

The Castle and Marlwood Post-16 Centre





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Your next step starts with us

Application Guide | September 2027 entry

Choosing where to study after Year 11 is an exciting decision. It is an opportunity to focus on the subjects you enjoy, explore new interests and take your next steps towards university, an apprenticeship or employment.

Whether you currently attend Castle, Marlwood or another school, we look forward to welcoming you to Castle Sixth Form. Here, you will be part of a community where your teachers know you, your ambitions matter and support is available when you need it. You will have greater independence and responsibility, alongside specialist teaching, personal guidance and high expectations that help you achieve your best. Your experience will extend beyond your chosen subjects. Through enrichment, personal development, work experience and student leadership, you will have opportunities to build confidence, contribute to the community and enjoy Sixth Form life.

This guide will help you choose a suitable programme and understand the application process for September 2027. It explains entry requirements, how to use the option blocks, how to apply and what happens between submitting your application and joining us.

Make the most of Open Evening: speak to our teachers, ask current students about their experiences and explore subjects you may not have considered before. You do not need to have your whole future mapped out. Our role is to help you make informed choices and build a programme that suits your strengths, interests and ambitions.

We look forward to helping you take your next step.

Mr Lee

Assistant Headteacher – Post-16
The Castle School





A whole education

More than your subjects

Your time at Castle Sixth Form is about achieving qualifications you are proud of, discovering new interests, building friendships and preparing for your future. Alongside your chosen subjects, you will have opportunities to challenge yourself, develop your confidence and play an active part in our community.

A community where you belong

Our dedicated Post-16 Centre gives you space to study, work with others and spend time with friends. Whether you join us from Castle, Marlwood or another school, you will be welcomed into the Sixth Form community. You will have greater independence, with teachers, tutors and student support staff who get to know you and help you succeed.

Enrichment and new experiences

Our Wednesday enrichment programme gives you time to explore interests beyond your main subjects. Opportunities may include sport, creative activities, volunteering, wellbeing and academic development. Choices are shared each year, allowing you to try something new or develop an existing interest.

Students can also take on challenges such as the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, developing teamwork, resilience and independence through volunteering, learning new skills and outdoor adventure.

Leadership and making a difference

Our student leadership team, led by the Head Students, helps shape Sixth Form life. Students represent their peers, contribute ideas and organise activities, fundraising and celebrations, including the Sixth Form prom.

There are also opportunities to support younger students and contribute to the wider school community. Taking responsibility and working with others helps you develop skills that will stay with you beyond Castle.





Core Program

Our Core Program helps you navigate Sixth Form and prepare for adult life. Through discussions, activities and visiting speakers, you will explore topics such as relationships, wellbeing, finance, careers and current issues. You will learn to consider different perspectives, make informed decisions and manage increasing independence.

Preparing for your future

Year 12 work experience gives you an opportunity to explore a workplace, develop professional skills and test your ideas about future careers. University and employer encounters, careers guidance and support with applications will help you explore the routes available after Sixth Form.

Alongside your main qualifications, opportunities such as the Extended Project Qualification and Core Maths can help you develop further skills and interests, where appropriate to your programme.

Support to achieve your best

The step up from GCSE brings new challenges. Your tutor, subject teachers and the Post-16 team will help you develop effective study habits, organise your time and make good use of independent study. If you need academic or pastoral support, there will be someone to speak to.

We want you to leave Castle with strong qualifications, lasting friendships and the confidence to take your next step.





Choosing your programme

Your Sixth Form programme should reflect your strengths, interests and ambitions. Most students study three Level 3 qualifications over two years. These can be A-levels, vocational qualifications or a combination of both, depending on entry requirements and the option blocks.

Understand your options

A-levels allow you to explore subjects in greater depth and are usually assessed mainly through examinations. Vocational qualifications connect learning to a particular sector or area of work and typically combine examinations with coursework or assessed assignments. Both routes can support progression to university, apprenticeships and employment. Check individual course information to understand how each qualification is taught and assessed.

A mixed programme can be a good choice. You might combine an A-level in a subject you enjoy with vocational qualifications that suit your interests and preferred way of learning.

Start with your strengths and interests

Think about the subjects you enjoy, the work you find rewarding and where you are making good progress. Sixth Form study requires sustained effort and independent learning, so choose subjects you will want to spend time exploring. Look beyond familiar GCSE subjects too: a course you have not studied before may be a strong match for you.

Speak to subject teachers about the demands of each course and ask current students what studying it is like. Make choices that suit you, rather than following your friends.

Consider your next steps

You do not need to have decided on a career, but some university courses and career routes require particular qualifications or subject combinations. If you have a possible destination in mind, research its requirements before choosing. For vocational qualifications, check that the specific qualification is accepted for any university courses you are considering.

If you are undecided, choose a combination that reflects your strengths and keeps suitable options open. The Sixth Form team can help you explore this.

Build a suitable combination

Check the general Sixth Form entry requirements and the requirements for every subject you are considering. Then use the option blocks to see whether your choices can be studied together. Consider alternative subjects in case your GCSE results or course availability mean your first choices need to change.

Your programme will also include tutor time, personal development, independent study and enrichment. Together, these will help you achieve your qualifications, develop new skills and prepare for life beyond Sixth Form.





What do we offer?

Art (Fine)	Health & Social Care AAQ
Art (3D & Commercial Design)	History
Art (Graphics)	Mathematics
Biology	Further Mathematics
Business Studies	Medical Science
Chemistry	Music
Early Childhood Development AAQ	Photography
Computer Science	Physical Education
Economics	Physics
English Language	Product Design (3D Design)
English Literature	Psychology
French	Religion, Philosophy and Ethics
Geography	Sociology
German	



Entry requirements

Our entry requirements help ensure that you begin Sixth Form on a programme suited to your strengths and that you are ready for the demands of Level 3 study. You must meet both the general entry requirements and the requirements for your chosen subjects.

Joining Castle Sixth Form

To join Castle Sixth Form, you will need at least seven GCSEs at grades 9–4. Students study a minimum of three Level 3 qualifications, which may be A-levels, vocational qualifications or a combination of both.

Requirements for individual subjects

Some subjects require higher GCSE grades or passes in particular subjects. These requirements reflect the knowledge and skills needed to make a successful start. Check the subject entry requirements carefully before applying. Meeting the general Sixth Form requirements does not automatically qualify you for every course. The current subject entry requirements are available on our Sixth Form website.

Studying four A-levels

Most students study three A-levels, and university offers are usually based on three subjects. We encourage you to focus on achieving the strongest possible grades in your chosen courses.

Students wishing to study four A-levels must achieve an average (mean) GCSE grade of at least 7.5, meet each subject's entry requirements and select a combination that fits the option blocks. Four A-levels involve a significant additional workload, so this must be discussed and agreed with the Sixth Form team, taking account of your strengths, study habits and future plans.

GCSE English and Mathematics

If you have not achieved grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Mathematics, you must continue studying the relevant subject alongside your Level 3 courses. Castle can accommodate students needing to resit one of these subjects, but we cannot offer a suitable programme for students needing to resit both.

We do not offer a standalone GCSE or Level 2 programme.

Confirming your place

Offers are conditional on your final GCSE results and on a suitable combination of courses being available. Following GCSE results day, we will open Applicaa, our App that manages applications and enrolment, so that students can confirm the grades they achieved and the subjects they wish to study.

If you miss your subject grades

If your results differ from those you expected, speak to the Sixth Form team. We will help you consider the available options and advise you on a suitable next step.





How to apply

We welcome applications from students at Castle, Marlwood and other schools. All applications are made online through **Applicaa**, our admissions platform.

<https://cas.applicaa.com/>

Before you apply

Read the course information and check the general and subject entry requirements. Use the option blocks to choose a suitable combination, and consider reserve subjects in case your plans need to change. If you need advice, speak to the Sixth Form team.

Current Castle students

You will receive instructions through your school email explaining how to access your Applicaa account. Use the login details provided and follow the instructions to complete your application.

Students joining from Marlwood or another school

Follow the application link on our Sixth Form website and register as a new applicant. Use an email address you check regularly, as we will use it to contact you throughout the application process.

Completing your application

You will be asked to provide information about yourself, your current school, your qualifications and the subjects you would like to study. Complete all required sections carefully and check that your contact details are correct.

Tell us about any learning or support needs so that we can discuss how to help you make a successful transition.

Remember to **submit your application** once it is complete. Saving your progress does not mean that your application has been submitted. Check for confirmation in Applicaa and keep your login details safe: you will use the same account during enrolment.

Apply by the priority deadline: January 8th 2027

Applying by this date helps us plan courses and timetables. Later applications will be considered, but some courses may have limited availability.

Apply online: <https://cas.applicaa.com/>

Need help? cas-sixthform@cset.co.uk | 01454 862150





Your application timeline

Your application is the beginning of a journey from exploring your options to confirming your place. We will keep in touch throughout the process, so check your email and Applicaa account regularly.

When	What happens
2 nd November 2026	Applications open. Access Applicaa and begin your application.
11 th November 2026	Explore Castle Sixth Form. Meet teachers and students, learn about our courses and ask questions about Sixth Form life.
8 th January 2027	Submit your application. Apply by this date so your choices can inform our course and timetable planning.
Term 3	Discuss your programme. Guidance conversations in interview will help you consider your choices, entry requirements and future plans.
From the 1 st March 2027	Receive your decision. We will explain the conditions attached to your offer and any issues affecting your proposed programme.
30 th June 2027	Experience Sixth Form. Attend induction, try your chosen subjects and find out how to prepare for September.
Summer 2027	Complete transition work. Use the subject preparation tasks to make a confident start to your courses.
19 th August 2027	Confirm your programme. Provide your GCSE results and complete enrolment through Applicaa, following the instructions we send you.
September 2027	Join Castle Sixth Form. Meet your tutor, settle into the Post-16 Centre and begin your programme.

Practical arrangements and any updates will be shared through our Sixth Form website, email and Applicaa.

What happens after applying?

Once you have submitted your application, we will review your proposed programme and keep you informed about the next steps. Continue working towards your GCSEs and use this time to explore your subject choices further.

Guidance and conditional offers

A guidance conversation is an opportunity to discuss your interests, strengths and future plans. We can help you check that your chosen subjects form a suitable programme and consider alternatives where needed.

An offer is conditional on meeting the general Sixth Form entry requirements and the requirements for your chosen subjects. Your final programme also depends on course availability and the timetable. Read your offer carefully and complete any actions requested through Applicaa.





Changing your subject choices

Your interests or plans may change after you apply. Contact the Sixth Form team if you would like to revise your choices, particularly if you are considering a different career or university pathway.

We will help where possible, but changes depend on entry requirements, option blocks and available places. Some popular courses may be full, so let us know as early as you can.

Course availability

Applications help us decide which courses can run and how to organise the timetable. We reserve the right to change course availability and option blocks depending on enrolment numbers.

If a change affects your programme, we will contact you as early as possible and help you consider suitable alternatives. Choosing reserve subjects during your application will give you more options if your first choices become unavailable.

Induction and preparation

Our induction programme will help you explore your subjects, meet staff and students, and understand the expectations of Sixth Form study. The induction day takes place in June and you will be invited to Sixth Form to meet tutors and teachers. You will also receive transition work to complete before September.

GCSE Results Day and enrolment

After receiving your GCSE results, follow the enrolment instructions we send you. You will use your existing Applica account to provide your results, review your choices and submit your enrolment information. The Sixth Form team will then check and confirm your programme.

If you achieve different grades from those expected, or want to change a subject, speak to us promptly. We will help you explore the courses available. If we cannot offer a suitable programme at Castle, we will advise you on alternative next steps.

Keep in touch

Check your email and Applica account regularly, and tell us if your contact details change. If you decide to accept a place elsewhere, please let us know.

For advice at any stage, contact cas-sixthform@cset.co.uk or **01454 862150**.





A Level Fine Art - Exam board: AQA

What is this subject about?

A Level Fine Art is a practical but intellectually stimulating subject aimed at producing artwork which is a personal response to a wide variety of ideas, observations and experiences. It is about learning how to work with a range of techniques and materials including photography, drawing, painting, 3D, and all forms of image making. (You can specialise in Art Textiles in fine art if desired).

How will it be taught?

Lessons are in dedicated art rooms and are taught by specialist art teachers. After initial teacher-led activities, students will produce their own projects, in which they will learn new skills and work to their strengths. At this stage, students will work independently and receive individual tutorials. Students are expected to show initiative through visiting local art exhibitions. Effective use of private study periods in the Art and Design Studios will be essential. There is a small amount of written work to accompany a project, which students will have assistance with.

Where can it take me?

Fine Art A Level is a subject which employers recognise due to its promotion of independence, creative thinking, personal expression and problem solving. The number of art related jobs after graduation continues to increase with the creative and visual industries being one of the largest employers within the UK. Even if you are not considering a creative arts job, taking an Art A Level can help your chances of moving on to your next step whatever it may be!

What skills will I develop?

To begin with you will develop skills in drawing, photography and painting. You will also gain skills to research artists and develop ideas. You will learn how to experiment with materials and review your ideas before producing substantial pieces of artwork.

Additional entry requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE Art or Art and Design or above.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	2	Externally Set Assignment: A practical project responding to a question selected by the student from a series of questions provided by the exam board.	15 hours supervised exam	40%
Coursework	1	Personal Investigation: A practical project based on a theme, idea, issue or concept with supporting written material (1000-3000 words)	N/A	60%





A Level Art (3D) - Exam board: AQA

What is this subject about?

3D Art A Level is a subject which employers recognise due to its promotion of independence, creative thinking, personal expression and problem solving. The number of art related jobs after graduation continues to increase with the creative and visual industries being one of the largest employers within the UK. Students have used 3D Art as a stepping stone to engineering Architecture courses, Stonemasonry, Carpentry, Animation, Computer Game Design, Set design for film and tv.

How will it be taught?

Lessons are in dedicated art rooms and are taught by specialist art teachers. After initial teacher-led activities, students will produce their own projects, in which they will learn new skills and work to their strengths.

At this stage students will work independently and receive individual tutorials. Students are required to keep detailed sketchbooks throughout the course documenting their observations and 3D outcomes. They are also expected to show initiative through visiting local art exhibitions.

Where can it take me?

3D Art A Level is a subject which employers recognise due to its promotion of independence, creative thinking, personal expression and problem solving. The number of art related jobs after graduation continues to increase with the creative and visual industries being one of the largest employers within the UK. Students have used 3D Art as a stepping stone to Architecture courses, Stonemasonry, Carpentry, Animation and Computer Game Design.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop skills in the manipulation of 3D materials whilst also developing drawing, photography and other 2D skills. You will gain skills to research artists and use their techniques to build on what you already have learnt. You will also learn how to experiment with materials and review your ideas before producing substantial pieces of artwork.

Additional entry requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE Art or Art and Design or above.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	2	Externally Set Assignment: A practical project responding to a question selected by the student from a series of questions provided by the exam board.	15 hours supervised exam	40%
Coursework	1	Personal Investigation: A practical project based on a theme, idea, issue or concept with supporting written material (1000-3000 words)	N/A	60%



A Level ART (Graphics) - Exam board: AQA

What is this subject about?

A Level Graphics is the study of visual communication through the use of space, type and image. It incorporates the use of a wide range of processes and techniques with an emphasis on the use of digital software.

How will it be taught?

Lessons are taught in a specialist Graphics room with full access to computers and materials. After initial teacher-led activities, students will produce their own work in response to a brief. During this project, students work independently and receive individual tutorials. Students are expected to show initiative by demonstrating awareness of contemporary graphic design. Students are expected to effectively manage their time and make use of private study periods. There is a small amount of written work to accompany the projects for which guidance is provided.

Where can it take me?

Graphics A Level is recognised by employers due to its promotion of creative thinking, independence and self-expression. A number of students have been accepted onto Graphics degree courses on completion of their A Level owing to the strength of their portfolios. The number of art related jobs after graduation continues to increase with the creative and visual industries being one of the largest employers in the UK with graphic design being one of the most significant. It may also be good if you are considering advertising/marketing/events or other such careers.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop a broad range of skills including photography, typography, digital drawing and digital manipulation and design using packages such as Photoshop and Illustrator. You will gain an understanding of graphic design and its principles also using Ai and how to better work without it. You will also be taught how to develop and review your ideas in the process whilst creating a final outcome of a professional standard.

Additional entry requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE Art or Art and Design or above.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	2	Externally Set Assignment: A practical project responding to a question selected by the student from a series of questions provided by the exam board.	15 hours supervised exam	40%
Coursework	1	Personal Investigation: A practical project based on a theme, idea, issue or concept with supporting written material (1000-3000 words)	N/A	60%





A Level Biology - Exam board: EDUQAS

What is this subject about?

A Level Biology is a challenging but rewarding subject for anybody fascinated by the natural world and keen to learn more about how it works. The course blends traditional areas such as biochemistry, cell structure, classification and physiology with more recent developments in genetics and biotechnology.

How will it be taught?

Lessons incorporate both theory and laboratory-based practical work. There are also opportunities for field work, which may include a residential trip. Students are fully supported throughout by very experienced staff and are provided with a detailed course handbook, excellent text book and access to a wide range of electronic and printed resources, including past exam papers and text books.

Where can it take me?

A Level Biology can lead to a related undergraduate degree including straight Biology and more specialised courses such as Marine Biology, Genetics or Biomedical Science. A Level Biology also provides an excellent foundation for studying medicine, dentistry and veterinary science. It is also highly regarded for entry into non-science courses such as Law and English.

What skills will I develop?

In A Level Biology, you'll develop a wide range of scientific and transferable skills. Through interactive lessons and practical experiments, you'll learn how to design investigations, collect and analyse data, and draw clear, evidence-based conclusions. You'll gain confidence in explaining complex biological ideas using precise scientific language and start to think critically about how different topics connect—from molecules and cells to whole organisms and ecosystems.

Additional entry requirements: Grade 6 in Biology, Grade 6 in Chemistry, Grade 6 in Physics, OR 6-6 in Combined Science. Grade 6 in Maths.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Energy for Life including the importance of ATP, photosynthesis, respiration, microbiology, population size & ecosystems and human impact on the environment.	2 hours	33%
Examinations	2	Continuity of Life including organisms and their evolutionary history, mitosis & meiosis, sexual reproduction in humans and plants, inheritance, variation & evolution and the application of reproduction and genetics.	2 hours	33%
Examinations	3	Requirements for Life including adaptations for gas exchange and nutrition; Homeostasis and the kidney; The nervous system and Immunology and Disease	2 hours	33%



A Level Business Studies - Exam board: EDEXCEL

What is this subject about?

Students who want a genuine insight into the world of business and commerce should consider this course. It will examine critically the aims, objectives and practices of business organisations from their economic, environmental and social aspects. These issues will be considered from the point of view of the nation, local community, industry, proprietors, management and employees of industry and consumers. Students will develop a critical understanding of contemporary business organisations of all types, the dynamic external environment within which businesses operate and the effects this can have upon decision-making within a business. We consider major topical issues that can generate change for business organisations from a range of stakeholder perspectives.

How will it be taught?

Lessons involve a great variety of teaching and learning styles including the use of case studies, videos and data response stimulus material. Students will learn through independent research, group work activities, presentations and teacher-led sessions.

Where can it take me?

This course will provide a suitable basis for further study in related subjects in Higher Education as well as a valuable preparation for a very wide range of careers.

What skills will I develop?

The study of Business encourages students to acquire a range of important and transferable skills. These include data skills whereby students will be expected to manipulate data in a variety of forms and to interpret their results; presenting arguments and making judgments and justified recommendations on the basis of the available evidence; solving problems and making decisions using appropriate business tools and methods. Students will also learn how to manage their time effectively both individually and as a member of a team.

Additional entry requirements: Grade 5 in Maths and English.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Marketing, People and Global Business	2 hours	35%
Examinations	2	Business Activities, Decisions and Strategy	2 hours	35%
Examinations	3	Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment	2 hours	30%





A Level Chemistry - Exam board: AQA

What is this subject about?

A Level Chemistry is the study of all chemical substances and how to change one chemical into another. The food you eat, the air you breathe, your own body, your mobile phone, the plants and streets around you are all made of chemicals. You want inexpensive products? Chemistry helps to decrease economic costs. You want a safe environment? Chemistry helps reduce pollution by detecting toxins and reducing them. With the development of new understanding in Chemistry, a safer world is born.

Chemistry has 3 areas of study: Physical Chemistry such as atomic structure, amount of substance, kinetics (rates), equilibria and electrochemistry; Inorganic Chemistry including groups of the periodic table and Organic Chemistry, for example the chemistry of carbon compounds and spectroscopy. Throughout the course you will carry out activities to develop your practical skills.

How will it be taught?

The lessons are split between 2 teachers and combine both theory and regular lab-based practical work. A student handbook provides full details of the course, and a weekly clinic after school give students an opportunity to catch up on work or ask questions of staff.

Where can it take me?

A Level Chemistry provides a sound basis for those students wishing to take related courses at University and is a requirement of courses such as Medicine, Veterinary Science and Chemical Engineering. Employers value the qualification and the skills it promotes; it can therefore open doors to a vast number of career opportunities.

What skills will I develop?

Chemistry develops practical skills with analytical and logical reasoning. Chemical calculations will develop applied mathematical skills. Application of knowledge and understanding of key chemical concepts is developed throughout the course. Chemistry helps students gain an awareness of 'real-life' applications of chemical theory and some of the environmental and economic issues associated with these.

Additional entry requirements: Grade 6 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics OR 6-6 in Combined Science. Grade 6 in Maths.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Physical and Inorganic Chemistry	2 hours	35%
Examinations	2	Physical and Organic Chemistry	2 hours	35%
Examinations	3	All content including practical skills	2 hours	30%





A Level Computer Science - Exam board: OCR

What is this subject about?

Computers are used in every aspect of modern life, and their influence continues to grow. Computer Scientists are responsible for theorising, designing, developing, and applying the software we use day in and day out. This fascinating subject gives you an introduction to the principles and practice of Computer Science.

How will it be taught?

Computer Science is taught by a combination of theory and practical lessons in a dedicated computer room. Students will complete independent and group tasks to develop solutions to complex computing problems.

Where can it take me?

Computer technology is heavily connected to a range of fields and disciplines including medicine and healthcare, education, entertainment, architecture and even security. The opportunities to ultimately contribute to society are huge.

What skills will I develop?

A Level Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement. You will develop an understanding and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including: abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation. You'll learn to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so. Computer Science will help you develop your capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically and to see relationships between different aspects of computer science.

Additional entry requirements: grade 6 in Computing, and grade 6 in English and Maths. Students who have not studied Computing may be considered for the course but will need to provide evidence of an academic interest in, and experience of, the subject.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Computer Systems	2.5 hours	40%
Examinations	2	Algorithms and Programming	2.5 hours	40%
Coursework	3	Programming Project	N/A	20%





Early Childhood Development (AAQ) - Exam board: OCR

What is this subject about?

Early Childhood Development explores how children grow, learn and develop from birth to eight years old. It is ideal for students interested in education and early years, offering an understanding of children's needs and how adults can support their development.

The Certificate is equivalent in size to one A Level and can be studied alongside A Levels as part of your programme.

You will study four mandatory units:

- Children's Development – developmental milestones, theories and the factors that influence children's progress.
- Keeping Children Safe – health and safety, safeguarding, responding to emergencies and concerns about children's welfare.
- Play and Learning – how play supports development and how activities encourage children's learning.
- Research and Reflective Practice – how research influences policy, provision and practice in early years settings.

How will it be taught?

Lessons combine classroom learning with opportunities to observe and interact with children, preparing you for and building on work experience. You will take part in discussions, observations and presentations. Coursework tasks include producing reports, timelines, charts and booklets, allowing you to apply your understanding to practical situations.

Where can it take me?

The course prepares you for further study at university and can support progression towards apprenticeships and employment. It is particularly relevant to students considering routes into early years, teaching, social services, nursing and allied healthcare professions.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop knowledge of child development, safeguarding and the importance of play and learning. You will explore how to support children's literacy and numeracy, maintain their safety and respond to their needs. Alongside this, you will build independent learning, critical thinking, research and reflective practice skills.

Additional entry requirements: Grade 4 or above in English and Maths.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration
External	1	Children's development	90 hrs
External	2	Keeping Children Safe	90 hrs
Internal	3	Play and Learning	90 hrs
Internal	4	Research and Reflective Practice in an Early Childhood Setting	90 hrs



A Level Economics - Exam board: EDEXCEL

What is this subject about?

Economics is a social science which aims to explain how markets and economies as a whole work. It does this through analysing consumer behaviour and the production and distribution of goods and services. Economic analysis is applied throughout society, in business, financial sectors and government. It is also involved when discussing crime, income inequality, politics and law:

Why do some economies grow and others don't?

What will the new government mean for the UK economy?

Why didn't economists predict the Global Financial Crisis?

This course will help you to understand all this and more. To enjoy and succeed at Economics an interest in current affairs is essential so students will need to keep up with current affairs through newspapers, television, and the internet.

How will it be taught?

Students will learn in a variety of ways including teacher-led sessions, independent research, group work activities and presentations. Exam style questions are used to develop the skill of writing concise, detailed answers, providing appropriate evidence and real-world examples.

Where can it take me?

Economics is a highly regarded A level subject. It can lead to a wide range of careers in economics and finance related professions. In addition, the knowledge and skills learned would also be useful for careers including, the civil service, diplomacy, economic and/or political journalism, government and politics.

What skills will I develop?

Students will develop skills in data analysis and applying theory to real life situations. Students will evaluate solutions to economic problems through discussions of costs and benefits of actions by the Government and other economic agencies. They will learn to write detailed but concise answers, providing appropriate evidence and real-world examples.

Additional entry requirements: grade 6 GCSE in Mathematics and 5 in English.

Advisory note that anyone wanting to study Economics at degree level: A level Mathematics is recommended.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Markets and Business Behaviour	2 hours	35%
Examinations	2	National and Global Economy	2 hours	35%
Examinations	3	Microeconomics and Macroeconomics	2 hours	30%





A Level English Language - Exam Board: OCR

What is this subject about?

Language sets us apart from all other species: it is at the very heart of our civilisation; our culture and our individual identities. We look at how language is used to affect us and how we can use it in different ways to affect others. A Level English Language is an opportunity to explore and create different forms of written and spoken language.

How will it be taught?

Lessons, both teacher and student-led, often involve practical explorations of written and spoken texts alongside discussing issues raised. Students investigate linguistic theories and develop their own ability to manipulate language for their own purpose. They are fully supported by highly specialised staff and receive a detailed and supportive handbook. They are taken to subject specific conferences as well as having access to a range of past papers and online resources.

Where can it take me?

The course combines well with a whole range of subjects across the sciences, business and humanities, and will enable students to communicate with enlightened awareness, clarity and originality. Studying English Language will offer a multitude of opportunities including Media, Journalism, Teaching, Law and Psychology to name just a few. The world is your oyster when you're an English Language student!

What skills will I develop?

The course combines creativity and analysis: students write their own texts as well as learning how to examine the features and devices that others have used. They look at the components that make up 'real life' texts instead of focusing on literature and learn to demonstrate and develop skills of evaluation, communication and imagination in real contexts.

Additional entry requirements: grade 5 in GCSE English and English Literature.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Exploring Language – analysis of spoken and written texts from different contexts	2.5 hours	40%
Examinations	2	Dimensions of Linguistic Variation - including child language acquisition, language and the media and language change.	2.5 hours	40%
Coursework	3	Independent Language Research	N/A	20%





A Level English Literature - Exam board: AQA

What is this subject about?

'We read to know that we are not alone' (William Nicholson, *Shadowlands*). A Level English Literature gives students an opportunity to read a range of classic literary texts (poetry, prose and drama) from tragedy to crime writing. Students will be encouraged to respond to these texts through applying a range of critical theories to their reading. They will reflect on how great literary themes are relevant to their own lives. As reading is an essential part of the English course, students must be prepared to read widely in their spare time; this is a pre-requisite for academic success. In essence, this course gives students a chance to study and immerse themselves in great works of literature that have changed people's lives across time.

How will it be taught?

Students will experience a variety of teaching and learning styles on the course: class discussion, group work, presentations and drama activities. Class work is supplemented by trips to local and national theatres, including the Globe Theatre in London. Students are also given opportunities to attend prestigious literary conferences and talks as often as possible.

Where can it take me?

A Level Literature is highly regarded. Communicating effectively is at the heart of this subject, therefore it lends itself to many future careers including: journalism, law, business, media, marketing, teaching and management to name just a few.

What skills will I develop?

Success in English Literature requires an ability to think and communicate clearly and academically. Therefore, students will learn how to write in an assured and astute manner, using textual evidence to marshal a cogent argument. They will also develop skills in literary criticism by analysing how writers use form, language and structure to create specific effects. Finally, as discussion plays such a vital part of lessons, it is hoped that students will become confident in articulating their views within a supportive classroom environment and enjoy the cut and thrust of lively debate.

Additional entry requirements: grade 5 in GCSE English and English Literature or above.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Aspects of Tragedy (Shakespeare, Prose & Drama)	2.5 hours	40%
Examinations	2	Elements of Crime Writing	3 hours	40%
Coursework	3	Theory and Independence – Poetry and Prose	N/A	20%





A Level French - Exam board: AQA

What is this subject about?

Studying French at A Level will give you greater confidence, fluency and command of the language. You will gain a deeper understanding of the structure of the language, grammatical rules and their application, as well as an extensive knowledge of relevant vocabulary.

How will it be taught?

Interactively! Smaller class sizes mean that there is more interaction with your class teachers. A good mixture of whole-class, individual, pair and group work characterises language lessons. All students are encouraged to take part in the trip to France in Year 12.

Where can it take me?

Languages are vital to the new, exciting multinational world we live in. Employees with languages are highly sought-after by the ever expanding number of businesses with an international dimension. As it is an academic subject which develops strong intellectual abilities, it is also highly regarded by, and can open doors to, top Universities. French A Level students have gone on to study languages at University as a stand-alone degree, in combination with another course, as well as to study a wide variety of other courses such as Medicine, Law, International Business, Leisure and Tourism, Economics and Accountancy.

What skills will I develop?

Communication skills are central so you will be working on developing your ability to understand more complex and varied information in texts and passages of spoken French – increasingly from real world sources. You will also work at becoming more proficient in the accuracy and complexity of your spoken and written use of the language. Developing an understanding of grammatical concepts and how to apply them to your own use and understanding of the language is also crucial.

Additional entry requirements: Grade 6 in French & Grade 5 in English / English Literature or above.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Listening, Reading and Writing: Aspects of French society, culture and politics; current issues and trends.	2.5 hours	50%
Examinations	2	Writing: Two texts (one may be a film)	2 hours	20%
Examinations	3	Speaking: Independent research project – Discussion around a stimulus card.	16-18 minutes	30%





A Level Geography - Exam board: AQA

What is this subject about?

We live in a dynamic world that is continually changing. As global citizens we all have a role in this and the changes impact every one of us. Studying A Level Geography will help you to understand the causes, consequences and possible management approaches to what we are experiencing. The course is designed to develop your knowledge, understanding and opinions on a broad range of global issues including the earth's places, people, environments and societies. It will be a balance of physical and human Geography.

Topics include hazards, climate change, rivers, population, settlement, coasts, globalisation and sustainability. There is also a strong fieldwork element which will be written up in lessons. As Geography bridges the gap between social and physical sciences it complements a wide range of other A Level subjects.

How will it be taught?

A range of teaching and learning styles are used in the classroom and there are also field based activities and practical work as part of the course. Past exam questions are used throughout both years to build student confidence for the exams. There are both physical and human elements to the course.

Where can it take me?

The range of topics and skills covered means Geography provides a pathway into many careers. Jobs with geographical content include surveying, engineering, environmental management, town planning, meteorology, architecture and the travel and leisure industries. A broad range of other professions also value the transferable skills gained from Geography.

What skills will I develop?

Geography helps you to further develop a broad range of transferable skills including literacy, numeracy, ICT, independent research, analysis and evaluation, decision making, team-work and problem-solving.

Additional entry requirements: Grade 5 or above in GCSE Geography and English.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Water and carbon cycles, Coastal systems and landscapes & Hazards	2.5 hours	40%
Examinations	2	Global systems and global governance, Contemporary urban environments & Changing places	2.5 hours	40%
	3	Geographical Investigation External Fieldwork	N/A	20%





A Level German - Exam board: AQA

What is this subject about?

Studying German at A Level will give you greater confidence, fluency and command of the language. You will gain a deeper understanding of the structure of the language, grammatical rules and their application, as well as an extensive knowledge of relevant vocabulary. Topics studied are largely based on the culture of Germany and German-speaking countries.

How will it be taught?

Interactively! Smaller class sizes mean that there is more interaction with your class teachers. A good mixture of whole-class, individual, pair and group work characterises language lessons. All students are encouraged to take part in the school's very successful work experience programme in Bockenem which improves your fluency and confidence in German.

Where can it take me?

Languages are vital to the new, exciting multinational world we live in. Employees with languages are highly sought-after by the ever expanding number of businesses with an international dimension. As it is an academic subject which develops strong intellectual abilities, German A Level students have gone on to study languages at university as a stand-alone degree, in combination with another course, as well as to study a wide variety of other courses such as Medicine, Law, International Business, Leisure and Tourism, Economics and Accountancy.

What skills will I develop?

Communication skills are central so you will be working on developing your ability to understand more complex and varied information in texts and passages of spoken German – increasingly from real-world sources. You will also work at becoming more proficient in the accuracy and complexity of your spoken and written use of the language. Developing an understanding of grammatical concepts and how to apply them to your own use and understanding of the language is also crucial. Additional entry requirements: Grade 6 in German and grade 5 in English / English Literature.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Listening, Reading and Writing: Aspects of German society, culture and politics; multiculturalism in Germany.	2.5 hours	50%
Examinations	2	Writing: Two texts (one may be a film)	2 hours	20%
Examinations	3	Speaking: Independent research project – responding to a stimulus card.	16-18 minutes	30%





Health and Social Care (AAQ) - Exam board: Cambridge OCR Level 3

What is this subject about?

The AAQ in Health and Social Care is a vocationally related qualification equivalent to one A Level (and carrying the same UCAS points) which helps prepare students for employment in the health or social care sectors or for higher education. Students complete a number of mandatory units:

Principles of health and social care - Equality, diversity, and rights, Managing hazards, health and safety, Legislation, Best practice,
Person-centred approach to care -Taking a person-centred approach, Meeting needs and providing support in a person-centred way, Communication skills,
Supporting people with mental health conditions - Definitions and views of mental health, Mental health conditions, Provision of mental health services and Treatment and support for mental health conditions and a wide range of optional units.

Students will also benefit from completing work experience within the sector and undertaking a First Aid course.

How will it be taught?

Classroom sessions prepare you for, and also build upon, your work experience learning. Lessons are varied and include the opportunity to interact with and observe service users. Coursework tasks include producing reports, timelines, charts and booklets in addition to taking part in discussions, observations and presentations.

Where can it take me?

AAQ students become excellent independent learners with a wealth of vocational experience. They are well suited to either further study at university and/or as part of an apprenticeship or employment in nursing, teaching, social services and allied health care.

What skills will I develop?

Your skills and knowledge are developed through a work-related context. These will include working as part of a professional team, following a brief, working to deadlines and the effective presentation of information, including the extensive use of ICT.

Additional entry requirements: Grade 4 in Mathematics and English and 4/4 in Combined Science.

For this qualification, students must complete six units: Two mandatory externally assessed units Two mandatory NEA units Two optional NEA units





Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Mandatory or Optional
Examination	F090	Principles of Health and Social Care	80hrs	M
Examination	F091	Anatomy and physiology for Health and Social Care	80hrs	M (ext. cert. only)
NEA	F092	Person-centred approach to care	50hrs	M
NEA	F093	Supporting people with mental health conditions	50hrs	M
NEA	F094	Supporting people with long term physiological conditions	50hrs	O
NEA	F095	Investigating public health	50hrs	O
NEA	F096	Supporting people in relation to sexual health, pregnancy and postnatal health	50hrs	O
NEA	F097	Supporting healthy nutrition and lifestyles	50hrs	O





A Level History - Exam board: OCR

What is this subject about?

A Level History is an enjoyable, thought provoking and challenging subject for anyone fascinated by the past and keen to make sense of the world in which we live. The course will provide you with the opportunity to study aspects of British and European history in both breadth and depth, helping you to develop a broader chronological understanding of the past.

How will it be taught?

Lessons are taught in an engaging, stimulating and interactive way by a team of highly motivated and enthusiastic historians. Typically, lessons will combine lectures, debates, student research and presentations, group work, role plays and seminars. Lessons are supported by an extensive range of written and audio–visual resources.

Where can it take me?

A Level History is much respected by Universities keen to recruit literate, articulate and confident students. So too, A Level History also provides a useful background and foundation for a wide range of careers such as law, administration, the diplomatic service, business, accountancy, journalism and politics.

What skills will I develop?

In addition to the acquisition of historical knowledge, History will help you to develop a range of valuable transferable skills much in demand by both universities and future employers including the ability to write analytically, to evaluate source material critically and with maturity and the ability to work both independently and collaboratively. In addition, you will develop skills of argumentation, debate and historical research. Above all, your study of History will encourage you to question assumptions, formulate your own reasoned arguments and help you become a more reflective and analytical person.

Additional entry requirements: Grade 5 or above in History and English.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	England 1445 – 1509: Lancastrian, Yorkists and Henry VII	1.5 hours	25%
Examinations	2	Russia 1894 – 1941	1 hour	15%
Examinations	3	Tudor Foreign Policy 1488 – 1603	2.5 hours	40%
Coursework	N/A	Topic-based essay	N/A	20%





A Level Mathematics - Exam board: Edexcel

What is this subject about?

This course provides an opportunity for those who enjoyed Mathematics at GCSE to view and make sense of the world in a particularly distinctive manner. A Level Mathematics allows students to analyse and communicate information and to create, explore and explain new ideas. The course intends to develop confidence, satisfaction and enjoyment from studying Mathematics and provide students with a foundation for further study.

How will it be taught?

Mathematics is a demanding and fast-paced subject, requiring discipline and application from the outset. Students will need to learn and remember countless basic facts for successful application to other areas of the course. Regular weekly after-school clinics provide support for students on a drop-in basis.

Where can it take me?

Mathematics combines well with many other subjects at A Level and demonstrates a logical mind and problem-solving abilities. It is highly regarded by employers and creates opportunities for almost all subjects in Further and Higher education. Statistics is particularly useful in combination with Economics, Business, Geography, Sociology and Biology. Mechanics combines well with Physics and Design Technology.

What skills will I develop?

An A Level Mathematics course aims to develop mathematical knowledge, concepts, processes and skills in a variety of contexts so that students appreciate the relationships between the various areas of mathematics and can apply them using models of physical situations (e.g. in statistics and mechanics). Mathematics allows students to analyse and communicate information and to create, explore and explain new ideas.

Entry requirement: *Grade 6 in GCSE Maths, having studied the full Higher Tier course. A grade 7 or above is recommended.*

All students entering with a grade 6 will be required to attend weekly support sessions. Students with a grade 7 or above may also be required to attend if the entry test identifies gaps in their knowledge.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Pure Mathematics	2 hours	33.3%
Examinations	2	Pure Mathematics	2 hours	33.3%
Examinations	3	Section A: Statistics Section B: Mechanics	2 hours	33.3%





A Level Further Mathematics A - Exam board: OCR

What is this subject about?

A Level Further Mathematics is intended to satisfy the needs of keen Mathematicians and provide a course which challenges and stimulates students as they gain a deeper and broader knowledge of Mathematics. It is ideal for anyone who wishes to study Mathematics, Physics or Engineering-related courses at University. Students selecting Further Mathematics will automatically be entered to study A Level Mathematics and therefore need only to select Further Mathematics as an option. Together they will count as 2 full A Levels – Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

How will it be taught?

Further Mathematics is a particularly demanding and fast-paced subject requiring discipline and application from the outset. Students will need to learn and remember innumerable basic facts for successful application to other areas of the course. Students will take their A Level in Mathematics at the end of year 12 and A Level in Further Maths in year 13. Regular weekly after-school clinics provide support for students on a drop-in basis.

Where can it take me?

Further Mathematics combines well with many other subjects at A Level. With the rigour and discipline required, students studying Further Mathematics will often develop a more logical mind, processing and problem-solving abilities. It is highly regarded by employers and creates opportunities for a significant number of subjects in Further and Higher education; the logical and problem-solving nature of mathematics makes it ideal for a wide variety of careers, particularly Science, Engineering (all aspects) and Economics.

What skills will I develop?

Our Further Mathematics course aims to develop extensive mathematical knowledge, concepts, processes and skills in a variety of contexts so that students appreciate the relationships between the various areas of mathematics and can apply them in context. Mathematics allows students to analyse and communicate information, to create, explore and explain new ideas in a logical manner.

Additional entry requirements: Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	Y540	Pure Maths	1.5 hours	25%
Examinations	Y541	Pure Maths	1.5 hours	25%
Examinations	Y543	Mechanics	1.5 hours	25%
Examinations	Y544	Discrete	1.5 hours	25%





Medical Science (AAQ Extended Certificate) – Exam board: WJEC

What is this subject about?

Medical Science is the science of dealing with the maintenance of health and the prevention and treatment of disease. This qualification is designed for students who are interested in careers related to healthcare, medical research or laboratory work. The qualification covers key topic areas in health, physiology and disease, and will help students understand how scientific principles – especially from Biology and Chemistry – are applied in real scenarios. The Level 3 Extended Certificate in Medical Science is equivalent to a full A-level, and is completed over 2 years.

How will it be taught?

Students will learn from a variety of methods, including teacher-led sessions, group work activities, practical laboratory work and independent research. Around 50% of the course will be assessed by a summer exam each year, with the rest of the course assessed via controlled coursework assignments, or practical tasks. So a significant amount of the course will involve students working on individual pieces of work which count towards the final grade.

Where can it take me?

Applied general qualifications are for students wishing to continue their education through applied learning. This course can support progression to a range of job roles within health care, and could also support progression to general scientific and laboratory roles. A significant proportion of career opportunities in this sector are at degree level: the Level 3 AAQ, combined with other appropriate qualifications, can enable progression to higher education in a range of Applied Science courses. For students looking to study Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science at university, this course does not replace the requirement to study Chemistry and Biology A-levels.

What skills will I develop?

Students will develop both practical and written skills, along with scientific knowledge and understanding. They will also develop the ability to make evidence-based decisions, and to research and communicate scientifically accurate information. They will learn how to execute and interpret results with a variety of statistical analysis techniques.

Additional entry requirements: grade 5 in two Science GCSEs or 55 in Combined Science; grade 5 in English and Maths. Students are advised to study a level 3 Maths qualification alongside this course – either Maths or Mathematical Studies.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Human Health and Disease	2 hours	25%
Coursework	2	Physiological Measurement Techniques	N/A	12.5%
Coursework	3	Medical Science Research Techniques	N/A	12.5%
Coursework	4	Medicines and the Treatment of Disease	N/A	20%
Coursework	5	Clinical Laboratory Techniques	N/A	15%
Examinations	6	Medical Case Study	1.5 hours	15%



A Level MUSIC - Exam board: AQA

What is this subject about?

A Level Music is about developing and applying the musical knowledge, understanding and skills to form a personal and meaningful relationship with music. You will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts. It is holistic in nature: helping to develop detailed understanding of musical styles, to then apply this knowledge to performance and composition. There is a broad range of styles covered, including Popular Music, Music in Media, Western Art Music, and Jazz. Music at A-Level allows you to develop particular strengths and interests, encourage lifelong learning and provide access to higher education and university degree courses in music. Music is an enjoyable subject and combines well with a great many others at Post-16 level.

How will it be taught?

Lessons are in dedicated music rooms and are taught by specialist music teachers. Lessons include a cohesive approach to music appraisal, composition, and performance. We encourage you to be well rounded musicians who will take a leading role in the department, all students make major contributions to the school's ensembles and are encouraged to form their own ensembles.

Where can it take me?

Music A Level is a subject which employers recognise due to its promotion of independence, creative thinking, personal expression and problem solving. Studying Music at A Level can lead to many different opportunities, from studying Music or related subjects such as Performing Arts, to a career in composition or solo/ensemble performance, music education, musical research posts, film, theatre, other media and events.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop your musical skills in a number of key areas: composition, performance and music appraisal.

Additional entry requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE Music or pass at Grade 5 music theory; Grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

Recommendations: Students should be working towards Grade 6 standard on their instrument or voice.

Audition and interview available for musically able students who have not yet completed formal music qualifications.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Written: Listening, Analysis and Content, Essay	2.5 hours	40%
Coursework	2	Performance: Solo and/or Ensemble	10 minutes	35%
Coursework	3	Two Compositions: Free and To a brief	4.5 minutes	25%





A Level Photography - Exam board: AQA

What is this subject about?

This course explores different ranges of Photographic media, techniques and processes, using both traditional and contemporary approaches. It is aimed at developing creative confidence and expression through visual imagery and technical skill.

How will it be taught?

It is taught by specialist teachers who will teach you photographic technical skills, to explore the world around you in visual form, and build on your personal interest and enjoyment in Photography. You are expected to show initiative in engaging in photography beyond the classroom such as visiting local photography exhibitions and entering photographic competitions where possible. Effective use of private study periods in the Photography suite will be essential.

Where can it take me?

Photography is a subject which employers recognise due to its promotion of independence, creative thinking, expression and problem solving. Students choosing to pursue Photography into further education often choose to complete a one year Foundation Course prior to applying to University, allowing them to explore the various arts options available, photography being one of those. The number of Photography related jobs after graduation continues to increase with the creative and visual industries being one of the largest employers within the UK.

What skills will I develop?

You will learn how to use digital and traditional equipment, how to use specific lighting techniques and how to shoot on location. Through researching artists and developing your own ideas you will develop written and verbal critical thinking skills. You will also learn how to manipulate images using software such as Photoshop.

Additional entry requirements: grade 5 in GCSE Art, Art & Design or Photography. Owning your own 35mm SLR or digital camera would be an advantage.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Externally Set Assignment	2	A practical project responding to a question selected by the student from a series of questions provided by the exam board.	15 hours supervised exam	40%
Personal Investigation	1	A practical project based on a theme, idea, issue or concept with supporting written material (1000-3000 words)		60%



A Level Physical Education - Exam board: AQA

What is this subject about?

This qualification gives students the chance to study a wide array of theoretical areas that underpin Physical Education. Under the three main titles of Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Sport Psychology and Sport in Society, the theoretical aspects of the Physical Education allow students to build on their knowledge from previous study and learn about factors that optimise performance. The course will address current contemporary topics in sport such as the impact in the use of ergogenic aids, technology and increasing commercialisation of sport. It will also consider psychological theories that underpin skill development and examines the physiological and biomechanical aspects of sporting performance.

How will it be taught?

The course is classroom-based and students will be expected to provide video evidence from club sport, along with a written supporting commentary to meet the practical requirements of the course.

Where can it take me?

In choosing this course, students will develop knowledge which will equip them for undergraduate study in areas of Physiology, Bio-mechanics, Psychology and Nutrition. As well as Sport Science (and related courses), A Level Physical Education is beneficial for Further Education in the following areas: Coaching, Teaching (Primary and Secondary), Physiotherapy and Performance Analysis.

What skills will I develop?

In choosing this course, students will develop knowledge which will equip them for undergraduate study in areas such as Physiology, Bio-mechanics, Psychology and Nutrition.

Additional entry requirements: grade 6 in PE GCSE (grade 6 in the theory module) or Distinction in BTEC equivalent; grade 6 in Biology or 66 in Combined Science; Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics and English or above. Students must be affiliated to a club and playing at club level as an absolute minimum to be able to access the practical requirements of the course.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Applied Anatomy and Physiology & Skill Acquisition, Sport and Society	2 hours	35%
Examinations	2	Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics & Sport Psychology, Sport in Society and Technology in Sport	2 hours	35%
Coursework	3	Student assessed as a performer in a full-sided version of one activity, and Written analysis of performance	N/A	30% (15% coursework, 15% practical performance)



A Level Physics - Exam board: AQA

What is this subject about?

Physics is the study of "matter, energy, and the interaction between them", but what that really means is that A Level Physics is about asking fundamental questions and trying to answer them by observing and experimenting. We study interactions from the unthinkably large in the Universe to the infinitesimally small in particle physics.

How will it be taught?

We use a variety of different teaching styles from practical experiments to lecturing and independent learning to group analysis. Carrying out practical work is a key part to the course and will be assessed through experiments and examination. Bristol is a hot-bed of engineering of all types. We have a close working relationship with the Culham Centre for Fusion where students have the opportunity to learn about cutting edge physics.

Where can it take me?

Physics is incredibly useful for many careers. Physics graduates are targeted for roles in finance, computing (often ahead of computing degrees as they are pre-programmed in a certain way), all types of engineering and accountancy. Physics A Level is often a requirement for University courses in engineering and related fields, but it is very welcome in a range of disciplines such as Law, Medicine and Business because of the skills developed.

What skills will I develop?

Physics is a practical subject and developing practical skills is a key part of the subject. It will teach you how to analyse data and draw conclusions as well as to ask further questions. A key part of the course is problem solving, applying your physics knowledge and understanding of new situations. Because of this, Physics is one of the most valued A Levels. Having the ability to think logically as well as laterally is highly desired by University and employers alike.

Additional entry requirements: Grade 6 in Physics, Grade 6 in Chemistry and Grade 5 in Biology, OR 6-6 in Combined Science. Grade 6 in Maths.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Particles and Radiation, Waves, Electricity, Periodic Motion, Mechanics and Materials	2 hours	34%
Examinations	2	Thermal Physics, Nuclear Physics, Fields and their Consequences	2 hours	34%
Examinations	3	Practical Skills and Data Analysis Turning Points of Physics	2 hours	32%





A Level Product Design (3D Design) - Exam board: AQA

What is this subject about?

This creative and thought-provoking A Level qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries. Students will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing prototypes of their choice. You will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers. The practical elements of the course require good time management skills, genuine commitment and a willingness to complete independent research effectively. Assignments will include product analysis and disassembly exercises as well as focussed practical tasks. Use of ICT will be encouraged and students will be introduced to CAD (Computer Aided Design) and CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture). 'Design and Make' assignments will be undertaken.

How will it be taught?

Lessons are in dedicated workshops. Some lessons are theory based, using a range of printed and online resources, as well as past exam papers. Other lessons involve carrying out directed practical tasks or learning how to communicate and draw design ideas. When the portfolio and practical outcome is being produced, students work independently and are supported by a system of one to one or group tutorials.

Where can it take me?

3D Design could take you onto a number of exciting career paths. Of course there's product or automotive design. Or maybe CAD for industry appeals to you more? This course could take you into Architecture, Teaching, Manufacturing, Advertising or Engineering.

What skills will I develop?

The course will encourage independent learning, creativity and innovation. Students will develop practical skills and design awareness. There will be taught elements to cover theory and written/graphical exercises to develop communication skills.

Additional entry requirements: grade 5 in D&T; grade 5 in Mathematics and English.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Technical Principles	2.5 hours	30%
Examinations	2	Principles of Designing and Making	1.5 hours	20%
Coursework	3	Practical application of technical principles, and principles of designing and making	N/A	50%





A Level Psychology - Exam board: AQA

What is this subject about?

A Level Psychology is a good choice for anyone interested in trying to understand human behaviour. It is a popular course with a strongly scientific approach to exploring the social and cultural variations of individual behaviour. It covers psychological theories and perspectives, research, terminology, concepts and methods.

How will it be taught?

The emphasis will be on Psychology as a science throughout the course and the application of theories and findings in real life. There is more science in this course than you might expect. Lessons are a vibrant mixture of debate, discussion, lectures and group work. They are fast-paced and content-heavy and will require good concentration and hard work!

Where can it take me?

Many students go on to study Psychology at University after thoroughly enjoying this demanding, but stimulating, course. Psychological knowledge and skills are well received by employers as it enhances interpersonal and communication skills.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop skills of analysis, interpretation, evaluation and application. Familiar real-world themes, issues and debates will be assessed from various psychological viewpoints and students will develop an understanding of the ethical issues and research methods used in psychological investigation.

Additional entry requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE English, Mathematics and Science

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Introductory Topics in Psychology	2 hours	33.3%
Examinations	2	Psychology in Context	2 hours	33.3%
Examinations	3	Issues and Options in Psychology	2 hours	33.3%





A Level Religion, Philosophy & Ethics - Exam board: EDEXCEL

What is this subject about?

This intellectually challenging A Level involves exploring a range of topics based on religion, including philosophy of religion and ethics. These will include philosophical arguments for the existence of God, the problem of evil and suffering, life after death, religious experience, the relationship between religion and morality, sexual ethics, and war and peace. Students will consider religious views from both eastern and western traditions with a prominent focus on Christianity.

How will it be taught?

Lessons are taught using a variety of teacher-led and student-led activities. Discussions, group work and student presentations are a key element, alongside teacher-led presentations and lessons. Students are fully supported throughout the course by their teachers and are provided with detailed handouts, additional study resources and a reading list (to aid wider reading).

Where can it take me?

Students develop a range of transferable skills including the analysis of argument and evidence, the explanation, presentation and synthesis of complex ideas, the ability to work independently and as part of a team. These are invaluable skills whatever you choose to do next. Students that study RPE combine this course successfully with both Arts and Science subjects. It also provides an excellent grounding for careers such as Nursing, Youth Work, the Police Force, Politics and even Teaching!

What skills will I develop?

RPE is an interesting, challenging and thought-provoking subject suited to anyone who enjoys deep philosophical debate and exploring issues of morality and ethics and the relationship with religion. Students will need openness to new ideas, be willing to ask questions about the 'ultimate questions' in life and research into issues to deepen their understanding further. Students also need to be willing to challenge their own views and those held by others.

Additional entry requirements: grade 5 English or above. A GCSE in Religious Studies is preferred but not essential if students can demonstrate to the Head of Subject a genuine interest in, and commitment to, this subject. We welcome students from all faiths or none. Short course grades are also accepted.

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Philosophy of Religion	2 hours	33.3%
Examinations	2	Religion and Ethics	2 hours	33.3%
Examinations	3	Study of Religion: Christianity	2 hours	33.3%





A Level Sociology - Exam board: AQA

What is this subject about?

A Level Sociology studies the complex interrelationship between individuals and social groups and looks to understand why there seem to be patterns of behaviour and what determines them. We will study how we form our identities and who we really are, the role and influence of religion in contemporary society, education and whether we live in a true meritocracy and crime and deviance, looking at why some people are criminal and what factors cause criminality. We also consider theories of society and how the relevant data is obtained.

How will it be taught?

A range of teaching methodologies are used in this course including group work, presentations, research tasks, discussions and debates. Students enjoy the lively nature of the lessons and the opportunity to challenge their own assumptions. Trips and visiting speakers will also be a feature of A Level study.

Where can it take me?

Sociology is considered a useful subject for Law, History, Geography, Journalism and Psychology as well as offering transferable skills suitable for a range of disciplines.

What skills will I develop?

Sociological knowledge provides students with the grounding to be active members of society as they gain an in-depth understanding and respect for the world around them. Skills developed include debating, essay writing, investigative research and the ability to analyse and synthesise multiple diverse opinions and clearly communicate these and their own.

Additional entry requirements: grade 5 in GCSE English / English Literature. You need to enjoy reading and writing and have an interest in current affairs (news).

Assessment	Unit	Topics Studied	Duration	Weighting
Examinations	1	Education, Theory and Methods	2 hours	33.3%
Examinations	2	Culture and Identity and Beliefs	2 hours	33.3%
Examinations	3	Crime and Deviance, and Theory and Methods	2 hours	33.3%





Your next step

We hope this application guide has helped you explore what Castle Sixth Form can offer and consider a programme that suits your strengths, interests and ambitions. Whether you are looking towards university, an apprenticeship or employment, we will support you to make informed choices and prepare for your future. You do not need to have every answer before applying. If you are unsure about subjects, entry requirements or your next steps, please get in touch.

Ready to apply?

Applications for September 2027 entry open on **2 November 2026**. Submit your application by **8 January 2027**, our priority deadline.

Apply online at <https://cas.applicaa.com/>

Before submitting, check the entry requirements for your chosen subjects and use the option blocks to make sure your combination fits. Once you have applied, check your email and Applicaa account regularly for updates.

We are here to help

If you have questions about applying or would like advice about your choices, contact the Sixth Form team:

Email: cas-sixthform@cset.co.uk

Telephone: 01454 862150

We look forward to welcoming you to Castle Sixth Form.

