



TDA

Sixth Form



Prospectus 2022

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Please note: subjects will only run if there are sufficient candidates to make a course viable.

Quick links

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Thomas Deacon Education Trust

The Thomas Deacon Education Trust is a charitable organisation dedicated to raising educational outcomes across a range of primary and secondary phase schools and academies in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. As a leading education trust we provide excellent teaching and learning for all and an ethos and culture that encourages everyone to be the very best that they can be.

We help our communities thrive by giving students the best opportunities to learn inside and outside the classroom. We do this based on a shared set of values:

Trust, Diversity, Excellence and Transformation.

Our commitment is to enable every member of our learning community to achieve their full potential.

We put learners, and their learning, at the heart of everything we do.

Mr Mick Gernon
Chief Executive



Unity of Purpose:

Trust | Diversity | Excellence | Transformation

Principal's welcome

As Principal of Thomas Deacon Academy, I am very proud of the achievements of our Sixth Form students and staff. Over recent years, we have seen significant improvements in the curricular and extra-curricular success of our students and our Sixth Form is going from strength to strength. This has been confirmed by our most recent Ofsted Inspection (September 2019). Competition for places in our Sixth Form is fierce as we offer a comprehensive Post-16 curriculum which has something to offer to every student.

Moving forward our core purpose for the Academy is a simple one:

To ensure that each student acquires the necessary knowledge, skills and character to make a positive contribution and 'thrive' as a global citizen.

We are committed to providing an excellent education which allows every young person to achieve the best possible set of qualifications. Equally we value the importance of developing young people who are positive.

Our six pillars of character provide the foundations of the TDA Way:



Mr. Rick Carroll, Principal

Life in TDA Sixth Form

It is a real privilege to work with the vibrant young people who make up Thomas Deacon Academy Sixth Form. We have an inherent belief in young people and in supporting them to become the very best they can be. Whether it is through the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, mentoring programmes, sport, drama, the National Citizen Service, enrichment or our incredibly successful university application support, young people in our sixth form thrive academically and actively contribute to their community.

I trust that by reading this prospectus you will appreciate the essence of what it is like to study at TDA Sixth Form and that you will gain a good insight into all the wonderful opportunities for personal and academic development.

Michala Jackson, Head of Sixth Form



Pastoral support Uniform

Pastoral Support

Academic Coaches are pivotal in ensuring effective support. With their daily contact they are well placed to assist sixth formers in their organisation, tracking attendance and helping them to maximise their academic outcomes. In addition, the Sixth Form Team includes staff who are expert in supporting students with their university applications especially “early entry” – medicine, dentistry and veterinary degrees and Oxford and Cambridge applications. Similarly, support is available to assist in careers, well-being, the development of good study practices / skills and personal support.

Uniform

Female: school blazer, kilt or trouser to be purchased from the school shop. White, open neck blouse, office appropriate black shoes, navy or black tights to be worn with skirt (hijabs must be plain and navy blue).

Male: navy blue trousers, blazer and tie to be purchased from the school shop, white shirt, and office appropriate shoes.

A navy, v-neck jumper may be worn underneath the school blazer (not instead of). This is optional but can be purchased from the school shop.



Wider opportunities

National Citizens Service: for all Year 12 students

Student leadership: Senior Prefects, Head Girl and Boy, Mental Health Ambassadors, Mentoring

Student voice and community organising: working across the whole Academy and with Peterborough Citizens UK

Gold DofE, Combined Cadets Force, sports, STEM

Subject activities: Awards, fieldwork, projects

Student led activities – debate club, MedSoc, Law Society etc.

Flexible Work Experience

University programmes - application and interview support, webinars, guest speakers



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Advice on choosing courses

All sixth formers must study towards the equivalent of **three full A-levels**.

- Choose courses that you are genuinely interested in and will support your future aspirations.
- Investigate and research different ways by which you might be able to access the career of your dreams e.g. a degree or higher apprenticeship.
- Visit the universities' admissions website www.ucas.com to find out more about entry requirements - both grades and subjects.
- Look at the course content of the different subjects available here at TDA.
- Make sure you know the entry requirements for your subject preferences - are they realistic given your current performance?
- Talk to your teachers and get their view on your suitability for Level 3 qualifications (A levels, BTECs and Cambridge Nationals).
- Are your subjects a sensible combination? For instance, will you be able to cope with the demands of lots of coursework subjects simultaneously?



How to apply

**Please note: – we accept applications made at any time, however, we prioritise those made by the stipulated deadlines.*

Internal applicants

(students currently at Thomas Deacon Academy)

Apply using the link sent out on the SIMS App.

Select your course preferences

Deadline **December 17th 2022**

What's next? You will be invited to interview - *provided your application looks sufficiently strong.*

We will make a decision whether to make an offer and for which subjects. You will receive a letter via your school email to confirm any offer which we make.

What is this based upon? Your future career and study aspirations.
The progress you are making towards the entry criteria (using your Check Point data).
Your performance at interview.

External applicants

(students currently studying elsewhere)

Apply using our online application: [Thomas Deacon Academy \(applicaa.com\)](https://www.thomasdeaconacademy.com/applicaa.com)

Select your course preferences
Let us know about your current studies

Deadline **December 17th 2022**

What's next? You will be invited to interview - *provided your application looks sufficiently strong.*

We will make a decision whether to make an offer and for which subjects. We will send a letter via the email that you have provided to confirm any offer which we make.

What is this based upon? Your future career and study aspirations.
The progress you are making towards the entry criteria (using a reference from your school).
Your performance at interview.

Sixth Form entry requirements

Entry to Sixth Form

As a *minimum*, applicants must achieve:

- 8 GCSE passes with 4 at grade 4 and 4 at grade 5 including maths and English*

AND

- *All* subject-specific entry requirements

Scholars Programme

Students will be required to study one of the following as appropriate:

- EPQ - Extended Project Qualification
- Further Maths

* *up to one BTEC can be included at Merit or above*

More than just numbers

Applicants must attain subject-specific grade requirements

Great record

Motivation, behaviour, effort and attendance and a strong desire to learn

Good relationships

With staff and peers and a willingness to contribute to wider academy life.

Applied Science (Ext. Certificate)

Description

This course is ideal for students who would like to study science further but do not want to specialise in a particular scientific discipline. It covers key scientific skills and theory from biology, chemistry and physics. It is the equivalent of one A level.

Good organisational skills and good attendance are essential as all internal deadlines must be met. This course can be blended with other A levels or level BTECs

Course content

Unit 1 - Principles and applications of science

Unit 2 – Practical scientific procedures and techniques

Unit 3 – Science investigation skills

Unit 8 – Physiology of human body systems

Subject-specific entry requirements

Grades 5 and 4 in science

Potential pathways

University or straight into work. Career fields include healthcare, social care, working with animals, teaching or via an access course to science, pharmacy, nursing and optometry degrees.

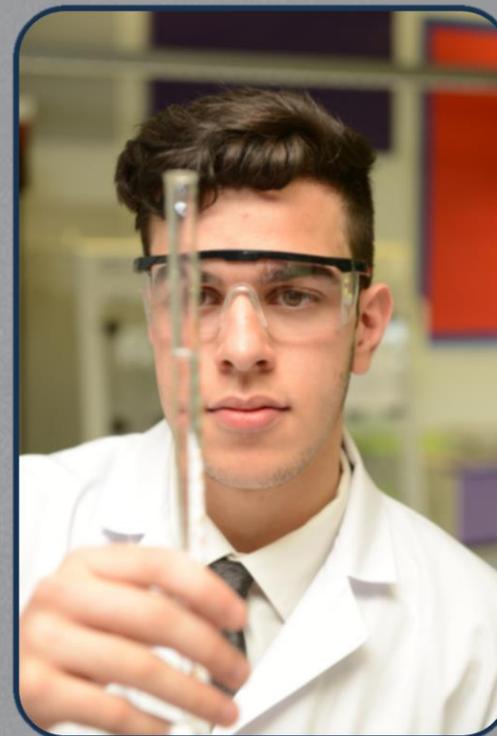
Financial information

You may be required to purchase a suitable laboratory coat and glasses. Folders and textbooks are supplied. Revision books may be purchased to support exam units.

This course can be blended with other A levels or level 3 BTECs

To find out more

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/applied-science-2016.html>
karen.pumfrey@tda.education



Level
3

Exam board
Edexcel

Qualification
BTEC Extended Certificate

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Applied Science (National Diploma)

Description

This course is ideal for students who would like to study science further but do not want to specialise in a particular scientific discipline. It is taught via a practical approach allowing students to develop independent learning skills. It covers key scientific skills and theory from biology, chemistry and physics. It also allows for students to do an individual investigation on a topic of their interest. It is the equivalent to two A levels and will be timetabled in two blocks.

Good organisation and good attendance are essential as all internal deadlines must be met.

Course content

- Unit 1 - Principles and applications of science 1
- Unit 2 – Practical scientific procedures and techniques
- Unit 3 – Science investigation skills
- Unit 8 – Physiology of human body systems
- Unit 4 – Laboratory techniques and their application
- Unit 5 – Principles and applications of science 2
- Unit 6 – Investigative project
- Unit 9 – Human regulation and reproduction

Potential pathways

University or straight into work. Career fields include healthcare, social care, working with animals, teaching or via an access course to science, pharmacy, nursing and optometry degrees.

Financial information

You may be required to purchase a suitable laboratory coat and glasses. Folders and textbooks are supplied. Revision books may be purchased to support exam units.

Subject-specific entry requirements

Two grade 5s in science

The National Diploma must be taken in conjunction with Applied Science Extended Certificate.

To find out more

Please contact:

ro.mackrell-hey@tda.education

karen.pumfrey@tda.education

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/applied-science-2016.html>

This course can be blended with other A levels or Level 3 BTECs.

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Level
3

Exam board
Edexcel

Qualification
BTEC National Diploma

Art (Fine Art)

Description

During your Fine Art course you will explore a whole range of different media and techniques. The emphasis of this course is learning by doing, so you will be able to create imaginative, creative and personal work. You will pursue two themes throughout the course, one will be coursework and the other will be an externally set assignment. We will support the development of your skills and ideas through a range of group workshops, visiting artists and trips to galleries and inspirational locations.

Course content

Year 12: You will have teacher led workshops allowing you to explore materials, techniques and processes. Then you will have the opportunity to write a Personal Investigation Project proposal (Component 1). This project will form your Coursework. It is a sustained, personal investigation requiring research and practical artwork.

Year 13: Personal Investigation – This will continue and resolve in Year 13. There is a compulsory 1500-3000 word written element to this component which will support your practical work. Component 2 is the Externally Set Assignment - You will choose from a range of titles provided by the exam board and explore in a further project. You will sit a 15-hour practical exam in May of Year 13.

Potential pathways

Access to Foundation courses and HE (a common requirement to Art and Design degrees) or directly on to a degree. Previous students have studied Fine Art, Computer Games Design, Architecture, Textiles Design, Photography, Fashion Design, and many more. Students have gone on to study Art courses at institutions including Goldsmiths, Loughborough, Falmouth, Leeds, Nottingham Trent and University of the Arts London.

Financial information

Following initial introductory workshops, students are required to supply their own sketchbooks and any technical art equipment. We create art packs containing basic equipment such as paints and sketching pencils which are available to purchase.

Entry requirements

6+ in GCSE Art & Design or Textiles

To find out more

Please contact Miss A Powell-Bowns
Aep@tda.education

Please note:
you can choose to study Fine Art
OR Textiles at A Level (not both).



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Level
3

Exam board
AQA

Qualification
A-level

Art (Textiles)

Description

During your Art Textiles course you will explore a whole range of different media and techniques. The emphasis of this course is learning by doing, so you will be able to create imaginative, creative and personal work. You will pursue two themes throughout the course, one will be coursework and the other will be an externally set assignment. We will support the development of your skills and ideas through a range of group workshops, visiting artists and trips to galleries and inspirational locations. You have the chance to specialise in Fashion Textiles or Multi media Textiles.

Course content

Year 12: You will have teacher led workshops allowing you to explore materials, techniques and processes. Then you will have the opportunity to write a Personal Investigation Project proposal (Component 1). This project will form your Coursework. It is a sustained, personal investigation requiring research and practical artwork.

Year 13: Personal Investigation – This will continue and resolve in Year 13. There is a compulsory 1500-3000 word written element to this component which will support your practical work. Component 2 is the Externally Set Assignment - You will choose from a range of titles provided by the exam board and explore in a further project. You will sit a 15-hour practical exam in May of Year 13.

Potential pathways

Access to Foundation courses and HE (a common requirement to Art and Design degrees) or directly on to a degree. Previous students have studied Fine Art, Interior Design, Textiles Design, Fashion Journalism, Fashion Design, and many more. Students have gone on to study Art courses at institutions including Goldsmiths, Loughborough, Falmouth, Leeds, Nottingham Trent and University of the Arts London.

Financial information

Following initial introductory workshops, students are required to supply their own sketchbooks and any technical art equipment. We create art packs containing basic equipment such as paints and sketching pencils which are available to purchase.

Entry requirements

6+ in GCSE Art & Design or Textiles

To find out more

Please contact Miss A Powell-Bowns
Aep@tda.education

Please note:
you can choose to study Fine Art
OR Textiles at A Level (not both).



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Biology

Description

We aim to provide students with an awareness of the diversity of life, the function of living systems and the core knowledge base of biology. Students will have the opportunity to engage in discovery, through the collection of data and the acquisition of field and laboratory skills in biology. Students will become proficient in organisational and analytical skills used in biology, including hypothesis testing, experimental design, data management, statistical analyses and interpretation of data.

Course content

Year 12

- Module 1 – Development of practical skills in biology
- Module 2 – Foundations in biology
- Module 3 – Exchange and transport

Year 13

- Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- Module 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Potential pathways

Previous student destinations include: Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Midwifery, Physiotherapy, Biomedical Science, Paramedic Science, Sport and Exercise Science, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, Primatology, Anthropology, Forensic Science and Equine Studies.

Financial information

OCR Biology 1, Oxford University Press, ISBN: 978-0198351917, £24.99
OCR Biology 2, Oxford University Press, ISBN: 978-0198357643, £24.99
Lab coat, £15.99
Safety glasses, £4.99

Subject-specific entry requirements

Biology 6, Trilogy Science 6,6, Maths 5.

To find out more

Subject Leader: Mr J Lomas jason.lomas@tda.education
www.ocr.org.uk
www.societyofbiology.org

Level
3

Exam board
OCR

Qualification
A-level

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Business Studies

Description

Students that have an interest in Business Studies and gaining an insight into how real organisations operate will enjoy studying business studies. The course will give you access to a range of skills and includes a mixture of assessment as well as group work and practical activities. You will study case studies, learn business theory, work to solve problems and gain a range of skills to take you into either further education or the workplace. Students will need to be organised and dedicated, Business requires a lot of written work and reading outside of lessons.

Course content

Theme 1: Marketing and people

Theme 2: Managing business activities

Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy

Theme 4: Global business

Subject-specific entry requirements

5 in business, if studied at GCSE (a 5 in maths GCSE is preferable as the finance section requires applicants to be comfortable with figures).

Potential pathways

Courses in Business/Business Management /Accountancy/Marketing in Further and Higher education institutions.

Financial information

You will need to purchase folders, plastic wallets and other stationary materials.

To find out more

Mrs E Bird, Subject Leader for Business Studies
eyb@tda.education

Level
3

Exam board
Edexcel

Qualification
A-level

Chemistry

Description

A Level Chemistry will give students an exciting insight into the contemporary world of Chemistry. Practical experience is embedded throughout the course and students will develop a range of transferable skills including investigating, problem solving, research, decision making, mathematical skills and analytical skills. This combination of academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A Level Chemistry highly appealing.

Course content

Year 12

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry

Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry

Module 3 – Periodic table and energy

Module 4 – Core organic chemistry

Year 13

Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements

Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis

Potential pathways

Career opportunities include: chemical, manufacturing and pharmaceutical industries, forensics, environmental protection and healthcare. The problem solving skills are useful for many other areas such as management, law and finance. Previous students have gone on to study: Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing, Midwifery, Physiotherapy, Biomedical Science, Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering and Chemistry.

Financial information

Books, on-line resources and practical equipment are provided. Students are advised that they will need to buy a folder to keep their notes organised.

Subject-specific entry requirements

Chemistry 6, Trilogy Science 6,6, Maths 6.

To find out more

Dr K Nicholson, Subject Leader: kln@tda.education

Exam board: www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-chemistry-a-h032-h432-from-2015/

Level
3

Exam board
OCR

Qualification
A-level

Computer Science

Description

This course is suited to those who like to solve problems and write code. It demands both logical discipline and imaginative creativity in the selection and design of algorithms and the writing, testing and debugging of programs. This will develop students' critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills. Candidates following this course will get to understand how computer technologies work.

Course content

Year 12

Fundamentals of programming, data structures, data representation, computer systems, computer organisation and architecture, systematic approach to problem solving, theory of computation, consequences of uses of computing

Year 13

Theory of computation, consequences of uses of computing, fundamentals of communication and networking, fundamentals of databases, Big Data, Fundamentals of functional programming, Non-exam assessment – the computing practical project

Potential pathways

Computer Science is an extremely useful A Level leading into a wide variety of computer-based disciplines plus technologically rich subjects such as engineering or science. Good with Mathematics, all Sciences, Technology & Engineering. Mathematics is particularly desirable for those wishing to take this onto degree level.

Financial information

Access to a computer at home is essential.

Subject-specific entry requirements

Computer Science / ICT 6 (if taken), Science 5,6, Maths 6. A genuine interest in Computer Science and a desire to read widely and work independently is vital.

To find out more

Subject leader: Mr J Cox jon.cox@tda.education

Exam board:

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/ict-and-computer-science/as-and-a-level/computer-science-7516-7517

Level
3

Exam board
AQA

Qualification
A-level

Criminology

Description

Criminology is the scientific study of crime and crime prevention. Criminologists draw on a wide range of disciplines, including biology, psychology, sociology and law to try and understand criminal behaviour and to devise policies to reduce offending. Criminologists work with organisations such as local and national politicians, the police, prisons and probation service.

Course content

Criminology is offered as a 2 year Diploma course.

Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime looks at how we understand crime through media representations, campaigns about crime and interpreting crime statistics.

Unit 2: Criminological Theories Students study a range of approaches to understanding crime including individualistic, biological, psychological and sociological theories.

Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom This unit understands how crimes are investigated and prosecuted from the initial crime scene to bringing a crime to trial.

Unit 4: Crime and Punishment investigate how the criminal justice system works including the role of Parliament, the courts, the police and other agencies.

Potential pathways

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, including police officers, probation and prison officers, and social workers. With their critical thinking, analytical and communication skills, criminology graduates are also attractive to employers outside the criminal justice sector in areas such as social research and politics.

Financial information

Students will be required to purchase a textbook to support the course and may also be required to participate in educational visits as the course progresses in order to support their learning.

To find out more

Contact the subject leader for Social Sciences

Mrs SYounis syo@tda.education

Information on the specification can be found at <https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/criminology/>

Drama (Theatre Studies)

Description

The course focuses on the practical exploration of performance texts, including exploring them in the light of theatre practitioners. The performance texts that will be studied for the exam will require students to articulate how they would perform in certain roles, design for certain scenes and interpret a text for performance, putting practical work at the heart of the specification

Course content

Component 1: Devising 40% (80 marks)

- 1) Portfolio 60 marks
- 2) Devised performance 20 marks

Component 2: Text in performance 20% (80 marks)

- 1) Group performance
- 2) Monologue or duologue

Component 3: Theatre makers in practice 40% (80 marks)

- 1) Written exam 2 hours 30 minutes

Potential pathways

Higher education in Drama and Performing Arts. Professional training / employment

Financial information

Year 12: Live theatre performance – Review - £30

Year 13: Live theatre performance – Written Exam - £30

Subject-specific entry requirements

Drama 5 OR extensive experience in drama and then entry is decided by audition. Students will need to understand the content of studied plays written for the theatre. Students will: evaluate and analyse live theatre productions; be able to analyse plays in a variety of ways (so that they become familiar with the way written plays can be interpreted for realisation in performance). They will need to demonstrate skills in a performance environment showing they can create unique and original pieces of theatre.

To find out more

Mrs E Jeffery: emily.jeffery@tda.education



Economics

Description

Economics is a subject that has genuine real world application. It looks at the interactions between consumers, producers and government on a national and international level. It tackles many issues at the heart of society today such as the use of scarce resources, employment, taxation, government spending and solutions to economic problems. You will develop the skills to analyse and evaluate decisions taken as well as make sense of the economic data that is used.

Course content

Theme 1: Introduction to Markets and Market Failure. Looks at how pricing and supply decisions are made, whether resources are allocated correctly and how we can correct market failure.

Theme 2: The UK Economy – performance and policies, unemployment and inflation as well as government policy options to manage the economy.

Theme 3: Business Behaviour and the Labour Market - looks at individual businesses their costs, revenue and profit, market structures such as monopoly and how the labour market functions.

Theme 4: looks at international trade, poverty and economic development as well as an overview of the financial market.

Potential pathways

Many students continue the study of the subject or related subjects such as Finance, Accounting and Management onto university level and then for a career. Economics is a well respected qualification that keeps many career options open rather than closing them.

Financial information

Students will benefit from purchasing a revision guide costing no more than £10 each for each theme. There may be the opportunity to attend a conference at an approximate cost of £30.

Subject-specific entry requirements

English 5 and Maths 6. Students should be inquisitive as to how economics occurs in the real world, enjoy current affairs and display an academic robustness when faced with the challenging content/theory.

To find out more

Mrs E Bird: eyb@da.education

To see the full specification, visit

www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce15/economics.

Level
3

Exam board
Edexcel

Qualification
A-level

English Language & Literature

Description

English Language is a core subject and, as such, you will gain key skills in reading, writing and critical debate. The course offers continuity from GCSE in such areas as creativity, exploration of unseen texts, and application of linguistic terminology. The course encourages critical engagement with texts, exploring the ways writers create a “voice”, convey ideas to construct meaning or to achieve particular purposes.

Course content

Voices in Speech and Writing

Exploring voices – linguistic analysis of anthology texts both spoken and written to create a “voice”.

Drama Text

Linguistic and literary analysis of drama text used by playwright for character or theme.

Varieties in Language and Literature

Unseen prose non-fiction texts – critical evaluation of how a writer conveys their thoughts and feelings in response to a theme.

Prose fiction and other genres – critical evaluation of writers methods in response to theme in two literary texts.

Investigating and creating texts

Two pieces of original writing and one analytical commentary on their own work.

Potential pathways

Students may progress from this course of study into a wide range of university courses. They may progress into careers such as: journalism, teaching, law, media, librarian, researcher and many more possible career paths. This qualification is highly valued by employers and HE centres.

Financial information

Costs involved are minimal for this course. All texts are provided but you may wish to buy your own copies. There is normally a trip which costs approximately £10.

Subject-specific entry requirements

English Language 6, English Literature 6

Personal characteristics: the ability to discuss ideas on the social aspects of language. Students should be able to read and understand academic texts and then consolidate this understanding through written analysis and/or discussion.

To find out more

Mrs L Ashton: lcal@tda.education or visit <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/English%20Language%20and%20Literature/2015/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/A-level-EnglishLangLit-Spec.pdf>

Level
3

Exam board
Edexcel

Qualification
A-level

Extended Project Qualification EPO

Description

The Extended Project is a qualification which requires students to produce a single piece of work of their choosing that requires evidence of planning, preparation, research and autonomous working. An Extended Project is about the size of half an A level will attract UCAS points equivalent to half an A level. It is looked on favourably by the top universities. Some will reduce their offers for students offering the Extended Project.

Course content

Through taught sessions and individual supervision you will:

- Devise, design and plan the project
- Research, critically select, organise and use information
- Select and use a range of resources
- Analyse data, apply findings and demonstrate understanding of any linkages, connections and complexities of the topic
- Select and use a range of skills to carry out the project and achieve planned outcomes
- Evaluate all aspects of the project, including outcomes in relation to stated objectives and own learning and performance

- Select and use a range of communication skills and media to present project outcomes and conclusions to a non-specialist audience

Potential pathways

The EPO is well thought of by the top universities, some of whom will reduce their offers for students with a good grade in their project.

Not only does this provide an opportunity for an in-depth exploration of a subject of your choice, but you will also develop highly regarded skills in research, organisation and time management.

Financial information

There are no necessary costs involved. Some students incur costs pursuing their research by buying resources or visiting libraries.

Subject-specific entry requirements

Reserved for the top 25% of the cohort.

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Further Mathematics

Description

A Level Further Mathematics is a separate A Level taken in addition to A Level Mathematics. It is a challenging qualification, which both extends and deepens your knowledge and understanding of mathematics.

Course content

It is a Linear course, with 3 exams taken at the end of Year 13. Papers 1 and 2 comprise entirely of pure mathematics, with Paper 3 being split into two applied sections.

In Further Pure Mathematics you will be studying topics such as complex numbers, hyperbolic functions, polar coordinates, matrices and differential equations. In Further Mechanics you will be looking at work, energy, power, momentum and collisions, and centres of mass. Discrete Maths is a new branch of mathematics that comprises of graph theory, binary operations, network flow, linear programming, resource allocation and game theory.

Entry requirements

8 in GCSE maths. You must also study A Level Maths.

Further Mathematicians must be confident in their use of algebra and have a passion for mathematics. They are expected to spend time outside of lessons working independently and to fully engage with mathematical discussions in class.

Potential pathways

If you are planning to take a degree such as Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Finance/Economics, etc., or perhaps Mathematics itself, you will benefit enormously from taking Further Mathematics. Students with Further Mathematics find the transition to such degrees far more straightforward.

The qualification is highly regarded and warmly welcomed by universities.. Some prestigious university courses require you to have a Further Mathematics qualification and others may adjust their grade requirements in favour of students with Further Mathematics.

Financial information

A Casio ClassWiz calculator (available from the school shop) is essential. Students may also wish to purchase a graphical calculator, but these are not compulsory. Information about any possible trips will be provided when they are advertised.

To find out more

Mr. N Warrick nwa@tda.education

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/as-and-a-level/further-mathematics-7367>

<http://furthermaths.org.uk/whystudyfm>

<http://furthermaths.org.uk/universities>

Level
3

Exam board
AQA

Qualification
A-level

Geography

Description

This course is ideal if you are passionate about societies, economies, cultures and the environment. Geography as a broad subject aids your understanding of the world and humankind's place within it. It also supports learning in a number of other A-levels. There will be at least two fieldtrips.

Course content

Year 12: Human geography: 'Globalisation' and 'Regenerating Places' explore interdependency and representation of place. Physical geography: 'Tectonic hazards' and 'Coasts' explore the processes that shape our landscapes, along with the effects of these processes and ways to manage them. Students will develop a range of cartographic and statistical skills. Fieldwork is undertaken to sites such as the North Norfolk coast, the Olympic Park, Stratford and the local area.

Year 13: Human geography: 'Migration' and 'Superpowers' look at geo-political relationships and how flows of people affect national identity. Physical geography: 'Energy' and 'Water' examine the way these resources are used and assess whether these resources are sustainable. There is also an independent investigation: a 3,000-4,000 research project

Potential pathways

Geography A-level is a route to a variety of courses and careers. As a facilitating subject, geography is looked upon favourably by universities as it demonstrates skills of enquiry, analysis and evaluation. It can help students access courses as diverse as medicine, engineering, and planning. Geography develops valued, transferable skills; its graduates are highly employable as a result.

Financial information

Costs involved are minimal for this course. The geography department subsidises both fieldwork trips.

Subject-specific entry requirements

5 in geography or another humanities subject.

To find out more

Mrs Karen Leeman Karen.Leeman@tda.education

Exam board: www.edexcel.com

Geography partners humanities subjects such as economics, politics and history; it also compliments the sciences (particularly biology and engineering).

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Health & Social Care (Ext. Cert.)

Description

This course is aimed at students with an interest in finding out about the work done in health or social care settings. It includes the study of human biology, psychology, sociology and legislation which are related to the work of practitioners.

Excellent organisation and planning skills are required as you have to keep to very tight deadlines. A genuine interest in caring for people combined with good communication, literacy and numeracy skills are essential.

Works well with psychology, biology, sociology, English and BTEC applied science. This course takes up one option block on your timetable and is equivalent to one A level.

Course content

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development

Unit 2 Working in Health and Social Care

Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

Unit 14: Physiological disorders

Subject-specific entry requirements

Sixth form entry requirements.

Potential pathways

Students can go straight into working in a health care setting. However, many choose to go on to study for a degree, often in a vocational subject such as midwifery, nursing, radiography etc. Psychology and Sociology degrees are other popular choices

Financial information

Purchase of regular pens, paper and folders.

To find out more

Contact Mrs N Abdurahman: nza@tda.education



Level
3

Exam board
Edexcel

Qualification
BTEC Extended Certificate

History

Description

The history specification gives students a good chronological range of topics to study, with a common theme of intellectual and political challenge. They will gain good historical knowledge, the ability to analyse and evaluate information from a variety of types of sources and produce coherent written argument. Recent history students have worked with university academics and other visitors.

Course content includes:

Russia 1894—1941.

Popular culture and the witchcraze of the 16th and 17th centuries

Subject-specific entry requirements

5 in History or another Humanities subject.

Analytical essay writing. Research methods. Time management. Enjoyment and enthusiasm. Meeting deadlines. Additional reading around the subject is highly recommended.

Potential pathways

Studying History or History related degree courses.

Financial information

Trips are arranged to lectures by academic historians.

To find out more

Dr P Wiggin (Subject Leader) paul.wiggin@tda.education

OCR: [AS and A Level - History A - H105, H505 \(from 2015\) – OCR](#)

The Historical Association - <https://www.history.org.uk/>



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ICT

Description

This qualification is suitable for those studying in preparation for employment in the Information and Communication Technology sector, particularly in job roles where they will be expected to use ICT skills and liaise with users. The qualification has recently been redesigned after consultation with universities and industry employers making it up to date, engaging, fit for progression beyond sixth form. Cambridge Technicals provide a strong base for progression to university, apprenticeships or work and are recognised for UCAS tariff points. The Introductory Diploma is equivalent of one A level.

Course content

There are four pathways available including:

IT Infrastructure Technician Application developer
Emerging Digital technology Data Analyst Practitioner

Introductory diploma

Mandatory Units: Fundamentals of IT Global Information

Two further optional units from the list available at:
<http://www.cambridgetec.org.uk>

Potential pathways

This course prepares candidates for employment in the Information and Communication Technology sector particularly in job roles where they will be expected to use ICT skills and liaise with users. It is a good grounding for a variety of ICT courses at university and combines well with subjects such as business for joint honours courses.

Financial information

Access to a computer at home is essential.

Subject-specific entry requirements

BTEC L2 (or similar) Merit or Computer Science 5 if taken

To find out more

Contact Mr J Cox: Jon.Cox@tda.education

Specification

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technicals-it-level-3-certificate-extended-certificate-introductory-diploma-foundation-diploma-diploma-05838-05842-2016-suite>

Level
3

Exam board
OCR

Qualification
Cambridge Technical
Introductory Diploma

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Mathematics

Description

Mathematics A Level is made up of three sections, pure maths, mechanics and statistics. Whilst it complements the sciences well, it also works well as a combination with many other subjects and is very popular with employers due to the problem-solving skills possessed by mathematicians. The mechanics topics will be helpful for students hoping to go on to study Engineering or Physics, and the statistics will be particularly helpful for students looking to study a wide range of University courses such as Biology, Economics or Geography. Many University courses such as Engineering, Physics and Economics will require an A Level in Mathematics.

Course content

A Level Mathematics is a Linear course, with 3 exams taken at the end of year 13. Paper 1 comprises entirely of pure mathematics, with papers 2 and 3 each having an applied section for mechanics and statistics.

In Pure Mathematics you will be studying algebra, trigonometry, calculus, exponentials, logarithms and sequences. In Mechanics you will be learning about vectors, kinematics, dynamics and moments. The Statistics section comprises of sampling, interpretation of data, probability, statistical distributions, correlation and hypothesis testing.

Subject-specific entry requirements 7 in GCSE Maths. Must be willing to work independently; outside class, students are expected to work at least 1 hour for every lesson. Must meet assignment deadlines and be willing to work on misconceptions and to resubmit corrected solutions. Students able to learn from mistakes and apply knowledge to new situations will thrive .

Potential pathways

If you want to study mathematics, sciences, computing, medical sciences, psychology, statistics, management, actuarial studies or engineering at university mathematics will be required to enhance your application.

Financial information

A Casio ClassWiz calculator (available from the school shop) is essential. Students may also wish to purchase a graphical calculator, but these are not compulsory. Information about any possible trips will be provided when they are advertised.

To find out more

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/as-and-a-level/mathematics-7357>

<https://www.mathscareers.org.uk/degree-courses-a-level-mathematics/>

Mr. Warrick nwa@tda.education

Level
3

Exam board
AQA

Qualification
A-level

Photography (Digital Photography)

Description

During your Photography course you will explore a whole range of different camera technical skills, photo editing and project management. It is a fast paced course with lots of opportunities to learn a lot of technical and creative processes. You will pursue two separate themes throughout the course, one will be coursework and the other will be an externally set assignment which leads to a practical exam.

Course content

Year 12: You will have teacher led workshops allowing you to explore camera skills, techniques and editing processes. Then you will get to write your Personal Investigation Project proposal (Component 1). This is a sustained investigation requiring research and practical photography. There are also opportunities to explore moving image and film making too.

Year 13: Personal Investigation You will explore and develop skills, techniques and ideas on a theme of your choice. There is a compulsory 1500-3000 word written element to this component which will support your practical work. Component 2 is an Externally Set Assignment - You will choose from a range of titles provided by the exam board and explore in a second project. This will lead to a 15 hour practical exam.

Potential pathways

Access to foundation courses and HE (a common requirement to Art and Design degrees) or directly on to a FE degree course. This course may lead on to degrees in Photography, Film-making, Animation and Journalism. Art courses at institutions including Goldsmiths, Nottingham Trent, Falmouth, University of the Arts London and Loughborough.

Financial information

Students are required to supply a sketchbook and SD card, both items can be purchased from the school shop at a reduced rate. You may have the opportunity for trips to galleries and exhibitions, the cost of which will be approximately £30. Students have access to DSLR and Bridge cameras but it is beneficial if you own a DSLR camera. Prices start from approx. £280.

Subject-specific entry requirements

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art, Photography or Art Textiles. High levels of organisation. Independent time management.

To find out more

Please contact Mrs A Powell-Bowns
aep@tda.education



Level
3

Exam board
AQA

Qualification
A-level

Physics

Description

Studying Physics at TDA will enable you to develop an interest in laws that govern our universe. It will allow you to recognize the laws that can be applied to natural phenomenon and provide opportunities to apply them in new and unexpected contexts. The course is challenging, requiring both a commitment of time and endeavor, but will enable you to develop problem solving, research and analytical skills. The skills gained from this course will embed independent learning and prepare you for life beyond Sixth Form education.

As a potential student of A level physics, you will need to have a keen interest in physics and developments in related sciences. You also need to be confident in your mathematical skills and be able to problem solve solutions using that mathematical understanding. You will be committing to a minimum of 5 hours per week of independent study, beyond timetable lessons. This commitment is essential if you are to succeed.

Course content

Yr. 12: Development of Practical Skills in Physics 1, Foundations of Physics, Forces and Motion; Electrons, Waves and photons

Yr. 13: Development of Practical Skills in Physics 2, Newtonian World and Astrophysics, Particles and Medical Physics

Potential pathways

Physics students are particularly well qualified for careers in research and development, either in industry or in a university. Physics is important for careers in engineering, electronics, meteorology and even medicine. Physics is in demand for literally any career choice! Physics is a facilitating subject (required or preferred by universities) especially the Russell Group.

Financial information

A textbook is provided for use during the course; however you may wish to purchase your own copy of this. You may need to purchase a suitable laboratory coach and safety glasses.

Subject-specific entry requirements

Physics 6, maths 6, Trilogy Science 6,6.

Physics is a challenging subject that needs careful thought and determination for success.

To find out more

Please contact Mrs Karen Pumfrey, Subject Leader.

Karen.pumfrey@tda.education

Level
3

Exam board
OCR

Qualification
A-level

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Politics

Description

This subject will appeal to you if you enjoy Politics and the study of how political systems work; are interested in how decisions are made and enjoy rigorous thinking and debate.

Course content

UK Politics

UK Government

Political ideas

Government and politics of the USA

Subject-specific entry requirements

5 in a humanities subject and English. Analytical essay writing. Research methods. Time- management. Enjoyment and enthusiasm. Meeting deadlines. Reading around the subject.

Potential pathways

Studying Politics or Politics related degree courses.

Financial information

Trips are arranged to the Houses of Parliament. Additional reading is recommended.

To find out more

Dr. Paul Wiggin (Subject Leader) –
paul.wiggin@tda.education

Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>



Level
3

Exam board
Edexcel

Qualification
A-level

Product Design

Description

This encompasses a wide range of design disciplines. It is rooted in the skills required to design and make high-quality, fully functional, fit for purpose products that satisfy wants and needs. There is an emphasis on creativity and sustainability and using a range of industry standard 2D and 3D software. CNC machines, 3D printers and traditional methods are used extensively.

Course content

Year 12: In Designing and Technology in Practice, students study a wide range of materials and processes so that they appreciate how products are designed and manufactured. Students cover industrial and commercial practices, the importance of quality checks and health and safety issues.

Year 13: Learn about a range of modern design and manufacturing practices and contemporary design issues. Students develop an awareness of the impact of design and technological activities on the environment. Sustainable product design is a key feature of modern design practices. In Commercial Design students apply the skills they have acquired to design and make a product of their choice.

Potential pathways

Being a Product designer is a natural outcome, but there are other job prospects. Like working as an engineer as well as many other STEM related roles. The advertising and marketing profession always needs creative people, as do manufacturers. Whether you are planning on continuing to university or moving directly into industry, product design equips you with a wide range of invaluable analytical and project management skills. You will produce several portfolios of highly professional work that will give you a massive advantage at academic or industry interviews.

Financial information

Students need the following: Portfolio, drawing pencils, and calculator.

Subject-specific entry requirements

Engineering or Product Design 5.

To find out more

Contact Miss M Mahmood - mmah@tda.education

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Psychology

Description

Psychology is a popular and contemporary A level which allows students to develop a critical and analytical understanding of human behaviour from all angles. Psychology is not only popular due to its interesting content but due to the variety of desirable skills favoured by universities and employers alike.

Course content

Year 12: Social influence, Memory, Attachment (child development), Approaches in Psychology, Psychopathology (abnormal behaviour), Biopsychology and Research methods

Year 13: Research methods, Issues and debates in Psychology, Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology

Subject-specific entry requirements

Science 5, Maths 5.

Potential pathways

Psychology students learn an array of transferable skills on the course to prepare them for a variety of pathways. Our students often go on to university to study a variety of degrees in this field e.g. criminology, social work, teaching, neuropsychology and business related degrees. Many continue to develop their knowledge and opt for a Psychology degree. A minority of students have gone straight into employment to secure HR related jobs.

Financial information

A revision book or app to accompany the textbook will be recommended during the year at around £12. Students can access an online version of the textbook. Students also need a calculator and essential stationary for the mathematical elements.

To find out more

Contact the subject leader for Social Sciences

Mrs SYounis: syo@tda.education

Information on the specification can be found at www.aqa.org.uk

Level
3

Exam board
AQA

Qualification
A-level

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

Description

An inclusive subject, designed for people of any faith... and people who have none. We are committed to challenging and supporting you so that you can reach your full potential. You will need skills in investigation, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, communication and debate. Students need to be well aware of current issues surrounding some of the key topics e.g. euthanasia, equal rights etc. They need to be well organised and able to independently study and reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes.

Course content

Philosophy of Religion: Learners will study: ancient philosophical influences, the nature of the soul, mind and body, arguments about the existence or non-existence of God, the nature and impact of religious experience, the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil, ideas about the nature of God, issues in religious language.

Religion and Ethics: Learners will study: normative ethical theories, the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance: euthanasia and business ethics, ethical language and thought, debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience,

sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Development in Religious Thoughts: Christianity – foundation, insights and living, exploration into the religion and the impacts it has on a believers' life.

Potential pathways

The skills that you will learn in P.R.E will be useful to you in any number of careers; teaching, youth work, journalism, civil service, law, medicine or government to name a few.

Financial information

Students will need to provide their own folders, one for each part of the course. It is recommended that students purchase key revision texts.

Subject-specific entry requirements

RE or humanities 5.

To find out more

www.ocr.com

Subject Leader for RE Miss S Bray: sbra@tda.education

Level
3

Exam board
OCR

Qualification
A-level

Sociology

Description

Sociology is a subject which means the study of society and people in it. It is highly relevant to individuals in all walks of life. It takes a critical approach to understanding human behaviour in society and explores the different explanations for these behaviours, e.g. levels of crime, diversity of family life, differences in education attainment between social groups and the methods sociologists adopt to study particular phenomena. Sociology is a subject that is relevant, current and brings out the critical human being in you.

Course content

Yr. 12: Education with Methods in Context, Research Methods and Families and Households, Theory and Methods

Yr. 13: Beliefs in Society, Crime and deviance with Theory and Methods

Potential pathways

Most Sociology students successfully progress onto degree courses in Law, Criminology, International Relations, Politics, Sociology, Social Policy, Business/Management or Teaching.

Financial information

There are no specific financial costs to the course and a textbook will be available. There is a revision guide available for year 1 and year 2 A level Sociology which students will benefit from purchasing which cost no more than £12.

Subject-specific entry requirements

Humanities subject, 5.

The course will require students to complete extended reading and have an interest and awareness of current affairs. Good literacy skills are essential for effective essay writing.

To find out more

Subject Leader for Social Sciences Mrs S Younis:
syo@tda.education

Level
3

Exam board
AQA

Qualification
A-level

Spanish

Description

A-level language qualifications broaden the mind, are sought after by employers and are a rare and highly marketable commodity. You will gain a deeper understanding not just of the mechanics of grammar and vocabulary but also how people live and use the language on a day-to-day basis. You will be taught in small classes by well-qualified and highly-committed staff, including a weekly one-to-one 60-minute conversation session with a native-speaking Foreign Language Assistant. We offer trips abroad and opportunities to attend educational talks and cultural events at a local partner school.

Course content

Yr. 12 Aspects of Hispanic Society (Traditional and modern values, cyberspace, equal rights), Artistic culture in the Hispanic world (Influence of Idols, Regional identity in Spain and a Hispanic Film).

Yr. 13 Multiculturalism in Hispanic society (Immigration, Racism, Coexistence and integration), Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world (Young people and their futures in Spain and Latin America, Monarchies, Republics and Dictatorships, Social movements), Literature and an Individual Research Project.

Potential pathways

Most obviously, a languages degree (sometimes with a new language from scratch) combined at degree level with many other subjects, for example law, history, politics or business. Career routes include translation, teaching, or the tourism industry, but even as an engineer or a designer, being proficient in another language will broaden your horizons.

Financial information

We do expect students to purchase a good bi-lingual dictionary for use at home, costing around £35. We offer residential trips abroad to target language countries: these are not compulsory but are highly recommended and cost between £400 and £500.

Subject-specific entry requirements

Spanish 6. You need to be interested in Spanish, enjoy using it, and be prepared to work at it.

To find out more

Subject Leader for MFL is sarah.bray@tda.education

Exam board: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level

Level
3

Exam board
AQA

Qualification
A-level

Sport (Extended Certificate)

Description

Students must be passionate about sport and the various disciplines that underpin it such as psychology, sociology and sports science. Participation in sport (outside of lesson time) would be advantageous as it allows students to apply their knowledge to situations they are familiar with. Students need to be self motivated and undertake work outside of lessons to reaffirm their learning.

Course content

Unit 1 – Anatomy and Physiology (exam)

Unit 2 – Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being (exam)

Unit 3 – Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Unit 6 – Sport Psychology

Potential pathways

This course could lead to higher education and careers in sport, allowing access to the top sporting universities including Bath and Loughborough, as well as sports related courses.

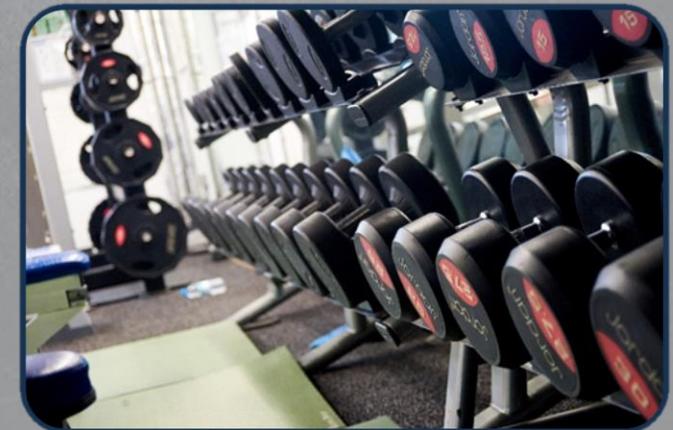
Subject-specific entry requirements

Maths 5, Science 5,4, GCSE PE 5 or BTEC/CNAT Merit (if taken).

To find out more

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/sport-2016.html>

Contact: Mrs B Brown rbro@tda.education



Level
3

Exam board
Edexcel

Qualification
BTEC

Performance Development Programme

Overview

To allow our experienced sports staff to support you, both academically and as a sporting mentor, you will preferably study the Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate (single A level equivalent) in Sport together with two other subjects of your choosing.

Alongside this, you will develop both athletic and sport specific elements of your chosen sport in collaboration with coaches from partnered clubs and TDA staff who have additional qualifications in performance coaching. You will have access to high quality sports facilities, sports mentors, a personalised training programme and sport specific coaching during the school day (around your academic studies) and in after school sessions.

Any sports specialism will be considered, we already have links with Norwich City Football Club, Peterborough City Cricket and Hockey Club, T.A.S.K Martial Arts (run by a previous world champion), Futuwwa Freestyle Wrestling, and work closely with a previous 'All Asian Champion' badminton coach.

For further details contact:

pdp@tda.education



Subject entry requirements

App Science Ext. Cert.	Science 4,5	Geography	Geography or humanities 5
App Science Diploma	Science 5,5	Health & Social Ext. Cert.	BTEC H&SC Merit (if taken)
Art (Fine Art)	Art or Textiles 6	History	History or humanities 5, English 5
Art (Textiles)	Textiles or Art 6	ICT	ICT 5
Biology	Biology 6, Trilogy Science 6,6, Maths 5	Maths	Maths 7
Business	Business 5 (if taken)	Photography	Art, Photography or Textiles 6
Chemistry	Chemistry 6, Trilogy Science 6,6, Maths 6	Physics	Physics 6, Trilogy Science 6,6, Maths 6
Computer Science	Comp. Science/ ICT 6, Trilogy Science 5, Maths 6	Politics	Humanities 5, English 5
Criminology	Science 5	Product Design	Product Design / Engineering 5
Drama	Drama 5, (audition possible)	Psychology	Maths 5, Science 5
Economics	Maths 6	Religion, Philosophy & Ethics	RE or humanities 5, English 5
English Language & Lit.	English Language 6, English Literature 6	Sociology	Humanities subject 5, English 5
EPQ	By invitation in term 2 (top 25% of students)	Spanish	Spanish 6
Further maths	Maths 8	Sport BTEC Extended Cert.	Maths 5, Science 5,4, PE 5

Subjects only run if there are sufficient candidates to make a course viable.

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