



Winner
Sixth form college
of the year



Hereford
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



P r o s p e c t u s 2017

sowing the seeds for your future

A photograph of a modern building with a large glass window and a brick base. In the foreground, four students are sitting on a wooden bench, looking towards the building. The scene is set outdoors with green grass and trees.

**APPLY ONLINE OR DOWNLOAD AN
APPLICATION FORM AT**

www.hereford.ac.uk

**There are proposed changes to some A Levels in 2017
which may affect the course content and assessment
method. Please check the College website for the most
recent details.**

Why Choose Us?

Outstanding Examination Results

Widest Choice of Courses

Fantastic Range of Enrichment Activities

Outstanding Support and Guidance

Good Transport Links

OFSTED Grades the College Outstanding in All Areas of its Work

Students Feel Supported, Achieve Excellent Results and Enjoy Being at College

The College has a National Reputation and was named 'Sixth Form College of the Year 2016' by the Times Educational Supplement

This Prospectus is full of information about the College and its courses. If you would like to find out more you can:

- ▶ check out our website - www.hereford.ac.uk
- ▶ follow us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/Herefordsfc
- ▶ follow us on Twitter - www.twitter.com/herefordsfc
- ▶ visit our student and applicant VLE at www.appmoodle.hereford.ac.uk
Follow the instructions to create an account and then enrol on all of the subjects which interest you.

Introduction



Hereford Sixth Form College was established in 1973 as the sixth form for Hereford and the surrounding area. While most of the College's students live in Herefordshire, many travel from Wales and the adjoining counties.

The College offers a broad general education in a caring and supportive environment which enables you to gain the qualifications you need to enter higher education or employment and the opportunity to participate in a wide range of enrichment activities such as Sport, Drama, Music, Young Enterprise, the Student Representative Council and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The College is housed in purpose-built accommodation including specialist classrooms and laboratories, a Performing Arts Centre, a Music Centre (incorporating a recital room, practice rooms and recording studios) and a Sports Hall and Fitness Centre. The Student Services area includes a Library, a specialist Careers Library, a silent study area (the Cloisters), a Well-Being Centre and an IT Centre. There is a student café and a large study and social area (the Pavilion). The College's latest teaching block houses a large area for study, rehearsals and exhibitions.

Teaching by experts helps you to learn to take responsibility for your own learning and enjoy your courses. The College regularly gains one of the highest A Level points score per entry of nearly 100 sixth

form colleges nationally and was judged to be OUTSTANDING in all areas during the latest Ofsted inspection (April 2008). A copy of the full inspection report and details of the College's results in A Level and AS examinations can be found on our website.

The College is committed to maintaining good communication. In addition to reports and other information provided for students and parents, minutes of Governing Body meetings can be found on our website or are available from the College on request.

For the last three years, the College has been identified by the government funded A Level Performance System as one of the best institutions in England for value-added examination results. These consider students' performance in the light of their previous GCSE results and measure progress made. In July 2006 the College was awarded Learning and Skills Beacon Status by the Secretary of State for Education for its outstanding contribution to 16-19 education.

In 2016, the College was named 'Sixth Form College of the Year' by the *Times Educational Supplement*. This was the inaugural presentation of this award.

The College, is more than a place to gain qualifications. It is a bridge between school and higher education or employment where you will enjoy developing skills, making new friends and taking responsibility as a member of a caring and vibrant community.

A blue ink signature of Jonathan Godfrey, written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Godfrey OBE
Principal

Contents

Why Choose Us?	1	A Level Geography	48
Introduction	2	A Level Geology	49
Contents	3	A Level German	50
Admissions Calendar	4	A Level Government & Politics	51
College Charter	5	BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care [equivalent to one A Level]	52
Finance & Travel	6	BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health & Social Care [equivalent to two A Levels]	53
Student Well-Being & Support	8	A Level History – Medieval/Early Modern	54
Learning Support	10	A Level History – Modern World	55
Study Support	11	BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in IT [equivalent to one A Level]	56
Careers	12	A Level Law	57
Extension Programmes	13	A Level Mathematics Courses	58
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	14	– Statistics	58
Hay Levels	15	– Fast Track Mathematics/Further Mathematics	59
Drama	16	– Mathematics	59
Music	18	A Level Music	60
Sport	20	BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) [equivalent to one A Level]	61
Enrichment Activities	24	A Level Philosophy & Ethics	62
Education for Life (E4L) Programme	27	A Level Physical Education	63
Your Programme of Study	28	A Level Physics	64
Level 3 Courses:		A Level Psychology	65
A Level Archaeology	30	A Level Sociology	66
A Level Art & Design (Fine Art)	31	A Level Spanish	67
A Level Art & Design (Photography)	32	BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport & Exercise Science [equivalent to three A Levels]	68
A Level Biology	33	A Level Travel & Tourism	70
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business [equivalent to one A Level]	34	Level 2 Courses:	
A Level Business Studies	35	Overview of Level 2 Courses	72
A Level Chemistry	36	GCSE English Language	73
A Level Communication & Culture	37	Level 2 Functional Skills in English	73
A Level Computer Science	38	Level 1/2 Functional Mathematics	74
AS Level Critical Thinking	39	Foundation Level GCSE Mathematics	74
BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Dance [equivalent to one A Level]	40	Higher Level GCSE Mathematics	74
A Level Drama & Theatre Studies	41	What Parents Say...	75
A Level Economics	42	Location Map	76
A Level English Language	43	Open Events 2016/17	(inside back cover)
A Level English Literature	44		
A Level Environmental Science	45		
A Level Film Studies	46		
A Level French	47		

Photography Credits: Thanks to everyone who supplied images for inclusion in our prospectus, in particular, to the lead photographer: Jay Watson Photography Tel: 01432 347979 Website: jaywatson.photography

Admissions Calendar

Careers and Further Education Evenings

- ▶ From **September 2016** prospectuses are available in partner schools. Prospectuses can also be requested directly from the College or downloaded from the College website.
- ▶ In the **Autumn and Spring terms** College staff visit schools to take part in Careers and Further Education evenings.

Open Events

- ▶ **Wednesday, 19th October 2016 (5.00pm - 8.00pm)**
- ▶ **Saturday, 4th February 2017 (9.30am - 12.30pm)**
- ▶ **Tuesday, 9th May 2017 (5.30pm - 7.30pm)**

School Visits

- ▶ In **January 2017** prospective students are invited on a school basis to visit the College and to meet staff and students.

Submission of Application Forms

- ▶ Applications from students in partner schools should normally be submitted to the College through the schools.
- ▶ All other applicants should apply directly to the College by filling in an application form on-line.
- ▶ There will be no closing date for the receipt of applications but we strongly advise you to submit your application by **Monday, 20th February 2017** to ensure the offer of a place in September.

Interviews

- ▶ Interviews are usually held in partner schools in **March, April and May**.
- ▶ All other applicants are interviewed from **February** onwards.
- ▶ Normally offers of a place at College will be made at interview.

Results

- ▶ GCSE results are published on **Thursday, 24th August 2017**.

Enrolment

- ▶ Enrolment and induction for new students begins on **Wednesday, 30th August 2017**.

College Charter

What you can expect from us

You will be given a copy of the College Charter, which explains what you might expect to gain from the College and what we expect from you in return. The introduction reads: "We aim to provide an environment in which you can best achieve your personal goals. At all stages in your College career you may expect full consideration to be given to your personal circumstances. We hope and expect that you will, in turn, behave responsibly and thoughtfully, and make your own contribution to the well-being of the College and the standing it has in the wider community."

The Charter also explains how and to whom you should look for help if you are experiencing difficulties. We take seriously any issues raised by students, parents and by others about any aspect of the College. If we are not able to solve the problem satisfactorily, the Charter explains how and to whom a grievance should be presented. There is a formal complaints procedure, details of which can be obtained from the College Office.



As a student of Hereford Sixth Form College we expect you to:

- ▶ see classroom attendance as your highest priority and attend punctually all timetabled activities including enrichment activities and appointments with personal tutors.
- ▶ account clearly for any absences or lateness when challenged sensitively and give an explanation at the end of the lesson or another convenient time.
- ▶ complete all work by agreed deadlines and to the best of your ability.
- ▶ take responsibility for your learning and participate actively in all learning activities including the review processes.
- ▶ seek help when you need it and take advantage of the support offered.
- ▶ co-operate with College staff and maintain socially acceptable standards of behaviour.
- ▶ play an active part in Equality and Diversity issues by, for example:
 - not using foul or abusive language or language with any sexist, homophobic, racist or otherwise discriminatory connotation;
 - respecting the rights of others;
 - refusing to take part in behaviour that degrades others
 - including all forms of bullying;
 - challenging and reporting inappropriate behaviour.
- ▶ help to make Hereford Sixth Form College a safe and pleasant place for all.

Finance & Travel

College Fund

We invite parents to make a voluntary contribution to the College Fund, currently £50.

The fund is used to contribute to activities which are not funded centrally, and to support students in hardship who do not qualify for help from the 16-19 Bursary Fund. It is also used to support some student facilities. The executor is the Principal acting on behalf of the Governing Body.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Currently this is available to students **whose usual address is in Wales** and whose household income is £20,817 per annum or less if there is one dependent child or £23,077 per annum or less if there are two or more dependent children. Payments of up to £30 per week are paid fortnightly into the student's bank account and are dependant on attendance at all lessons. Full details of how to apply can be found at www.studentfinancewales.co.uk or a pack may be collected from the EMA office in College.

The EMA scheme for students who live in England has now closed.

Examinations

No charge is made for examination entries in subjects that you are following as part of your College course unless you fail to achieve certain minimum standards of work and attendance during your period of time in the College. If you wish to sit an examination against the advice of your tutors, or you wish to resit a unit, you will be charged. If you fail, without good reason, to sit an examination for which the College has paid the fees, you will be required to reimburse the College for those fees. Failure to meet a payment deadline will result in an additional late fee.

Fees

Tuition fees are not payable if you have ordinarily been resident in the United Kingdom for the previous three years (for reasons other than full-time study) and if you are under the age of 19 at the commencement of your course.

Students aged 16-18 from overseas are currently exempt from fees provided that:

- ▶ you are a holder of a full British Citizen passport or are accompanying parents who are holders of full British Citizen passports; or
- ▶ you are a dependant of teachers on exchange schemes; or

- ▶ you are an EU national (or a dependant of EU nationals) and have been ordinarily resident in the EEA (European Economic Area) for the previous three years (for reasons other than full-time study); or
- ▶ you have other Rights of Abode or are accompanying parents who have other Rights of Abode.

If you are an overseas student who does not meet any of the above criteria, you should contact the College for further information.

Field Trips and Courses

Residential field trips are often organised by departments including, for example, Art, Biology, Business Studies, Geology, Geography, Modern Languages and Physical Education. Some of these study visits may be overseas. Expenditure arising on particular courses is outlined in the course information. Students who have difficulty attending because of financial hardship may be supported through the Student Bursary or College funds depending on their individual circumstances.

16–19 Bursary Fund for Financial Hardship

This fund is administered by the Student Finance Officer who deals with all cases in a confidential manner. If you have difficulty meeting costs relating to your studies, e.g., books, equipment, transport, trips and visits, you may apply for financial assistance. This fund may also be used in exceptional cases for providing assistance with living expenses. The fund is means-tested, and you will be required to provide documentary evidence of your financial circumstances in order to qualify.

Students who are 'looked after', care leavers in receipt of income support and disabled young people in receipt of both Employment Support and Disability Living Allowance may qualify for the full Bursary (currently £1,200).

Sports and Performing Arts Academies, Music Scholarships and the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award

A parental contribution for students on these programmes is requested. This is £200pa (£300 for the DoFE) and is paid termly.

Finance & Travel

Students' Cars

Because of a shortage of car parking space, you must not bring a car onto the campus. Drivers of cars parked improperly or without authorisation will receive a parking fine which will be strictly enforced.

Parking is available at Aylestone Park, at the bottom of Aylestone Hill as you enter Hereford from Worcester. Permits are available from the College Reception and these must be displayed when the vehicle is parked.

Students' Property

While all reasonable precautions are taken, the College cannot accept responsibility for the loss of students' property. You are strongly advised to add to your household insurance any valuable items such as bicycles, expensive watches, jewellery and musical instruments.

Please be aware that student lockers by the Sports Hall are available at a small charge.

Travel

Transport passes are available for all students whose resident address is more than three miles from the College. A contribution to transport will be required, which in cases of financial hardship may be supported by the Student Bursary Fund or the Education Maintenance Allowance. The student contribution towards travel is determined by the Local Authority. Please visit the College website for more information.



Students enjoying the A Level Geography residential field trip to the French Alps

Student Well-Being & Support

The College offers a wide range of student support services. These are housed in specialist accommodation, including a Well-Being Centre.

The College takes the well-being of its students very seriously and wants everyone to feel fairly treated and safe at College.

Counselling and Emotional Support

Confidential counselling and emotional support is available for all students at the College. Talking things over with the Counsellor either as a one-off, or over a number of sessions, can help you to find new ways of dealing with problems, without being judged or told what to do. You might want to talk about College, family life, relationships, feelings of worry, stress or anxiety or about anything that is causing difficulty in your life, however big or small.

If you would like to see the Counsellor you can drop in without an appointment during the lunch break, or you can make an appointment by e-mail, by telephone or by asking a tutor.

Chaplaincy

Our ecumenical Chaplain is actively involved in the life of the College in various ways. The Chaplain's principal role is to be freely available to all students of any faith and none, to offer help and advice, support and encouragement. This may be especially helpful at difficult or challenging times when you may have particular problems or concerns you would like to discuss, and these do not need to be limited to spiritual matters only. The Chaplain is accessible for confidential consultations during the College day and also at other times by appointment.

The Chaplain also co-ordinates social activities for staff and students.

Through the Chaplaincy we aim to provide you with space and time for reflection and renewal, and opportunities for worship, fellowship, celebration and social action, as well as grappling with the key issues of the day.

Prayer Room

A classroom is available for prayer, meditation and reflection for students of all faiths. Contact the Chaplain for further information.

The Sanctuary



The Sanctuary is a peaceful space in the Well-Being Centre where students can sit quietly when they need a few minutes of calm during the busy College day.

Student Support Team



The Student Support Team help with general problems and enquiries. They also distribute meal vouchers and deal with lost property. They will assist you if you feel unwell or require first aid.

Student Well-Being Adviser

Our Well-Being Adviser provides confidential information, advice and support on any personal issue including sexual health and healthy relationships, emotional issues, keeping safe, housing, finance, benefits, smoking cessation advice and legal rights. Drop-in sessions run four days a week without the need for an appointment. Health awareness is also promoted throughout the College year with regular poster displays, information and events on a range of topics.

Student Well-Being & Support

Equality & Diversity



We are a diverse community and we are proud of this.

Our aim is to advance equality, tackle discrimination and foster good relations in the wider community and you can talk to your Personal Tutor, your Director of Studies or any member of the Well-Being Centre about any of these issues.

There are a number of protected characteristics under the law. We refer to these as **REGARDS**:

- ▶ **R**ace
- ▶ **E**conomic or social background
- ▶ **G**ender, transgender, pregnancy, parenting, marital status
- ▶ **A**ge
- ▶ **R**eligion or belief
- ▶ **D**isability
- ▶ **S**exual orientation



In May 2014, we achieved the Investors in Diversity Stage 2 Award that recognises our ongoing commitment to the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion in order to create a culture of openness and acceptance. We came 24th out of 600 organisations nationally.

Tolerance is a fundamental shared value. Respecting all members of the community in accordance with the law, ensures our liberty and we can all reach our full potential.

Tutorial Support



On entry to the College you will be allocated to a Personal Tutor who will be responsible for monitoring your academic progress and welfare, providing you with an excellent source of support throughout your time at Hereford Sixth Form College.

The Personal Tutors are managed by three Directors of Studies, who co-ordinate the work of the Personal Tutors and oversee student programmes and personal welfare support.

It is important that you can make informed choices and we give high priority to careers guidance. The Personal Tutors and Directors of Studies work closely with our well resourced Careers Department. Parents who wish to see a Personal Tutor or Director of Studies, or a member of the Careers Department on behalf of their son or daughter, may arrange an interview through the College Office. There are regular Parents' Evenings at which advice on careers and higher education is given.

You will receive comprehensive information outlining College procedures when you start your courses. Further details are also provided for parents at this time. An induction course for new students is run during the first few days of your time in College.

Safeguarding

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its students and staff and expects all members of the College to share this commitment. Hereford Sixth Form College is concerned that all students remain safe and free from harm and the College is committed to playing a full and active part in the multi-agency response to safeguarding concerns. The College has detailed safeguarding policies and procedures which are reviewed annually by the College's Governing Body and can be accessed via the College website or on request from Reception.

Learning Support

The College welcomes applications from students with a learning difficulty, disability or medical condition and disclosing such information does not affect your application.

We would encourage you to indicate on the application form that you have additional support needs. We can then discuss your support requirements with you.

Our dedicated and highly qualified Learning Support team offers services and support for students with specific learning difficulties, disabilities and long term conditions. They will assess students and arrange appropriate examination access arrangements and support to enable students to achieve their individual learning goals. Typical access arrangements can include:

- ▶ extra time
- ▶ word processing
- ▶ a reader/computer reader
- ▶ a scribe
- ▶ coloured paper

Study support will be tailored to meet your individual needs and can include:

- ▶ examination and revision skills
- ▶ prioritising and organising work
- ▶ communicating your needs to subject tutors
- ▶ transition advice to university, work or further education after College

Specialist External Support

We have a range of external contacts. For example, if you have a hearing or visual impairment we can organise specialist help.

Study Skills

Study Skills sessions are offered to all students at College. These sessions aim to support you if you would like to develop good study habits and manage your own learning.

Referrals

Students are encouraged to speak to a tutor if they feel they would like to be referred to Learning Support.

If you would like to discuss your Learning Support needs, please ask to speak to Ann Snee, Head of Learning Support.



Study Support

IT

The College has approximately 800 computers in dedicated computer rooms and also spread throughout the departments in the College. Our three year replacement policy ensures computers in the main access areas are up-to-date. All computers have Windows software and Microsoft Office installed. The College has a broadband connection for internet access which provides outstanding access speed from all networked computers.

You will have your own access account which includes an e-mail facility and the College's VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) which will give you access to subject resources from both College and home. Your College e-mail will also be accessible from home via the internet.



The computers in the Library are available on a drop-in basis and may be used for any College related activities. WiFi is also available to enable use of your own devices.

Various study environments are provided to ensure that you make the best use of your free time. You may choose to work with a friend or in a small group in the Library; on your own in complete silence in the Cloisters or the Silent Study Room or you might prefer the calming atmosphere of the quiet Reading Room.

Additional facilities include black and white and colour printers, scanners and copiers, laminating and binding facilities and the Library shop, which stocks a wide range of stationery and equipment at very competitive prices.

All students automatically become members of the Library at enrolment and an introduction to the facilities and resources will form part of your induction programme during the first few weeks at College.

Library

The Library is a busy, vibrant resource centre at the heart of the College. It is staffed by a team of experienced and approachable librarians who are always on hand to help you find the information you need.

During term time it is open from 8.15am - 5.00pm, Monday - Friday and offers a wide range of information to help with your assignments. Resources include books, DVDs, music CDs, journals, magazines and newspapers, most of which may be borrowed using your College ID card.

The Library subscribes to a number of online resources which are available via the College's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). These include general reference resources, various newspaper and magazine archives, JSTOR (a database of academic journals) and a broad selection of subject specific resources.

"One of the assets of the College that stands out to me is the attitude to learning. I often lack motivation to work and study, but in the Library I am surrounded by friends and workmates deep in study. One can only encourage and be encouraged. Thank you so much for this incredible place."

Careers

The Careers Department's main purpose is to help you with the challenging choices you may face concerning higher education and employment. Well trained and enthusiastic Careers tutors ensure that up-to-date information, advice and guidance is readily available when needed.

Careers Education covers issues relevant to all students, including university, gap years and the expanding range of higher level apprenticeships which can lead to degree level qualifications.

The Careers Programme is supplemented by a range of other services such as:

- ▶ visiting speakers from universities, industry, the forces and gap year organisations.
- ▶ trips to university open days.
- ▶ a **Meet Your Future** convention with representatives from local and national apprenticeship providers and employers.



- ▶ mock interviews for university and job applicants.
- ▶ a regularly updated Careers Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).
- ▶ a *Futures Programme* of talks, seminars and visits on a range of options.
- ▶ a post results support service in the summer for all GCSE, AS and A Level students.

In addition, there are separate programmes of support for students applying to Oxford or Cambridge and also medicine, veterinary medicine and other competitive degrees including primary teaching, nursing and midwifery and other paramedical careers (physiotherapy, occupational therapy and radiography).



Students undertaking training as volunteers for the Lean on Me project, supporting Hereford's Street Pastors

Work experience and voluntary work are increasingly important, particularly for students applying for jobs and apprenticeships or vocational degrees such as medicine, nursing or teaching. The Careers Department supports you in arranging placements.

Careers Guidance is concerned with an individual's choices. These are explored initially through a one-to-one interview which allows you the opportunity to look at ideas and discuss action planning and goal setting. The Careers Department Administrative Assistant is on hand to help with booking appointments. For those interested in jobs and apprenticeships, the specialist Careers and Work Related Learning Adviser organises workshops and seminars and has long-standing links with local employers and training providers who are keen to recruit young people.

We have a Careers Reference Library which you are encouraged to use in your own time as well as during the lessons. We have close links with the main College Library which also issues a wealth of careers related material.

Last but not least, the Careers Department recognises the key role parents play in helping you consider the choices you are facing. With this in mind, evening meetings are held each year to keep parents fully informed. In addition, parents are very welcome to contact the Careers Department at any time if they would like any further information.

Extension Programmes

Although the College is a comprehensive institution, it sets extremely high standards for all of its students and this is reflected in its outstanding value added results.

The extension programmes provided by the College ensure the most able students achieve outstanding results and maximise their chances of progressing to the most competitive entry courses.

- ▶ Annually, over 100 students gain 3 or more A* or A grades at A Level.
- ▶ Each year over 50 students gain 4 or more grade As.
- ▶ The success rate for applications to Oxford or Cambridge is double the national average.
- ▶ Over a third of students applying to HE gain places at Russell Group universities, significantly above national averages.
- ▶ Our top 100 students gained 95.3% A*/A/B grades, 79.2% A*/A grades and 38% A* grades per A Level entry - significantly better than independent schools.

- ▶ extended projects mentored by subject specialists to develop independent research skills.
- ▶ preparation for universities' own subject specific or aptitude tests (an increasingly common requirement) including the *STEP* programme for Mathematicians.
- ▶ privileged access to universities "widening participation" initiatives, available only to the maintained sector, including residential summer schools and study days.
- ▶ using our close working relationship with Oxbridge colleges, schools liaison officers and admissions tutors.
- ▶ specialist careers conventions with visiting professionals, drawing increasingly from our body of successful alumni.
- ▶ intensive interview preparation and presentation skills training.

Oxbridge



Successful Oxbridge applicants 2016

Hereford Sixth Form College encourages and supports academically gifted students to realise their potential to win places at the highest ranked and most competitive universities.

If you are considering applying to the universities of Oxford or Cambridge or for other competitive courses (including medicine, dentistry and veterinary science) we provide a programme of dedicated advice and support which includes:

- ▶ focused subject enhancement - to demonstrate your potential for academic excellence in and passion for your chosen subject.

Participants in the programme who do not go on to Oxbridge nevertheless gain valuable experience and most win places at Russell Group universities. The programme also supports you if you are considering applying to universities in the USA, Ireland or Continental Europe.

HE+



Former student, Katie Harman, reading History at Worcester College, Oxford, returned to deliver a masterclass to HE+ Historians

Hereford Sixth Form College is also the lead college in Herefordshire for the HE+ programme run by Cambridge University in partnership with a group of maintained sector sixth forms; this provides further extension lessons, masterclasses and specialist advice on competitive entry university applications.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Examination Board: AQA



The EPQ is a stand alone qualification equivalent to half an A Level. It aims to give you an opportunity to:

- ▶ demonstrate independent research skills.
- ▶ create a piece of extended writing or complete an artefact, for example, art /invention/ music.
- ▶ choose a topic you are excited or passionate about.

The College has previously seen a high percentage of A* grades and an EPQ is highly recommended for a university/job interview as it demonstrates the ability to write and reference academically and that you have a passion for your subject area.

What do I have to do?

Either: 5000 word research essay plus production log (filled in at every step in

the process to show your journey) and 10 minute presentation with questions.

Or: Artefact (eg: artwork, dance, model etc) plus 1000 word research essay plus production log (filled in at every step in the process to show your journey) and 10 minute presentation with questions.

How much is it worth?

The EPQ is worth up to 28 UCAS points for an A*.

Can I really do a project on anything?

Yes. We have had projects on dairy farming, guitars and furniture restoration. A good project requires passion and doing it on something you are interested in is really important. The skills you learn (research, time management, planning, etc) are transferable and useful at university and in employment.

Your project must have a research element, however. You must be able to show your learning curve and make sure your project is analytical.

Even with an artefact (thing you create) you will need to write 1000 words on your research.

Who is my supervisor?

You will be assigned a supervisor when you start EPQ. They do not have to be an expert on the subject and they will support you through the process.

How long does it take to do a project?

Longer than you think. In total, 120 hours are allotted: 30 'taught' hours and 90 self-guided hours.

What are the submission dates?

In November and May – but you can complete a project at any time, it just won't be submitted until either of these dates.

Will it help my university application?

Universities and employers welcome the Extended Project because it mirrors the independent style of learning required for success at degree level and in the workplace. It could also tip the scales to get you into your chosen university on results day.

Why else would I want to do one?

Students have spoken about how rewarding it is and how much they have learned. If you are planning to do something anyway (direct a play, work on a project in the developing world, for example) this is a way to learn more about what you are doing whilst gaining UCAS points.

Hay Levels



Hay Festival Director, Peter Florence, and Jonathan Godfrey, Principal of Hereford Sixth Form College launched the Hay-Level Project at Hay Festival in May 2014.

Hay-Levels are short 5-15 minute films by some of the world's greatest academics which aim to inspire, encourage and support current A Level students.

Designed as a collaboration with Hereford Sixth Form College, the original inspiration for the project came from a ride from Hereford to Hay when Marcus du Sautoy, Professor of Mathematics and the Public Understanding of Science, was given a lift to the Festival by Jonathan Godfrey and a group of students. The journey became a tutorial on maths for the lucky students and Peter Florence determined to make the experience available to as many students as possible in a wide range of A Level subjects.



Grouped into Humanities, Social Science and Science, it is possible to search under subject headings for free advice from world experts. The films were recently described by Cambridge University as "a fantastic resource involving Hereford Sixth Form College."

Following on from the huge success of the Hay-Levels project, in 2016, Peter Florence, assembled stellar teams of experts to take part in seminars with Hereford Sixth Form College students which were streamed live from Hay.

The five 50 minute seminars covered Physics, Maths, Tudor History, Genetics and Shakespeare.

Over 60 students from the College took part. The experts included Ben Miller, Quantum Physicist, Actor and Comedian; Monica Grady, Professor of Planetary & Space Science at the Open University; Marcus du Sautoy, Professor of Maths and the Public Understanding of Science at the University of Oxford; James Shapiro, Professor of English at Columbia University; John Mullan, Professor of English at University College London; Steve Jones, Professor of Genetics at University College London and John Guy, Professor of History at the University of Cambridge.



Ben Miller said, "I was extremely impressed by the questions the Sixth Form College students came up with. It was a really enjoyable session."



John Mullan added, "I wish I had been as confident and articulate as these students when I was in the sixth form. It was good to engage in a dialogue with Shakespeare scholars of the future."

Jonathan Godfrey, Principal, said, "It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to be involved in seminars with such distinguished academics who freely gave their time to this collaborative project. We are extremely grateful to Peter Florence for his enthusiasm and ongoing support for the College."

Drama

Drama is a central part of student life at Hereford Sixth Form College, with at least 250 students involved in some form of Performing Arts across the College. All students have the opportunity to get involved in a constant programme of Drama and Musical Theatre performances. Whether it is acting, directing, singing, dancing, lighting, sound, set design or costume and make-up, there are opportunities for everyone.



Hereford Sixth Form College has its own highly acclaimed theatre company, *Upstage Productions*, which is run by a committee of students taking responsibility for the planning and running of all College Drama and Musical Theatre events. The committee is open for all students to join and membership is an excellent addition to your CV. *Upstage* is constantly looking to train new stage managers, publicity teams, finance officers, ticket and poster designers, front of house teams, costume and make-up teams and technical crew.



There are a large number of productions each year. During the Autumn Term the College musical or one of Shakespeare's plays will take place with a cast, orchestra and crew of approximately 100 students. *Upstage* produce smaller scale productions during other terms and there are constant showcase evenings of Drama, Dance and Musical Theatre work created by students.

For those interested in the technical side of theatre, there is the opportunity to join the Upstage Tech Crew, which will provide training on our professional standard intelligent lighting, sound equipment, ladder and tower training. Many Tech students have gone on to technical theatre degrees at the most prestigious drama schools. Those students involved in recent productions have also enjoyed free workshops in stage combat training, choreography, dance and voice coaching from RSC specialists.



Recent College productions have included, in College and in venues locally, *Macbeth*, *Our Town*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Romeo and Juliet* (in Hereford Cathedral), *Sweet Charity*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Cabaret*, *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, *The American Musicals Showcase*, *Under Milk Wood*, *Cider with Rosie*, *The Trial* and *Teechers*. Student directors working with Upstage have recently produced *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Man Who*. Auditions for all of these productions, musicals and plays are open to all students, regardless of experience. It is the aim of Drama and Performing Arts at Hereford Sixth Form College to get as many students involved in as wide a range of productions and events as possible. Come along and give it a go.

Drama

The Performing Arts Academy and National Youth Theatre Auditions

The Performing Arts Academy (PAA) is an opportunity for students who are starting to think more seriously about Drama and Musical Theatre skills and may be considering the Performing Arts as a potential career choice.

The Academy is through audition only and those who gain a place are allocated extra lessons to work with our professional Drama and Musical Theatre coaches to receive specialist Drama, Dance and Singing training.

You do not have to be a Drama & Theatre Studies student in order to audition for the Performing Arts Academy. All PAA students will be entered for Trinity Guildhall Grade examinations and second year students can attempt the ATCL Diploma. PAA students will also be offered training for auditions for drama schools and upcoming productions. Students also receive workshops from outside specialists in voice coaching specific to drama examinations and drama school auditions.

The Performing Arts Academy offers all of its members a formal training process for National Youth Theatre (NYT) auditions and more students audition from Hereford Sixth Form College for the National Youth Theatre than any other school or college. Hereford Sixth Form College has a significantly higher success rate for NYT auditions than any other school or college and this reflects that



Performing Arts students Fred Thomas, Nia Gandhi and Lily Stubley-Adje who successfully auditioned for the NYT in 2016

dedication of PAA students and the quality of the training they receive. PAA students also have consistent success in gaining places at drama schools. There is a fee for the PAA and bursaries are available for those in financial difficulty.

If you are interested in finding out more about the PAA, *Upstage Productions* or extra-curricular Drama and Musical Theatre, please contact the Drama & Theatre Studies Department directly or find us on Facebook or Twitter.



The cast and crew of Shakespeare's Macbeth

Music

Concert performances are a significant part of College life. Not only do we produce a range of in-house recitals and concerts, but we frequently perform in some of the best venues locally and abroad. There are regular international tours and we aim to provide a challenging and inspiring approach to performance training while giving opportunities to students of all abilities and experience.



We have links with professional musicians, both local and international, and provide connections between students, universities and industries throughout the year. There is a programme of trips to professional concert halls and you have the opportunity to see the work of some of the best musicians and ensembles. We provide substantial support to students aiming to apply to music colleges and universities.

You are encouraged to develop your own ensembles and we have a programme of training for student-led recitals that allows you to take leadership roles under the guidance of professional musicians. We strive to empower all students to develop to the best of their ability and constantly provide challenges that ensure that all students continue to develop throughout their time at College.

The College believes in an educational environment that encourages you to understand your own potential and to commit to the challenges of advanced performance. Through our programme of clubs and ensembles there are opportunities for all students in College (whether or not you are studying Music) to be creative, challenged and inspired, regardless of your previous experiences.

For a full list of music clubs and ensembles, please refer to the College website (www.hereford.ac.uk).

Music Scholarships

Music scholarships are awarded to students who pass an audition and who are prepared to commit to a programme of advanced specialist training. Any student can apply for these scholarships, whether or not you are studying Music. If you would like further information about applying for any of these awards, please contact the College for a scholarship application pack. Further details can be found on the College website.

Music Theory Classes



Music Theory classes are open to all students who would like to develop music reading and writing skills in a supportive environment. Activities are manageable and students work at their own pace. These classes are recommended for students studying Music but they are open to all College students. You are submitted for graded exams with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and gain UCAS points for the higher grades.

Academia Musica Music Scholarship Programmes

The Music scholarships are professional training programmes for students who aspire to be the best possible musicians. You can apply for a scholarship programme, whether or not you are planning to study Music as an A Level. Successful scholars frequently progress to university choral and instrumental scholarships.

Music

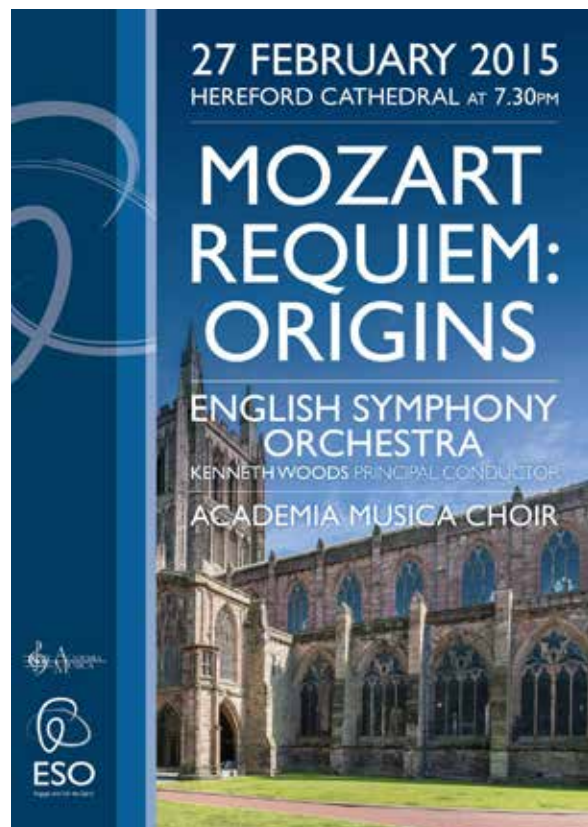
Academia Musica Choir

The Academia Musica Choir is a semi-professional ensemble that has attracted significant attention from the industry owing to the standards it has achieved and the innovative training model it has adopted. The Choir is proud of its connection with Priory Records. It has also broadcast with the BBC and has worked with professional ensembles such as the English Symphony Orchestra and representatives from conservatoires and Oxford and Cambridge universities. The Choir performs a substantial repertoire of challenging music every week in British cathedrals, as well as productions of large scale works and debut performances of contemporary compositions. The ensemble is comprised of Professional Musicians in Residence and Choral Scholars in training who study advanced choral techniques at the College. The Choir has a substantial calendar of engagements both in the UK and abroad. Bookings have included national venues such as St John's Smith Square, London, as well as a number of international venues.



Academia Musica Orchestra

The Academia Musica Orchestra is the resident orchestral ensemble at the College and combines outstanding professional musicians with scholarship students to create an exciting and vibrant sound. They have worked with representatives from top universities and conservatoires and regularly perform with musicians from the industry. Instrumental Scholars perform challenging works throughout the West Midlands. Previous performances have included: Mozart and Beethoven symphonies; 19th Century overtures; numerous concertos including the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto and the Grieg Piano Concerto and new commissions. The Orchestra has performed with the English Symphony Orchestra and scholars have the opportunity to visit numerous professional concert halls to gain access to national orchestras. The Instrumental Scholars also manage their own weekly recital series and develop skills in arts management.



Academic Scholars - Associates of Music (Trinity College London)

The Academic Music Scholars receive extra lessons each week in advanced musicology and are submitted for Grade 6, 7, and 8 in Music Theory, and the Trinity College Musicology Diploma (AMusTCL). This course is equivalent to the written component of a first year university degree and is designed for the most able academic musicians. Academic Scholars receive specialist tuition in Harmony and Counterpoint, Orchestration, Analysis and Music History. Successful Academic Scholars frequently compete for places at Oxford and Cambridge and specialist conservatoires.

Sport

allActive



We encourage all students to lead a healthy lifestyle and take part in sport, whatever your ability or interest. *allActive* is a new sport initiative encompassing extra curricular sport, intra and inter College competition, leadership and sport volunteering opportunities.

A programme of sports including badminton, fencing, five-a-side football, tennis, table tennis, trampolining and dance, takes place during lunchtimes and after College, with sports changing every half term. Don't be deterred if there is nothing of immediate interest; we want you to let us know what activities you would like to see running.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/allActiveHSFC

Twitter: [@HSFC_allActive](https://twitter.com/HSFC_allActive)

Sports Academies

On Wednesday afternoons, you can also take part in a range of competitive team games. Team trials (with first, second and even third teams) are open to all students and we provide a full fixture list. We also actively encourage you to attend representative trials; many of our students gain county caps and perform well at national level.

Our sports centre is open to all students and provides excellent facilities, including a purpose built and a fully staffed fitness centre (Sixth Sense).

Hereford Sixth Form College is extremely proud of its academies which represent the College throughout the country. All five academies compete in the Association of Colleges Sport Leagues with regular fixtures, tournaments and training dates. There is a fee for membership of the academies (to assist with provision of kit, transport, insurance, etc.). For further details, please refer to the College's Sport Facebook pages.

Basketball Academy



The Basketball Academy has been highly successful since its start in 2010/11. The squad won the BCS Men's League for the West Midlands in their first season. In 2015 they were Regional Cup Finalists and in 2016 they were semi-finalists.

The Academy welcomes both male and female players, providing all members with quality coaching from experienced basketball players.

The Academy trains twice a week and competes within the AoC Sport West Midlands competition every Wednesday afternoon. The first team also enter the AoC Sport National Cup.

The Academy has direct links with the West Midland Regional Programme as well as premier and conference national league clubs.

Members of the Academy receive free membership of Sixth Sense in addition to a range of coaching and officiating opportunities.

Player progression is closely monitored and students have the opportunity to attend basketball camps - recent tours have taken them to Malta and Italy.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HSFCBasketballAcademy



Sport

Football Academy

Since its grand unveiling by Sir Trevor Brooking, the Football Academy has worked to aid player development with individual skills and tactical awareness of the game. The Academy caters for two successful male squads and one very successful female squad, with an intake each year in excess of 65 students.

The Academy brings with it not only personal development but also a high level of competition and opportunities. The Academy has many club links in and around the local community, especially with Westfields FC, which is home to our games.

The first team enter the ECFA National Cup and the AoC National Cup. In 2015 the men's team went to Lake Garda, Italy, where they were unbeaten.

Player development is a key component in the Academy ethos. The teams compete in the AoC Category 2 League for the West Midlands featuring opposition such as Cirencester, Hartpury, Kidderminster and Worcester. The women's team play in Category 3, in which they won the league in 2016.

Recently, the Academy has enjoyed individual success with many players, both male and female, being offered scholarships with American universities.

The Academy assists students in progressing into Higher Education football or playing with local clubs who compete in the West Midlands league structure.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HSFCFootballAcademy

Hockey Academy

The women's squad has represented the West Midlands at the AoC National Finals twice in the past three years, finishing third in 2015.

We also play a number of local schools and have represented Herefordshire at the West of England competition for the last three years.

Students are expected to commit fully to the coaching sessions and to be able to play in competitive games on Wednesday afternoons.

Boys play in the AoC Sport Midlands Boys League and in the AoC Cup and the girls play in the AoC Cup, Regional Tournament and regular fixtures with teams from the West Midlands.

Mixed teams play in the AoC Sport Midlands Mixed League and Cup as well as a number of independent tournaments.

All Academy players are given free membership of Sixth Sense and have weekly academy fitness sessions. Player performance is closely monitored.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HSFCHockeyAcademy



Sport



Netball Academy

The Netball Academy is designed to give players the opportunity to develop their netball skills whilst also undertaking an academic programme.

You have two practical sessions a week plus an Academy fitness session. All Academy players are given free membership of Sixth Sense.

College fixtures take place on Wednesday afternoons. Player performance is closely monitored and you are required to commit fully to the coaching sessions.

We have two teams competing in the AoC Sport Leagues, with the first team in the Elite Superleague and the other in a local Herefordshire and Worcestershire League. We also have another 2-3 teams who play in regular fixtures in a Herefordshire U18 League. The first team also enter into the AoC Sport National Cup competition.

In the closed season you have the opportunity to gain England Netball coaching and officiating qualifications which are part-funded by the Academy.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HSFCNetballAcademy

Rugby Academy

The Rugby Academy is a partnership between the College, Luctonians RFC and Hereford RFC and is designed to give you access to high level coaching and competition with a view to developing your individual rugby talents. The Academy has grown significantly since 2000 and regularly enrolls in excess of 50 players. The playing standard has improved dramatically and the team competes well with nationally recognised establishments and has made good progress in national competitions. Individual players have progressed into the Herefordshire, North Midlands, Midlands and Premier Academy squads.

The season is structured to provide competitive opportunities but also ample opportunity for individual player development. Players are involved in two coaching sessions per week and are expected to commit fully to the Wednesday afternoon fixture programme. In addition, players receive free membership of Sixth Sense and are expected to attend an Academy fitness session on a Friday. Players also have access to a 3G pitch on site.

The Academy has won the AoC Sport West Midlands Performance League for the last three consecutive years and the squad often go on tour to South Africa. The main goal of the Academy is to provide a rugby education which creates a platform for players to progress into the adult game and enjoy rugby outside an educational setting.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HSFCRugbyAcademy

Twitter: [@HSFCRugby](https://twitter.com/HSFCRugby)



Sport



The continued growth and success of Physical Education and Sport at Hereford Sixth Form College has resulted in a significant increase in the number of elite performers starting courses at the College. In order to try and support the differing needs of these athletes we have developed an Elite Athlete Support Programme.

The programme is designed to try and help these athletes achieve their full sporting potential whilst also ensuring that chances of academic success are maximised. Athletes will need to apply to access elements of the programme detailed below.

Fitness Scheduling

Athletes will receive free full membership of Sixth Sense. There will be opportunities for coaches to discuss specific training requirements with Sixth Sense and programmes can be individually designed and implemented with full support from Sixth Sense staff.

Online Resources

Where athletes are required to have extended time away from College to train or compete, online resources will be made available to help support academic courses.

Support Workshops

Athletes who miss some element of their academic programme as a result of their sporting commitments will have opportunities to revisit work through a range of additional academic workshops.

Individualised Timetables

Where possible, athletes will be able to customise timetables to ensure that the impact of regular commitments is minimised. Individual requirements will be taken into account when planning courses and it may be possible to streamline some elements of a programme.

Physiotherapy/Sports Therapy

If an athlete is injured and requires access to specialist rehabilitation there is provision for this to be accessed and provided locally through partner service providers. This means athletes can manage their rehabilitation with less impact on their academic studies.

Financial Support

Where athletes are representing the College there will be some financial assistance to help cover associated costs.

Kit Package

Athletes will be provided with a kit package through O'Neills Sport.

Mentoring

All athletes will have access to a mentor based within the Physical Education Department who will be available to provide one-to-one athlete support. This support is aimed at helping athletes cope with any pressures which develop throughout their time at the College.

Communication

Athletes and parents will have a dedicated contact at the College who will provide an easy communication route. There will be a dedicated Facebook page where elite athletes can help support each other and where important information can be posted both during and outside of the College day.

Profiling

The College will aim to raise the profile of athletes on the programme by ensuring local press coverage and by developing a dedicated area on the College website to elite performance.

Athletes who wish to apply for the programme or who would like to discuss it further are asked to contact Andy Douthwaite on 01432 346906 or e-mail ad@hereford.ac.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HSFC-Elite-Athlete-Support-Programme

Enrichment Activities

Conservation Expeditions/Dive Trips



In conjunction with Operation Wallacea, students from the College have participated in successful expeditions to Honduras, Cuba, South Africa, Mexico and Dominica. During all of these expeditions, students have been involved in the monitoring of biodiversity of a variety of terrestrial and marine habitats. In order to carry out the marine surveys the students are given SCUBA dive training and are awarded with an internationally recognised diving qualification.

The expeditions last approximately two weeks. They are open to all students as all relevant training, including dive training, is provided; what is required is enthusiasm and a good level of physical fitness.

In addition to the expeditions we also organise a trip to Sharm El Sheikh on the Red Sea. This trip allows students who are new to diving to gain their first qualification and, for those who are already qualified, to gain further qualifications.

"I can't really think of any words to really describe this expedition, but it has most definitely been the best two and a half weeks of my life!"

Expedition Student

The Debating Society



Guest speaker, Natalie Bennett, then Leader of the Green Party

Now in its eleventh year, this is one of the largest and most popular groups in College with up to 380 students in attendance. It acts as a cross College forum for students and external speakers to discuss and debate a wide range of contemporary academic, political, social, ethical and moral issues.

There are two types of event. The first being student debates where a panel of students deliver arguments to the audience. This "Question Time" format offers something for everyone; those who wish to be speakers, those who wish to question the panel and those who wish to simply listen. Previous topics have included: Should the UK leave the EU?; Should Britain still have a Monarchy?; Is feminism still relevant in today's Britain?; Has there been a dumbing down of education?; to name but a few.

The second type of event involves a guest speaker. The College has hosted high profile, prestigious speakers including Sir Stephen Wall, ex Ambassador to the EU, Laura Bates, Blogger and Author of *Everyday Sexism* and John Dobai, Holocaust survivor.

Participation has notable personal and career benefits for students. It develops confidence, public speaking ability, analytical thinking and knowledge of current affairs. It is particularly advantageous for those intending to progress to higher education and for those wishing to follow careers in the armed forces, journalism, media, management, law and teaching.

Members of the Debating Society have taken part in events at the prestigious Hay Festival and used their experience to build their careers, for example representing Cambridge University's debating team and several candidates standing for election at local and national levels.

Enrichment Activities

Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)



At a time when entry to universities and the workplace is becoming more and more competitive, you will need more than just good grades to achieve your ambitions. Employers and admissions tutors are looking for qualified people with extra qualities - the non-academic achievements that show you have a positive attitude, are self-motivated and adaptable and have skills in problem solving, teamwork and communication. A Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a great way of demonstrating that you have all these extra skills.

But the DofE is more than just a qualification. Everyone gets different things out of their Award because you get to choose the activities you follow in most of the sections and you set the goals you want to reach. In following the DofE programme you will challenge yourself, enjoy loads of new experiences and discover talents you never thought you had. Anyone can take part - you do not need any experience or special qualifications, just a willingness to have a go.

There are no shortcuts to gaining a Gold Award and you will have to show a great deal of personal commitment and tenacity to achieve it. You will be helped and guided throughout, but you will have to plan and carry out much of the work yourself before you can be invited to St James' Palace to receive your Award from a member of the royal family. For more information about the DofE and the requirements of the Gold Award, visit www.dofe.org.

For many, the expedition is the highlight of their DofE experience. You will have prepared for this throughout the year by attending classroom sessions and training walks before you set off as part of a team on a four day unaccompanied walk. Despite being a very demanding and, at times, possibly painful experience, the pride and satisfaction of completing the expedition and the Gold Award is something you will remember for life.

Student Representative Council



The Student Representative Council (SRC) allows you to become involved in the planning and co-ordination of all aspects of student affairs including student welfare, amenities and social activities.

Recently the SRC has engaged in securing improvements to the catering provision and working with College staff in both curriculum and campus developments. We have engaged in major fundraising for local and national charities and organised social events for students.

You will present the views of the students to the Principal and deal with requests from students on a wide variety of issues. You will also liaise with other student councils and with the National Union of Students regarding a variety of issues relating to the development of young people.

The SRC allows you to develop the skills of leadership, teamwork, responsibility and service to others. All students are able to purchase an NUS EXTRA card online, which affords a wide range of discounts on a variety of products and services.

Enrichment Activities

The Student Voice and Media & Journalism Course



Sally Watson, Planning Editor, BBC Breakfast

The *Student Voice* is the College student newspaper. The *Student Voice* team meets regularly and plans, designs and writes the entire publication. There are student editors and a team of students who write a wide range of articles. There are regular features (for instance, book and music reviews) alongside pieces on issues of current interest. Many of the team members go on to study journalism in higher education and the experience of working on The *Student Voice* provides excellent portfolio evidence.

The Media & Journalism course is a practical programme intended to give students a taste for the “real world” cutting edge of modern print, radio and TV journalism. It is based around a programme of external speakers who are experts in their respective fields in national, regional and local media. Past guests have included Kevin Backhurst, Controller of the BBC News channel, Dave Howard, BBC Journalist and Producer, Nicola Goodwin, BBC Hereford & Worcester, Adam Cuminsky, Senior Producer of the Radio 4 Today Programme and Sally Watson, Planning Editor, BBC Breakfast. With this guidance, students will produce a portfolio of written work which will be published through the *Student Voice*. This gives an opportunity to build a clear track record of progress vital for future careers in a competitive, fast moving profession.

Young Enterprise



The company, Foreground - a collaboration with North Shropshire College's Engineering students - at their trade stand

The Young Enterprise programme is delivered across an academic year. It involves students forming a real business and making all the decisions about their company. From raising the initial share capital through to designing a product or service to selling directly to customers and ultimately winding up the company and paying their taxes.

All this takes place with the support of a business adviser who brings a wealth of business knowledge and expertise to the team. Students can also choose to set up their business as a social enterprise which focuses on addressing a social need rather than maximising profit.

Whilst you do not directly obtain a qualification or UCAS points from participating in the programme, it is possible to use the experience as part of an Extended Project Qualification. Participation in Young Enterprise is also highly valued by employers and higher education providers.

Education for Life (E4L) Programme

Alongside your academic courses you will also follow the *Education for Life* programme which is timetabled for one hour a week and is a compulsory part of your timetable.

In the first year this programme will cover topics designed to promote your personal well-being including:

- ▶ Equality & Diversity
- ▶ Internet Safety
- ▶ Safe Relationships
- ▶ Sexual Health
- ▶ Mental Health
- ▶ Drugs and Alcohol Awareness
- ▶ Healthy Living
- ▶ Careers Education

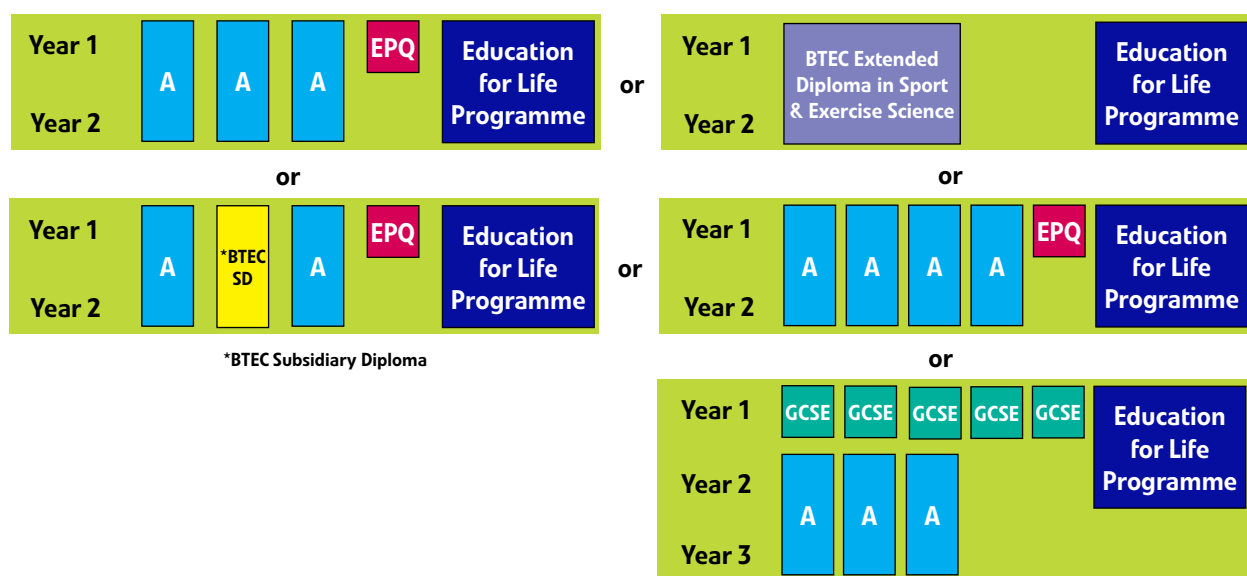
In your second year you will have the opportunity to gain an A Level General Studies qualification, which in addition to its inherent educational value can also boost your UCAS points for entry to higher education.

There will also be careers sessions to provide guidance and support with UCAS forms, job and apprenticeships applications and gap year plans.



Your Programme of Study

Typical Student Programmes



Students generally study 3 or 4 A Levels or BTECs over a two year programme. A resit GCSE programme is also offered to improve grades or for those needing English or Mathematics.

In general, a student studying at A Level or a BTEC programme will be expected to have achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C including English Language.

Our List of Courses

The course pages give a profile of the courses we expect to offer in 2017 with an indication of the course requirements we generally expect for success. Courses also rely on a minimum number of recruits in order to run. Please check the website for the most up-to-date information.

Intermediate Courses : GCSEs

You may wish to improve on your GCSE performance. If you do not have GCSE English or Mathematics you will need to resit alongside an A Level programme. Others will want to take four or five GCSEs in a one year programme which can lead onto an A Level or BTEC course the following year.

Education for Life Programme

The Education for Life Programme comprises topics to promote your personal well-being, careers education and A Level General Studies (details on page 27).

Enrichment Activities

The College has a reputation for its excellent enrichment activities available to all students. You will be encouraged to participate in a variety of these, for example: the Debating Society, Drama, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Music, Sports and Young Enterprise. GCSEs in Latin and Russian are also available to extend those with an interest in culture and languages. Please see pages 24-26 for examples of some of the College's enrichment activities.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The EPQ is recognised as half an A Level. Students explore and research in detail an area of interest, produce a thesis and deliver a presentation on their chosen subject (see page 14).



Level 3 Courses



The specification for this course is due to change in September 2017.
Please check the College website for the most up to date information.

A Level Archaeology

Examination Board: AQA



What does the course involve?

If you are interested in how people lived in the past and the monuments they left behind, then Archaeology may be the subject for you. The course covers the study of people from earliest times up to the present and includes methods of excavation and fieldwork, and the study of artefacts and other remains from past cultures including Ancient Egypt, Classical Greece and Roman Britain.

The units are:

AS Unit 1:

Archaeology of Religion and Ritual (Ancient Egypt)

A fascinating introduction to the study of religion and ritual in Archaeology with special focus on Ancient Egypt. You will learn about their gods, temples, rituals and the practices involved in daily worship as well as those relating to death, burial and tombs.

AS Unit 2:

Archaeological Skills and Methods

A detailed study of the practice of Archaeology including how sites are discovered, excavated and recorded. You will learn about methods of post-excavation analysis of organic, metal, ceramic and stone artefacts as well as human and animal remains. This unit also includes a study of how sites are dated and understood by archaeologists.

A2 Unit 3:

World Archaeology

A comprehensive look at various themes in Archaeology including how societies were organised in the past, understanding economic strategies including foraging, farming, trading and storage and the development of material cultures and technologies. These themes are studied with reference to past world cultures including Stone Age Europe, Bronze Age cultures in the Aegean and Classical Greece and Rome.

A2 Unit 4:

Archaeological Investigation

Your chance to conduct your own original research and surface survey of a local archaeological site, monument or structure that interests you. You will write a 4,000 word report on your fieldwork.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

No previous knowledge of Archaeology is required, but you should be interested in finding out about the past. The course appeals to students interested in the arts, sciences and humanities.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

There are field visits to important local and national sites, excavations and museums including taught sessions at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

Second Year students will visit and survey local sites as part of their Archaeological Investigation.

Work experience placements can also be arranged for those who wish to take part in local excavations or museum work.

What can I do after the course?

Archaeology students have gone on to study a wide range of subjects in higher education and some have chosen to specialise in Archaeology. Archaeology related careers include field archaeology, museum work and roles within heritage agencies such as Historic England / CADW.

The course also offers a range of transferable skills which would be useful for many professions, including teamwork, communication and evaluation of evidence to judge theories and reach logical conclusions.

A Level Art & Design (Fine Art)

Examination Board: OCR

What does the course involve?

We offer at A Level a specialist course in Fine Art completed over two years.

The course involves drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, photography and studying the work of artists from different times and cultures.

During the first year the emphasis is upon developing practical skills through a tutor led series of projects. This is in preparation for the individual specialist projects in the second year.

In Year Two you will undertake an assessed coursework project that involves producing **both** a portfolio of practical work and a written related study. These two parts count for 60% of the total A Level mark.

The remaining 40% of the marks are from the Externally Set Task (examination). Preparation for this is started in January and leads to a 15 hour examination.

At the start of the course you will be required to purchase a Department kit of materials, though the Department will provide you with most of what you need to produce your own work. Support materials are provided.

Students are also expected to have, or have access to, a digital camera, iPod, iPhone or similar, capable of being used with downloadable Apps. A list of recommended applications can be found on the College VLE.

You can get a good idea of the range and scope of the Art course by visiting one of the College Open Events or the Summer Exhibition of A Level work. You may also call in at other times and ask to see students work.

Art may be studied alongside any other subject including Photography, which may suit you if you know you would like to follow a specialist career in Art & Design or Photography. This option does involve a large amount of coursework.



Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

Though no previous art qualification is required, a keen interest in the subject is essential. You will need at least a grade 4 or C in GCSE English.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

The Department offers occasional and optional visits to both local and national galleries for all students and a five day study visit abroad for second year students, which takes place in June or July.

What can I do after the course?

Many of our students progress to art foundation courses at various art colleges/universities and then on to a wide range of specialist art degree courses. Hereford College of Arts offers a bursary to students who successfully apply to their degree level courses.

A Level Art & Design (Photography)

Examination Board: OCR



What does the course involve?

Photography is an Art & Design course, although the focus is on lens based work and the endorsement will be in Photography. The emphasis of the practical work is to employ creative approaches which could also include work in other Art disciplines. First year work focuses upon skills and research, whilst in the second year the emphasis is upon individual ideas and interests. In addition to the practical element the course requires the research and critical evaluation, in written form, of the work of photographers and other artists. These creative investigations allow a greater understanding of the role of Photography within society and the importance of the photograph as a cultural artefact.

This is a predominantly coursework subject consisting of:

Year One: *Portfolio*

This will comprise work recording and presenting your practical work and your research into different photographers / artists. The Portfolio will be used as a means of skills building in preparation

for Year Two.

Year Two: *Personal Investigation*

For this unit, you choose the theme or topic that you wish to follow, building upon the previous year's work. In this unit you are required to create more mature resolved work and write a personal study of at least 1,000 words. In this you may focus on the work of individual artists reflecting on the social, cultural and historical role of their work and how this has influenced your own practical project.

Year Two: *Controlled Assignment (15 hours)*

The Controlled Assignment is done over a period of at least six weeks and ends with a fully resolved final piece which you are given 15 hours to complete. This unit allows you to build upon the work done in your Personal Investigation.

At the start of the course you will be required to purchase a Department kit of materials, though the Department will provide you with most of what you need to produce your own work. Support materials are provided. Students are

also expected to have or have access to a digital camera, iPod, iPhone or similar, capable of being used with downloadable Apps.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

Though no previous photography qualification is required, a keen interest in the subject and in Art in general is essential. You will also need at least a grade 4 or C in GCSE English.

You can get a good idea of the range and scope of the Photography course by visiting one of the College Open Events or the Summer Exhibition of A Level work. You may also call in at other times and ask to see students' work.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

The Department offers occasional and optional visits to both local and national galleries for all students and a five day study visit abroad for second year students, which takes place in June or July.

What can I do after the course?

Many of our students progress to art foundation courses at various art colleges and universities and then on to a very wide range of specialist art courses in higher education. A few students each year progress straight on to Photography degree courses.

A Level Biology

Examination Board: Eduqas

Biology today is the fastest developing Science with GM Technology and Climate Change constantly in the headlines. This course offers a comprehensive insight into the many different aspects of Biology including Biochemistry, Cellular Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, Genetics and Ecology. There are millions of different species on the planet and the course follows a comparative approach into the ways in which species have evolved particular adaptations to overcome the "trials of life".

What does the course involve?

Year One:

- ▶ Biodiversity and classification
- ▶ Cell structure and organisation
- ▶ Cell membranes and transport
- ▶ Adaptations for gas exchange
- ▶ Adaptations for transport
- ▶ Basic biochemistry: carbohydrates, lipids and proteins
- ▶ Biological reactions are regulated by enzymes
- ▶ Adaptations for nutrition
- ▶ Homeostasis and the kidney
- ▶ The nervous system

Year Two:

- ▶ Nucleic acids and their functions
- ▶ Cell division
- ▶ Sexual reproduction in humans and plants
- ▶ Variation and evolution
- ▶ Application of reproduction and genetics
- ▶ Photosynthesis and respiration
- ▶ Microbiology
- ▶ Populations and ecosystems
- ▶ Human impact on the environment
- ▶ Option module (choose one):
 - Immunology and disease

- Human musculoskeletal anatomy
- Neurobiology and behaviour

External assessment is by written examination in the summer term at the end of the second year. The examinations will assess your theoretical knowledge (75%), your practical skills (15%) and your mathematical skills (10%).

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

As a minimum, you will normally require a grade B in both GCSE Science and Additional Science (or in two separate sciences, including Biology). You should also have at least a grade 5 or B in GCSE Mathematics and grade 4 or C in GCSE English.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

The Department arranges a variety of local trips to link in with various aspects of the course; there is usually a nominal charge for these. There may be the possibility of attending a short residential field course, at a more substantial cost. However, this would be optional.

What can I do after the course?

During the course you will learn many new skills that will help you not only gain good grades in Biology A Level but also provide you with the skills for higher education and for jobs in the future. There is a vast range of specialist courses for which Biology provides an excellent foundation, such as medicine, veterinary sciences, nursing and biology. The STEM skills that you develop within A Level Biology can also prove beneficial for many non-biological degrees. You might also consider how useful Biology is for other courses/careers for example, archaeology, pharmacology, speech therapy, psychology and law.



Oli Greaves

St Mary's RC High School

Studying: A Levels in Biology, Mathematics and Physics

"I found the Biology course very interesting. The first unit is a great follow-on from GCSE – known topics, just in greater detail. The tutors are very engaging, supportive and motivational; always with clear ways of explaining, using diagrams and real-life images.

We do many practicals that really help to put the theory into a clear relatable context.

There are great facilities for Biology; the laboratories are very well equipped.

If I were to advise someone looking to take A Level Biology, I would tell them that it isn't 'the easy science' and you do have to work for it. But, with revision, you will soon pick it up and it becomes increasingly more interesting as you go through the course as topics link up and you see the bigger picture of Biology."



SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE FROM OLİ

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business

Examination Board: Edexcel



courses. BTEC National qualifications are also valued by employers and lead to career opportunities in business specialisms such as finance, human resources, management or marketing as well as other business related careers.

You may also progress within employment to professional qualifications such as those offered by the Chartered Institute of Marketing, Management Accountants and Personnel Development or you may progress into higher education degree courses or BTEC Higher National courses.

What does the course involve?

This course is designed to give you an understanding of business organisations and the markets they serve. This will be valuable background information in your working life and particularly relevant for anyone involved in management or business.

The BTEC Extended Certificate is equivalent to 1 A Level.

The Extended Certificate is a practical work related two year course. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations and activities. There is the opportunity to participate in a programme of visits to business organisations.

The course is assessed by a combination of assignments, controlled assessment and examination.

Year One

- Exploring Business

- Developing a Marketing Campaign

Year Two

- Personal and Business Finance
- Market Research

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

There are no specific entry requirements and the course assumes that you have not studied the subject before. BTEC Business can be combined with a wide variety of other subjects.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

As the BTEC is a vocational course, there will be a number of trips/visits. Costs will vary from free to £200 (optional trips).

What can I do after the course?

The course will help to fulfil the entry requirements for a range of degrees, HNDs and professional higher education

A Level Business Studies

Examination Board: AQA

What does the course involve?

This course helps you to develop a number of skills: how to assemble data and assess it; how to investigate facts and use deduction; how to put over your point of view fluently and how to work as a team to achieve results.

There is no coursework for this subject.

Year One:

- ▶ What is business?
- ▶ Managers, leaders and decision making
- ▶ Decision making to improve marketing performance
- ▶ Decision making to improve operational performance
- ▶ Decision making to improve financial performance
- ▶ Decision making to improve human resource performance

Year Two:

- ▶ Analysing the strategic position of a business
- ▶ Choosing strategic direction
- ▶ Strategic methods
- ▶ Managing strategic change

In Business Studies you will:

- ▶ gain an understanding of the nature and working of business and industry
- ▶ develop communication, numeracy and IT skills
- ▶ learn how to set objectives and how to make business decisions with limited information and resources

The Department provides many of the resources but you will be encouraged to purchase some business publications for yourself at a cost of approximately £20 each year.



Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

There are no specific entry requirements and the course assumes that you have not studied the subject before. Business Studies can be combined successfully with a wide variety of other subjects.

The A Level assesses quantitative skills, making up a minimum of 10% of the overall marks. The skills tested include ratios, averages, fractions, percentages and calculation of profit or loss.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

There are a variety of optional trips and seminars which you might like to attend. Costs for these range from £25-£180.

What can I do after the course?

Many successful students go on to business related higher education courses. These include accountancy, management science, leisure management and marketing. Business courses incorporating a foreign language have become popular in recent times. Other students have made use of their knowledge in a wide variety of

employment situations and the course provides a strong foundation for those planning to work in a family business such as farming.

A Level Chemistry

Examination Board: OCR



What does the course involve?

Chemistry aims to explain the properties of substances in terms of the particles they are made from: atoms, molecules and ions. In this course you will learn a lot of fundamental theory concerning the behaviour of these particles and you will see how this is reflected in the properties of substances and the reactions they undergo. You will also see the creative side of chemistry, learning how molecules can be built up and transformed in organic synthesis and you will consider the importance of chemistry in the real world.

The A Level we study is OCR Chemistry A. The structure is built around six modules:

1. *Development of Practical Skills*
Laboratory work is an important part of the course and in your final examinations you will have to show your understanding of the practical methods you encounter.
2. *Foundations in Chemistry*
These are the basic ideas that underpin everything else in Chemistry, including the structure of atoms and the nature of the bonds that can form between them and how these things are related

to the properties and reactivities of substances. You will also learn how to perform key chemical calculations that will be used throughout the course.

3. *Periodic Table and Energy*
Here you will learn about trends and patterns of behaviour among the elements in the periodic table. You will also see how the energy changes accompanying reactions can be measured and understood.
4. *Core Organic Chemistry*
This introduces the diverse chemistry of carbon compounds. You will learn to understand their structures and reactions and how these things can be investigated.
5. *Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements*
This module builds on ideas from module 2, giving further insight into rates of reactions and chemical equilibria and introducing another part of the periodic table.
6. *Organic Chemistry and Analysis*
This module is the sequel to module 4, introducing a much wider range of

organic reactions and more powerful methods of structure determination.

The A Level is examined by means of **three written papers** at the end of two years, which cover all of these modules.

There is no practical examination in Chemistry but you will record your experiments as you go through the course and, if you have completed the practicals, picked up some key skills and kept your records, you can be awarded a **Practical Endorsement for Chemistry**, which is an additional qualification.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

As a minimum, you will require a grade B in both GCSE Science and Additional Science (or in two separate sciences, including Chemistry). You should also have at least a grade 5 or B in GCSE Mathematics.

You should have a strong interest in understanding how the world works at the molecular level. You will need to be able to visualise atoms and molecules interacting and reacting together.

There is a considerable amount of mathematics in A Level Chemistry. The skills you need will have been covered in GCSE Mathematics but you will need to be ready to apply these intelligently and accurately to chemical problems.

What can I do after the course?

Chemistry is essential or at least desirable for a wide range of higher education science courses. In addition to Chemistry, this would include Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, as well as many related courses such as Biochemistry, Pharmacy and Biomedical Science. Chemistry is also highly regarded as a basis for any non-scientific course or career.

The specification for this course is due to change in September 2017.
Please check the College website for the most up to date information.

A Level Communication & Culture

Examination Board: AQA

Communication & Culture offers you the chance to study the people, media and cultures that make up your personal and daily experience of life. You will have the chance to examine cultural practices such as the development of personal style and identity, the formation and interaction of social groups and the ways in which cultural meanings are communicated through cultural products such as the internet, films, television and print. You will learn to analyse them using a range of theoretical positions, and to develop research and presentational skills in extended research projects.

What does the course involve?

At both AS and A2 the course comprises 50% coursework, which allows you to follow your own interests as well as developing the necessary (and transferable) research skills.

Unit 1, Examination (50% AS):

Understanding Communication & Culture

What does your body language tell other people about you? How does the behaviour of your friendship groups affect your own? How do the media and the internet influence you? Why is Shakespeare more important than your favourite band? We examine the way our culture influences our lives and the way we present ourselves to the world.

Unit 2, Coursework Portfolio (50% AS):

The Individual and Contemporary Culture

You will investigate the influence of contemporary culture on your contemporaries and your own personal lives and present your findings in the form of two essays and a digital multi-media presentation.

Unit 3, Examination (50% A2):

Communicating Culture

You will analyse a range of cultural practices such as online communication and consumerism and the entertainment industries, applying contrasting critical approaches to your own examples.

Unit 4, Portfolio (50% A2):

Communication & Culture in Practice

An extended research project, investigating a topic set by the examinations board. You will produce a written case study and a filmed presentation.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

You should have a keen interest in topical media and a range of cultural practices such as film-going, the arts and online communication. You need a willingness to develop your own communication skills through discussion, group work and presentations. Because of the written demands of the course you will require at least a grade 4 or C in GCSE English.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

Visits vary according to the topics we study but in the past we have visited Disneyland Paris as well as art galleries, shopping centres and museums. We have also had an excellent range of external speakers from international photographic journalists to PR professionals and Buddhist monks. You will undertake your own fieldwork to gather information for your chosen topics and will also have to find your own filming locations.

What can I do after the course?

This course prepares you for a range of degree courses in humanities, visual culture, film and media but also develops research, observational, critical and analytical skills which are transferable to a wide variety of courses and application in employment. The subject is traditionally associated with journalism (local television and newspapers have employed students directly from this course), personnel management and public relations but students have gone on to the full range of degree courses and careers.



Ellie Ashton

Monmouth Comprehensive School

Studied: A Levels in Communication & Culture, French, Geography and Philosophy & Ethics

“Comms is more than just an A Level, it’s an opportunity to question everything from the construction of our identities to the way we are socialised, applying perspectives such as feminism, post-colonialism and Marxism. The contributions of students is not merely welcomed but considered indispensable and it’s because of this that my class and I have formed an incredible bond. Comms classes are typically diverse; the subject attracts those interested in anything from STEM courses to languages and this could perhaps be thanks to its subject matter. Everyone can find something within the specification that makes them go WOW! There is yet to be a lesson where I sit back and stop sharing my ideas because I’m just so passionate about what we’re discussing.”



SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE FROM ELLIE

A Level Computer Science

Examination Board: OCR



Phoebe Bower-Appleton

Steiner Academy

Studied: A Levels in Art, Computer Science and Mathematics

"This course gives you the opportunity to work on a problem and to combine what you learn in lectures with your own study. I'm fascinated by computers and how we interact with them, so this was a 'must have' course for me.

Last year I was one of a handful of students picked to visit Oxford University. I got to attend lectures and workshops to try several different programming languages. This inspired me to choose Computer Science as my future career.

It's a broad course covering everything from binary to program development. You need an interest in computers and learning how to code.

I am planning to go to the University of South Wales or Brighton to study Video Game Design and then to pursue this as a career."

What does the course involve?

Computer Science has computational thinking at its core; thinking that provides solutions to problems, designs systems and recognises the nature of human and machine intelligence. It is a creative subject which involves the invention and development of ideas through coding.

The A Level qualification consists of two examined units and one coursework unit:

- ▶ **Unit 1**
Computer Systems (40%)
- ▶ **Unit 2**
Algorithms and Programming (40%)
- ▶ **Unit 3**
Programming Project (20%)

Year One

You will study contemporary systems architecture, databases and networks which include practical lessons using the Raspberry Pi. You will develop computational thinking skills, write code and learn about web technologies. You will explore programming techniques and understand key standard algorithms such as insertion sort and binary search. Your coding skills are developed through writing algorithms that solve interesting problems.

Year Two

The second year includes the characteristics of contemporary processors, software development methodologies and how data is represented, stored and exchanged between different systems. You will learn how to code using advanced programming techniques. Merge sort, quick sort, A* and Dijkstra's algorithm will be explored. The coursework project involves using your skills to develop a solution to a problem of your own choice. Most students opt to produce a game or simulation.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

To study Computer Science a minimum of grade 5 or B in Mathematics would normally be required as means of demonstrating an effective approach to problem solving. However, if a student has studied Computer Science at GCSE Level and achieved a grade B, or higher, along with grade 4 or C in Mathematics then they would be allowed to study the subject. You should enjoy problem solving and have a strong interest in learning how to code.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

An optional trip takes place to EGX, the UK's biggest games event, which includes opportunities to play new games, hear from leading developers and get careers advice from the games industry. There are visits arranged to university Computer Science departments during the course. Past trips have also included the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park and the Science Museum in London.

What can I do after the course?

Russell Group universities list Computer Science as a useful A Level for many degree courses including Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Engineering, Geology, Mathematics, Materials Science, Medicine, Optometry, Physics, Pharmacy, Psychology and Sociology. Students have gone on to study the subject at a range of institutions including prestigious universities: Birmingham, Bristol, Oxford, Reading and York. Computer Scientists are in demand and find work in many industry sectors.

The specification for this course is due to change in September 2017.
Please check the College website for the most up to date information.

A Level Critical Thinking

Examination Board: OCR

Students typically, but not necessarily, take Critical Thinking as an addition to their standard A Level programme. It is taught as an express course in half a timetable block.

Critical Thinking enables you to make reasoned decisions that are based on logic rather than assumptions and prejudice. It equips you with reasoning skills to use in life, work and further academic study.

What does the course involve?

Assessment:

Coursework 0%

Examination 100%

You will learn how to reason well and to write in a coherent and logical way.

You will analyse and evaluate documents and disputes, learning how to judge which information is reliable and which side to believe.

In the examinations you will be judged on your ability to assess how effective the reasoning in the documents is; how credible its sources are; how the argument is structured; what assumptions the author may have made and your evaluation of the use of evidence. Your own arguments are judged by the structure and clarity of your writing.

Some of the first year syllabus core content is delivered via a computer assisted program where students work at their own pace.

The second year mostly focuses on essay writing and solving moral dilemmas. There is no computer assisted program in the second year.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

There are no specific entry requirements for this course. It will suit you if you enjoy intellectual challenges.



You will:

- ▶ need to read carefully and pay attention to detail.
- ▶ be able to write clearly and logically.

You can stop Critical Thinking at the end of Year One and cash in your AS or you can continue this subject into Year Two to get a full A Level qualification.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

There are no study visits; the most useful "fieldwork" you can do is to read or listen to news reports in the media and think carefully about the logic and credibility of what you are being told.

What can I do after the course?

Critical Thinking is useful for students taking most academic subjects and the skills taught are highly valued by universities.

It is particularly useful for students taking the LNAT test for admission to law courses and the BMAT test for medics as those assess your critical thinking ability.

It is an asset for all competitive entry courses and careers including the police and the army.

BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Dance

Examination Board: Edexcel



What does the course involve?

This is a two year Dance course which is equivalent to one A Level, with the same amount of UCAS points for university or further education.

It is a serious vocational training course recognised by UCAS for those thinking about going on to study Dance, Musical Theatre, Drama or Performing Arts at university.

Students can study this course alongside their other Level 3 courses.

- ▶ This course will be 90% practical with many performance opportunities.
- ▶ The 10% of theory work involved will be written assignments with no final theory examination.
- ▶ The course is designed to enhance any Dance style, such as:
 - Ballet
 - Contemporary

- Modern

- Jazz

- ▶ As this is a BTEC qualification, the work is assessed throughout the year.
- ▶ Final grades of either Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* are awarded.
- ▶ You will be set assignments throughout the duration of the course. Here are some examples of the course units studied:
 - Developing Movement Skills
 - Dance Appreciation
 - Movement in Performance
 - Jazz Dance
 - Contemporary Dance Technique
 - Choreographic Principles
 - Dance Performance
 - Performing to an Audience

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

The course requires you to have relevant experience in at least one Dance genre and to have a true desire to learn, improve your dance skills and perform them to a live audience. This course requires 100% commitment.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

During the course there will be workshops with visiting Dance specialists and the opportunity to see professional performances. Costs will vary depending on where the performance is. We have regular trips to the Birmingham Hippodrome and a trip to London will be offered.

What can I do after the course?

This is a practical course, focusing on the development and refinement of dancing skills and how they contribute to the telling of a story to an audience. It will complement your A Level qualifications and help you progress in this field in higher education.

A Level Drama & Theatre Studies

Examination Board: Edexcel

What does the course involve?

This course offers you the opportunity to examine all aspects of drama, performance and theatre. It develops acting skills, imagination, confidence and knowledge of a wide range of different theatrical styles. You will learn how to research and plan performances, including devised and scripted work.

You will study plays from a practical perspective, see a wide range of performances in different theatres and create and show your own work consistently throughout the course.

You will act, direct and rehearse with a serious focus on how to produce the best quality work at all times.

You will be assessed through a programme of practical performances, your commitment to practical work in and out of lessons, and through written essays, analysing your practical understanding of plays and live theatre seen.

Performance work will take place in a 160 seat theatre with industry-standard lighting and sound. You will develop a detailed understanding of what makes a good performance, how to create one and how to analyse the skills used in successful theatre.

Theatre trips/workshops are an essential part of this course and are compulsory for all students. You will need to be committed, inventive and open to new forms and styles of theatre.

The modules are assessed through practical and written work.

This course will require you to act in a series of practical assessed units covering scripted and devised work. You will study plays from a range of time periods and styles, theatrical practitioners and theatre companies. You will also see a wide variety of productions at the theatre.



Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

You will need to have previous experience of performing. GCSE Drama is not a requirement but if you have studied it, you should have gained at least a grade C. A grade 4 or C in GCSE English is also required.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

Theatre Studies students must attend all theatre visits and workshops as part of this course. These will take place during evenings and some matinee performances. Costs may vary from a theatre trip to London at approximately £60 to a local production costing £10.

What can I do after the course?

Theatre Studies is recognised as a clear indication of high academic and practical achievement and leads the way to a great variety of higher education courses at Russell Group universities, drama schools and other universities. Former students have gone on to careers including acting, music, law, politics, psychology, advertising, stage management, the media, journalism and teaching.

A Level Economics

Examination Board: Edexcel



Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

We offer visits to lectures and external events relevant to examination topics, as well as other enrichment opportunities.

What can I do after the course?

Economics is a highly regarded academic subject that supports you in your application for a wide range of university and other higher education courses. Successful students often go on to study economics, finance, or other courses related to business management.

It is worth pointing out that Economics graduates are among the most highly paid. Economics is useful in a wide variety of employment situations, such as finance, banking and the retail sector. The course also provides a strong foundation for those planning to work in a family business such as farming.

What does the course involve?

The emphasis of the course is on the UK economy, including such topics as economic growth, inflation, unemployment and the labour market. You will also study the international perspective, including the European Union, globalisation, poverty, international trade and the environment.

You will learn how to apply economic theory to the analysis of “real world” economic issues. For example, how are prices determined? Why have energy prices been rising? What effect does an economic downturn or recovery in Europe have on the UK economy? What economic policies can be followed to help create jobs or reduce inflation? How can we control the negative aspects of economic growth such as rising inequality or increased pollution?

There are strong links with other subjects such as History, Geography, Government & Politics and Mathematics.

The Economics A Level is a two year programme assessed by three written examination papers at the end of the course.

There is no coursework in Economics.

Examinations include short questions that test students’ examination skills as well as essay questions that require you to discuss and evaluate economic issues in greater depth.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

The course starts from scratch and does not assume any previous knowledge of Economics. However, you must meet the College’s general entry requirements **and** have at least a grade 5 or B in **both** GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English.

Some Economics concepts are quite challenging and you need to have good analytical skills. You will need to develop what is called an “Economist’s mindset” and it is important that you have an interest in “real world” economic issues that feature constantly in the news.

A Level English Language

Examination Board: Edexcel

What does the course involve?

The course explores both spoken and written language in use in a wide range of professionally written texts and transcripts. You will learn a large amount of technical linguistic terminology in order to analyse systematically how language works. To prepare you for an unseen texts examination, you will explore a variety of texts such as advertisements, speeches, magazine and newspaper articles, short stories and extracts from novels and plays. You will investigate many important language issues in society, addressing questions such as: How do people use language to assert power? Do men and women really speak differently? Are they represented differently in the media? How is technology bringing new words into the language and changing the way in which we communicate? How do children learn to speak? How and why has language changed from the 1600s to the present day?

The Edexcel A Level course covers the following examination topics:

Component 1 - Language Variation (35%)

How language choices can create personal identities and how language has changed over time.

Component 2 - Child Language (20%)

How children acquire language and learn to read and write.

Component 3 - Investigating Language (25%)

A research focus from one area such as:

- ▶ Global English
- ▶ Language and Gender Identity
- ▶ Language and Journalism
- ▶ Language and Power
- ▶ Regional Language Variation

Coursework - Crafting Language (20%)

Two pieces of original writing from the same genre, differentiated by function and/or audience. One commentary reflecting upon the pieces produced.

There are no set texts for this course but we do ask students to purchase a copy of *The Oxford A-Z of Grammar and Punctuation* by John Seely (approximate cost £5.99).

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

Although students with a grade 4 or C in English Language could take this course, it is more suited to those with a grade 5 or B and above. A foreign language at GCSE is also useful.

A Level English Language complements most A Levels such as English Literature, Foreign Languages, Law, Psychology, Sociology, Film and Communication Studies particularly well.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

Visits to lectures and external events relevant to examination topics are offered. Professionals from the field of journalism and academics also visit throughout the year.

What can I do after the course?

Language and language skills are relevant to all academic and vocational subjects. You can go on to take a specialist degree in English Language, language and communications or linguistics, or other courses such as law, drama, education, history or any of the social sciences. Career possibilities for English specialists range from teaching, journalism and publishing to speech and language therapy.



Josie Gwizdala

St Mary's RC High School

Studying: A Levels in English Language, Law and Mathematics

"It's very interesting learning about a full variety of aspects of the English language from child language development to the way language portrays identity through power, technology and the media.

All the English tutors who have taught me are very inspiring and their teaching encourages my interest in the subject. The resources available for further reading and study are very interesting and tutors help with providing these and also more tailored help in weekly drop-in sessions."



SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE FROM JOSIE

A Level English Literature

Examination Board: Edexcel



Are you passionate about reading?
Do you love to look closely at texts, analysing exactly what ideas are being explored and how the language works?
Do you enjoy debating ideas and then organising your thoughts into a strong, clear argument? If so, then A Level English Literature is the course for you.

What does the course involve?

On this course you will study a wide variety of modern and historical texts - novels, poetry and drama, including the work of William Shakespeare. As well as extending your knowledge and enjoyment of literature, you will develop skills of thinking critically, reading and analysing texts closely and preparing arguments.

We follow the Edexcel English Literature syllabus. Assessment for the course is as follows:

Unit 1: *Drama*

You will study one Shakespeare play and one other play.
Examination - 2 hours 15 minutes (30%) - two essays, one on each play.

Unit 2: *Prose*

You will study two novels linked by a common theme (one written pre-1900)
Examination - 1 hour (20%) - one essay on the two novels

Unit 3: *Poetry*

You will study a collection of modern poetry and another poetry collection
Examination - 2 hours 15 minutes (30%) - two essays, one on each poetry collection

Unit 4: *Independent Coursework (20%)*

You will produce a folder (2,500 - 3,000 words) on your choice of two texts linked by theme, movement, author or period.

Students are expected to buy their own copies of the set texts. There will be a maximum of four books in the first year and six books in the second year, at an approximate cost of £8 per text.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

Although students with a grade 4 or C at GCSE could take this course, it is more suited to those with a grade 5 or B and above. The ability to work independently, read widely and write extended essays

is essential. You must enjoy reading a range of literary genres and be willing to explore unfamiliar texts and authors. You should have a critical, questioning approach to what you read. It is an advantage to be well read and have a clear and accurate written style.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

The Department organises visits to study days, theatres and workshops to support work on the texts studied and to prepare for examinations. These are not compulsory and will typically cost around £35.

What can I do after the course?

This A Level is accepted by Higher Education institutions for the continuing study of English Literature. It is also very useful if you are thinking of a degree in education, law, media studies, history, drama, creative writing, any of the social sciences, as well as the many courses which have English as an element.

Employers value English Literature as it shows you have the skills to synthesise information, explore different points of view and express yourself clearly and cogently.

The specification for this course is due to change in September 2017.
Please check the College website for the most up to date information.

A Level Environmental Science

Examination Board: AQA

Environmental Science is a fascinating subject, which will help you to understand how the world works. Environmental Science applies scientific principles to the natural environment to help us to understand and manage it. It is a broader subject than the traditional science subjects and the key to doing well is to be able to make links between cause and effect. For example, an understanding of ecology is needed for managing the habitats of endangered animals and a knowledge of energy transformations underpins how we develop and use renewable sources of power. Environmental issues are often in the news and play an increasingly important role in almost every aspect of life, from human population to recycling.

What does the course involve?

There is no coursework but practical work is an integral part of the course.

Year One

The course develops a foundation of scientific knowledge and skills associated with the environment and how it works. You will study the four main life support systems which are essential for life on Earth: the Biosphere, Atmosphere, Hydrosphere and Lithosphere.

- ▶ *The Living Environment*
- ▶ *The Physical Environment*
- ▶ *Research Methods*

Year Two

You will apply your knowledge to understand how different environmental principles are linked. You will study the use of our natural resources to supply the energy, materials and food we need:

- ▶ *Energy Resources*
- ▶ *Pollution*
- ▶ *Biological Resources*
- ▶ *Sustainability*
- ▶ *Research Methods, including Experiment Design*

For fuller details of the specification and the examinations, see the AQA website: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/environmental-science-7446



Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

Environmental Science goes well with other earth sciences, such as biology and geology as well as chemistry and physics. Some students, who are doing mainly arts subjects, choose to study Environmental Science because they want to keep their education broad by continuing with a science subject.

To start Environmental Science you will need a minimum of grade 5 or B in GCSE English, Mathematics, Science and Additional Science (or two separate sciences). Equivalent qualifications may be accepted, please ask at enrolment. You will also need an interest in the natural environment and a desire to understand how it works.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

Four days' field work is part of the course. Most of the field work will be carried out locally, but a residential trip may be arranged. In Year One there are trips to the Elan Valley and a Zoo, with a total cost of approximately £32. Local visits to

study rivers, a nature reserve and a large farm, will either be free or cost less than £3 each.

What can I do after the course?

If you are successful, you will have an A Level in a science subject, to help you gain a place on a degree or technical course or an apprenticeship. There are many courses with environmental content, from land management to environmental health, climate science to conservation biology. Environmental Science is also relevant to primary school teaching, veterinary medicine, agriculture and architecture, amongst other careers.

If you are keen to find out more about studying Environmental Science at the College, please visit the applicants' website:

www.appmoodle.hereford.ac.uk/

The specification for this course is due to change in September 2017.
Please check the College website for the most up to date information.

A Level Film Studies

Examination Board: Eduqas



What does the course involve?

Studying films will enable you to develop an appreciation of film production and an understanding of films from different eras and different cultures.

You will study a diverse range of films including mainstream American and British film, world cinema, documentary, experimental and short film.

A range of critical approaches, such as genre theory, will be studied to enable you to undertake effective textual analysis of the films.

Film Studies also has coursework requirements which allow you to develop both practical film-making skills and screenplay writing skills

Although we have a good selection of relevant films in the Library, you will be expected to buy copies of the films we study as a class and for your coursework. We have a good range of camcorders, greenscreen and editing equipment in the Department for you to use and a qualified Technical Demonstrator to help you get the most out of them.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

Obviously an interest in films and cinema-going is vital. Because of the written demands of the course, a grade 4 or C in GCSE English is necessary. You will need good communication and organisational skills and to enjoy working co-operatively in groups.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

You will have the opportunity for organised visits to the cinema and other relevant places.

What can I do after the course?

The A Level in Film Studies prepares you for a range of degree courses in film, media, visual culture and humanities but also develops research, critical and analytical skills which are transferable to a wide variety of courses and careers.

A Level French

Examination Board: AQA

What does the course involve?

The course aims to develop high levels of competence in understanding, speaking and writing French and a deeper knowledge of French culture, civilisation and other French speaking countries.

Subject Content

Over the two years you will study:

- ▶ Social Issues and Trends
- ▶ Political and Artistic Culture
- ▶ Literary Texts and Film
- ▶ Grammar

The work is presented in context through newspaper and magazine articles, radio and television programmes, film, video and the Internet.

French makes you think. It encourages you to question your own ideas, put your point of view across and offers you the chance to understand French society and culture more deeply. French is a challenging but highly rewarding subject.

Learning languages helps develop communication and problem solving skills and gain independence, flexibility and organisational skills - all qualities that employers value. There are many areas of work in which languages can be a real asset.

French will also help to develop your confidence, your social skills and your European awareness.

You will be expected to go over material covered in class every day to build your knowledge of the language and vocabulary. You will write short essays on the topics you study.

It is essential to maintain full and detailed vocabulary and grammar notes. There are weekly tests, comprehension and grammar exercises, translations and the preparation of texts for classroom study or oral presentation.

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (40% of A Level)

Paper 2: One Text and One Film Essay (30% of A Level)

Paper 3: Oral (30% of A Level)

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

At A Level it is important to read widely and have an interest in how language works. You will develop and express opinions on wide ranging topics including current social issues, political life and artistic culture in the French-speaking world.

You need at least a grade B in GCSE French and grade 5 or B in both English Language and English Literature and a genuine level of interest and commitment to French language and culture.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

You are encouraged to take part in a week long residential study visit to Nice, where you will be taught by native speakers (costing £700-£750 in recent years). Financial help may be available in cases of hardship.

What can I do after the course?

The knowledge of a European language increases your career prospects. French can help you gain access to top jobs in business, banking/finance, journalism, law, public relations, travel and the civil service. There are opportunities in tourism, the media, the diplomatic service and translation and interpreting.

French is the first or second language in over 43 countries and is spoken by approximately 220 million people across every continent. It is an official language at the United Nations and one of two at the Olympics. French is an important language in the fields of technology and business.

Recent data from Oxford University shows that 93% of Modern Language graduates go straight into employment or further study compared to an 87% average in other subjects.



Ellie Rolinson

Builth Wells High School

Studied: A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and French

"I like everything about the course but the fact that we get oral practice every week with a fluent French speaker is definitely one of the best things about the course."

In my AS year I went on the study trip to Nice for a week. We stayed with French hosts which meant even after having French lessons most of the day, we then went back home and spoke French, which resulted in everyone improving their pronunciation and general speaking ability just in time for the oral exam which was great! Also we had a bit of time to ourselves to explore the city and as a group visited Monaco, which was amazing."



SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE FROM ELLIE

A Level Geography

Examination Board: Edexcel



Jim Collier

Wigmore High School

Studied: A Levels in Geography, Geology and Mathematics

"As we progressed through the year I became really interested in the subject. Globalisation is a good topic in A Level because you look at how humans have such a large influence on each other. Both of my tutors are really great teachers and gave me a good understanding of the subject, gave great advice and were very easy to get along with.

The one trip that stands out and is renowned through College is the Alps trip. It's a lot of hard work but this is shadowed by the scenery of the Alps and the nice weather. The Alps trip helps you a lot with Glaciation because it puts everything into perspective and you can see for yourself the formations created by glaciation."



SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE FROM JIM

What does the course involve?

The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before. Geography explains why and examines how we can prepare for these changes. Geography is a very varied and interesting subject. It is about the environments we inhabit and some of the ways we use (or abuse) them. The course involves a mixture of physical and human geography.

Year One

Dynamic Landscapes

Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards
How plate tectonic processes are shaping the Earth's surface. Impact and management of tectonic hazards like earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis.

Topic 2: Glaciated Landscapes and Change

Glacial geomorphology - studying how glaciers have shaped large areas of the Earth's surface. How glacial environments affect human activity.

Dynamic Places

Topic 3: Globalisation

The increasing interconnectedness of the world, socially, politically and economically.

Topic 4: Shaping and Regenerating Places

Rural and urban regeneration programmes change places and our perception of them with varying degrees of success.

Year Two

Physical Systems and Sustainability

Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity

Hydrology - studying how the global water cycle operates as a system and impacts on human activity. How water supply can be managed to reduce water insecurity.

Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

The operation of the global carbon cycle as a system with stores and fluxes. Impact of humanity's increasing demand for energy on the carbon cycle and climate change.

Human Systems and Geopolitics

Topic 7: Superpowers

Superpowers have significant impacts on the global economy, politics and the environment. The spheres of influence between superpowers changes over time and is frequently contested with geopolitical implications.

Topic 8: Global Development and Connections

Large scale international migration due to increasing globalisation is changing traditional definitions of national sovereignty, nation states and attitudes to national identity. Global governance has developed to manage these changes whilst nationalist movements are challenging the dominant model of economic growth.

Coursework: Independent Investigation (20% of the qualification)

Students undertake some genuinely individual scientific research on any aspect of Geography they choose.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

You should have a keen interest in the subject and how the world works. A grade B in GCSE Geography is normally required but if you have not taken the subject before you will be considered if you have grade 5 or B in GCSE English and grade 4 or C in Mathematics. You will need to write essays and use statistics.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

Fieldwork is an integral part of the course and there will be a number of local excursions. You will also be expected to participate in a residential course. In 2016 this trip was to the French Alps, at a cost of around £425. Financial help may be available in case of hardship.

What can I do after the course?

A Level Geography is highly regarded by both employers and in higher education, including the prestigious Russell Group universities. In part, this is because of the skills it helps you develop, but also because you gain a knowledge and understanding of our planet. It is a facilitating subject which can open the door to a wide range of degrees and career options.

The specification for this course is due to change in September 2017.
Please check the College website for the most up to date information.

A Level Geology

Examination Board: OCR

What does the course involve?

Geology is the "scientific study of the solid Earth, its rocks and processes". It is a very varied subject which deals with the four billion years of our planet's history. It involves the study of the most fascinating and remarkable landscapes on earth.

There are four modular examinations which make up 80% of the marks. There are two controlled assessments, involving fieldwork, which make up 20% of the marks. The four modules are:

Year One

AS Module 1: *Global Tectonics*

This involves the origin of Earth and the solar system, space exploration, meteorites and earthquakes. It also includes the theory of plate tectonics. Finally you will study the folds, faults and rock structures produced when rocks are deformed.

AS Module 2: *The Rock Cycle*

This involves studying igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. You will study minerals and their identification. Also you will study volcanic eruptions, how sedimentary rocks form in deserts, rivers, glacial environments, etc., and how intense heat and pressure alters rocks by metamorphism.

Year Two

A2 Module 3: *Evolution of Earth, Life and Climate*

In this module you will study how life originated and evolved. You will understand how fossils are preserved and how mass extinctions are caused. You will study dinosaurs, trilobites, ammonites, etc. Lastly, you will learn about climate and sea level change over geological time.

A2 Module 4: *Economic Geology*

In this module you will study all the practical applications of Geology. Firstly, how Geology affects water resources and supply. Secondly, you will study energy resources, including oil exploration, coal mining and geothermal power. You also study metal mineral resources, including formation of ores, prospecting



and mining. Finally you will study Engineering Geology including dams, sea defences and storage of nuclear waste.

By studying Geology you will gain the skills to interpret the evidence of Earth's history preserved in the rocks and landscapes. Geology is detective work and you will develop many investigative, observational and interpretational skills highly valued by employers and universities. You will learn to view the landscape in a completely new and informed way.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

You will have gained at least a grade C in GCSE Science. You need to have a strong interest in our planet. You need to enjoy being outdoors and doing fieldwork.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

Geology is a Field Science and you will learn to work in remote environments. You will visit fascinating, beautiful locations to further your knowledge.

In the first year, there is a compulsory visit to Arran in Scotland. Students taking the full A Level are expected to attend and the cost of this is in the region of £440. Financial help may be available in cases of hardship.

In the second year there is an optional visit to either Iceland, Morocco or the Himalayas.

What can I do after the course?

Earth Scientists are in enormous demand worldwide and command excellent salaries. Geology A Level has provided an important first step towards a well paid, rewarding, globe-trotting career for many of our past students. It could do the same for you!

A Level German

Examination Board: AQA



What does the course involve?

The course aims to develop high levels of competence in understanding, speaking and writing German and a deeper knowledge of German culture and civilisation (and that of Austria and Switzerland).

Subject Content

Over the two years you will study:

- ▶ Social Issues and Trends
- ▶ Political and Artistic Culture
- ▶ Literary Texts and Film
- ▶ Grammar

The work is presented in context through newspaper and magazine articles, radio and television programmes, film, video and the Internet.

German makes you think. It encourages you to question your own ideas, put your point of view across and offers you the chance to understand German society and culture more deeply. German is a challenging but highly rewarding subject.

Learning languages helps develop communication and problem-solving

skills and gain independence, flexibility and organisational skills - all qualities that employers value. There are many areas of work in which languages can be a real asset.

German will also help to develop your confidence, your social skills and your European awareness.

You will be expected to go over material covered in class every day to build your knowledge of the language and vocabulary. You will write short essays on the topics you study. It is essential to maintain full and detailed vocabulary and grammar notes. There are weekly tests, comprehension and grammar exercises, translations and the preparation of texts for classroom study or oral presentation.

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (40% of A Level)

Paper 2: One Text and One Film Essay (30% of A Level)

Paper 3: Oral (30% of A Level)

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

At A Level it is important to read widely and have an interest in how language works. You will develop and express opinions on wide-ranging topics including current social issues, political life and artistic culture in the German-speaking world.

You need at least a grade B in GCSE German, and a grade 5 or B in both English Language and English Literature and a genuine level of interest and commitment to German language and culture.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

You are encouraged to take part in a week-long residential study visit to Augsburg, where you will be taught by native speakers (costing £700-£750 in recent years). Financial help may be available in cases of hardship.

What can I do after the course?

The knowledge of a European language increases your career prospects. German can help you gain access to top jobs in business, banking/finance, journalism, law, public relations, travel and the civil service. There are opportunities in tourism, the media, the diplomatic service, translation and interpreting. German is spoken by 89 million people in Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland and South Tyrol in Italy. German is an important language in the fields of technology and business.

Recent data from Oxford University shows that 93% of Modern Language graduates go straight into employment or further study compared to an 87% average in other subjects.

The specification for this course is due to change in September 2017.
Please check the College website for the most up to date information.

A Level Government & Politics

Examination Board: Edexcel

"A change is brought about because ordinary people do extraordinary things."

Barack Obama

Whether we like it or not Politics has an effect on all of us. The taxes we pay, the schools and colleges we attend and work in, the National Health Service, the holding of the Olympics in London in 2012, the decision to have a nuclear deterrent are all the result of political decisions. Consequently, the study of Politics will help you to better understand the processes by which such decisions are made and hopefully make you realise that you matter and can change things.

What does the course involve?

Politics is the study of how we are governed. This means that we look at how we elect MPs and form governments. We also study how Parliament works and possible reforms, the role of judges in the area of civil liberties, the role of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet and the role and philosophy of the main political parties.

Politics is a subject that deals with argument and debate whilst also emphasising the current – what are the differences between the parties over taxation and spending cuts? How should the Government respond to the threat of terrorism? Should it be allowed to intercept our emails? Is the PM too powerful or too weak? These are just a few of the issues that are looked at.

In the second year we study American Politics. Again, the emphasis is on the contemporary. For example, we look at the debate on gun control and examine why it has been so difficult to change anything. This involves looking at the way Congress works and at the power of the National Rifle Association.



"Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you."

Pericles

In addition to studying elections, parties, the President etc., we also study other issues such as civil rights, civil liberties, immigration and the politics of abortion.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

There are no specific entry requirements for the study of Politics. However, an interest in current affairs and what is in the news would be an advantage.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

Study visits for this course are currently under review. Please check the website for updates to this information.

What can I do after the course?

Politics is highly regarded by employers and universities. It is a traditional subject with a strong emphasis on writing and

analytical skills. Students from Hereford Sixth Form College who have studied Politics have gone into careers such as journalism, law, the armed forces, police, business and the media to name a few.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care

Examination Board: Edexcel



This BTEC qualification is equivalent to one A Level and is for those interested in learning about the health and social care sector as part of a balanced study programme.

What does the course involve?

The qualification typically makes up one third of a full time two year study programme and consists of a combination of continual assessment through written assignments and end of year examinations.

You will complete one assignment and one examination for each year of study and the marks for these will make up your final grade. You will gain an introductory understanding of the health and social care sector through the study of the following units:

Year One

Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

- ▶ Assignment
- ▶ You will focus on the principles and practicalities that underpin meeting

individuals' care and support needs, which are the foundation of all the care disciplines.

Human Lifespan Development

- ▶ Examined
- ▶ You will cover physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the human lifespan and the factors affecting development and the effects of ageing.

Year Two

Psychological Perspectives

- ▶ Assignment
- ▶ You will explore key theoretical perspectives that have been put forward on psychological and physical development and how they are applied in different health and social care settings.

Working in Health and Social Care

- ▶ Examined
- ▶ You will explore what it is like to work in the health and social care sector, including the roles and responsibilities of workers and organisations.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

In order to enrol on this programme you will need the following:

- ▶ Grade 4 or C in GCSE Mathematics and English;
- ▶ An interest in Health and/or Social Care;
- ▶ An ability to work independently and meet regular deadlines.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

Although not compulsory it is useful to arrange relevant work experience in a health and social care setting as this will help you to gather evidence for your assignments and will support your understanding of the examined material.

What can I do after the course?

The qualification, when taken alongside other Level 3 programmes, will enable you to progress to a degree programme chosen from the health and social care sector. It can be taken alongside, for example:

- ▶ A Levels in Biology and Psychology which could lead to a BSC(Hons) in Nursing.
- ▶ A Levels in English and History which could lead to a BA(Hons) in Primary Education.

The specification for this course is due to change in September 2017.
Please check the College website for the most up to date information.

BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health & Social Care

Examination Board: Edexcel

This BTEC qualification is an Applied General Qualification equivalent in size to two A Levels and is for those who are intending to go onto further study in a related health and/or social care sector.

What does the course involve?

The qualification typically makes up two thirds of a full time two year study programme and consists of a combination of continual assessment through written assignments, controlled assessment and end of year examinations.

Year One

Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

- ▶ Assignment
- ▶ You will focus on the principles and practicalities that underpin meeting individuals' care and support needs, which are the foundation of all the care disciplines.

Human Lifespan Development

- ▶ Examined
- ▶ You will cover physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the human lifespan and the factors affecting development and the effects of ageing.

Psychological Perspectives

- ▶ Assignment
- ▶ You will explore key theoretical perspectives that have been put forward on psychological and physical development and how they are applied in different health and social care settings.

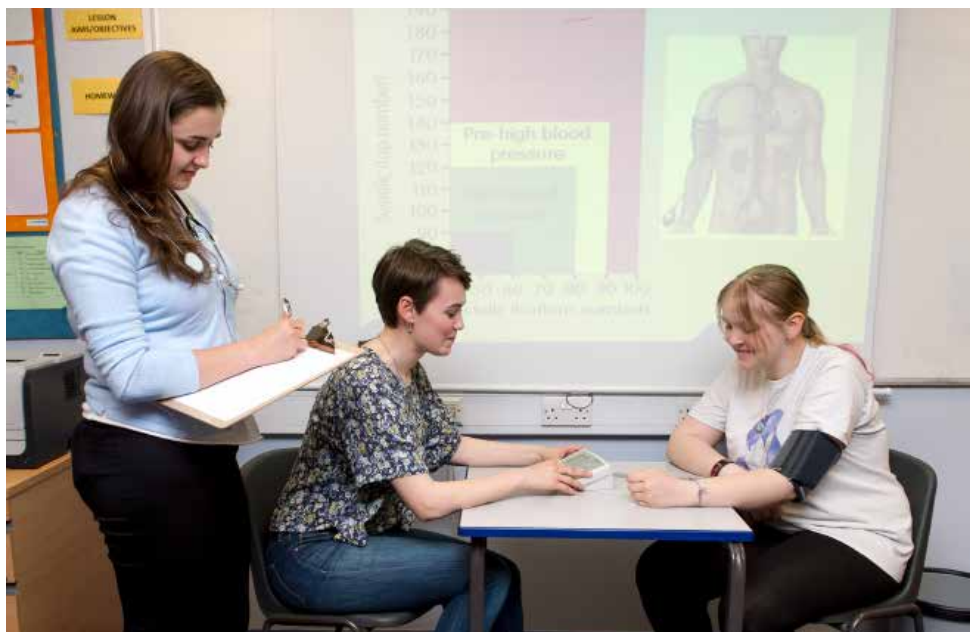
Working in Health and Social Care

- ▶ Examined
- ▶ You will explore what it is like to work in the health and social care sector, including the roles and responsibilities of workers and organisations.

Year Two

Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care

- ▶ Controlled Assessment
- ▶ You will explore the methodologies



of contemporary research and investigate the implications for health and social care practice and services.

Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care

- ▶ Assignment
- ▶ You will explore the importance of safe working practices, safeguarding procedures and responding to emergency situations in health and social care settings.

Promoting Public Health

- ▶ Assignment
- ▶ You will explore the aims of public health policy and the current approaches to promoting and protecting health and encouraging behaviour change in the population.

Nutritional Health

- ▶ Assignment
- ▶ You will explore concepts of nutritional health and influences on dietary intake and learn how to assess and improve health through nutrition plans for individuals.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

In order to enrol on this programme you will need the following:

- ▶ Grade 4 or C in GCSE Mathematics and English;
- ▶ An interest in Health and/or Social Care;
- ▶ An ability to work independently and meet regular deadlines.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

Although not compulsory there will be an expectation for you to arrange relevant work experience in a health and social care setting as this will help you to gather evidence for your assignments and will support your understanding of the examined material.

What can I do after the course?

For many students, Health & Social Care may be the first step in a related career such as nursing, early years teaching or social work.

A Level History – Medieval/Early Modern

Examination Board: OCR



What does the course involve?

Medieval/Early Modern History focuses on two of the pivotal periods of British and European History.

Units 1 and 3 draw on the rich History of the 15th and 16th Centuries – the point where the leading realms of late Medieval Europe began to resemble modern nation states. This change arguably took place most dramatically in England under the Lancastrian, Yorkist and Tudor monarchies, springing from the dynastic conflicts between these competing forces which constituted the Wars of the Roses.

Unit 2 takes students further back into the Medieval era to examine the motives and impact of the Crusades and the Crusader States, providing students with an invaluable understanding of current Middle-Eastern geopolitics and a fascinating glimpse into the minds of the Medieval peoples of Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Unit 4 is the non-examined coursework element of the course and it is anticipated that students will complete their coursework on either a Medieval or Early Modern topic to be decided at the end of the first year of study.

The four units which make up this A Level are:

Unit 1: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1445-1509

This is a source AND essay based examination lasting 1 hour 30 minutes, accounting for 25% of the total A Level.

Unit 2: The Crusades and Crusader States, 1095-1192

This is an essay-based examination lasting 1 hour and accounts for 15% of the final grade.

Unit 3: Tudor Rebellions, 1485-1603

This is an essay and interpretations-based examination, accounting for 40% of the total A Level.

Unit 4: Coursework essay

This is a knowledge and source-based coursework essay accounting for 20% of the total A Level. Topics are likely to be drawn from the content covered in Units 1, 2 and 3 and it hoped that students will be able to choose between a Medieval and Early Modern topic.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

It is obviously helpful if you have studied History at GCSE but many students take up History for the first time at A Level. You should have a minimum of grade C in History and/or ideally a grade 5 or B in English to be able cope with the reading level of the texts used. Regular readers will find History more accessible than those who avoid books! More importantly, you need to have an open mind and a willingness to immerse yourself in this period of History.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

You will visit battlefield sites and a local castle as part of your Enquiry topic on the *Wars of the Roses, 1445-1461*. You will also get the opportunity to meet Historians at the Hay Festival as part of the *Hay Levels* initiative exclusive to Hereford Sixth Form College students. Study visits for the second year are currently being reviewed.

What can I do after the course?

History A Level is a valuable qualification for entry to any literacy based or social science course at degree level or equivalent. History students often continue their studies in history, American studies, journalism, law and politics to name just a few. History graduates can then enter professions related to these courses, but also there is an increasing demand for historians in the media and entertainment industries.

A Level History – Modern World

Examination Board: OCR

What does the course involve?

The Modern World History course focuses on some of the pivotal periods of British, European and World History. Unit 1 examines the point where Britain emerged from the Victorian era and became the state we recognise today. Unit 2 looks at the origins of Modern History itself – the American Revolution of the 18th Century. This dramatic shift in the balance of world power was arguably the point where the modern ideologies of Liberalism and Nationalism were created. Unit 3 focuses on the causes and effects of the immense changes which the Russian Empire and USSR experienced over the 19th and 20th Centuries. Unit 4 is the coursework element of the course and is likely to be on a topic drawn from, or related to the other Units or from another topic relevant to the 20th Century.

The four units which make up this A Level are:

Unit 1: *Britain 1900-1951*

This is a source AND essay based examination lasting 1 hour 30 minutes, accounting for 25% of the total A Level.

Unit 2:

The American Revolution, 1740-1796

This is an essay-based examination lasting 1 hour and accounts for 15% of the final grade.

Unit 3: *Russia and its Rulers, 1855-1964*

This is an essay and interpretations-based examination, accounting for 40% of the total A Level.

Unit 4: *Coursework essay*

This is a knowledge and source-based coursework essay accounting for 20% of the total A Level. Topics are likely to be drawn from the content covered in Units 1, 2 and 3 or from the 20th Century in general and it hoped that students will be able to choose between alternative topics.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

It is obviously helpful if you have studied History at GCSE but many students take



up History for the first time at A Level. You should have a minimum of grade C in History and/or ideally a grade 5 or B in English to be able to cope with the reading level of the texts used. Regular readers will find History more accessible than those who avoid books! More importantly, you need to have an open mind and a willingness to immerse yourself in this period of History.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

You are likely to be offered a study visit to Moscow and St Petersburg in October 2017 to complement Unit 3. You will also get the opportunity to meet Historians at the Hay Festival as part of the *Hay Levels* initiative exclusive to Hereford Sixth Form College students.

What can I do after the course?

History A Level is a valuable qualification for entry to any literacy based or social science course at degree level or equivalent. History students often continue their studies in history, American studies, journalism, law and politics to name just a few. History

graduates can then enter professions related to these courses, but also there is an increasing demand for historians in the media and entertainment industries.

BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in IT

Examination Board: Edexcel



What does the course involve?

This course provides you with an opportunity to take a totally fresh look at this exciting subject that permeates so much of the world in which we live. The units covered will provide in depth study in a wide range of areas from manipulating digital graphics to building and configuring a computer. The diversity of the course makes it extremely popular whatever your other subject choices are. It can be studied alongside other A Level courses including A Level Computer Science.

The Subsidiary Diploma is a two year vocational course and is equivalent to one A Level carrying a maximum of 140 UCAS points (the same as A* grade at A level).

- ▶ There are six units studied over two years which include a mix of technical, design and business influenced units.
- ▶ 100% of the work is assessed through assignments involving both written and practical tasks. There is no final examination.

- ▶ The work is assessed over the duration of the course.
- ▶ Final grades of Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* are awarded.
- ▶ Industry standard software is used on the course (*Dreamweaver CS6, Illustrator CS6, Photoshop CS6, Access 2010, Excel 2010*)
- ▶ A variety of skills will be developed during the course which include:
 - website design and development;
 - working with digital graphics;
 - building and configuring a computer system;
 - producing financial models for business;
 - producing information systems for business;
 - presentation and interview skills;
 - industry/professional writing skills.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

There are no specific qualification entry requirements beyond the mandatory A Level programme requirements, however, skills in the following are

particularly important given the significant demands of the coursework:

- ▶ self-motivation and being able to work independently;
- ▶ organisation and good timekeeping;
- ▶ ability to prioritise;
- ▶ confidence at written communication.

Alongside these skills a willingness to present in front of a small audience would be needed.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

An optional trip takes place to EGX, the UK's biggest games event, which includes opportunities to play new games, hear from leading developers and get careers advice from the games industry. There are also visits arranged to university Computer Science departments. Past trips have also included the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park and the Science Museum in London.

What can I do after the course?

This course offers progression onto a wide range of degree courses, apprenticeships and careers. They include network technician, programmer, web developer, systems analyst, digital media, information systems, network support, business, accountancy, teaching, advertising, TV and film production.

Course Structure

Year One

- ▶ *Digital Graphics*
- ▶ *Computer Systems (core unit)*
- ▶ *Communication and Employability Skills (core unit)*

Year Two

- ▶ *Spreadsheet Modelling*
- ▶ *Website Production*
- ▶ *Database Design*

The specification for this course is due to change in September 2017.
Please check the College website for the most up to date information.

AS Level Law

Examination Board: AQA

*"The law is reason,
free from passion."*
Aristotle

What does the course involve?

The study of Law in Year One focuses on how the English legal system works and how law is made. This is followed by the study of Law in Action using examples of everyday problems. You learn about the criminal law through the study of non-fatal offences and about the Civil Law through the study of the Law of Negligence.

In the second year we build on the knowledge from the first year, examining in depth crimes of homicide and further torts such as nuisance. In addition, we debate the effectiveness of the law, for example, whether justice is achieved for victims and should law reflect morals?

By the time you finish the course you will not only know about the law and the courts, but also about how our society works.

The Law Department also runs Criminology taster sessions at lunchtime and the mooting group arrange mock trials for students to participate in.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

You will need to be able to write clear and logical English and to have an interest in current legal issues such as human rights and the arguments surrounding criminal justice. You will also need to learn, analyse and apply factual information.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

Every year we take a trip to London where we visit the Supreme Court and the Houses of Parliament. We have also taken groups to the Crown Courts in Birmingham and Cardiff. The Department is also keen to give students a taste of what it is actually like being involved in a court of law.



*"At his best, man is the noblest of all
animals; separated from law and justice
he is the worst."*

Aristotle

Through working with a firm of local solicitors, we have staged a very successful moot court presided over by a local District Judge.

What can I do after the course?

You can, of course, go on to specialise in the Law (and many do), but Law is also a good foundation for higher education in general because of the analytical skills it teaches you, as well as the way it develops your writing skills. Law provides an excellent preparation for a wide range of careers including the police service, social work (including dealing with youth offenders), journalism, criminal psychology, the armed forces and business.

The specification for these courses are due to change in September 2017.
Please check the College website for the most up to date information.

A Level Mathematics Courses



A Level Statistics

Examination Board: AQA

This course is currently being revised by Ofqual and the Examination Board in preparation for a new syllabus in September 2017. We are keeping up to date with proposed changes. More details about the future of this course will be published on our website when they become available.

What does the course involve?

Statistics is the branch of Mathematics which is used in situations involving variability or uncertainty, such as weather forecasting, finance or assessing the effects of medicines. The course builds on descriptive statistics, such as averages, and leads on to testing whether an observed result is statistically different from what might be expected; for example, is the proportion of babies born with birth defects significantly higher in the neighbourhood of a nuclear power plant or not?

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

You should normally have at least a grade 5 or B in GCSE Mathematics and at least Grade 4 or C in GCSE English.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

There are no compulsory visits, but occasionally there are opportunities for visits or lectures by visiting speakers.

What can I do after the course?

Students with A Level Statistics have trained as accountants, and others have found A Level Statistics valuable when taking degrees in Psychology, Business Studies, Geography, Biology and Anthropology. You develop the ability to follow complicated formulae and instructions accurately, and this is a very transferable skill in a wide range of mathematical and non-mathematical contexts.

An Overview of Mathematics

Mathematics is not only a beautiful and exciting subject in its own right but also underpins many other branches of learning. It has been fundamental to the development of the society in which we live.

Mathematics can be divided into two areas: at its heart lies Pure Mathematics, which in the main is concerned with algebra and geometry, and Applied Mathematics, which, as the name implies, applies techniques in Pure Mathematics to solve problems in the world about us.

If you wish to study Mathematics at Hereford Sixth Form College, please see the table below:

Your Qualification	Options
9 or A* in GCSE Mathematics	Fast Track Mathematics: Mathematics A Level completed in the first year which then allows the possibility of Further Mathematics A Level or Further Mathematics AS Level in the second year. If you have studied any AS Mathematics modules at school, you should consider this option.
OR you are a very keen Mathematician	
OR you have studied Mathematics beyond GCSE	You will have the chance to discuss this choice at enrolment.
7, 8, 9, A or A* in GCSE Mathematics	Mathematics A Level OR Statistics A Level.
6 or B in GCSE Mathematics	If you wish to study Mathematics A Level and have a grade 6 or B in GCSE Mathematics you will be advised on an individual basis. OR Statistics A Level
5 or B in GCSE Mathematics	Statistics A Level or GCSE Higher
4 or C in GCSE Mathematics	Mathematics GCSE Higher Level (please see page 74)
Below a 4 or C in GCSE Mathematics	Mathematics GCSE Foundation Level or Level 1/2 as appropriate (please see page 74)

If you would like more information about any of these courses log in to our website for new students:

www.appmoodle.hereford.ac.uk (see page 1).

The specification for these courses are due to change in September 2017.
Please check the College website for the most up to date information.

A Level Mathematics Courses

AS/A Level Fast Track Mathematics/ Further Mathematics

Examination Board: OCR (MEI)

What does the course involve?

This course allows you to complete Mathematics A Level in your first year and then, if you wish, to go on to study an additional A or AS Level in Further Mathematics. You will have eight lessons a week instead of the normal four lessons. If you complete the Further Mathematics A Level you will have the opportunity to develop your understanding of Mathematics across a very wide field.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

Please see the table in Overview of Mathematics on the previous page.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

There are no compulsory visits, but you may have the opportunity to attend conferences and lectures.

What can I do after the course?

Mathematicians are highly valued and well placed when it comes to finding employment in a wide variety of careers. Openings exist in industry, banking and finance as accountants and actuaries as well as in management. Mathematics A and AS Level courses are particularly useful for people hoping to study engineering, the natural sciences or physics at university. In addition, Further Mathematics is academically very demanding and hence prestigious. It is the ideal course if you intend to study Mathematics at university and is particularly useful when applying for competitive entry university courses.

Scan the QR code to find out what Iona has to say about A Level Further Mathematics:



A Level Mathematics

Examination Board: OCR (MEI)

What does the course involve?

This is a traditional Mathematics course. It builds on your understanding of algebra and geometry and introduces you to new and important concepts such as calculus, which helps us explain how the world changes in time.

You will study both Pure and Applied Mathematics.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

You should normally have at least a grade 7 or A in GCSE Mathematics. If you have a grade 6 or B you will be advised on an individual basis.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

There are no compulsory visits, but you may have the opportunity to attend conferences and lectures.

What can I do after the course?

Mathematicians are highly valued and well placed when it comes to finding employment. Openings exist in industry, banking and finance as accountants and actuaries as well as in management. Mathematics A Level courses are particularly useful for people hoping to study engineering, economics, the natural sciences or physics at university.

A Level Music

Examination Board: OCR



degrees. It is suited equally to students who aspire to a music career and to those who would like to develop a greater understanding of music and musicians. Students routinely progress to study at some of the top universities and conservatoires.

The Department also offers advanced training programmes for able musicians, through the *Academia Musica* scholarship programmes. Please see pages 18-19 or the College website for further details:
www.hereford.ac.uk

What does the course involve?

Music is a highly respected academic course that will challenge and inspire you to gain greater expertise on your instrument, to understand good practice in composition and to improve your evaluation skills by analysing some of history's greatest works.

In addition to your four weekly classes, all music students have access to Music Theory classes leading to Grade 8 and lessons with a specialist performance tutor. All Music students also have weekly university-style academic tutorial sessions in small groups and are given the opportunity to be engaged with a range of orchestras, bands and choirs.

Whether or not you decide to study music after A Level, this is an exciting course for any dedicated musicians.

The programme includes a Performance Recital; a taught Composition unit, which includes advanced harmony and counterpoint, assessed through coursework; and a course of Listening, History and Analysis leading to examination. A significant amount of

preparation and support is given to every student through an individually tailored programme.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

You are required to have achieved a minimum of Grade 4 (or equivalent) on at least one instrument (or voice) and in Music Theory. In cases where the Music Theory qualification is pending, you will be given a Grade 4 entrance paper on arrival.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

The Department runs national and international tours with the College ensembles, regular trips to universities and visits to some of the finest concert halls to meet professional musicians and hear the set works.

What can I do after the course?

The A Level course provides an academic and practical grounding for both higher education and professional music opportunities and is a necessary prerequisite for the majority of music

BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts (Musical Theatre)

Examination Board: Edexcel

What does the course involve?

This is a two year practical course for those who have experience and are interested in developing song, dance and choreography skills for musicals, equivalent to an A Level qualification.

You will study the genre of Musical Theatre as a whole from the 1920s through to today. There are ten assignments to complete with the majority being practical and the remainder written. You will recreate pieces from musicals such as *Chicago*, *Oklahoma*, *West Side Story*, *Wicked* and many more. You will be expected to plan, rehearse and perform aspects of musicals throughout the year. These performances will form the basis of half-termly assessments alongside a written research project into chosen examples of the genre.

You will be set assignments throughout the duration of the course. Here are some examples of the course units studied:

- ▶ Developing Movement Skills
- ▶ Singing Skills for Actors and Dancers
- ▶ Musical Theatre Performance
- ▶ Performing to an Audience
- ▶ Auditions for Actors

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

The course requires you to have previous experience in the performance of musicals and expects a basic standard of song and dance. The course will offer expert coaching in these areas.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

The year will culminate in a final assessed project of a small scale musical, where students will be expected to create a performance, plan and publicise it, then perform it in College.

What can I do after the course?

This is a practical course, focusing on the development and refinement of singing, acting and dancing skills and how they contribute to the telling of a story to an audience. It will complement your Level 3 qualifications and help you progress in this field to higher education.



Connor Pearson

Malvern College

Studied: BTEC Dance, A Level Law and BTEC Musical Theatre

"The best part of Musical Theatre is the content of the course and the way the tutor teaches it. The course allows you to grow as a performer because if you are a dancer you have the chance to work on your singing skills and vice versa. Then the facilities are amazing because you've got the dance studio floor which is sprung and the PAC which is a professional performance space with lighting and sound system.

During our course we have had the opportunity to watch Matthew Bourne's dance interpretation of 'Sleeping Beauty' which helped us to understand what skills are demanded during a show and performance. We also got to go to London to watch musicals 'Memphis' and 'Miss Saigon'. This helped me personally to understand that musicals are good for you to develop your versatility as you need to be able to sing, dance and act."



SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE FROM CONNOR

A Level Philosophy & Ethics

Examination Board: Eduqas



What does the course involve?

Philosophy & Ethics involves learning about the Philosophy of Religion and Moral Philosophy and the study of aspects of the world religion of Christianity. Examples of areas you will study include the classical arguments for and against God's existence; the problem of evil for religious believers; psychological and scientific responses to religious belief and the rise of new atheism. In addition, we will consider religious experience and the meaningfulness of religious language, examining and evaluating the views of ancient and modern scholars.

You will consider some of the classic theories of morality, ranging from deontological to teleological approaches. You will apply these to modern ethical issues including, medical and sexual ethics, immigration, capital punishment, animal experimentation and nuclear weaponry. You will question whether we are free or determined and the implications this has on moral responsibility.

You will study the religious figures, sacred texts and practices of Christianity, examining the nature of the Christian God, for example as Father or Mother. You will assess Christian diversity in festivals such as Christmas and Easter. You will analyse and evaluate religious concepts such as the Trinity and Atonement and consider Christian religious life and social developments such as Liberation and Feminist Theology.

You will learn to critically analyse and assess evidence and arguments, engage in coherent debate and discussion, to construct cogent arguments and formulate your own conclusions on contentious issues. Philosophy & Ethics will train you to read critically, analyse and assess arguments, discern hidden assumptions and construct sound and valid arguments, expressing yourself clearly and precisely in both speech and writing.

Please note that the world religion that underpins this course is Christianity.

How will I be assessed?

Internal assessment is primarily by written essay.

External assessment is by three, two hour written examinations in the summer term of your second year:

Paper 1: A Study of Christianity
Paper 2: Philosophy and Religion
Paper 3: Religion and Ethics

You will be required to write two full essay responses for each individual examination exhibiting a high level of academic rigour:

Knowledge and Understanding
(40% of the assessment)

Analysis and Evaluation
(60% of the assessment)

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

We assume no previous knowledge of the subject but you do need to be prepared to study independently, have the ability to be challenged, to cope with difficult concepts, to engage in discussion accepting new ideas and ways of thinking. You will need to be prepared to work hard both inside and outside of lessons.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

There will be opportunities for students to attend conferences either at College or at other venues, throughout the course, delivered by subject specialists.

What can I do after the course?

Philosophy & Ethics can lead to a very wide range of courses in higher education such as PPE, Theology, Philosophy, Religious Studies and it stands as a very valued academic qualification. The skills gained in the study of this course can help you excel in fields as varied as law, business, medicine, journalism, politics, human resource management, teaching, social work and all aspects of social and community work, for example, the police force or probation service.

A Level Physical Education

Examination Board: OCR

What does the course involve?

This course looks at Physical Education in both a theoretical and practical perspective, although you do need to be aware that the opportunity for practical performance is very limited within lesson time.

You will have four lessons per week and will be expected to supplement your learning with independent study. This A Level provides you with an informed scientific and human understanding of key issues in Physical Education today. Delivery is centred on three key theory units:

Unit 1: Applied Anatomy and Physiology

Unit 2: Psychological Factors Affecting Performance

Unit 3: Socio-Cultural Issues

The Physiology unit has the heaviest weighting and this course includes a substantial Science element.

A Level Physical Education has a strong academic focus and the course is arranged to help support you in learning and applying the required content. The A Level will be assessed by three examinations at the end of the two year programme.

It is essential that you are a competent practical performer. The practical assessment contains performance within a competitive environment and a verbal evaluation and analysis of performance. Both hold equal weighting and provide 30% of the final grade.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

The entrance requirement is a grade B in GCSE Science and having GCSE Physical Education would be beneficial. A portfolio of evidence of practical competency will also be required.



Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

There are no compulsory visits, but you may have the opportunity to attend events, conferences and lectures.

What can I do after the course?

A Level Physical Education will enhance your prospects if you are considering a career in sport, leisure and recreation.

It also has a wider currency and can be used to aid progression into non sport disciplines.

A Level Physics

Examination Board: AQA



What does the course involve?

At its heart, Physics is about understanding how and why things behave as they do. Physics is vital to developments in the modern world, from Space Science to Nanophysics, from medical treatments to mobile phones; Physics makes an impact on virtually every area of our lives. Studying Physics offers a challenging but rewarding route to understanding the world around us.

You are expected to use the written and electronic resources available to you to develop your understanding of basic concepts outside of lessons. Lessons will concentrate on applying these concepts to explain observations and solve problems, particularly in unfamiliar situations. The course content and its assessment is as follows:

Year One

- ▶ Measurement and Their Errors
- ▶ Particles and Radiation
- ▶ Waves
- ▶ Mechanics and Materials

- ▶ Electricity

Year Two

- ▶ Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics
- ▶ Fields (Electric, Magnetic, Gravitational) and Their Consequences
- ▶ Nuclear Physics
- ▶ Astrophysics

The A Level will be assessed by three, two hour examinations at the end of the two year programme. Each examination contributes one third of the overall A Level mark. There is no coursework or practical examination.

Although there is no practical examination, practical skills will be regularly assessed by the tutor during the course and a final pass/fail grade awarded at the end. This pass/fail award will be shown separately as a pass or fail on your examination certificate. This practical assessment does not contribute towards the final A Level mark.

You will be loaned a Physics textbook and revision guides will be available from the Library. You will need your own scientific calculator, file and 30cm ruler.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

The entrance requirements are a grade B in both GCSE Science and Additional Science (or in two separate Sciences, including Physics) and a grade 6 or B in Mathematics.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

There are no compulsory visits, but you may have the opportunity to attend conferences and lectures.

What can I do after the course?

Although Physics underpins careers in engineering and technology, the analytical and problem solving skills you develop are also highly valued in career areas not necessarily directly related to Physics, for example, management, financial services, law and the civil service.

You will gain a qualification in a highly regarded facilitating subject that will enable you to access many degree courses, apprenticeships and employment. Please note that although you don't need to take A Level Mathematics in order to take A Level Physics, if you wish to study Physics or Engineering at university you must also have A Level Mathematics.

A Level Psychology

Examination Board: AQA

What does the course involve?

Psychology can be defined as the scientific study of behaviour and the mind. It includes consideration of both humans and animals and of normal and abnormal behaviour.

Psychology deals with scientific research. This includes studying theories and considering the relevance of research studies.

The main topics in Year One include:

Research Methods and Statistics in Psychology

Memory and Eye-Witness Testimony
Models of memory, forgetting and eye witness testimony

Attachment

Explanations of attachment and maternal deprivation

Bio Psychology

The nervous system, endocrine system and the fight or flight response

Conformity and Obedience

Explaining and Treating OCD, Depression and Phobias

In Year Two, you will study:

Research Methods and Statistics in Psychology

Approaches, Issues and Debates in Psychology

Aggression

Biological, evolutionary and social psychological explanations of aggression.

Gender

Biological and psychological factors in gender development.

Stress

Psychological and physiological factors in stress. Stress management.

A Level Psychology includes the study of relevant research methods, investigation design, data analysis and data presentation. You will develop an understanding of potential ethical issues in Psychology and ways in which Psychologists deal with these issues.



The vast majority of students taking this subject at A Level not only find that they learn a great deal from it but also that it is enjoyable. Psychology will help you understand yourself and others in many ways. It will allow you to challenge the stereotypes and 'quick fix' answers often provided by the media to issues such as mental health and the effect of violent videos on children's behaviour.

Assessment is through examination during the summer term.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

You are not expected to have previous knowledge of this subject but must meet the College minimum entry requirements for the A Level programme. To succeed in Psychology, you should be able to write clearly and coherently and have basic mathematical skills in order to analyse data. The Psychology specification complies with the subject criteria for Science.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

There are no compulsory visits, but you will have the opportunity to attend conferences and lectures.

What can I do after the course?

For some students this may be the first step in a career in Psychology, such as a clinical, educational, occupational or sports psychologist. Others have gone on to study a wide range of subjects to degree level, including law, medicine, politics and English. An A Level in Psychology is well regarded by most employers, especially in areas that are 'people orientated', for example, teaching, nursing and social work.

A Level Sociology

Examination Board: AQA



Lily Stubley-Adje

St Julian's School, Newport

Studied: A Levels in Drama & Theatre Studies, English Language and Sociology

"The content of Sociology is fascinating; everything you talk about in class you can relate to the real world and your own life. There is also quite a lot of transferable knowledge if you take other humanities subjects.

We had an all day Sociology conference at College with guest speakers from universities including Bristol and Birmingham who gave talks on topics we're studying and that will be in our exams. It was really useful as we took notes and were able to ask questions at the end. It also gave us a taster of university life as all the speakers were either university lecturers or PhD students.

You will come across so many different views and theories in your studies so it's good to come with an open mind and willingness to debate and interact with your classmates."



SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE FROM LILY

What does the course involve?

Sociology is the study of how society works. So if you are interested in people or if you want to understand what is happening in the world, this is the course for you. Sociology looks at how society operates, why problems arise and how we can solve them.

By studying Sociology you can develop a greater understanding of the society and processes that shape our behaviour.

During the course you will develop the ability to debate ideas and communicate them in writing.

The main topics in Year One include:

Work, Poverty and Welfare

Why are people in poverty? Can you blame individuals for being poor? What is the impact of unemployment? What do we mean by wealth? Should people be allowed to keep everything they earn?

Education

Is the education system fair? Does it prepare us for work? Why are girls outperforming boys?

Research Methods

How should we study society? Can you study people scientifically?

In Year Two you will study:

Sociological Theory

Is society fair? Do we get equal chances in life? Is the way we behave a result of how others see us?

Crime and Deviance

Why do people commit crime? Is it a rational choice? Why do women commit less crime?

Mass Media

Is the media brainwashing us? Does it make us more violent? What affect do social networking sites have on our lives?

The current assessment pattern is as follows:

Unit 1: Education with Theory and Sociological Methods

(2 hours - 33.3% of A Level)

Unit 2: Work, Poverty and Welfare and The Media

(2 hours - 33.3% of A Level)

Unit 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Sociological Methods

(2 hours - 33.3% of A Level)

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

We assume no previous knowledge of Sociology but you do need the ability to cope with abstract ideas and to produce good written English.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

There are no compulsory visits, but you will have the opportunity to attend conferences and lectures.

What can I do after the course?

Sociology links to several other subjects for example: Psychology, Law, Politics, Geography and Biology. Sociology also forms part of many vocational qualifications for example, in nursing, teaching and social work.

Sociology is also studied as part of the training for many professions, for example, business management, advertising, journalism, prison work, law and the police.

A Level Spanish

Examination Board: AQA

What does the course involve?

The course aims to develop high levels of competence in understanding, speaking and writing Spanish and a deeper knowledge of Spanish culture and civilisation and that of Latin America.

Subject Content

Over the two years you will study:

- ▶ Social Issues and Trends
- ▶ Political and Artistic Culture
- ▶ Literary Texts and Film
- ▶ Grammar

The work is presented in context through newspaper and magazine articles, radio and television programmes, film, video and the Internet.

Spanish makes you think. It encourages you to question your own ideas, put your point of view across and offers you the chance to understand Spanish and Latin American society and culture more deeply. Spanish is a challenging but highly rewarding subject.

Learning languages helps develop communication and problem-solving skills and gain independence, flexibility and organisational skills - all qualities that employers value. There are many areas of work in which languages can be a real asset.

Spanish will also help to develop your confidence, your social skills and awareness of Hispanic culture.

You will be expected to go over material covered in class every day to build your knowledge of the language and vocabulary. You will write short essays on the topics you study.

It is essential to maintain full and detailed vocabulary and grammar notes. There are weekly tests, comprehension and grammar exercises, translations and the preparation of texts for classroom study or oral presentation.

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (40% of A Level)

Paper 2: One Text and One Film Essay (30% of A Level)

Paper 3: Oral (30% of A Level)

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

At A Level it is important to read widely and have an interest in how language works - this applies to English too! You will develop and express opinions on wide-ranging topics including the current social issues, political life and artistic culture in the Spanish-speaking world. You need at least a grade B in GCSE Spanish and a grade 5 or B in both English Language and English Literature and a genuine level of interest and commitment to Spanish language and culture.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

You are encouraged to take part in a week-long residential study visit to Seville taught by native speakers (costing £700-£750 in recent years). Financial help may be available in cases of hardship.

What can I do after the course?

The knowledge of a European language increases your career prospects. Spanish can help you gain access to top jobs in business, banking, finance, journalism, law, public relations, travel and the civil service. There are opportunities in tourism, the media, the diplomatic service, translation and interpreting.

Spanish is spoken by 400 million native speakers in over 20 countries. Spanish is an important language in the fields of technology and business.

Recent data from Oxford University shows that 93% of Modern Language graduates go straight into employment or further study compared to an 87% average in other subjects.



Henry Jones

Lucton School

Studying: A Levels in French, Modern History and Spanish

"The tutors are absolutely amazing, they are hilarious and helpful - with them teaching you, you learn so much and have fun whilst doing it.

If I was giving advice to someone looking to take A Level Spanish, I would say go for it. It is hard work but totally worth it in the end and extremely sought after at university"



SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE FROM HENRY

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport & Exercise Science

Examination Board: Edexcel



This BTEC qualification is equivalent to three A Levels and it can be used to access higher education programmes in its own right. It is a global study of Physical Education, Sport and Recreation and is a combination of practical and theoretical units of work.

What does the course involve?

This is a full-time course which will require you to be fully committed to the study of sport. The course is based on continual assessment and currently has no final examinations.

You will complete assignments for each course unit and the marks for these will make up your final grade.

Students will gain an exceptional understanding of Sport and its associated disciplines.

You will become a more organised

individual through the high level of self discipline required to meet the stringent assignment deadlines; you will also benefit from having no final assessment.

You will develop the ability to question and research associated topics and will hopefully be able to access support both within and outside the College environment.

This qualification has wide currency for both higher education and employment and is universally accepted. Students can expect to gain competitive first choice offers from the major HE establishments.

If your GCSE profile is strong you can combine the Diploma with an additional A Level.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

In order to enrol on this programme you

will need:

- ▶ A minimum of 20 points at GCSE Level.
- ▶ A strong GCSE performance in English, Mathematics and Science.
- ▶ BTEC First/Certificate/Diploma in a related subject.
- ▶ Qualifications equivalent to any of the above.

You will also be required to take part in an interview with the Head of Physical Education or member of the team.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

Field trips are arranged as part of the course within the BTEC units.

What can I do after the course?

This course is primarily aimed at those students who wish to pursue a career in sport or in sport-related disciplines and you need to be aware that studying a BTEC Extended Diploma is intense and will require full commitment to both practical activity and completion of assignment work.

Your academic profile will begin to develop early in the course and all work that you complete will contribute to your final grade. It is vital therefore that you are prepared to work hard for the duration of the two years.

If you are prepared to do this the rewards can be significant with a high percentage of students currently achieving top grades and maximum UCAS points.

Possible careers include all sport-related careers, for example, coaching and sports development, teaching and coaching, physiotherapy and sports therapy, the armed forces, the police and fire brigade.

This course is intended for students who wish to gain a qualification that will enhance their prospects of working in the increasingly popular areas of sport, leisure and recreation. It is also designed to meet the entry requirements for higher education courses and students often progress to first choice institutions.

Due to the complex nature of the course and assessment mechanisms you will be supported through a dedicated tutorial system which is designed to maximise your chances of achieving your target grade and chosen progression route.



Back Row L- R: Jasmine Savory-Hughes, Brittany Charles, Nathan Wiles, Alex Walters, Owen Rivers
Middle Row L-R: Becky Kerr, Lucy Moule, Nia Johns, Anna Nicholson-Little, Alix Turley, Laurie Essenhugh
Front Row L-R: Charlotte Eggerton, Ellie Williams, Georgina Jode, Emily Tyler, Katie Slater

During 2015/16 every BTEC Sport & Exercise Science student passed the course with strong grade performances.

Rugby player Laurie Essenhugh said, "I loved the atmosphere at the College and the course was great. You learn so much about every aspect of sport and it has set me up so well for my next three years at university studying Sport."

Footballer, Becky Kerr, is heading to the University of Gloucester to continue studies in Sport Development and Coaching. She said, "I found the course very interesting because there was a wide range of topics that we focused on over the two years. I especially enjoyed Sports

Psychology which was a subject I knew nothing about beforehand. The tutors were very supportive and helped us if we were struggling. The facilities available are excellent too."

Head of PE, Andy Douthwaite, said, "The course is a challenging programme which requires students to work solidly over the two years in a range of sport-related academic disciplines. This particular group has excelled and, through a combination of commitment and hard work, has produced our best ever results."



Will Gore

Bedstone College

Studying: BTEC Sport & Exercise Science

"I have always had a real interest in sport and I took it at GCSE Level but it only goes into so much detail and the BTEC course takes it beyond what I have already learned. The tutors are also very helpful as, when we get assignments back, we get as much feedback as they are able to give us which helps when working through assignments later on in the year. The facilities with the College are of a really good standard. Because there is so much work for the BTEC that needs to be done on computers having them in most of our classrooms is a real bonus. Also the equipment that we get to use is brilliant as it is a real step up from the kit that we used in GCSE PE.

I would say this is a great course to take if you are passionate about sport. It isn't an easy course but if you are willing to put the hard work in, you will gain the results you want."



SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE FROM WILL

The specification for this course are due to change in September 2017.
Please check the College website for the most up to date information.

A Level Travel & Tourism

Examination Board: OCR



Chloe Anderson

Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School

Studied: A Levels in Business Studies and Travel & Tourism (Double Award)

"I really enjoyed the content included in Travel & Tourism and how it's primarily coursework based as this suits me more than exams alone. The subject complements Business Studies really well and I found the practical elements of the course very rewarding. My tutor is amazing and has given me so much support to aim for an A or A* grade.

There are lots of opportunities for trips and visits. I have been to Alton Towers and New York which helped me learn a lot about the destinations which was very useful when completing coursework. New York was also an amazing opportunity which I would never have had the chance to visit if I didn't take the course."



SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE FROM CHLOE

What does the course involve?

This course is one of a suite of vocationally focused A Levels and involves completing two portfolios of work in each year.

Using work-related contexts, innovative teaching and assessment methods, this course offers a broad introduction to the Travel & Tourism industry. It is ideal if you want to gain an A Level which combines academic studies with a more practical, 'real' world approach.

You will have the opportunity to complete this course as a single A Level or as a double A Level award.

You will also develop communication, numeracy and IT skills.

You will learn about:

- ▶ the Travel and Tourism industry
- ▶ customer service
- ▶ travel destinations
- ▶ event management
- ▶ tourism development
- ▶ cultural tourism

The assessment and coursework is as follows:

AS: One examination based on a pre-released case study and two portfolios of evidence.

A2: The AS course followed by one examination and two portfolios of evidence.

The Department does provide many resources but you will be encouraged to purchase some Travel & Tourism publications for yourself at a cost of approximately £20 across the year.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

There are no specific entry requirements and the course assumes

that you have not studied the subject before. A GCSE in Leisure & Tourism may be of benefit to you, but it is not a requirement.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

There are a variety of trips and events to attend that range from £25 - £130 which are offered on an optional and sometimes compulsory basis.

Students are also offered the opportunity to visit New York which is in the region of £800. This is to coincide with studying Travel Destinations (Unit 3) which involves an in-depth study of a short haul destination (Blackpool) and a long haul destination (New York).

What can I do after the course?

This course prepares you for Further or Higher Education in the same way as all A Levels. It will also enhance your prospects of working in the travel and tourism industry, for example, as a travel adviser, a hotel manager, an adventure holiday trainer, air hostess or a theme park manager.



Level 2 Courses



Overview of Level 2 Courses

Hereford Sixth Form College offers a one year Level 2 programme for students wishing to improve their grades or take extra subjects.

The course consists of a range of subjects especially chosen to allow you to retake English and Mathematics if necessary but also to take new subjects which are designed to prepare you for future A Level or vocational courses.

GCSE specifications are changing significantly in the next two years. Here is a list of subjects that we currently expect to offer in 2017 although you will need to check the website as this evolves over the year.

You can study the equivalent of five subjects from:

- ▶ **Business Studies**
- ▶ **BTEC Level 2 in Information Technology (IT)**
- ▶ **Citizenship**
- ▶ **English Language**
- ▶ **Film Studies**
- ▶ **Functional Skills Level 2 English**
- ▶ **Functional Skills Level 1 and 2 Mathematics**
- ▶ **Geography**
- ▶ **Health & Social Care (Double Award)**
- ▶ **Latin***
- ▶ **Leisure & Tourism (Double Award)**
- ▶ **Mathematics (including Higher Level)**
- ▶ **Psychology**
- ▶ **Russian***
- ▶ **Sociology**
- ▶ **Science**

(All students on the programme study English and/or Mathematics if they have not already gained at least a grade 4 or C.)

***These subjects are offered to extend those with an interest in culture and languages and normally require you already to have a grade 5 or B in English Language GCSE and a grade B in another Modern Language at GCSE.**

In addition to the enrichment opportunities offered to all students, the College provides careers guidance, tutorials and confidence-building activities specifically aimed at our GCSE students.

The College has a national reputation for the quality of its work with students who wish to improve their Level 2 grades. Pass rates are significantly above those achieved by students who retake in other institutions.

On completion of the course students continue with education or training or gain employment.

Destination of GCSE Leavers in 2015	
Continuing at Hereford Sixth Form College	49%
Studying at other FE colleges	35%
Employment	4%
Other	8%
Not known	4%

Scan the QR code to find out what Zara has to say about her Level 2 programme:



GCSE English Language and Level 2 Functional Skills in English

Examination Board: Eduqas

GCSE English Language

What does the course involve?

The GCSE in English Language offers the opportunity for developing the complementary skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. You will learn to write for different audiences and purposes in a variety of styles. You will develop your skills through close analysis of texts and images and will respond to a wide range of sources which deal with modern world themes and issues. You will develop your ability to use standard English.

As part of the assessment you are expected to:

- ▶ complete two external examinations which test both reading and writing skills. There are two examinations in June with 50% reading, 50% writing. 20% of the writing marks are for accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar and the use of a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

The English Department takes particular care to provide a supportive, yet challenging environment in the classroom. Groups consist of around 20 students. There is a mix of individual, pair and group work.

Will I take part in any study visits/fieldwork?

Students are encouraged to take part in appropriate theatre trips and workshops for which there will be a charge. There are subject workshops available free of charge on two lunchtimes.

What can I do after the course?

A GCSE in English Language at Level 4 or C is a core requirement for the majority of higher education courses and also for many careers. It is a recognised measure of ability in key skills by employers.



Level 2 Functional Skills in English

All GCSE English students will be assessed in early September. Those who are unlikely to reach grade 4 or C, in one year will be enrolled on the Functional Skills course.

Functional Skills is a well regarded course which covers the same skills as GCSE, but is taught in smaller groups with an emphasis on improving literacy.

The course is designed to equip learners with the practical skills required in everyday life, education and the workplace. You will learn skills such as comparing the ideas and presentation of texts, writing for a specified audience and purpose, and communicating and adapting language. It is a very interactive course and learners are encouraged to participate in a variety of practical activities in the classroom. Functional Skills assessments are graded as either a 'pass' or 'fail'.

The course is taught using a similar style and content to GCSE English but with more emphasis on punctuation, grammar, spelling and oral communication.

There are opportunities to move from one course to the other throughout the year, or to be entered for both qualifications.

Students who take Functional Skills at the end of the first year, and achieve a Level 2 pass, can take the GCSE course the following year. All students achieving grade 2 or E or below in the summer GCSEs will automatically be enrolled on the Functional Skills course.

Functional Skills English is a mandatory requirement for apprenticeship programmes and must be passed before completion. In addition, Level 2 Functional Skills English is now being accepted at some universities as an equivalent/alternative to GCSE English, grade 4 or C.

GCSE Mathematics and Level 1/2 Functional Mathematics

Examination Board: AQA



Mathematics underpins many branches of learning and has been fundamental in the development of the society in which we live. A basic level of numeracy is essential in almost all areas of work.

Level 1/2 Functional Mathematics

What does the course involve?

This is a course for any student with a grade 2 or E or lower in GCSE Mathematics. It is aimed at developing the ability to use mathematical skills in everyday life. The course is focused on Mathematics in context, with students answering questions based on case studies or on real life situations.

What can I do after the course?

Achieving both the Level 1 and 2 will give students a mathematical qualification in useful mathematics and can serve as a stepping stone to further study at GCSE level.

Foundation Level GCSE Mathematics

What does the course involve?

This is normally a retake course that must be taken by students who have achieved a grade 3 or D in GCSE Mathematics or a Level 2 Mathematics qualification in Functional Maths.

This will be a fresh start to mathematics for students with teaching beginning without many assumptions of previous knowledge. The best way to prepare for the examinations in this course is to work hard towards all your tests, since these reflect the kind of questions you will get. Most students who do this move from a grade 3 to a grade 4 in one year.

There may be an opportunity for students studying A Levels at the College to attempt an intensive November resit course, however, due to the changing examination system, students must be confident in their abilities and be willing to dedicate themselves to their studies if they wish to be entered for this.

What can I do after the course?

A Level 4/5 or C in Mathematics is an expected qualification for Higher Education courses and is viewed as key by many employers.

Higher Level GCSE Mathematics

What does the course involve?

This is an extension course if you need to improve upon your grade 4, 5 or C.

Do I need any particular subjects, skills or interests?

A grade 4 or C in GCSE Mathematics is generally required to gain entrance to this course, but be aware that due to the changing examination system, this course will represent a significant challenge if you have never attempted higher level Mathematics in the past.

What Parents Say...

“ I have never been more impressed with an educational facility than I am with Hereford Sixth Form College. My son is benefitting from the wealth of experience and opportunities on offer - it is an excellent transition between school and university. ”

“ Love, love, love coming into College to speak to the tutors about our son. Wish I could come back myself! The atmosphere is vibrant and the discussions friendly, useful and uplifting. You're doing an amazing job. ”

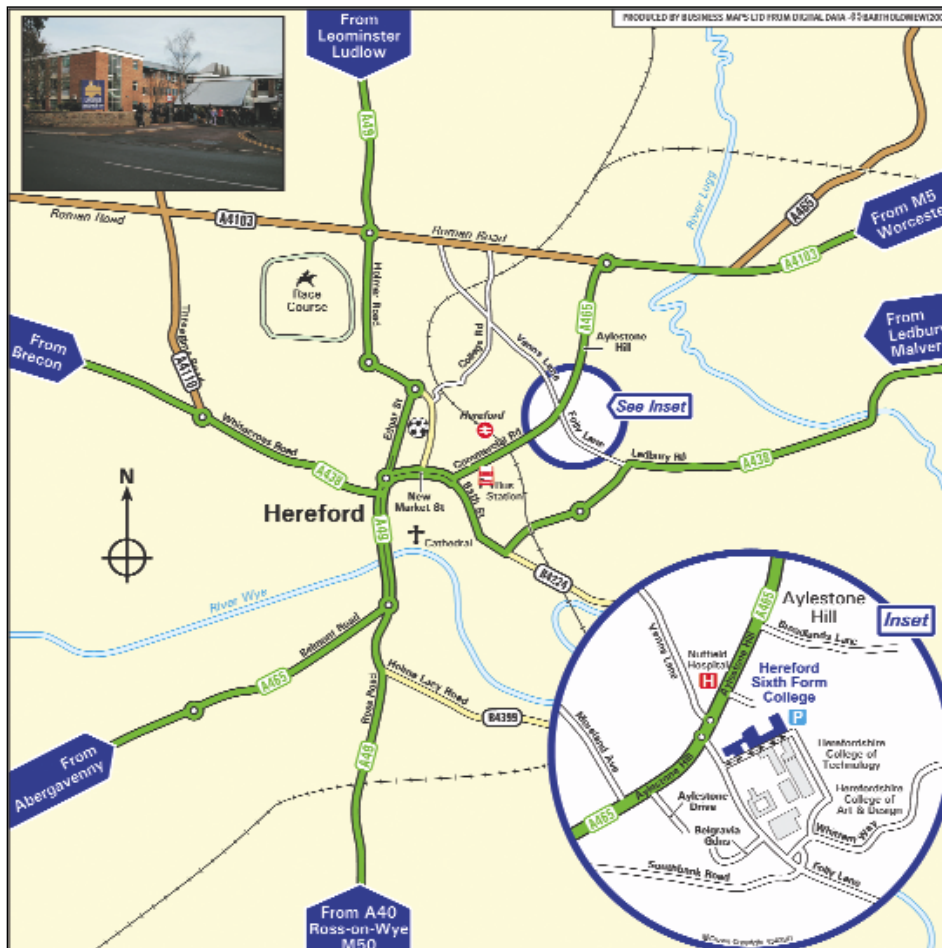
“ We are so pleased that we moved our son from a public school to Hereford Sixth Form College. It has made him a nicer, more independent and well rounded character. ”

“ I have only positive things to say about Hereford Sixth Form College. My daughter has settled in so well and loves sixth form. She seems to have great lessons with highly knowledgeable and enthusiastic teachers and I thank you for this wonderful environment. ”

“ Our son is really pleased he made the decision to move from school to Hereford Sixth Form College. He likes being treated as a young adult and has been very happy at the College. We think we are very lucky to have such an outstanding local sixth form. ”

“ I can honestly say my only concern is that my daughter will have to come to terms with the fact that not all educational institutions are like this and there may be disappointments later in life! ”

Location



From North and East

Leave the M5 at Junction 7 (Worcester South). Follow Worcester A44 then left on to A4440. Follow signs for Hereford (A4103), follow this road for approx. 30 minutes, which will bring you into Hereford. At roundabout take first left into Aylestone Hill (A465). At top of Aylestone Hill - straight over first mini-roundabout and turn first left at second mini roundabout into Folly Lane. The College is located first left - look for the College signs.

From South

Leave the M5 at Junction 8 (Ross on Wye/M50). Join M50. Leave M50 at Junction 2 - signed Hereford and Ledbury. Follow signs to Hereford (A438). Enter Hereford (past pub 'The Cock of Tupsley') continue to traffic lights at road junction. Turn right into Folly Lane (signed Hereford Colleges). At traffic lights in Folly Lane carry straight on (past Hereford College of Arts and Herefordshire & Ludlow College). Hereford Sixth Form College is on the right hand side - look for the College signs.

Visitor Parking

A penalty scheme is in operation, therefore, please sign in at Reception, informing us of your car registration number.





Hereford
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

OPEN EVENTS

Register in advance at
www.hereford.ac.uk

Wednesday 19th October 2016
5.00pm - 8.00pm

Saturday 4th February 2017
9.30am - 12.30pm

Tuesday 9th May 2017
5.30pm - 7.30pm

Hereford Sixth Form College
Folly Lane, Hereford HR1 1LU
Tel: 01432 355166
E-mail: sixth-form@hereford.ac.uk

tes 2016
fe
awards

Winner
Sixth form college
of the year



Hereford
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Folly Lane, Hereford HR1 1LU · Tel: **01432 355166**

e-mail: **sixth-form@hereford.ac.uk**
www.hereford.ac.uk