Striving for Excellence

#weareshirley

Compassionate

Respectful

Creative

Relentless

Aspirational

Resilient

Shirley High School 6th Form

Course Booklet

2027-2029



Welcome to Shirley High School Sixth Form



Mr Myton - Principal

At Shirley High School we believe that through hard work and opportunity all students have the capability to fulfil their potential and become successful global citizens. Shirley High School has been under new leadership since September 2019 and during that time we have made significant improvements and investments in our students, staff and school. We are delighted that all our hard work has seen significant improvements.

We are extremely proud of our results and delighted that students have left us to study at Cambridge University and Medicine at Queen Mary. Last year 20% of Year 13 students achieved a place at a Russell group university and all students (100%) gained a university place. We are determined that all our students achieve the grades they require to attend university, start apprenticeships or successfully moved into employment. We are fully committed to achieving further success and believe that this will be achieved through open and transparent communication with our families and the local community.

It is an exciting time to be joining Shirley High School Sixth Form. We are determined to enhance the life experience of all our students and ensure that they receive the best education possible. We have expanded our Performing Arts Scholarship programme to now include those within our 6th form, we have provided additional funding and resources to those students that averaged a Grade 7 at GCSE.

Throughout their time at Shirley High School we will do all we can to support our students to achieve and gain full control over what they do next with their lives. It is important that we have your support in ensuring that your child attends all the additional opportunities we provide and encourage them to work hard, train hard and read around their subjects at home.

At Shirley High School we are fully committed to the young people of our community. We believe that an excellent education, a thirst for knowledge, respect and high aspirations **can** and **will** enable our students to succeed in whatever they decide to do, and we urge your child to fully embrace and recognise the power of learning and self-discovery.



Mrs V Murawski- Assistant Principal

At Shirley High School Sixth Form, we are proud to offer an ambitious, supportive and inclusive environment where every student is encouraged to achieve their full potential.

We believe that Sixth Form is about more than achieving qualifications. It is about developing the knowledge, skills, independence and confidence needed to succeed beyond school, whether that is at university, through an apprenticeship or in the world of work. We have high expectations of our students, encouraging them to be scholarly and professional in everything they do, whilst providing the individual guidance and support needed to help them succeed.

We are incredibly proud of our students' achievements, with our most recent examination results being our strongest to date. Our students have progressed to a range of exciting destinations, including Russell Group universities, competitive degree courses and apprenticeships. We are ambitious for every student and committed to helping them achieve the future that is right for them.

What makes Shirley High School Sixth Form special is our strong sense of community. Our small class sizes, dedicated staff, excellent pastoral care and wide-ranging enrichment opportunities ensure that students are known, supported and challenged as individuals.

This brochure provides an overview of our academic and vocational courses and the pathways available to you. We hope it inspires you to take the next step in your journey with us.

Your future starts here.

Course Information

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SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Our Vision:

To develop aspirational learners who strive for excellence academically, creatively and culturally, benefitting from a wide range of opportunities led by inspirational educators.

Subject Offering 2027- 2029

A—Levels		
Art	Drama	Maths
Biology	English Literature	Media Studies
Business	Geography	Photography
Chemistry	Government and Politics	Psychology
Dance	History	Sociology

Vocational Courses			
AAQ: Applied Science	BTEC: Enterprise and Entrepreneurship	AAQ: Health & Social Care	BTEC: Music
BTEC: Performing Arts	CAM NAT:PE	BTEC: Travel & Tourism	

General Entry Requirements: 5 x Grade 4 or equivalent. (Subject entry requirements apply).

These are our current subject offerings. They are subject to change depending on Government guidance.

Why go anywhere else?

We understand that there are many Sixth Forms from which your son or daughter can choose. Here at Shirley High School, however, we believe we can offer a unique experience, offering opportunities that are unmatched by other institutions. Here is a list of what we can offer, unrivalled by others:

Small class sizes - Unlike many other Sixth Forms, our class sizes range from 5-15 students meaning many more opportunities for personalised support from teachers.

University-style working environment - We have 3 large study spaces modelled on university-style learning. Students can use these during their non-contact periods to get used to independent study in an academic environment to help prepare them perfectly for study at university.

Scholarship Programme - Offered to all students who average a Grade 7 at GCSE, the programme provides students with both academic and social benefits to best equip them for further study. This includes purchasing of all textbooks, free access to tutoring and money off driving lessons.

Wide-ranging, weekly enrichment programme - Our Enrichment programme is built to ensure students are prepared for whatever they wish to do in the next stage of their journey. Students can choose from a wide variety of opportunities including: Volunteering in Primary schools; Cooking, Mental Health Accreditations**;** Using our Gym and sporting facilities; writing their own music and many more!

Oxbridge & Medicine Pathway - We offer a pathway to help prepare students for each step of the incredibly competitive application process. This pathway has been designed by Mr Inett (Keble College, Oxford) to ensure students are building the knowledge and skills necessary from the start of their sixth form journey. We had our first student attending the University of Cambridge in 2023 and our first student accepted onto the medicine course at St Mary's University in 2024.

Performing Arts Scholarship - We offer a unique programme for students that are talented in the arts. Our scholarship programme runs alongside our curriculum. It offers funded lessons in dance, drama and music (instrumental or voice), as well as opportunities to work with multiple agencies in the performing arts industry. The programme guides students on how to continue and pursue a career in the performing arts world.

Football Academy / Basketball Academy - We aim to introduce a Football Academy and Basketball Academy. Students on this programme will be part of the academy alongside their curriculum studies. They will have access to high quality coaches, a training programme and regular match fixtures.

Scholarship Options

We offer 4 additional pathways at SHS that run alongside our course offerings.

Academic Scholarship

All students who achieve an average of a grade 7 are eligible for our scholarship. These students receive:

- A free laptop or iPad (should they require it);
- Individualised support for Oxbridge or Russell Group university applications;
- Free tutoring;
- Free revision resources;
- Discounted driving lessons.

Performing Arts Scholarship

We offer a unique programme for students that are talented in the arts. Our scholarship programme runs alongside our curriculum. It offers funded lessons in dance, drama and music (instrumental or voice), as well as opportunities to work with multiple agencies in the performing arts industry.
The programme guides students on how to continue and pursue a career in the performing arts world.

- 1:1 mentoring by Performing Arts Specialists
- Personalised advice on how to apply for Theatre Schools / Agencies and entering the industry
- Guest speakers from the industry to advise on Theatre School / Industry application
- Paid for LAMDA / Instrumental / Singing/ Dance lessons
- Professional Workshops
- Community Projects
- Multiple internal and external performance opportunities
- Paid for theatre trips and residential trips

Basketball Academy

Students will train and compete in the Dynamik College basketball league alongside their studies.

- Wednesday fixtures, S&C sessions and training are included in both pathways.
- Contact our Sixth Form team to find out when the next round of trials are taking place and to register interest.
- Please be advised that option choices will be streamlined in line with timetabling for training times.

What will we do for you?

Our vision: Everyone will leave the sixth form making empowered, informed and ambitious choices about their future.

Empowered: You will be fully prepared and confident to take on ‘The Real World’ after sixth form regardless of your chosen destination.

Informed: You will understand all the available options for your life after sixth form and have made the best choice for you.

Ambitious: You will be challenged to ensure you are pushing yourself to be the best version of you.

Applied Science - AAQ

Course contact: Mr Inett

Entry Requirements:
Science 5-5
Maths 5

Course Description

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Applied Science (Extended Certificate) is designed for post-16 students with an interest in science and aiming to progress to higher education as a route to graduate level employment. Equivalent to one A level in size, it is suitable for students looking to develop their applied knowledge and skills in science alongside two A levels.

Method of Assessment

3 mandatory units - externally examined
Principles and Applications of Biology
Principles and Applications of Chemistry
Principles and Applications of Physics

1 mandatory unit - externally examined
Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques – Practical applications across the sciences, including chromatography, colorimetry and electrical circuits.

A choice of two optional units - internally examined
Scientific Investigation Skills – Investigative research, including planning, data collection, analysis and evaluation
Contemporary Issues in Science – Contemporary scientific issues including the reliability of sources of scientific information and their associated validity.

Skills Required

Students will develop the following knowledge and skills from the mandatory units:

- Fundamental scientific principles and applied knowledge relating to biology, chemistry and physics
- Laboratory techniques, including health and safety assessment, and associated professional practice
- Critical thinking. Students will develop the following knowledge and skills from the optional units:
- Scientific Research skills including researching and planning methodologies, primary data collection and analysis, drawing justified conclusions
- Secondary research skills including collecting information from a range of sources, its evaluation and interpretation, and its use to draw reasoned conclusion.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

A good grade in Applied Science level Biology can then lead to a science related degree courses at university such as BSc (Hons) Applied Sport and Exercise Sciences, BSc (Hons) Nursing, BSc (Hons) Biochemistry

The AAQ also provides a useful background to a wide variety of higher education courses such as: Radiography, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Pharmacology, Pharmacy, Chiropody, Psychology, Forensic Science, Archeology, Marine Biology, Sports Studies, and Accountancy.

Lastly the AAQ can be the stepping stone into a career in a Science related field.

Art, Craft and Design, Fine Art A Level - Edexcel

Course contact: Mr M Bush

Entry Requirements:
5 in Art and Design related subject

Course Description

In this course option, students will explore a variety of disciplines within art, craft and design, including; drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography, illustration and graphics.

With the skills learnt students will be expected to produce two personal projects which include opportunities to generate and develop ideas; research primary and contextual sources; record practical and written observations; experiment with media and processes and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s).

Method of Assessment

Work is internally assessed throughout the course and externally moderated by the Edexcel moderator at the Final Exhibition. In Year 13 students will follow a similar working pattern as in Year 12 but in greater depth illustrating progression.

Year 12
Component 1 Portfolio of work = 60%
Year 13
Component 1 Personal Investigation and extended essay of 2500 words of continuous prose = 60%
Component 2 Externally Set Assignment 40%
Written and verbal feedback is given throughout the course. There is an internal assessment during the Autumn Term.

Skills Required

A strong interest in the visual world, drawing, painting, sculpture. A willingness to research and develop ideas through observational drawing and analysing the work of artists and designers. The ability to work to deadlines and a high level of motivation.

All applicants will need to present a portfolio of work for viewing at the interview.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Foundation Diploma in Art and Design or Degrees and qualifications in the following:

Fine Artist, Illustrator, Graphic Designer, Photographer, Interior Designer, Architect, Curator Art Therapist, Animator, Product Designer, Fashion Designer.

Biology A Level - AQA

Course contact: Mrs R Dean

Entry Requirements:
6 in Maths and 6 in Combined/Separate Science incl. Biology

Course Description

A level Biology is a stepping stone to future study. We have chosen a course that allows students to develop the skills that they will need in future studies. The course allows us to support and inspire our students to nurture a passion for Biology and lay the groundwork for further study in courses like biological sciences, medicine and other science related courses.
AQA Biology A-level gives students the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around us. Being such a broad topic, it aims to encourage students to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

Method of Assessment

The A-level specification is designed to be taken over two years with all assessments taken at the end of the course. In order to achieve the award, students must complete all exams in May/June in a single year. All assessments must be taken in the same series.

A range of question types will be used, including those that require extended responses. Extended response questions will allow students to demonstrate their ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning which is coherent, relevant, substantiated and logically structured. Extended responses may be in written English, extended calculations, or a combination of both, as appropriate to the question.

Skills Required

Questions on the specifications will be set which require students to demonstrate:

- their knowledge and understanding of the content developed in one section or topic, including the associated mathematical and practical skills or
- the ability to apply mathematical and practical skills to areas of content they are not normally developed in or
- the ability to draw together different areas of knowledge and understanding within one answer.
-

The ability to improve one's own learning and performance, problem solving and the ability to work with others.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

A good grade in A level Biology is a requirement for medically related degree courses at university such as Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry.

A level Biology also provides a useful background to a wide variety of higher education courses such as: Radiography, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Pharmacology, Pharmacy, Chiropody, Psychology, Forensic Science, Archeology, Marine Biology, Sports Studies, and Accountancy.



Business A Level - Edexcel

Course contact: Mrs Champ

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs grade 5 or above, incl. English and Maths. GCSE Business at grade 6 if studied

Course Description **STUDENTS SHOULD CHOOSE EITHER A LEVEL BUSINESS OR BTEC ENTERPRISE.**

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business is structured into four themes and consists of three externally examined papers. Students are introduced to Business in Themes 1 and 2 through building knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work. Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding - with applications to a wider range of contexts and more complex business information - are developed in Themes 3 and 4, requiring students to take a more strategic view of business opportunities and issues. Students are encouraged to use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of business, to understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives and to challenge assumptions. The focus of the course is to assist you in developing an enthusiasm for Business. This is achieved as you gain a holistic understanding of business and enterprise. The course investigates the different types of businesses, their ability to meet the needs and wants of society, identifying creative solutions to the issues they face in addition to the responsibilities they hold.

Methods of Assessment

The Course is assessed through a combination of coursework and examinations. The content covered includes:

Theme 1 – Marketing and People: Meeting customer needs; The market; Marketing Mix and Strategy; Managing People; Entrepreneurs and leaders

Theme 2 – Managing Business Activities: Raising finance; Financial planning; Managing finance; Resource management; External influences

Theme 3 – Business Decisions and Strategy: Business objectives and strategy; Business growth; Decision making techniques; Influences on business decisions; Assessing competitiveness; Managing change

Theme 4 – Global Business: Globalisation; Global markets and expansion; Global marketing; Global industries and companies (multinational corporations)

Skills Required

You do not need to have studied GCSE Business although it does give you a head start. It is more important that students have a genuine interest in how businesses work and the role they play in today's society, which is increasingly important. As the course is assessed extensively through analysis & evaluation, it is imperative that students possess excellent English skills & have a GCSE grade to reflect this. Maths skills are equally important due to the nature of forecasting and financial data which must be calculated using a variety of ratios and equations.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Business A Level provides an excellent foundation for any Business related degree which can also be combined with another subject.

The course also provides a platform for actual business job positions and apprenticeships, just some of which include; Accountant, Advertising Account Executive, Banker: Investment/Commercial, Banking Manager, Buyer (Industrial or Retail), Company Secretary, Stockbroker, Distribution/Logistics Manager, Human Resources Manager, Recruitment Consultant, Management Consultant.



Chemistry A Level -OCR

Course contact: Mr D McCarthy

Entry Requirements:
6 in Maths and 6 in combined/separate science incl. Chemistry

Course Description

A flexible approach where the specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of Chemistry. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they're assessed both through written papers and, for A level only, the Practical Endorsement.

Method of Assessment

Assessment is through three exam papers 1, 2, 3.
Content is split into six teaching modules:
Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry
Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry
Module 3 – Periodic table and energy
Module 4 – Core organic chemistry
Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements
Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis
Paper 1 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.
Paper 2 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.
Paper 3 assesses content from all modules (1 to 6).

Skills Required

Learners are expected to understand the variety of sources of data available for critical analysis to provide evidence and the uncertainty involved in its measurement. They should also be able to link that evidence to contexts influenced by culture, politics and ethics. Understanding how science works requires an understanding of how scientific evidence can influence ideas and decisions for individuals and society, which is linked to the necessary skills of communication for audience and for purpose with appropriate scientific terminology.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

The A Level Chemistry course will prepare learners for progression to undergraduate courses in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Pharmacy, one of the other sciences or related subjects.

For learners wishing to follow an apprenticeship route or those seeking direct entry into chemical science careers, this A level provides a strong background and progression pathway.



Dance BTEC - Pearson

Course contact: Ms C Fairweather

Entry Requirements:
Grade 4 in Dance or creative subject

Course Description:

Pearson BTEC Dance qualifications offer candidates the opportunity to learn about the industry, developing their understanding and practical dance skills, and applying the skills and knowledge in a vocational dance setting. Students will study a range of dance styles, including contemporary, jazz, physical theatre and street dance and will be given opportunities to take part in a variety of youth dance platforms and other College and external productions. As a way of familarising students with the professional dance world, each year talented choreography students are invited to attend an inspiring mix of productions linked to their Dance syllabus.

Method of Assessment

During the course students will complete 5 units of work covering Choreography, Jazz and Contemporary Dance. Students will be assessed on solo and group performances via our annual dance shows and studio performance events.

They will also deliver presentations based on the working conditions of professional dancers, and produce written reports that outline the development of different dance styles. Students will also explore choreographers past and present, in preparation for the external choreographic exam which is taken at the end of the second year.

Skills Required

Students do not have to have studied GCSE Dance in order to study the BTEC; however, candidates must have experience of performing Dance.

Students need to be mobile, confident, coordinated and open to feedback. Musicality and the ability to collaborate are desirable traits for this qualification.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

BTEC Dance opens up paths into a number of careers including Dance performance, Dance movement therapy, Dance journalism, Community Dance teaching, Choreography and Dance fitness instruction.

There are also pathways into a number of administrative jobs through this course such as Dance critique and Dance/Arts administration.



Drama and Theatre A Level - Edexcel

Course contact: Ms A Shiamtanis

Entry Requirements:
5 in English Language/Literature
5 in Drama

Course Description:

The course aims to develop students' skills in a range of practical drama elements such as performer, lighting designer, sound designer, set designer, costume designer, puppet designer and director. Students are offered a wide range of plays to study practically and theoretically, and are given the opportunity to write about live productions. Students will pursue their own areas of interest for research into an influential director, designer, Theatre Company or other practitioner. They will gain experience of working as a team to create original drama as well as interpret text into performance. Students will gain knowledge of a range of plays and study many different styles of theatre. They will gain an excellent knowledge of theatre history, terminology and practices and will be expected to visit live theatre on a regular basis.

Method of Assessment

Students will complete the full A Level over two years.

Component 1:
Devising: 40% of the qualification – 60 marks Content overview

- Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus (free choice for centre).

Component 2:
Performance from Text (*Component code: 1DR0/02) 20% of A Level - 48 marks
Content overview

- Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text.
- Centre choice of performance text.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 40% of the qualification – 60 marks Content overview

- Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text.
- Choice of 12 performance texts.
- Live theatre evaluation

Skills Required

Students are not required to have studied GCSE Drama to take A Level Drama. A genuine enthusiasm for theatre and theatrical production is all that is needed.

We look for students who demonstrate strong teamwork and collaboration skills, as well as leadership, effective communication, problem-solving abilities, confidence, creativity, good time management, and the ability to adapt to new challenges.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Studying Drama can lead to a wide range of careers both within and beyond the theatre industry. Careers within theatre and the creative arts include acting, scriptwriting, directing, producing, stage management, technical theatre (lighting, sound, and set design), arts administration, and theatre education.

The skills developed through Drama are also highly valued in many other fields. Outside the theatre, Drama can support career pathways in areas such as law, psychology, therapy, teaching, marketing, media and communications, public relations, human resources, event management, journalism, and business. Drama also provides a strong foundation for careers that require confidence, creativity, teamwork, empathy, and strong communication skills.

English Literature A Level - AQA

Course contact: Miss N M Mallie

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 in English Literature and Language

Course Description:

This course provides a variety of opportunities to explore a wide range of texts, and offers many different insights into the world of literature. Students will develop a high level of knowledge of a range of literary forms and be able to express an educated personal response with confidence and a degree of flair. Much of the course involves discussion and students are expected to have read the text being studied prior to their lessons. Students must develop a critical and evaluative manner of writing and be able to explore a topic in a mature way and crucially, in depth in order to be successful. There are also opportunities to attend theatre trips and conferences. The course is stimulating, demanding and highly rewarding.

Method of Assessment

This course is assessed by both examinations (80%) and a Non-Examined Assessment (NEA - 20%)

Paper 1: Love through the Ages.
Open book for prose only. 3 hours = 40%

Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts (1945-Present)
Open book. 2 ½ hours = 40%

Non Exam Assessment (NEA): one extended essay.
2500 words and a bibliography.

Skills Required

Students embarking on studies of literature will need a passion for reading, an inquiring and analytical mind and the ability to work independently.

Students will also need to express their ideas clearly and with depth and detail, both orally and in writing.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

English Literature at A level is a traditional foundation for many university courses. As success at university depends on the ability to analyse and argue a critical viewpoint convincingly, whilst supporting ideas with textual evidence, English Literature is also a good foundation for Arts and Humanities degrees or careers, as well as Law. It is an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers including: teaching, journalism, media, broadcasting, publishing, the Arts, PR, politics, writing, etc.

BTEC National Extended Certificate in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship - Edexcel

Course contact: Mrs S J Routledge-Brown

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs at grade 4.
GCSE Business at grade 4 if studied.

Course Description: **STUDENTS SHOULD CHOOSE EITHER A LEVEL BUSINESS OR BTEC ENTERPRISE.**

The Extended Certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the Enterprise and Entrepreneurship alongside other fields of study with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses. It aims to provide a strong study programme in the business sector, offering depth and breadth of knowledge, as a main study programme.

Method of Assessment

Assignments – Set and marked internally **(I)**
Written exam – Set and marked by Pearson **(E)**
Total number of **Units 4** – (3 mandatory units and 1 optional units)

Everyone taking this qualification will study three mandatory units, covering the following content areas:

- Unit 1: Enterprise and entrepreneurs
- Unit 2: Developing a marketing campaign **(E)**
- Unit 3: Personal and business finance **(E)**

The two option units available enable students to decide which one complements their study programme best. Students can use these to support choices in progression to courses in HE. The option units cover content areas such as:

- Unit 7: Social enterprise **(I)**
- Unit 8: Enterprises and intrapreneurship in practice **(I)**

Skills Required

Students do not need to have studied Business for GCSE to access this course.

As a minimum, a successful student will have:

- The ability to undertake extensive independent research is essential;
- Good IT and communication skills

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

This qualification, when studied with other level 3 qualifications, is designed primarily to support progression to employment, after further study at university. However, it can also support students progressing to employment directly, or via an apprenticeship. Studying a combination of vocational courses will build employability skills. It will give successful students transferable knowledge, understanding and skills that will be an advantage when applying for a range of industry linked training programmes, or apprenticeships, in the enterprise sector, or other sectors of their choice, with the potential to use their combined learning to be self-employed.

Geography A Level - AQA

Course contact: Ms Davies

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in Geography and English

Course Description:

Geography at A Level explores the key principles, concepts and processes that explain geographical phenomena and landscapes. It maintains the balance between physical and human geography while ensuring relevance to the modern world. It provides an excellent foundation for those learners wishing to go on to study geography at degree level. Topics are explored in depth using individual research and investigation techniques. The topics taught have relevance to the modern world and our day to day lives. Opportunities for field work exist.

Method of Assessment

The Physical and Human elements are each assessed by written exams, both are:

- 2 hours 30 minutes
- 120 marks
- 40% of A-level

Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose.

Geography fieldwork investigation: Students complete an individual investigation of 3,000–4,000 words 60 marks. This is 20% of the A-level and is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Content Covered and Skills Required

Over the course of the A-level we cover a selection from:

Physical geography

1. Water and carbon cycles
2. Hot desert systems and landscapes
3. Coastal systems and landscapes
4. Glacial systems and landscapes
5. Hazards
6. Ecosystems under stress

Human geography

7. Global systems and global governance
8. Changing places
9. Contemporary urban environments
10. Population and the environment
11. Resource security

Geography fieldwork investigation & Geographical skills. Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Geography A Level provides a great basis for future studies, providing a good foundation for a variety of Arts and Science degrees.

Career paths include: Environmental management, foreign or travel correspondent / journalism, petrochemical industry, energy industry, Antarctic survey research, cartography and mapping, GIS base careers, law, education, urban planning, quantity surveying.

"Without Geography you are nowhere." Michael Palin



Government and Politics A Level - AQA

Course contact: Mr A Kasprzak

Entry Requirements:
5 in English Language

Course Description:

Lively, relevant, controversial… there are many ways to describe A-level Politics. There's no denying that it's one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose. Covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, it helps you understand how the UK country is run and develops research, written communication and debate skills. It's a comparative study where UK and US current political stages are being analysed and compared. It also helps grow your confidence. It's ideal if you're considering studying international law, politics, sociology, ethics, advertising or journalism at university and is highly regarded by employers in industries including law, politics, international organisations, the media, government and the civil service.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1: Government and politics of the UK.
Written exam: 2 hours, 77 marks, 33⅓ % of A-level

Paper 2: Government and Politics of the USA and comparative politics.
Written exam: 2 hours, 77 marks, 33⅓ % of A-level

Paper 3: Political ideas.
Written exam: 2 hours, 77 marks, 33⅓ % of A-level

All papers contain a mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

Content Covered and skills required:

UK Politics and UK Government: You will study and discuss such questions as 'What was Brexit all about and why it happened?', 'What powers does the Prime Minister have?', 'Why was the result of the 2017 General Election such a surprise?', and 'Is Britain truly democratic nowadays?'
US Politics: Find out the answers to questions like 'How did Donald Trump and Joe Biden fight to become elected President?', 'Why it so easy to have a gun in the USA?', and 'Why is race such a big issue in America?' You will also have the opportunity to compare and contrast US and UK politics.
Political Ideas: You will examine some of the great ideas that have shaped our world for good or ill, including Liberalism, Socialism, and Conservatism; and at the work and influence of key political thinkers such as Karl Marx, Mary Wollstonecraft and Edmund Burke.
An interest in current affairs is perhaps the most important requirement as it is very beneficial to be able to bring at least some existing knowledge of political events and personalities to your studies. Some knowledge of history can also be helpful as so much of contemporary politics is informed by past events and decisions. Generally, no specific GCSEs are required but you will need a good level of English in order to deal with the essay writing demands of the course.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Politics is a well-regarded 'middle-weight' A level on a par with Psychology, Sociology and Law, and will help to provide you with many of the skills required for university study. Often politics students enjoy the subject so much that they continue their studies at undergraduate level or in related subjects such as Law or International Relations. Some Politics students do in fact go on to work in the political sphere, while other popular career options include law institutions and journalism or even some international career courses.
Many students who study A Level Politics progress to a university degree, and there are many degree courses that A Level Politics can suit: Law, Anthropology, Economics, English, History, International Relations, Journalism, Politics, Philosophy Sociology etc



Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification
BTEC National in Health and Social Care - (Extended Certificate)

Course contact: Miss S Frimpong

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above with a Grade 4 in English Language or Literature

Course Description:
This qualification has been developed in consultation with higher education representatives to ensure learners gain the knowledge, understanding and skills required to progress to, and succeed in, higher education within health-related fields. The course includes three mandatory units that provide a strong foundation in health and social care. Learners explore Human Lifespan and Development, Human Biology, Health and Social Care Practice and Promoting Health Education. This qualification provides an excellent academic pathway for learners aspiring to higher education and careers in health, social care and related disciplines.

Method of Assessment

BTEC courses are all delivered in units. You will study four units, two of which are externally set and examined.
Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development.
This unit is an external exam lasting 1 hour 30 minutes and worth 80 marks.
Unit 2: Human Biology and Health.
This unit is an external exam, lasting 1 hour 30 minutes and worth 80 marks.
Unit 3: Principles of Health and Social Care Practice.
This unit is internally set and assessed using a variety of written assignments, presentations and practical tasks.
Unit 5: Promoting Health Education
This unit is internally set and assessed using a variety of written assignments, presentations and practical tasks.

Skills Required

Students should have strong communication skills, including the ability to read, write and discuss academic content clearly.

An interest in health, wellbeing and supporting others is essential, along with empathy, professionalism and an understanding of confidentiality.

Learners should be able to work independently and as part of a team, manage their time effectively, and apply critical thinking to analyse case studies and real-life scenarios.

Basic numeracy, research skills and the ability to reflect on feedback to improve work are also important for success on the course.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

This qualification will enable learners to progress to a degree programme chosen from a range of programmes in the health and social care sector. For example, it could be taken alongside:

- An A Level in Biology and Psychology, which could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Nursing
- An A Level in English and History, which could lead to a BA (Hons) in Primary Education
- An A Level in Sociology, which could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Social Work
- BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport, which could lead to a Foundation Degree in Sports Studies and Development.



History A Level - Edexcel

Course contact: Mrs D Attenborough

Entry Requirements:
History grade 6 and English Language grade 5

Course Description:

You will study British and European History in the late Middle Ages and the late 20th Century linked to the overarching theme of revolution. You will explore significant historical events and change occurring due to popular ideas and the actions of key political leaders. You will explore how Britain became a diverse and modern kingdom from the English Civil War through to the Glorious Revolution. You will examine the controversy over the interpretation of the Glorious Revolution. You will compare this to the 1917 Russian Revolution and the transformation of the nation via the use of contemporary evidence. In Year 13 you will analyse the key turning points and significance of change from 19th to the late 20th century and use your accumulation of skills to embark on a final independent enquiry on the Tudor period.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1- Written examination, lasting 2 hours 15 minutes
Sections A and B comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in breadth
Section C comprises one compulsory question that assesses the ability to analyse and evaluate historical interpretations
Paper 2- Written examination, lasting 1 hour 30 minutes. Section A comprises one compulsory question for the option studied, based on two sources. It assesses source analysis and evaluation skills. Section B comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in depth
Paper 3- Written examination, lasting 2 hours 15 minutes. Section A comprises one compulsory question for the option studied, assessing source analysis and evaluation skills (AO2). Section B comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in depth. Section C comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in breadth
Coursework 4000 word extended essay in two parts which will assess the ability to analyse and evaluate historical interpretations

Content Covered and Skills Required

Revolutions in early modern and modern Europe beyond a 200-year period will include the following:-

Unit 1: Britain, 1625–1701: conflict, revolution and settlement

Unit 2: Russia in revolution, 1894–1924

Unit 3: Mass media and social change in Britain, 1882–2004

Unit 4: The Tudor State (1485-1603) Coursework

Good essay writing skills and the ability to analyse and evaluate different source material. You should enjoy independent research as the course requires extensive reading and writing.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

'A' Level History is a highly regarded qualification for any university course. You can progress to an Honours degree in history or related subjects such as politics or economics. An Historian's skills are also highly valued in a variety of careers including law, journalism, teaching, business and the public sector.



Mathematics A Level - Edexcel

Course contact: Mrs Sowole/Dr Fashina

Entry Requirements:
7 in Maths
4 in English Language

Course Description:

The Mathematics course offered at Shirley High School is designed to support students who are following a wide variety of educational and career paths. The major part of the course is the study of pure mathematics, though students will also explore applied fields of mathematics such as statistics and mechanics.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1
33% of A-Level Duration: 2 hours Marks: 100

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2
33% of A-Level Duration: 2 hours Marks: 100
Note: Any pure content can be assessed on either paper

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics
33% of A-Level Duration: 2 hours Marks: 100
Section A: Statistics (50 marks)
Section B: Mechanics (50 marks)

Skills Required

Students will need to have a strong Mathematical and problem solving acumen. They will need patience and precision in their approach to solve complex problems which require multi-step processes.

They require the courage to be challenged, work hard independently and collaboratively inside and outside of lessons. They should take ownership of their learning.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Students will study topics in the fields of statistics and mechanics in their first year, which is ideal for anyone who is considering further study in the physical or engineering based sciences.

In the second year students will continue to study statistics and mechanics in more depth. This will support those students who have an interest in pursuing careers in science, medicine, economics, finance or the social sciences.



Media A Level - OCR

Course contact: Miss Mallie, Mr Nicholson and Mr Smith

Entry Requirements:
5 in Media or English and 4 in Maths

Course Description:

The course offers a theoretical, practical and ideological approach to media studies in a contemporary media landscape. Candidates undertake textual analysis in media texts, explore media industries, media representations, media audiences and make reference to the evolution of digital 'new' media technologies. Learners are required to respond to a brief and produce three media productions: audio-visual, print and online.

Method of Assessment

Media Messages- 2 hour written paper 35%
Learners will explore how and why newspapers and their online counterparts are evolving as media products. Learners will also explore media language and representation through media products selected by the exam board.
Evolving Media- 2 hour written paper 35%
Learners will explore, analyse and discuss media industries and audiences. Learners will also engage in one in-depth study of television as an evolving, global media form.
Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) 30%
Learners will create a cross-media product in response to an OCR set brief.

Skills Required

A critical interest in media industries, digital technologies and the representation of people, places and events are imperative. Candidates should also be prepared to experiment with a variety of technical and creative processes and demonstrate commitment through research and practical work outside of lessons.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

A Level Media Studies is an excellent foundation for media, film, communications, journalism, sociological and anthropological degree courses at university.



Music Performance BTEC - Edexcel

Course contact: Mr P Saunders

Entry Requirements:
4 in Music or a grade 4 Musical instrument

Course Description:

The aim of this course is for students to gain knowledge and understanding of music, from the perspective of a performer as well as other professions working in the industry. This is a two year course and is equivalent to one A level. Students will enjoy state of the art facilities and specialist staff with experience in the Music Industry.

Method of Assessment

Students will perform work using assignment tasks set by the exam board and will be assessed by class tutors and external examiners. They will be researching projects and preparing presentations. They will keep a rehearsal log and notes from each class. Students will be graded a pass, merit or distinction for each module.

Skills Required

All students will study five core units:

- Ensemble Music Performance (Externally assessed)
- Composing Music
- Solo performance
- Music Performance session style
- Professional practice in the music Industry (Externally assessed)

As well as individual instrumental and /or singing skills, students require strong group skills and will need enthusiasm, persistence and creativity. Good organisational skills are also needed if students are to be successful. Students should have an interest and experience in music.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

This diploma can lead to further study at university. It offers a good grounding in preparation for a career in the music industry. Career opportunities include:

- Composer for TV, Radio, Film & multimedia
- Studio recording artist
- Live artist
- Session Musician / singer



Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification in Performing Arts - (Extended Certificate)

Course contact: Mr Donnell

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in any Performing Arts related subjects

Course Description:
This course is designed for students who have a strong interest in performance and wish to develop practical skills in acting, dance, and/or musical theatre through an applied, vocational approach. The AAQ Performing Arts qualification focuses on learning through doing, with students taking part in regular workshops, rehearsals, and live performance work.
Students will explore a range of performance styles and techniques, develop confidence, creativity, and communication skills, and learn how to work effectively as part of a team. Assessment is primarily coursework-based and includes practical performance work, creative projects, and reflective evaluation rather than written exams.
The course supports progression to further education, training, or employment in the performing arts and creative industries. It also helps students develop transferable skills such as collaboration, problem-solving, time management and self-reflection, which are valuable in many career pathways.

Method of Assessment

The Performing Arts – AAQ course is assessed mainly through **coursework and practical performance**, rather than written exams. Students are assessed on their ability to apply skills in real performance and creative contexts. Assessment typically includes:

- **Practical Performance Work**
  Students take part in rehearsals and live or recorded performances, demonstrating performance skills such as technique, expression, and stage presence.
- **Workshop and Development Tasks**
  Ongoing practical work completed in lessons, including skills development, group work, and creative exploration.
- **Creative Projects**
  Students plan, create, and perform original or scripted work, showing their understanding of performance styles and roles.
- **Evaluation and Reflection**
  Students produce written, verbal, or recorded evaluations reflecting on their own work and the work of others, focusing on strengths and areas for improvement.

Assessment is **continuous throughout the course**, with work built up over time and submitted as a portfolio of evidence. This may include video recordings, written work, rehearsal logs, and tutor observations.

Skills Required

Students taking this course should be willing to develop and demonstrate the following skills:

- **Performance Skills** – An interest in acting, movement, dance, or musical theatre, with a willingness to perform in front of others
- **Confidence and Self-Expression** – The ability (or desire) to express ideas, emotions, and character through performance
- **Teamwork and Collaboration** – The ability to work effectively with others in group performances and creative projects
- **Creativity and Imagination** – Generating ideas, exploring characters, and contributing creatively to performances
- **Communication Skills** – Listening, responding, and giving constructive feedback to peers and teachers
- **Resilience and Openness to Feedback** – Accepting direction and using feedback to improve performance
- **Self-Reflection** – Evaluating personal progress and identifying strengths and areas for improvement

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

The skills developed through this course can lead to a wide range of careers, including:

- Actor or Performer
- Musical Theatre Performer
- Dancer or Choreographer
- Director or Theatre Maker
- Drama or Performing Arts Teacher
- Stage Manager or Assistant Stage Manager
- Theatre Technician (lighting, sound, staging)
- Arts Administrator or Producer
- Community Arts Practitioner
- Events and Entertainment Professional

In addition, the transferable skills gained — such as communication, teamwork, creativity, and confidence — are highly valued in careers including:

- Media and Broadcasting
- Marketing and Public Relations
- Education and Youth Work
- Hospitality and Events Management
- Customer-facing and leadership roles



Photography A Level - Edexcel

Course contact: Mr M Bush

Entry Requirements:
5 in Photography or an arts related subject

Course Description:

In this course option, students will learn about; camera settings, creative techniques, composition, lighting, dark room photography and editing. With the skills learnt students will be expected to produce two personal projects which include; opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s).

Method of Assessment

Work is internally assessed throughout the course and externally moderated by the Edexcel moderator at the Final Exhibition. In Year 13 students will follow a similar working pattern as in Year 12 but in greater depth illustrating progression.

Year 12
Component 1 Portfolio of work = 60%.
Year 13
Component 1 Personal Investigation and extended essay of 2500 words of continuous prose = 60%
Component 2 Externally Set Assignment 40%.
Written and verbal feedback is given throughout the course. There is an internal assessment during the Autumn Term.

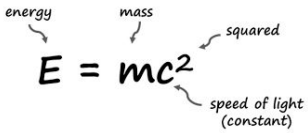
Skills Required

A strong interest in the visual world and photography. A willingness to research and develop ideas through researching and analysing the work of photographers.

The ability to work to deadlines and a high level of motivation. All applicants will need to present a portfolio of work for viewing at the interview.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Foundation Diploma in Art and Design or Degrees and qualifications in the following; Graphic Designer, Photographer, Interior Designer, Animator, Product Designer, Fashion Photographer, Film, Editor, Web Design.



Physics A Level

Course contact: Mrs Robinson

Entry Requirements:

Science 6-6
Maths 6-6

Why choose AQA A- Level Physics - Relevant in the classroom and the real world

The AS and A-level courses allow for a choice of starting points. You can choose a familiar starting point for students, such as mechanics, or begin with fresh topics to create interest and a new dimension to their knowledge, such as particle physics.We've provided five optional topics as part of the full A-level course so students can focus on their areas of interest:

- Astrophysics
- Medical physics
- Turning points in physics
- Engineering physics (Applied physics)
- Electronics.

Practical at the heart of science (with a possible trip to CERN in Geneva, Switzerland)
Like you, we believe that Physics is fundamentally an experimental subject. This specification provides numerous opportunities to use practical experiences to link theory to reality, and equip students with the essential practical skills they need.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1 - 2 hour exam, 85 marks, 34% of A-level
Paper 2 - 2 hour exam, 85 marks, 34% of A-level
Paper 3 - 2 hour exam, 80 marks, 32% of A-level
Overall, at least 15% of the marks for all A-level

Physics courses will require the assessment of practical skills.

1. Investigation into the variation of the frequency of stationary waves on a string with length, tension and mass per unit length of the string.
2. Investigation of interference effects to include the Young's slit experiment and interference by a diffraction grating.
3. Determination of g by a free-fall method
4. Determination of the Young modulus by a simple method.
5. Determination of resistivity of a wire using a micrometer, ammeter and voltmeter.
6. Investigation of the emf and internal resistance of electric cells and batteries by measuring the variation of the terminal pd of the cell with current in it.
7. Investigation into simple harmonic motion using a mass–spring system and a simple pendulum.
8. Investigation of Boyle's (constant temperature) law and Charles's (constant pressure) law for a gas.
9. Investigation of the charge and discharge of capacitors. Analysis techniques should include log-linear plotting leading to a determination of the time constant RC .
10. Investigate how the force on a wire varies with flux density, current and length of wire using a top pan balance.
11. Investigate, using a search coil and oscilloscope, the effect on magnetic flux linkage of varying the angle between a search coil and magnetic field direction.
12. Investigation of the inverse-square law for gamma radiation.

Skills Required

Core content

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

Options

- 9 Astrophysics (A-level only)
- 10 Medical physics (A-level only)
- 11 Engineering physics (A-level only)
- 12 Turning points in physics (A-level only)
- 13 Electronics (A-level only)

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Physics A level is required or desirable for the following career paths and this is not an exhaustive list.

Architect, Medicine, Astrophysics, F1 racing, Computer game design, Computer modelling, Patent attorney, Renewable energies, Science journalist, Environmental advisor, Robotics, Aerospace engineering,



Physical Education - Cambridge Technical Level 3 OCR (Extended Certificate)

Course contact: Mr Noirette

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE PE or M2 in CAM NAT

Course Description:

Cambridge Technical in Physical Education develops knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to physical education. Students gain understanding of the scientific and socio-cultural factors that underpin physical activity, and demonstrate their ability as either performer or coach.

Method of assessment

Unit 1: Body systems and the effects of physical activity
- 1 hour 30 minutes Exam
- Worth **25% of the qualification**

Unit 2: Sports coaching and activity leadership
– **Coursework (internally assessed assignments)**
– Practical leadership/coaching evidence and written tasks

Unit 3: Sports organisation and development
– 1 hour 30 minutes Exam
– Worth **25% of the qualification**

Unit 5: Performance analysis in sport and physical activity
– **Coursework (internally assessed assignments)**

Unit 17: Sports injuries and rehabilitation
– **Coursework (internally assessed assignments)**
– Written assignments and case study–based work

Skills Required

Students should have a real interest in sport and also in science relating to sport. Students should be willing to explore new theories and form their own ideas and opinions from these. Ideally when studying this course, students should be looking at a pathway into a Sport or a related degree at University.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

With further training or study, students can go into careers in Sports Centres, Sports Clubs, Leisure Centres, Outdoor Activities Centres and University Courses.



Psychology A Level - AQA

Course contact: Miss C Powell

Entry Requirements:
5 in English, Maths and a Science

Course Description:

Psychology is an increasingly popular subject, which provides a link between the social and natural sciences by studying aspects of the human mind and behaviour. In the first year of A level, the course provides a broad-based introduction to many of the fascinating topics in Psychology. In the second year, the A level course extends on previous topics and new areas are also explored in depth for those wishing to further develop their interest and enjoyment in this exciting area of study.

Method of Assessment

Three written examinations of 2 hours duration (Paper 1, Paper 2 and Paper 3) will all be taken at the end of the two year course. Each exam accounts for 33.3% of the A level grade. Each section is worth 24 marks (other than research methods which is worth 48 marks). Each paper is worth 96 marks overall, with a combined total of 288 marks.

Paper 1: Social influence; Memory; Attachment; Clinical Psychology and Mental Health.
Paper2: Approaches in Psychology; Biopsychology; Research methods.
Paper 3: Issues and debates in Psychology; Cognition & Development, Schizophrenia; Aggression.

Skills Required

A good standard of written English, suitable discussion skills, and an ability to critically analyse and deal with research information logically is essential. This specification places emphasis on scientific concepts and skills and requires competence in areas of mathematics including arithmetic and numerical computation and data handling; therefore students must have suitable grades in these subjects.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Psychology involves the systematic study of the mind and behaviour. It develops logical thought and analysis of abstract concepts. Psychology Advanced level is acceptable for a wide range of science, social science, and humanities courses in further and higher education. Specialisation in psychology could lead to careers in clinical or educational psychology, counselling, occupational or forensic psychology, also marketing or business.

Sociology A Level - AQA

Course contact: Mr A Kasprzak

Entry Requirements:
5 in English Language

Course Description:

Sociology is the study of human social structures, relationships and institutions. Unifying the study of these diverse subjects is sociology's purpose: understanding how human action and consciousness both shape and are shaped by surrounding cultural and social structures. This course gives students the opportunity to examine human social behaviour and the changing patterns within the UK and globally.
It explores the key issues in our communities such as educational inequalities, crime and representation and the patterns in society such as social class, gender and ethnicity. It also gives students a brief overview of the scientific study of society, which is the essence of sociology. It informs students of the various research methods used to study society as well as the theoretical debates on the nature of modern life. Finally, it gives students the opportunity to critically question and form their own judgements and offer solutions.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods - 2 hour examination, comprising a mix of short answer and extended writing / essay responses which test knowledge and understanding, application, analysis and evaluation.
Paper 2: Research Methods and Topics including the Family and the Sociology of the media - 2 hour examination, comprises a mix of short answer and extended writing / essay responses which test knowledge and understanding, application, analysis and evaluation.
Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods - 2 hour examination, comprises a mix of short answer and extended writing / essay responses which test knowledge and understanding, application, analysis and evaluation.

Content Covered and Skills Required

A Level Sociology Unit studied are as follows:-

- Education with Theory and Methods
- Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods
- Families and Households
- The Media

A good standard of written English
An enquiring and critical mind
The ability to communicate ideas and work cooperatively
The desire to research independently

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

A Level Sociology provides a solid foundation for progression into higher education. Sociology can open the doors for careers in many areas including social work, local government, market research, public relations and media. It provides you with a range of skills that employers look for, including communication, interpersonal, problem-solving and analytical skills. You learn to appreciate the complexity and diversity of social situations and develop a cross-cultural understanding of the world. Studying sociology is beneficial both for the individual and for society because you learn how to think critically about social issues and problems that confront our society.



Travel and Tourism BTEC National Extended Certificate

Course contact: Miss Bostone

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs grade 4 and above

Course Description:

The Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism is designed for post-16 learners with an interest in travel and tourism who want to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education. The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level and is designed to occupy one-third of a typical study programme, which could include other vocational or academic qualifications, such as another BTEC National or A Level. This qualification gives a broad introduction to the travel and tourism industry, with an emphasis on core knowledge and fundamental skills that are transferable across other sectors
This is a two-year course for students who have the enthusiasm to work with people from all walks of life and possibly get the chance to travel as part of your job. Whether you would like to go straight to work within the industry or progress to higher education, this course can prepare you for both. Students cover a learner-centred approach to the unit based course which focuses on holistic development of the practical, interpersonal and thinking skills required to be able to succeed in employment and higher education.

Method of Assessment

Unit 1: The World of Travel and Tourism - Written examination set and marked externally by the exam board. 1.5 hours. 75 marks.
Unit 2: Global Destinations - A task set and marked externally by the exam board and completed under supervised conditions. Learners are given information two weeks before a supervised assessment period in order to carry out research. The supervised assessment period is undertaken in a single session of three hours. 60 marks
Unit 3: Principles of Marketing in travel and tourism- completion of 2 internally assessed assignments considering how to increase tourist numbers and new competitive products.
Unit 9: Visitor Attractions - Completion of 3 internally assessed assignments required, considering the appeal, development and funding of attractions, both built and natural.

Skills Required

Today's BTEC Nationals are demanding, as you would expect of the most respected applied learning qualification in the UK. You will have to choose and complete a range of units, be organised, take some assessments that we will set and mark and keep a portfolio of your assignments. But you can feel proud to achieve a BTEC because, whatever your plans in life – whether you decide to study further, go on to work or an Apprenticeship, or set up your own business – your BTEC National will be your passport to success in the next stage of your life.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

The course prepares you to either work within the industry or progress to higher education. You will receive support from the sixth form to apply to university if this is your next step.

The world of work is wide in this field and this course gives you a grounding to enter jobs such as:

Air cabin crew, Holiday representative, Hotel manager, Tour manager, Tourism officer, Tourist information centre manager, Travel agency manager etc.

