journalism, fine art and antiques, law, insurance, marketing, sales, accountancy and distribution (import/export).

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

Applicants for Spanish AS are strongly recommended to have at least a grade B at GCSE.

**For further information please contact Mrs. D Wilkinson,
Curriculum Team Leader, Modern Languages**

Sport - Development, Coaching and Fitness (BTEC NATIONAL Diploma)

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why take a BTEC National Diploma in Sport Development Coaching & Fitness?

This award is suitable for 16-19 year olds who may wish to enter employment within the sport and leisure industry.

The BTEC national diploma is equivalent to two A levels.

What is the course content?

The units you will study are:

Principles of Anatomy and Physiology in Sport

The Physiology of Fitness

Assessing Risk in Sport

Fitness Training and Programming

Sports Coaching

Fitness Testing for Sport and Exercise

Sports Development

Practical Team Sports

Leadership in Sport

Current Issues in Sport

Psychology for Sports Performance

Sports Injuries

Work Experience

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

You will be taught the theoretical aspects of the course through discussion work, lectures and practical experiences. You will be expected to take on increasing responsibility for your own learning by preparing and presenting talks to your group, and researching topics using the Learning Resource Centre and Internet. An ability to organise your time well and keep to deadlines is essential for this course.

All units will be assessed via a series of written assignments, and will be graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction. You will achieve an overall grade of pass, merit or distinction on completion of the course.

What skills does Sports Development & Fitness develop?

This course has been developed to provide a preparation for employment and / or to provide career development opportunities for those seeking employment in the sporting sector. On successful completion of these qualifications, learners may progress into or within employment and / or continue their study in the vocational area.

You will also improve more general skills such as using ICT, research, presentation and discussion skills.

What careers or further studies could Sports Development & Fitness lead to?

This course has been developed to meet the employment opportunities within the sport and leisure industry that include:

- Health/lifestyle services
- Health and fitness facilities
- Coaching/teaching/training
- Outdoor education
- Professional sport and performance
- Health promotion
- Community development officers
- Sports development officers

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

Students wishing to complete the BTEC National Diploma should have achieved at least a grade B at GCSE level Physical Education or a Merit on the BTEC Sport course in key stage 4. A genuine interest in sport (preferably including participation in extra curricular activities) is obviously expected!

For further information please contact Mrs. L. Salt, Curriculum Team Leader, Physical Education

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL COURSES

ASDAN COPE QUALIFICATION

Examination Board: ASDAN

Why take the ASDAN COPE qualification?

Do you enjoy:

Working in a small group?

Lots of variety and many changes of activity?

Feeling comfortable, relaxed and well supported?

If so, read on. ASDAN COPE could be just the thing for you!

What is the course content?

To achieve the COPE qualification you must gain a total of 12 credits by taking responsibility for planning, organising and completing a diverse range of tasks covering a broad range of topic areas: Communication, Citizenship and Community, Sport and Leisure, Independent Living, The Environment, Vocational and Diploma Preparation, Health and Fitness, Work Related Learning and Enterprise, Science and Technology, International Links, Expressive Arts, Beliefs and Values.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

You will work in a small group in a supportive and relaxed atmosphere. All tasks will be achievable and will be designed to help you gain confidence in the key skill areas. There will be lots of discussion, some pair work, some group work and some individual work.

There is no final external examination for this course. You will need to put together a portfolio of your work which will be assessed within school and moderated externally.

What skills does the ASDAN COPE qualification develop?

This course will help you develop the important key skills of working with others, improving your own learning and performance, problem solving, carrying out research, discussion and oral presentation. All of these skills are considered vital in the workplace or for future courses of study.

What subjects complement the ASDAN COPE qualification?

Why not combine this award with other ASDAN Awards (Personal Finance Award or the Foundation for Work Award)?

You could also combine it with 1 or 2 AS Levels and courses to develop your Numeracy and Literacy skills. There is some flexibility to tailor the Intermediate package to meet your needs.

What careers could the ASDAN COPE qualification lead to?

ASDAN COPE is a qualification equivalent to GCSE grade E at level 1 and GCSE grade B at level 2. It demonstrates to future employers that you have a broad range of key skills and can work effectively with others.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

ASDAN COPE is ideal to for students wishing to add to their GCSE qualifications and can be taken alongside GCSE re-sits and AS level qualifications

For further information please contact Mrs Morris in XL.

ASDAN EXPERIENCE OF WORK AWARD

Examination Board: ASDAN

Why take the ASDAN Experience of Work Award?

Do you enjoy:

Working in a small group?

Lots of variety and many changes of activity?

Would you like to:

Explore and research a range of careers?

Complete a period of work experience?

Demonstrate a range of skills through work related activities?

If so, read on. The ASDAN Experience of Work Award could be just the thing for you!

What is the course content?

To achieve the Experience of Work Award you must complete either 30 hours of work related activities to achieve 3 credits or 60 hours to achieve 6 credits.

You will need to complete tasks from 4 modules:

Exploring Choices

Preparing for the Workplace

Work Placement (10, 20 or 30 hours)

The International Option

The credits achieved for this award can be used towards other ASDAN Awards and qualifications.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

You will work in a small group in a supportive and relaxed atmosphere. All tasks will be achievable and will be designed to help you gain confidence in the key skill areas. There will be lots of discussion, some pair work, some group work and some individual work.

There is no final external examination for this course. You will need to put together a portfolio of your work which will be assessed within school and moderated externally.

What skills does the ASDAN Experience of Work Award develop?

This course provides an excellent foundation for future employment. It will allow you to demonstrate a wide range of key skills - communication, ICT, working with others, working independently. Successful completion of a work placement will help you to develop a range of employability skills.

What subjects complement the ASDAN Experience of Work Award?

Why not combine this award with other ASDAN Awards (Silver Award or the Personal Finance Award)?

You could also combine it with 1 or 2 AS Levels and English /Maths Resits. There is some flexibility to tailor the Intermediate Package to meet your needs.

What careers could the ASDAN Experience of Work award lead to?

It will not lead directly to a career but will allow you to explore a range of career options. This will then enable you to make more informed choices about your future.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

Ideally you would have completed the ASDAN CoPE Award in Year 11, but if you haven't you could still take this course as part of the Intermediate Package.

For further information please contact Mrs Bennett in XL.

ASDAN PERSONAL FINANCE AWARD

Examination Board: ASDAN

Why take the ASDAN Personal Finance Award?

Do you enjoy:

Working in a small group?

Lots of variety and many changes of activity?

Do you think it is important to:

Understand clearly about money matters which will affect your future working life?

If so, read on. The ASDAN Personal Finance Award could be just the thing for you!

What is the course content?

To achieve the Personal Finance Award you must complete either 30 hours of study to achieve 3 credits or 60 hours of study to achieve 6 credits.

For 1 credit you must complete 5 mini tasks from 4 topic areas relating to personal finance:

Earning and Spending

Managing Money

Financial Choices

National and Global Issues

During the course you will also be required to complete a large project which involves 10 hours of study, the completion of this project is worth 1 credit. There is a wide range of topics from which you can choose.

The credits achieved for this award can be used towards other ASDAN Awards and qualifications.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

You will work in a small group in a supportive and relaxed atmosphere. All tasks will be achievable and will be designed to help you gain confidence in the key skill areas. There will be lots of discussion, some pair work, some group work and some individual work.

There is no final external examination for this course. You will need to put together a portfolio of your work which will be assessed within school and moderated externally.

What skills does the ASDAN Personal Finance Award develop?

Apart from developing your understanding of money matters, so essential in adult life, this course will also help you develop the important key skills of communication, application of number and ICT. In addition you will refine your skills in working with others and you will improve your ability to work and study independently. The 30 hour project will help you to develop planning and research skills. All of the above skills are considered vital in the workplace or for future courses of study.

What subjects complement the ASDAN Personal Finance Award?

Why not combine this award with other ASDAN Awards (Silver Award or the Foundation for Work Award)?

You could also combine it with 1 or 2 AS Levels and English /Maths Resits. There is some flexibility to tailor the Intermediate Package to meet your needs.

What careers could the ASDAN Personal Finance award lead to?

The ASDAN Personal Finance Award may awaken in you an interest in working in the financial services sector eg banking, insurance, accountancy. However, to do this you would need to study further at college or university. Take a look at the Connexions Direct Jobs4u website.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

Ideally you would have completed the ASDAN CoPE Award in Year 11, but if you haven't you could still take this course as part of the Intermediate Package.

For further information please contact Mrs Bennett in XL.

BUSINESS

(BTEC FIRST EXTENDED CERTIFICATE)

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why take Business?

You don't have to aspire to be the next Alan Sugar or Richard Branson to take Business Studies! This subject is for anyone – but will be of particular interest to all those who want to set up their own business. We all come into contact with businesses every day of our lives and this subject will give you a greater insight to the workings of business and industry.

What is the course content?

For the Extended Certificate you will complete 6 modules:

Unit 1 – Business Purposes

Unit 2 – Business Organisations

Unit 4 – People in Organisations

Unit 5 – Verbal & Non Verbal Communication in Business

Unit 6 – Business Communication through Documentation

Unit 12 – The Marketing Plan

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Teaching will involve a variety of methods including group work, class discussions and individual research. As the world of business is constantly changing you must be able to keep pace with current affairs through the use of the internet. You may be required to present your research findings to the group.

Assessment will take place through 6 internally assessed coursework assignments some of which will be assessed through role play and group work activities.

This qualification is the equivalent of 2 GCSE's.

What skills does Business Studies develop?

The course allows students to develop their knowledge of business within a real business context. Students will need to use ICT and present their findings and coursework in a professional manner. You will be required to work in teams and groups and should be confident in doing so.

What subjects complement BTEC Business?

BTEC Business would combine well with ICT or Health and Social Care which requires similar skills and knowledge.

What careers or further studies could BTEC Business lead to?

It will provide you with a broad based preparation for careers in many aspects of business such as business administration, sales and marketing or even starting your own business!

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

It is not necessary for you to have followed a course in Business Studies at GCSE. Studying Business will require some numeracy skills and the ability to write clearly and logically.

For further information please contact Mrs N Wiggins, Deputy Curriculum Team Leader of ICT & Business

DEVELOPING LITERACY

Why take Developing Literacy?

Most jobs and training programmes, and all university courses, require applicants to have achieved at least a grade C at GCSE in Maths and English. Developing Literacy offers the opportunity to learn at a pace that suits you and enables you to re-sit GCSE English. You may also wish to sit the Functional Skills English course as an alternative to GCSE.

You will be taught in a small group. Your teacher will be able to focus on your needs, helping and guiding you through those areas of the specification that you found difficult the first time round.

What is the course content?

The course content is designed to help you re-visit topics that you covered in Year 11. If you want to take the GCSE re-sit opportunity in November then your focus will be on the exam skills required; Other Cultures poetry, Media and Non-Fiction texts, Writing Triplets. Entries for Functional Skills English can be made in January and June.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

The teaching, learning and assessment will be similar to Year 11. Your teacher will offer advice regarding test essays to develop your exam skills and enable you to develop your writing. Furthermore, you will be given the opportunity to work independently to develop particular skills based on your needs.

DEVELOPING NUMERACY

Why take Developing Numeracy?

Many jobs, training programmes and university courses require applicants to have achieved a grade C at GCSE in Maths and English or perhaps an alternative Level 2 qualification such as ALAN Numeracy or Functional Mathematics. If you do not achieve this in Year 11, you may want to select a 'Developing Numeracy' course as one of your options in Sixth Form.

What is the course content?

At the start of the course your teacher will provide you with a breakdown and analysis of your GCSE Maths papers from the examination board. From this your teacher will be able to help you focus on your own particular needs, guiding you towards the best choice of qualification at Level 2 for you.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

You will be expected to work independently. You will be given a list of tasks to complete, most of which involve the tuition and practice materials on the Maths area of Uniservity and other mathematical websites. It will be your responsibility to complete these tasks weekly, making use of the time-tabled tutorial sessions with your teacher to seek help when necessary and hand in completed work.

MEDIA

(OCR National Level 2)

Examination Board: OCR

Why take Media?

This course will introduce students to the basics of the Media world. Exploring a variety of media including newspapers, magazines, radio and television, this course aims to prepare students for this competitive field.

What is the course content?

Candidates will complete three units:

- Introduction to media
- Introduction to media production
- Exploring moving image products

The work will be project based (no formal examination) and will involve working with print, audio and moving image products. Students can expect to produce print based media products, radio podcasts, and short excerpts of film during the course.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

The course is project based and students will be required to work both independently and in groups. Assessment will be through a variety of tasks of both a practical and written nature. There is no formal examination.

What skills does Media develop?

This course will develop your communication and IT skills. You will be provided with extensive training on a wide range of technical equipment and software. It will also develop creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills.

What subjects complement Media?

Media Studies is both a practical and an academic subject and is highly compatible with most of the subjects available in the post-16 curriculum, including, Art, Photography, Drama, Music, ICT, English, Psychology and Sociology.

What careers or further studies could Media lead to?

This course is suitable for those students who have an interest in any type of Media and who wish to pursue a career in this area.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

There are no specific qualification requirements for this course.

**For further information please contact Mrs K Brookes,
Curriculum Team Leader, Media Studies.**

TRAVEL AND TOURISM (BTEC Extended Certificate)

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Why take Travel and Tourism?

This BTEC qualification is designed to provide specialist work related experience in a range of tourist related sectors. This course provides the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary for working in tourism, including cabin crew, guiding services and tourist boards.

What is the course content?

Mandatory units are:

Unit One – The UK Travel and Tourism Industry

Unit Two – Understanding Customer Service in Travel and Tourism

Unit Three – Understanding the Nature and Effects of World Tourism

Three optional units are selected from a range which includes units such as:
Developing Customer Service Skills in Travel and Tourism
UK Tourism Destinations

There are no exams in this course. All assessment is through presentation and folderwork.

What sort of teaching, learning and assessment should I expect?

Teaching is through work based scenario which includes a variety of styles, such as discussion, Power Point presentations and research. Where possible, lessons are timetabled in computer suites to facilitate this style of learning.

The course also comprises numerous visits to tourist destinations and organisations.

What skills does Travel and Tourism develop?

Travel and Tourism develops the skills of communication as many of the assessments involve presentations. ICT and research as well as discussion are also developed. As the course is work based it also develops team work, co-operative learning and leadership skills.

What subjects complement Travel and Tourism?

As Travel and Tourism is work based, it will complement a wide range of subjects. It also links well with Business Studies, Geography and Languages.

What careers or further studies could Travel and Tourism lead to?

You could further your studies by going on to study a Level 3 qualification in Travel and Tourism.

As the course is work based it can lead on to the majority of jobs. However, it is particularly well thought of for jobs such as cabin crew, holiday reps, or in tourist boards, hotel industries or any jobs which work with customers.

What qualifications are recommended to study this course?

There are no requirements for this course although a GCSE in Languages, Geography or Business Studies would be an advantage.

**For further information please contact Mrs F Wilson-Jones,
Curriculum Team Leader, Humanities.**