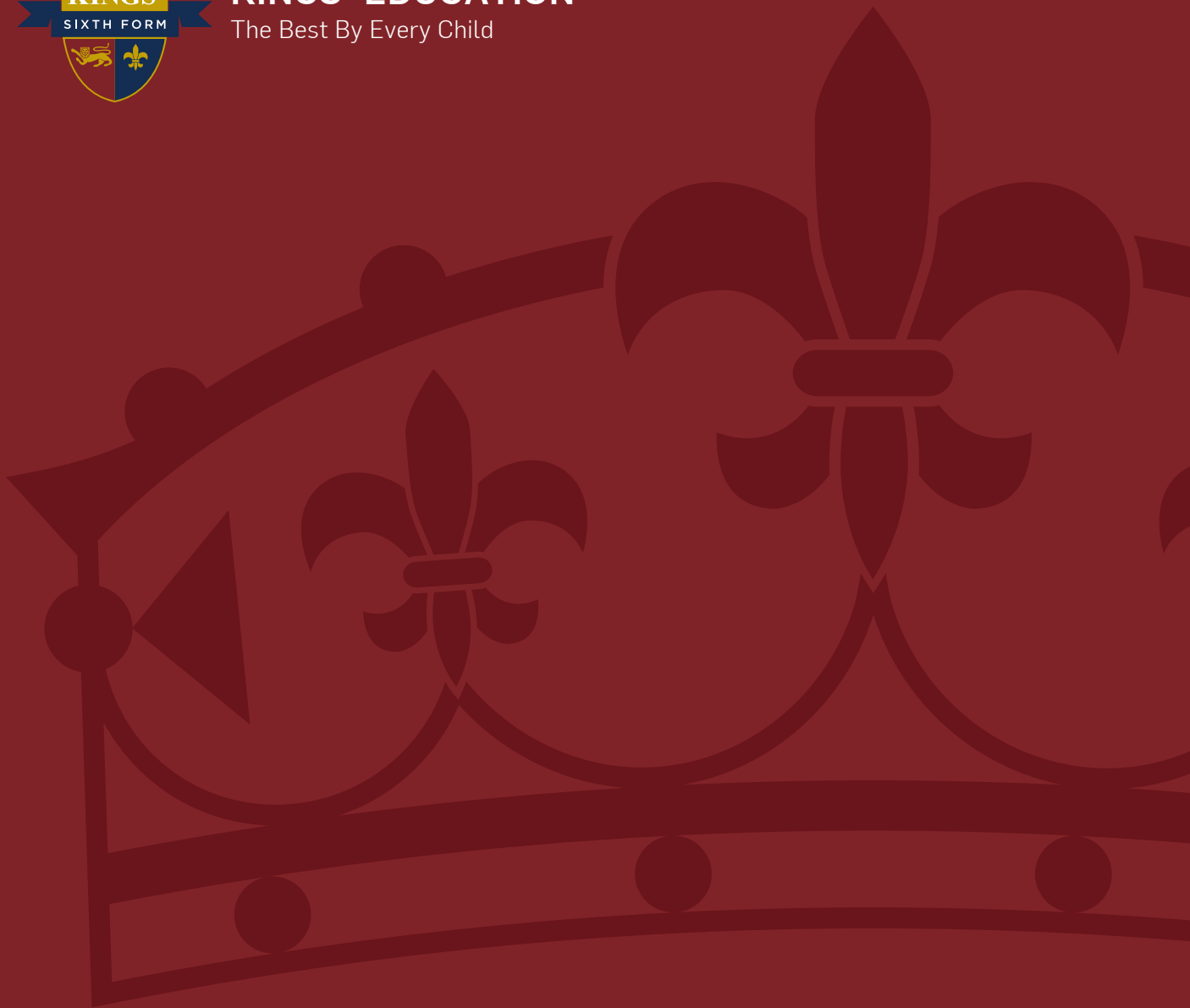




KINGS' EDUCATION
The Best By Every Child



KING

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PREPARING TOMORROW'S ADULTS, TODAY



WELCOME TO KINGS' SIXTH FORM



As our students embark upon their sixth form journey, our aim is to arm them with the academic and personal skills they need to succeed and thrive in the world beyond Kings'.

Our stimulating and challenging environment for learning is a place where students can excel in intellectual enquiry well beyond their post-16 curriculum. Our students are developed intellectually, personally and socially, so that each student can fulfil their potential.

Nurturing individual talents means that there is no typical Kings' sixth former. However, what they do have in common is a desire to learn, with a strong moral sense of social responsibility, and an eagerness to take on the challenges of university and the wider world.

Students joining Kings' Sixth Form can benefit from enhanced opportunities. In addition to the dedicated study spaces, excellent provision in sports and the expressive arts, community service opportunities and the Duke of Edinburgh Award, students benefit from a dedicated tutor team and small class sizes. We provide individual support for personalised education and pastoral care that is second to none. This ensures that our students go on to access their desired career pathways and win places at top universities worldwide.

We invite you to attend one of our open days or school tours to explore first hand all we have to offer.

Natasha Ringshaw
Head of Sixth Form

WHY CHOOSE A BRITISH EDUCATION?

British Education remains highly-prized globally. According to the International Schools Council (ISC), over 4 and a half million students are currently in an English-medium school, with over 3,700 schools in 160 countries using elements of the UK national curriculum. This means that for many parents globally, a British Education is the best that you can get.

The powerful pull of a British Education has long been based in its reputation for academic excellence. This reputation is not without foundation; of current world leaders, 55 studied in the UK, while 38% of Nobel Prize winners were educated in the British System.

The rigour of the UK's education system remains its biggest attraction. The depth and richness of knowledge contained in the UK curriculum combined with exacting externally moderated examinations mean qualifications such as GCSEs, A-Levels, and the BTEC hold a global currency. Indeed, the UK system has long been seen as providing easier access to leading universities all around the world, due to the depth of knowledge required to achieve top grades in UK examinations.

Further to its reputation for academic excellence, a UK education appeals to parents who want their children to experience a rounded education. The British curriculum is a broad and balanced one, which values the Arts, Sports and a broad programme of extra-curricular activities, such as the highly respected Duke of Edinburgh Award, which encourages the development of the whole child fostering soft skills, risk-taking and developing individual passions. For parents who recognise their child will be working in a global, multilingual workplace, the development of such skills is just as important as academic results.

The depth, breadth and rigour of the UK curriculum is uniquely global, which is why a UK education remains highly prized.





WHY CHOOSE KINGS' ?

Kings' Sixth Form aims to provide students with a complete educational experience, meaning that our students leave as academically successful, well-rounded and mature young adults, ready for whatever the future may hold.

THE KINGS' OFFER

- High quality specialist staff
- Excellent study facilities
- Spacious combined social and study area
- Small class sizes ensuring individual attention and support
- Wide range of subjects at A-Level
- BTEC offering
- Kings' Diploma
- Leadership opportunities
- Variety of challenging and fun extracurricular opportunities: from sports to music and the arts.

ADVICE AND SUPPORT

- Supportive pastoral system
- Approachable and caring staff
- High quality guidance and careers advice.

During their time at Kings', students gain experience in a broad range of areas and prepare for life beyond Sixth Form, exploring areas such as finance, enterprise, personal safety, fitness and health.



"We aim for and expect articulate, confident Kings' Learners, with a strong moral sense of social responsibility, ready for university and the wider world of work."

Rebecca Gray
Director of Education.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN SIXTH FORM?

YOU START AT 8AM AND
FINISH AT 3.30PM. THERE'S
TIME FOR A MORNING BREAK,
A SPOT OF LUNCH AND
ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES.

DO MORE

Life at Kings' has endless opportunities. Instead of lessons, lunch, lessons and home, we provide a wide range of further opportunities, both academic and extracurricular. From football to dance, there's something for everyone.

There's even the opportunity for students to take part in community service within school and work-related activities out of school.

YOUR OWN SPACE

Sit back, relax and socialise in the Sixth Form common room, a grown-up environment for students to eat, catch up and make new friends.

STUDENTS, HAVE YOUR SAY!

The Student Councils, lead by students in the Sixth Form, play a leading role in promoting and organising activities across the school. So if you have a good idea, let it out. Make a difference and help shape your school and your Sixth Form.

... AND YOU TOO PARENTS

Co-operation between students, parents and the Sixth Form is essential as students are to maximise their learning experience. We therefore arrange for parents to meet form tutors early in the autumn term and for subsequent meetings with subject teachers in Years 12 and 13. Parents are also welcome to contact the tutors or Sixth Form team at other times to discuss student progress or other matters of concern.

A BIT OF ADVICE

Careers education and guidance is provided for all students. There's encouragement to take increasing responsibility for work in order to develop the skills needed at university and in employment. There's also support on hand for when times get hectic, especially during exam periods.





LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are numerous leadership opportunities available for our Sixth Form students; these include Head Boy, Head Girl, multiple President and Vice President positions for each of the four Student Council strands, including Learning and Opportunities, Wellbeing and Community, Charity and Environment, and Sports, Arts and Events. These four strands have been shaped by the Kings' values. In addition, we have two House Captains for each of the four houses.

All students holding leadership positions benefit from a bespoke Kings' leadership programme, designed and delivered by leaders within the school community, as well as receiving continued support from senior leaders throughout their tenure. In addition to this, there are numerous opportunities to develop leadership skills through the Opportunities and enrichment programmes in place.

THE KINGS' DIPLOMA

The Kings' Diploma is a unique qualification that ensures our students are equipped to win competitive places at top universities around the world.

In addition to A-Level studies, the Kings' Diploma involves several wider academic awards, including the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification), the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (to Gold Level), work experience placements, charity work, community support and leadership challenges and qualifications.



“IT'S NOT JUST ACADEMIC.
IT'S A WELL-ROUNDED,
HOLISTIC EDUCATION.”

Year 12 Student

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

GOOD EDUCATION IS NOT ONLY ABOUT IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE - IMPORTANT THOUGH THAT IS - BUT ABOUT DEVELOPING DEEP THOUGHT, INDEPENDENCE AND CREATIVITY, AND OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTELLECTUAL ENQUIRY.

WHAT IS THE EXTENDED PROJECT?

At the heart of the Extended Project is the requirement for you to develop and realise an advanced level project entirely of your own devising. Mainly studied during Year 12, the Extended Project offers you the chance to gain real independence, resilience and maturity as an advanced level learner, while pursuing any topic of your choosing. It also offers you an additional AS-Level qualification alongside your A-Level choices.

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

The Extended Project gives you the freedom and time to explore an idea that interests you and it

is an opportunity for you to pursue and research something you feel passionate about. It involves working independently to produce either a:

- Dissertation, investigation or report
- Artefact or design
- Performance, either solo or in a group
- Charity event (group)

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR YOUR EXTENDED PROJECT?

The answer is 'anything'! As long as it is:

- Safe, practical, ethical and achievable
- Not examined elsewhere

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

AT A TIME WHEN ENTRY TO UNIVERSITIES AND THE WORKPLACE IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE COMPETITIVE, YOU'LL 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 they have a positive attitude, are self-motivated, adaptable and have skills in problem solving, teamwork and communication.

A Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a great way to demonstrate that you have all of these extra skills.

THE BENEFITS

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is more than just a qualification. Everyone gets different things out of their award because you get to choose the activities you follow and you set the goals you want to reach.

In following the Duke of Edinburgh programme, you will challenge yourself, enjoy loads of new experiences and discover talents you never thought you had.

By taking part in this award 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.

GOLD AWARD

There are no short cuts 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.

THE EXPEDITION

For many, the expedition is the highlight of their Duke of Edinburgh 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 very demanding, and at times a possibly painful experience, the pride and satisfaction of completing the expedition and achieving your Gold Award, is an experience you will remember for life.

“Sixth Form represents the pinnacle of all we are trying to achieve at the Kings' schools here in Dubai: Independently minded students, students who are prepared for the world, and students who have a business-like sense of how to go about learning.”

Secondary Headteacher



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At Kings', we believe strongly that learning is not confined to the classroom, in fact, our best lifelong memories and formative experiences of childhood are made beyond the four walls of a classroom. As such, educational visits are an integral part of our curriculum here at Kings' School Al Barsha.

From Foundation Stage to Post-16 we provide a rich and varied range of experiences, which seek to positively enrich our students' understanding and development, and to open their eyes to new possibilities. Our educational visits reinforce the academic curriculum while fostering our values of Kindness, Skills, Ambition and Bravery.

The school works closely with Camps International, providing service opportunities for our students in Nepal, Kenya and Cambodia; we run overseas arts and sporting tours, such as the BSME Games and Young Musician to the Gulf; curriculum visits such as our Business and Economics visit to Tokyo, Geography and Science Trips to Iceland and an adventurous outdoor pursuits trip to Oman. All of these are running alongside a broad range of curriculum and extracurricular trips and visits in school, and throughout the UAE. We are also an accredited Duke of Edinburgh's International Award school, running the bronze, silver and gold programmes with record numbers of students signing up year on year.

Educational visits at Kings' is a key part of school life and leaders are working hard to design a bespoke, progressive and inclusive educational visits program that enhances student opportunities and experiences that no other school in the UAE can rival.



LIFE AFTER KINGS'

Once a Kings' student,
always a Kings' student.

We pride ourselves on our ability to develop young adults who are prepared to not only be successful, but to make the right choices and decisions. This strength of character is testament to the relationships and the spirit of loyalty fostered here at Kings'.

The Alumni Association seeks to strengthen the school's ties to our wider community. Our talented and accomplished students go on to excel in their chosen field within some of the

world's most prestigious universities and careers. The Kings' Alumni Association connects Kings' graduates with a group of like-minded individuals, whose pathways and career choices form powerful networking opportunities for their futures.

The Kings' Alumni Association also offers a chance for our graduates to give back, by returning to offer effective advice to our students and parents about university applications, examinations, or university life.

When you join Kings', you become part of a community for life.



MILLIE MCELROY

A-Levels: English Literature, History, Spanish, EPQ
Destination: Durham University, UK; Law

Millie's journey through Kings' saw her adapt to numerous roles, from Lead Student to Head Girl; from Year Book Editor to student mentor. An outstanding Student Ambassador and a true role model for her peers, Millie earned the prestigious Kings' Headteacher's Award. Completing work experience at Vogue magazine (London), a Jersey Law firm and the legal department of PwC, strengthened Millie's resolve to pursue Law and she earned a place at Durham Law School, a world leader in legal education and research.

In Millie's words: "Studying at Kings' was an exceptional experience. The academic demands of the current A-Level system meant that I needed hard work and self-motivation alongside my dedicated and supportive teaching staff. The Kings' leadership team achieved the perfect balance of pushing and nurturing me throughout, enabling me to achieve the results of A*AA."



MICHAEL RIZK

A-Levels: Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Further Maths
Destination: TU Delft, Holland; Aerospace Engineering

Through securing his place at TU Delft, home to one of the leading academic programmes in aerospace technology in all of Europe, Michael is able to pursue his goals.

In Michael's words: "I have always been interested in aviation and aeroplanes, there's something about being able to control, design and improve what are essentially giant flying pieces of metal to this degree of accuracy and convenience that's so alluring. I guess it's also about the whole importance of the industry to the modern economy and how relevant aviation is becoming in everyone's lives.

"Engineers have a lot of ethical responsibilities and can play a role in improving the world. For me personally, a potential route is to continue doing research, in which case I'd like to have an environmentally positive impact with my work."

JUAN SALAZAR

A-Levels: Drama and Theatre Studies, English, Economics
Destination: Royal Central School for Speech & Drama, UK; Acting with one of only 11 Major Scholarships awarded globally, as well as an offer which was converted to unconditional

In Juan's words: "It was an amazing feeling to get the A-Level results I hoped for and to be able to pursue my ambition. Preparation for the exams was extremely challenging as I had to travel to the UK for university auditions so the encouragement and help from the teaching team was invaluable.

"Kings' has played a huge role in getting me to this point in my life. I was fortunate enough to receive a part scholarship when my parents moved back home to Colombia that enabled me to continue my A-Level studies and my teachers were incredibly supportive. I fell in love with drama in Year 9 and always had a keen interest in film, so was proud to establish the Kings' Film Club. Now, with clear skies ahead for my immediate future, I am looking forward to new opportunities and hoping to eventually follow a career behind the camera".



THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications to Kings' Sixth Form are welcome throughout the year for September entry.

Applications are reviewed as soon as they are submitted and after assessing each application,

candidates will be called for an interview with the Head of Post-16 Studies.

If successful, a conditional offer will be made pending GCSE results in August.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to achieve a minimum of 6 GCSEs at grade 5 or higher in full course linear GCSEs, with a minimum grade 5 or grade C in Mathematics and English. A grade 7, 8 or 9 in subjects they are choosing to study at A-Level is preferred.

In the letter grading system, students are required to achieve a minimum of 6 C grades or above in full course linear GCSEs. A grade A or A* in subjects they are choosing to study at A-Level is preferred.

An A or A* under the lettered grading model at GCSE or IGCSE, or a grade 7, 8 or 9 in the numeric grading system, should be achieved in a closely related subject when a subject has not been studied at GCSE. External applicants will also be required to sit assessments.

For subject specific requirements, please refer to the individual subject course guides.

SCHOOL FEES*	AED
Year 12	97,798
Year 13	97,798

*Subject to change

FAQ's

HOW MANY SUBJECTS WILL I TAKE, AND HOW MANY SHOULD I INCLUDE ON MY APPLICATION?

Students may choose to follow the A-Level or BTEC programmes. Most students who opt to take the A-Level route will take four subjects, comprising three A-Level subjects plus the Extended Project qualification-which gives all our students the equivalent of an additional one year AS-Level.

These elements make up the core of our study programme, together with enrichment and tutorial support. Some particularly well-qualified applicants will have the opportunity to take four two-year A-Level subjects if they wish.

We aim to allow you to follow your offered finalised subjects at the time of applying. Depending on how clear you are about your choices, you are advised to enter between three and five A-Level subjects on your application in your priority order at the time. These subjects and their order can be adjusted later if required.

In the BTEC Diploma programme, students can study Business Studies, Hospitality, Performing Arts or Sport at Level 3, or a combination of two courses. In some cases, students may combine BTEC and A-Level qualifications. Students will complete work experience as part of the BTEC programme.

Reference FAQ4 at:

www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/course/entrance-requirements/faqs-level-reform

WILL THREE A-LEVEL SUBJECTS AND THE EXTENDED PROJECT PROVIDE A STRONG BASE FOR PROGRESSION TO THE MOST COMPETITIVE UNIVERSITIES?

Yes. Most university offers will continue to be based on three A-Levels. Furthermore, the Extended Project qualification is featuring increasingly in university offers. For example, a university might make an offer such as:

- **A-Level grades AAB, or:**
- **A-Level grades ABB, plus A or A* in the Extended Project**

Universities have been clear that they do not expect students to be studying four A-Level subjects.

HERE IS WHAT THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD HAS SAID ON THE SUBJECT OF CURRICULUM REFORM:

"A fourth subject to A-Level has never been a requirement at Oxford. Our courses require students to have not less than three A-Levels, or other equivalent qualifications. Some candidates do take additional AS-Levels, A-Levels, or other qualifications such as the Extended Project Qualification. Additional qualifications can be one way of demonstrating the academic abilities that will be required for the intense studying of an Oxford degree but they are not essential."

THERE'S TIME FOR
A MORNING BREAK, A SPOT
OF LUNCH AND ENDLESS
OPPORTUNITIES.





FAQ's

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO STUDENTS ABOUT CHOOSING THEIR SUBJECTS?

Virtually any combination of subjects is possible; we design our timetable to try to match the combinations requested by applicants.

Needless to say, you are advised to choose subjects that you are interested in and which, will support your future higher education and/or career ambitions.

Those ambitions may mean that you are already sure about two or even three of your subject choices. If this is not the case, it may be advisable to choose at least one and possibly more of the following 'facilitating subjects', providing that these subjects play to your strengths and you would enjoy studying them: Mathematics; Further Mathematics; Physics; Chemistry; Biology; Geography; History; Languages (Modern and Classical); English Literature.

ARE SOME SUBJECTS MORE LIKELY TO BE OVERSUBSCRIBED THAN OTHERS?

Application patterns vary from year to year, but students should always apply for the most appropriate subjects that meet their interests, strengths and progression needs.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM OFFERED A PLACE BUT DO NOT ACHIEVE MY PREDICTED GCSE GRADES?

We will aim to allow you to follow your offered course even if your grades are lower than estimated, providing that you achieve at least an average B grade profile (or equivalent) and remain qualified for your subjects.

Where this is not possible, for reasons such as timetable clashes or over-subscription of particular subjects, guidance will be offered about suitable alternative subjects. However, enrolment to a fourth A-Level subject would be conditional on your actual examination grades.

Should you not achieve the grades required for any of your subjects, or if you fall below a B grade average profile, we would discuss your options with you in August prior to the start of the Academic Year.

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I'M NOT IN A LESSON?

You study! When you are not in a timetabled lesson you are expected to focus on enhancing your studies independently. It is vital for you to understand the demands of A-Levels before you begin and learn how to manage your time effectively.

I LOVE THE RELATIONSHIP
WE HAVE WITH OUR TEACHERS.
WE CAN GO TO THEM FOR
ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING.

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ARABIC*

COURSE: A-LEVEL • EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade B or above in iGCSE Arabic.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

You are required to demonstrate skills in advanced Arabic reading and in the transfer of meaning from English into Arabic. To promote research and a greater knowledge and understanding of Arabic culture and/or society, you must produce two Arabic language essays in response to questions related to your chosen topics/texts. You will be expected to recognise and use Arabic in a variety of contexts and in relation to the topic areas, which include:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Arabic-speaking world
- Education and employment
- Customs, traditions, beliefs and religions
- National and international events: past, present and future
- Literature and the arts

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

You will read and respond to a variety of Arabic language written texts, including authentic sources, covering different contexts, registers, styles and genres. You will adapt written Arabic appropriately for different situations and purposes and accurately use the Arabic language to present viewpoints, develop arguments, analyse and evaluate in writing.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam: Translation into English, reading comprehension and writing (research question) in Arabic.	2 Hrs 30 mins	40 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: Translation into Arabic and written response to works.	2 Hrs 40 mins	30 %
Paper 3	Written Exam: Listening, reading and writing in Arabic.	2 Hrs 15 mins	30 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

A-Level Arabic provides you with access to local and international universities. The course provides a solid base with which to study Arabic Literature, Arabic Civilisation, Islamic Studies and Translation, as well as leading to careers in Research, Journalism, Media and International Relations.

*Facilitating subject

ART & DESIGN

COURSE: A-LEVEL • EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 and above in GCSE Art is preferred. Alternatively a portfolio of work and interview with the Art Department.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Art & Design encompasses a wide range of media including drawing, painting, printmaking, textiles and sculpture, enabling you to explore individual interests creatively; make connections with other subject areas to develop a range of technical and analytical skills; and allowing you a degree of autonomy over your work. Throughout Year 12 you will be taught skills and tutored, so that you can decide the direction of your work in Year 13. It is not uncommon to see students working on similar projects but with completely different and individual outcomes. Creating autonomous learners is one of the key aims of the Art department at Kings'.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

Through learning a variety of techniques and processes and an introduction to a variety of artists, designers and cultures, you will develop, refine and communicate your ideas, intentions and personal outcomes. You will build experience working with a broad range of media, an understanding of the interrelationships between art, craft and design processes and an awareness of the contexts in which they operate. Visits to art galleries, museums and student workshop days are a compulsory part of the creative experience. A public exhibition of course and examination work will be held in school, in the student's final year, for parents and dignitaries.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Component 1	Personal Investigation: Incorporating supporting studies, practical work, and a personal study, which will comprise a minimum of 1000 words of continuous prose in a subject of Art & Design is of particular interest to you.	-	60 %
Component 2	Externally Set Assignment: Incorporating preparatory studies and a 15-hour period of sustained focus, students will produce final outcome(s) extending from their preparatory studies in response to the Externally Set Assignment.	15 Hrs	40 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

The types of courses or careers to which Art and Design are particularly relevant include: Advertising Art Director, Film; Media; Animator; Architect; Art Editor; Art Exhibition Organiser- curator; Art Therapist; CAD Draughtsperson; Cartoonist; Computer Games Designer; Jeweller; Graphic Designer; Illustrator; Interior Designer; Internet/ Web professional; Landscape Architect; Makeup Artist; Medical Illustrator; Medical Photographer; Model Maker; Multimedia Designer; Gallery Curator; Photographer; Product Designer; Tailor/Dressmaker; Technical Illustrator; Education.

BIOLOGY*

COURSE: A-LEVEL • **EXAM BOARD:** AQA

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or 6-7 in GCSE Combined Science with at least a 5 in GCSE Maths.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

A-Level Biology enables you to develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, the biological sciences including developing an interest in further study and careers in the subject. Biology has a higher profile today than perhaps at any other time and this is reflected in the number of people studying a biology-based course at university. Many of the important, and often contentious issues, which society must address relate to the biological sciences. Through A-Level study, you will develop a knowledge and understanding of the different areas of Biology and how they relate to each other.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

A variety of teaching methods and study skills tasks are used to develop an understanding of practical work, which involves carrying out detailed procedures, recording results, drawing conclusions, evaluating data and experimental methods.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam: Biological molecules, Cells, Exchange in Organisms and Genetic information	2 Hrs	35 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: Energy transfers in and between organisms, Genetics, Populations, Evolution and Ecosystems	2 Hrs	35 %
Paper 3	Written Exam: All A-Level content and includes a 25 mark synoptic essay	2 Hrs	30 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

Biology is a valued subject, which sits centrally within the sciences to support a wide range of careers and degree courses such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Forensics, Biological Sciences, Botany, Marine Biology, Physiotherapy, Paramedics, Nursing, Environmental Health and other careers where a Science A-Level would be an advantage.

*Facilitating subject

BUSINESS

COURSE: A-LEVEL • **EXAM BOARD:** EDEXCEL

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE grade 6 or above in English Language or Literature and GCSE grade 5 or above in Mathematics.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Business helps you to develop an understanding of business organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value. This is a very varied subject that enables you to better understand current affairs and equips you with knowledge and skills relevant to many aspects of everyday life. Business behaviour is considered from a variety of perspectives, using an investigative, problem-solving and integrated approach. A willingness to use numerical techniques is important, as is the ability to communicate effectively in writing.

Theme 1: Marketing and people, including meeting customer needs, the market, marketing mix and strategy, managing people, and entrepreneurs and leaders.

Theme 2: Managing business activity, including raising finance, financial planning, managing finance, resource management and external influences.

Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy, including business objectives and strategy, business growth, decision-making techniques and influences on business decisions, assessing competitiveness, and managing change.

Theme 4: Global business, including globalisation, global markets and business expansion, global marketing and global industries and companies (multinational corporations).

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

You will learn through case studies, project work, research assignments, class discussion and group activities. Computers are used to aid business analyses and to enable you to experience business situations in a challenging and stimulating way. The aim, in all activities, is to develop a firm grasp of business principles by applying these to real-life case studies where the emphasis is on decision making and problem-solving. Independent learning is also an important feature of the course.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam: Marketing, people and global businesses	2 Hrs	35 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: Business activities, decision and strategy	2 Hrs	35 %
Paper 3	Written Exam: Investigating business in a competitive environment	2 Hrs	30 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

A-Level Business lays the foundations for all students to study a variety of Business related courses at university, for example; Business and Management, Finance and Accounting, Business and Public Relations, with possible career links to Human Resources, Accountancy, Marketing, Management, Banking, Insurance and Retail.

CHEMISTRY*

COURSE: A-LEVEL • EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or 6-7 in GCSE Combined Science with at least a 5 in GCSE Maths.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Chemistry is the study of substances, what they are made of, how they interact and what role they play in living things and the environment. Chemists provide many of the materials used in everyday life, together with the knowledge to improve healthcare and to appreciate and tackle the major environmental problems that face us all. If you enjoy finding out about how the world around you works, and recognising and explaining different patterns of behaviour then you are likely to enjoy chemistry.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

A-Level Chemistry should be a practical experience, therefore, this course contains practical activities embedded within each unit, which will increase your enjoyment and understanding, as well as equip you with the skills needed to study science at higher levels.

The course enables contemporary Chemistry contexts to be included in the teaching and learning programme. You will study all aspects of the subject, including physical, inorganic and organic Chemistry.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam: Relevant physical chemistry topics, Inorganic chemistry, relevant practical skills	2 Hrs	35 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: Relevant physical chemistry topics, organic chemistry, relevant practical skills	2 Hrs	35 %
Paper 3	Written exam: All A-Level content and multiple choice questions	2 Hrs	30 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

Chemistry is a valued subject which sits centrally within the sciences to support a wide range of careers and degree courses such as Medicine, Forensic Science, Law, Financial Services, Dietetics, Environmental Health and Chemical Engineering.

*Facilitating subject

COMPUTER SCIENCE

COURSE: A-LEVEL • EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Computer Science and Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

A-Level Computer Science is designed to allow you to develop your skills and understanding of this interesting and challenging subject. You will learn about the fundamentals of algorithms and programming, complex data structures, and computation.

The course aims to provide you with an in depth understanding about computer operation and build up knowledge about computational thinking, communication and networking, and problem solving.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

A key component as you progress through the course will be programming. You will learn how to use a complex programming language like Python to solve problems, create efficient user interfaces and develop sophisticated programs. As a result, a large part of the course will look at understanding algorithms and developing programming skills.

A major component to home learning will be the enhancement and continuation of programming techniques, as well as the development of problem-solving skills to allow you to become an expert programmer and provide a practical understanding of some of the theoretical components.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	On screen Exam	2 Hrs 30 mins	40 %
Paper 2	Written Exam	2 Hrs 30 mins	40 %
Paper 3	Non-Exam Assessment: This exam assesses your ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem. You will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem solving.	-	20 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

Computer Science is a well-respected A-Level that will help you to gain access to a variety of degree courses at competitive universities. Possible careers include all strands of Engineering, Material Sciences, Software Applications, Systems Analyst, Software Applications Developer and Web Designer.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

COURSE: A-LEVEL • **EXAM BOARD:** EDEXCEL

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade B or above in GCSE Design Technology and Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

This course aims to build design confidence in tomorrow's young designers to enable them to innovate and produce creative design solutions as they develop their own design brief with a client/end user. You will use creativity and imagination to develop and moderate designs, while acquiring subject knowledge in design technology, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture.

You will develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of materials, components and processes associated with the creation of products that can be tested and evaluated in use. You will need to link a range of skills and knowledge from other subject areas, including Mathematics and Science, to inform decisions in design and the application and development of technology.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

You will be required to apply knowledge and understanding of a wide range of materials, including modern and smart materials, and processes used in product design and manufacture. You will be required to develop an understanding of contemporary industrial and commercial practices applied to designing and manufacturing products and to appreciate the risks involved.

You should have a good working knowledge of the use of ICT and systems and control, including modern manufacturing processes and systems and you will be expected to understand how these might be applied in the design and manufacture of products.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Component 1	Written Exam: Calculations, short-open and open-response questions, as well as extended-writing questions	2 Hrs 30 mins	50 %
Component 2	Non-Exam Assessment: A Design Project where students will produce a substantial design, make and evaluate project which consists of a portfolio and a prototype	-	50 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

Studying Design and Technology at A-Level provides you with the problem-solving, critical mind and independence to be a lifelong learner. The creative, analytical and specialist skills that you learn will stand you in good stead for a variety of career and university options. Potential career options span from Aerospace Engineer to Animator to Architect to CAD Technician to Plumber and any other engineering/design based career path.

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

COURSE: A-LEVEL • **EXAM BOARD:** EDEXCEL

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 and above in GCSE Drama.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The A-Level in Drama and Theatre Studies will challenge you to use drama and theatre to explore complex social and human issues through a range of texts, practitioner approaches and devising techniques. You will learn to analyse, evaluate and make theatre from the point of view of actors, directors, designers, playwrights and an audience perspective.

The mix of creative, academic and practical work will illuminate a range of themes and contexts and the importance of the drama medium and the elements of drama.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

You will explore substantial and seminal texts using recognised explorative strategies in a body of workshops. You will also participate in structured rehearsal sessions whilst working towards public performances. Directing approaches and acting styles will be investigated and developed in relation to chosen texts.

Through devising processes, you will learn to recognise the dramatic potential in a range of stimuli and develop such stimuli into the practice of theatre making. Rigorous documentary reflection will prepare you for the demands of the written examination which is based on practical work during the course and the evaluation of professional live performance. Teaching and learning will take place in specialist teaching spaces including the Black Box studio theatre and the Auditorium.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Component 1	Non-Exam Assessment: Devising an original performance piece	-	40 %
Component 2	Non-Exam Assessment: Text in Performance	-	20 %
Component 3	Written Exam: Theatre Makers in Practice	2 Hrs 30 mins	40 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

The Study of Drama and Theatre empowers you with a fantastic set of transferable skills. Communication, confidence and collaboration are at the heart of Drama and any degree course or profession from Law, Sociology, Politics and Education to Arts, Media and Literary Studies. Of course the A-Level would be a sound foundation for Drama and Theatre/Performing Arts study at higher education level, leading to a career in Arts, Theatre and Television.

ECONOMICS

COURSE: A-LEVEL • **EXAM BOARD:** EDEXCEL

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE grade 6 or above in English Language or Literature and GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

It is an exciting time to study Economics. Many of the most important issues facing society are economic in nature. Whether you are concerned with global warming or global trade, whether you are looking at the collapse of world financial markets or the collapse of your neighbour's small business, you can't get far without knowledge of Economics.

This course aims to stimulate your interest in how economies work - at personal, national and world levels. By studying A-Level Economics, you will be able to engage in on-going debate over some of the most controversial issues faced by society such as poverty, taxation and unemployment. At the very least, you will develop a passion for Economics which will help influence important decisions later in life.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

As an Economics student you will learn by firstly developing an understanding of economic theory. You will learn to appreciate that there are a number of different interpretations which can explain economic phenomena. In addition, you will learn how to apply economic theory to case study scenarios. It is expected that you keep up to date with current affairs and you will need to regularly read a quality newspaper.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The exams consist of a mixture between data-response, multiple choice and essay questions, including questions based on a case study scenario.

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam: Markets and business behaviour	2 Hrs	35 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: The national and global economy	2 Hrs	35 %
Paper 3	Written Exam: Microeconomics and macroeconomics	2 Hrs	30 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

This course will be of interest if you want background knowledge of how markets work and the economic reasoning behind government policy. It will allow you to study Economics at university and progress into careers such as Banking and Finance.

ENGLISH LITERATURE*

COURSE: A-LEVEL • **EXAM BOARD:** AQA (ENGLISH LITERATURE A)

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in GCSE English Language and English Literature. You will also need an enthusiastic commitment to reading challenging texts.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

English Literature A-Level is perfect for those with an enquiring mind and a passion for reading. Through the study of this course, you are given the opportunity to explore the ways that literature can challenge, entertain, shock and delight readers while critiquing and debating a range of texts. You will evaluate 'Love through the ages,' by studying Shakespearean plays, poetry and a range of comparative prose texts.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

You will participate in active and lively debates and discussions on the texts studied. Teaching will reflect the seminar-style teaching at university and will encourage an independent, mature approach to learning, with ample opportunity for personal research around the topics studied.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam : Love through the ages (Poetry, Prose, and a Shakespeare Play)	3 Hrs	40 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: Texts in shared contexts (Poetry, Prose, and Drama)	2 Hrs 30 mins	40 %
Paper 3	Non-Exam Assessment: Independent Critical Study. One extended essay, Texts across Time, internally assessed	-	20 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

Studying A-Level English Literature gives scope for a wide range of career options, particularly in Media, Journalism, Marketing and Recruitment. Most professional careers will look favourably on an English Literature qualification. Complementary A-Level subjects include: History and Languages.

*Facilitating subject

FRENCH*

COURSE: A-LEVEL • **EXAM BOARD:** AQA

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE French.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The A-Level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. The course is divided into 4 strands:

- Social issues and trends in the Francophone society
- Political and artistic culture in the Francophone world
- Grammar
- Literary texts and films: either one novel and one film or two novels

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

You will be expected to be an independent learner with a desire for success and for understanding the Francophone world and culture. Additional study and the commitment to reading around the subject is essential.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam: Will involve listening, reading, and writing about aspects of Francophone society, artistic culture in the Francophone world, multiculturalism and aspects of political life in Francophone society, and grammar	2 Hrs 30 mins	50 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: Will involve writing about one text, one film, or two texts from the specified list	2 Hrs	20 %
Paper 3	Oral Exam: Will involve speaking about your individual research project	21-23 mins (including 5 mins preparation time)	30 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

A-Level French will develop your capacity to speak, read, write and listen in French. Grammatical accuracy will be developed, as well as cultural awareness of Francophone countries. Success in A-Level French shows that a student is intelligent linguistically and can apply themselves outside of their comfort zone. Language A-Levels are extremely desirable by universities and can benefit employment in every sector.

*Facilitating subject

FURTHER MATHEMATICS*

COURSE: A-LEVEL • **EXAM BOARD:** EDEXCEL

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 8 and above in GCSE Mathematics. To study Further Mathematics, you must also study Mathematics A-Level.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

A-Level Further Mathematics is a demanding and notoriously difficult course. Students of Further Mathematics learn to acquire new information, methods and skills at a rapid pace. You will be expected to achieve and maintain a high standard. You should be resilient and hard working. You should be a competent Mathematician and will be expected to deal with algebra without difficulty. These skills, and in particular problem-solving, will be further developed.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

It is paramount for you to have a strong grasp of all algebraic concepts taught at GCSE but, more importantly than this, you must enjoy Mathematics and problem-solving. You will learn to work steadily, to present solutions clearly and concisely, and to extend your own thinking within a logical framework.

You will learn to develop persistence, as harder problems often require several attempts before a solution is identified. Specifically, you will acquire the confidence to deal with information given in algebraic, numerical or graphical form, and to produce written work which is logical and concise.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam: Core Pure Mathematics 1	1 Hr 30 mins	25 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: Core Pure Mathematics 2	1 Hr 30 mins	25 %
Paper 3	Written Exam: Further Mathematics Decision 1	1 Hr 30 mins	25 %
Paper 4	Written Exam: Further Mathematics Option 2	1 Hr 30 mins	25 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

In recent years, Further Mathematics students have become Mechanical Engineers, Sound Production Engineers, Accountants and Actuaries, Doctors and Medical Scientists, Computer Graphic Designers, graduate Engineering apprentices, Sports Scientists, Teachers, Fashion Designers and Architects to name just a few. Mathematics opens all sorts of doors! Universities frequently give favourable offers to Further Mathematicians, as the course itself is seen as one of the toughest A-Levels.

*Facilitating subject

GEOGRAPHY*

COURSE: A-LEVEL • EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE Geography and at least a 5 in both Mathematics and Science.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Geography occupies a central position in understanding and interpreting issues affecting people, places and environments, and change in both space and time. As an A-Level Geography learner, you will develop: an understanding of the principal processes operating within physical geography and human geography; an understanding of the causes and effects of change on natural and human environments; an awareness of the usefulness of geographical analysis to understand and solve contemporary human and environmental problems; the ability to handle and evaluate different types and sources of information; and the skills to think logically, and to present an ordered and coherent argument in a variety of ways.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

Teaching will embed geographical skills and practical work throughout the course. This approach will not only provide opportunities for developing skill in using and interpreting geographical data but will increase the appeal of the course, and the enjoyment of the subject. Practical work helps you to acquire a secure understanding of the syllabus topics and to appreciate the interdependent nature of physical and human systems. Geography by its nature is a practical subject. You will develop your practical skills by carrying out fieldwork and geographical investigations throughout the course.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam: Core Physical Geography	2 Hrs 15 mins	30 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: Core Human Geography	2 Hrs 15 mins	30 %
Paper 3	Written Exam: Synoptic Themes within compulsory content area	2 Hrs 15 mins	20 %
Paper 4	Non-Exam Assessment: Independent Investigation (minimum 4 days of field work carried out in relation to processes in physical and human geography)	-	20 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

A-Level Geography provides an excellent foundation for studies in further or higher education. Geography is well known as a subject that links to all other subjects in the curriculum, so an A-Level in Geography is a stepping stone to a whole range of future opportunities. Employment opportunities include Journalism, Media, Engineering, ICT, Travel and Tourism, Environmental Management, Geology, Marketing, Business Management and Teaching.

*Facilitating subject

HISTORY*

COURSE: A-LEVEL • EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE History. Alternatively, students must have a 8 or above in both English Language and English Literature and will be subject to a trial period followed by a review by half term.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

A-Level History is divided into three strands. The first focuses on the tumultuous reign of the Tudors (1485-1603) and studies the main events of their reign; the consolidation of the Tudor dynasty, reformation, counter-reformation and The Spanish Armada.

The second strand is the depth study based around the Weimar Republic, Hitler's rise to power, and looks at the Nazi's time in power until their defeat in 1945. The third and final component is an independent investigation that spans a period of at least a century.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

Independent and group research, presentations, formal teaching, use of written and non-written sources, discussion, peer teaching, essay writing and opportunities for review and reflection. You are required to study independently between lessons.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam: Tudor Breadth Study, three essay questions	2 Hrs 30 mins	40 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: German Depth Study, one source question, two essay questions	2 Hrs 30 mins	40 %
Paper 3	Non-Exam Assessment: Historical Investigation, one 3000-3500 word essay	-	20 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

A-Level History is perfect for those seeking to understand the modern world. It provides you with an insight into how human nature operates, developing both empathy and understanding. A facilitating subject, A-Level History is highly regarded by universities. It is a useful subject for degrees such as Law and Politics and can contribute to careers such as Archaeology, Economics and Journalism.

*Facilitating subject

ISLAMIC STUDIES*

COURSE: A-LEVEL • **EXAM BOARD:** MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade B / 60% or above in Ministry exam

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

You will cover a wide range of important topics of Islamic Principles, Ruling and Fiqh with the evidence from the Quran and Hadeeth to enable you to practice Islam skillfully according to the needs of the modern world.

As a result, you will be able to think and argue intelligently about the subject. You will develop knowledge about the dynasties and religious thought of early Islam, the variety in Islamic belief and the role played by Islam in the world today.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

Through research and real-life application you will investigate and learn the importance of the Quran, Sunnah and Islamic Ruling in a diverse society.

You will develop an enquiring and critical approach to the study of fundamental questions of religious practices, beliefs, morality and interpretations and explore these issues within the context of a religious tradition or traditions. You are required to gain some understanding of the religious writings, history and current affairs of Islam and be able to think and argue intelligently about the subject.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written exam: Candidates must answer all six questions which will consist of the given Ministry strands: Divine Revelation, Islamic Faith, Islamic Values, Islamic Rules, Biography and Contemporary Issues.	1 Hr 30 mins	100 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

The above course is mandatory by Ministry of Education and it will provide a solid base with which to study Civilisation and Islamic Studies, Politics, International relations and Islamic laws as well as Islamic science, culture and heritage.

*Compulsory for all Islamic Students in Year 12

MATHEMATICS*

COURSE: A-LEVEL • **EXAM BOARD:** EDEXCEL

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

A-Level Mathematics is divided into Pure Maths and applications units. Pure Maths can be considered to be the 'toolkit' of the subject and familiar topics will include further study of Algebra, Trigonometry, and graph-plotting and sketching. Calculus, an area of Mathematics not encountered at GCSE, will be studied in detail. Calculus is an important component of higher education courses in Mathematics, Engineering and Sciences. The applications units are Statistics and Mechanics.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

The course will require you to: follow mathematical arguments and examples, understand mathematical facts, concepts and techniques; and use mathematical methods and techniques to solve problems in a variety of contexts. The course will also require you to use mathematical models to represent situations in the real world; to present and interpret results from models; and to make accurate and efficient use of a graphical calculator for statistics and graph-plotting.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The A-Level Mathematics qualification offers a simple three-paper model, with defined content and calculator usage allowed in all three papers. The course has a 2:1 ratio of pure to applied content.

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam: Pure Mathematics 1	2 Hrs	33.3 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: Pure Mathematics 2	2 Hrs	33.3 %
Paper 3	Written Exam: Statistics and Mechanics	2 Hrs	33.3 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

Mathematics A-Level is a likely requisite for most Economics, Linguistics, Mathematics and Science Courses. Mathematics is a fascinating subject in its own right but is also a requirement for many higher education courses, especially Sciences and Engineering. Mathematics is held in the highest regard in terms of university applications.

*Facilitating subject

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

COURSE: A-LEVEL • EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Music.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Music Technology is a course that opens the doors to many facets of music production. As popular music these days is dominated by the work in studios and software, this course is ideal for those that want to know how to record and make a final product sound professional.

Catering for both the technical and creative types, the course is split into 4 components; multi-track recording, technological composition, a history of recording and production techniques and analysis of the principles of sound and audio technology.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

Lessons will take shape in a variety of ways with an equal amount of time spent within a purpose built, industry standard recording studio as well as a Mac suite using the latest and most powerful Digital Audio Workstation available-Logic Pro X. Music Technology is certainly a subject where what you put in is what you get out and so independent and driven learners are the most well suited to the course.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Non-Exam Assessment: Using production tools and techniques to capture, edit, process and mix an audio recording.	-	20 %
Paper 2	Non-Exam Assessment: Creating, editing, manipulating and structuring sounds to produce a technology-based composition	-	20 %
Paper 3	Written Exam: Listening and analysing recording and production techniques and principles.	1 Hr 30 mins	25 %
Paper 4	Written and Practical Exam: Producing and analysing editing, mixing and production techniques, applied to unfamiliar materials provided	2 Hrs 15 mins	35 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

Music Technology is the perfect subject for anyone looking to progress into Sound Engineering, Record Producing or working in Visual and Sound media. Beyond that, it is a fantastically versatile and alternative subject that can complement other A-Level studies by allowing its students to develop key skills such as diligence, creativity and attention to detail. Through its mixture of technical and creative principles, this subject works perfectly in tandem with subjects such as Music, Media Studies, Film Studies, Physics and Mathematics.

MUSIC

COURSE: A-LEVEL • EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Music.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The A-Level in Music comprises three separate components.

Component 1 Performing: A public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital lasting a minimum of 8 minutes in total. This can comprise solo or ensemble playing on an instrument/voice of your choice.

Component 2: Composing: A total of two compositions lasting a minimum of 6 minutes in total. One composition must either be from a set brief relating to the areas of study or a free composition. The second must be from a set brief relating to composition techniques such as Bach Chorale.

Component 3: Appraising: A mixture of listening, dictation and essay questions relating to set works and unfamiliar music from the six areas of study (vocal music, instrumental music, music for film, popular music and jazz, fusions, new directions).

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

You will engage in a mixture of listening, theoretical and analysis based lessons to equip you with the necessary skills to undertake an exam for Component 3 of the course. Alongside this you will utilise music technology in the Mac suite (using programmes such as Sibelius, Garage Band and Logic Pro X) to further enhance studies in composition for the completion of Component 2.

Lastly, you will undertake practical based lessons and performance masterclasses to ensure you are fully prepared for the rigour that performing an end of course recital requires for Component 1.

Taking learning outside of the classroom, new developments such as the Dubai Opera enable excursion opportunities to classical music concerts and musical productions to enhance depth of understanding of the set works.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Component 1	Non-Exam Assessment: Approaches to performing	-	30 %
Component 2	Non-Exam Assessment: Approaches to composing	-	30 %
Component 3	Written Exam: Appraising musical elements, contexts and language in Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions, New Directions	2 Hrs	40 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

Studying an A-Level in Music opens up the doors to many career paths such as Performing, Composing, Lecturing, Sound Production, Music Journalism, Music Therapy And Sound Engineering to name but a few. The A-Level provides students with a multitude of other skills aside from the most obvious such as creativity, diligence, team work, analysis, time management, determination and commitment. It is the acquisition of such skills that makes Music a complementary A-Level subject to Mathematics, Physics, Media and History.

PHOTOGRAPHY

COURSE: A-LEVEL • EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 and above in GCSE Art is preferred, or alternatively a portfolio submission and interview with the Art department.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

A-Level Photography enables you to use both digital and non-digital lens-based media. You will be encouraged to explore your individual interests creatively and make connections with other media and other subject areas.

Through the study of various topics, you will develop a range of technical and analytical skills, including lens-based photography, experimental darkroom practice and digital imaging, predominantly using Photoshop.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

You will be set themed projects for personal investigation and will initially develop ideas, studies and skills by experimenting with media under direction. You will refer to the work of established artists and analyse this in depth, taking inspiration as appropriate. You will establish your own themes and interests, exploring these in practical work and making connections with other artists and art forms.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Component 1	Personal Investigation: This will incorporate supporting studies, practical work and a personal study which will comprise a minimum of 1000 words of continuous prose in a subject of Art and Design which is of particular interest to you.	-	60 %
Component 2	Externally Set Assignment: Incorporating preparatory studies and a 15-hour period of sustained focus, students will produce final outcome(s) extending from their preparatory studies in response to the Externally Set Assignment.	15 Hrs	40 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

The types of courses or careers to which Photography are particularly relevant include: Architecture; Interior / Landscape Design; Advertising; Film; Media; Photography; Theatre: Props/ Set Design/ Costume; Fashion; Journalism; Museum And Gallery Curatorship; Auctioneering; Education; Graphic Design /All Aspects Of Design From Furniture To Footwear. Photography is also beneficial to candidates applying for academic subjects, showing the student is a well-rounded individual.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

COURSE: A-LEVEL • EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or equivalent in GCSE PE.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course has seven components that are taught over the two years and range from anatomy and physiology to psychology. The practical element enables you to perform as a player or coach in one specialised activity of your choice. All practical work is coupled with analysis of performance of the chosen activity.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

In A-Level PE we expect you to be an independent learner with a desire to be the best. There will also be times where a structured fast-paced active learning style will be used and we will expect you to fully immerse yourself in every learning opportunity that comes your way.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam: Applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sport and society	2 Hrs	35 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: Exercise physiology and biomechanics, sport psychology, sport and society and technology in sport	2 Hrs	35 %
Paper 3	Non-Exam Assessment: This practical assessment will focus on a player or coach taking full participation in one activity, plus, written/ verbal analysis of performance.	-	30 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

PE complements a number of other subjects on offer at A-Level by the very nature of the course. Psychology and the Sciences at A-Level complement PE through the study of scientific aspects within exercise physiology and the study of mindset in sport. An A-Level in PE leads to many career opportunities, including Coaching, Teaching, Biomechanics, Sports Rehabilitation, Physiotherapy, Officiating, Sports Technology Development, Sports Administration, Sports Management and Media.

PHYSICS*

COURSE: A-LEVEL • EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE Physics or 6-7 in GCSE Combined Science with a 6 in GCSE Maths.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Physics is a study of the universe. Through this course you will find out why we are here and try to explain how the universe came to be. It will stretch your mind and improve your logical thought processes. Some of the topics you will study include Mechanics, Particle Physics, Thermal Physics and Force Fields.

There are also optional topics including Medical Physics, Astrophysics, Quantum Mechanics and Engineering Physics. Practical Experimental Physics is also a vital component of the course.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

Within lessons, there will be a mix of individual, paired and group work as well as seminar style lessons. Much of the work will be based around developing practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam: Periodic Motion	2 Hrs	34 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: Thermal Physics	2 Hrs	34 %
Paper 3	Written Exam: Section A: Practical Skills and data analysis Section B: Assessed written exam	2 Hrs	32 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

Physics A-Level prepares you for a career or further study in Physics, and Engineering disciplines such as Civil, Mechanical, Aeronautical, Automotive etc. It is a very useful qualification for those going into Medicine and affords entry into Law, Economics, Mathematics, Accountancy and a multitude of other degree subjects.

*Facilitating subject

POLITICS

COURSE: A-LEVEL • EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in a GCSE Humanities subject and in GCSE English. If students have not studied a GCSE Humanities subject, they will be subject to a trial period followed by a review by half term.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

A Level Politics is divided into three units:

Unit 1: UK Politics. This unit introduces you to the key channels of communication between the UK Government and its people. It encourages you to evaluate the adequacy of existing arrangements for ensuring representative democracy and participation, as well as introducing you to the core theoretical perspectives behind Political Philosophy; Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism.

Unit 2: UK Government. This unit introduces you to the major governmental processes within the UK. It encourages you to develop a critical understanding of the role and effectiveness of key institutions, and of the relationship amongst them in the context of multi-level governance. The unit also extends your study of Political Philosophy, by offering a choice between a close study of Anarchism, Ecologism, Feminism, Multiculturalism or Nationalism.

Unit 3: Comparative Politics: USA. You will study representative processes in the USA and the workings of the US government. Key areas of analysis include the US Constitution, US Congress, Presidency and the Supreme Court, as well as civil rights, elections, political parties and pressure groups.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

You will participate in presentations, group work, debate and discussions. The teaching style will reflect the seminar style teaching at university and will encourage an independent, mature approach to learning, with ample opportunity for personal research around the topics studied. An interest in politics and a willingness to read around the subject, including news media, is vital for successful completion of the course.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Component 1	Written Exam: Section A: Political Participation. Candidates must answer one question from a choice of two source questions, and one additional question from a choice of two. Section B: Core Political Ideas. Candidates must answer one 24 mark question from a choice of two.	2 Hrs	33.3 %
Component 2	Written Exam: Section A: UK Government. Candidates must answer one question from a choice of two source questions, and one additional question from a choice of two. Section B: Non-core Political Ideas. Candidates must answer one 24 mark question from a choice of two.	2 Hrs	33.3 %
Component 3	Written Exam: Comparative Politics. Section A: One 12 mark question from a choice of two. Section B: One 12 mark question on comparative theories.	2 Hrs	33.3 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

Politics is a well-respected A Level which will help to gain access to a variety of degree courses, including Politics, Law, Journalism, History and PPE. The skills gained through studying Government and Politics, including debate, discussion and extended writing are highly valued by employers, and often lead to careers in finance, education, politics, civil society and international relations.

PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE: A-LEVEL • **EXAM BOARD:** AQA

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE English and Biology.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and experience. This stimulating and very popular subject combines fascinating content with a rigorous and scientific approach to investigation. The course aims to develop both an academic understanding of the subject and an appreciation of its impact on people's daily lives. The course consists of 8 core topics (social influence, memory, attachment, psychopathology, approaches in psychology, biopsychology, research methods and issues and debates in psychology) and 9 optional topics.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

Psychology A-Level develops your ability to formulate an argument by presenting and critically evaluating research evidence. You will also be encouraged to carry out your own investigations and research. A range of approaches will be used in lessons including discussion, debate, individual and group work as well as formal teaching.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam: Introductory topics in Psychology	2 Hrs	33.3 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: Psychology in context	2 Hrs	33.3 %
Paper 3	Written Exam: Issues and options in Psychology	2 Hrs	33.3 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

Psychology combines mathematical ability and writing skills, meaning it complements subjects like Mathematics, Science and English. Careers in Psychology include educational psychologist, clinical psychologist, forensic psychologist, occupational psychologist and health psychologist. Psychology also lends itself to careers in Teaching, Advertising, Police Work, Social Work or any other profession that involves working with others.

SOCIOLOGY

COURSE: A-LEVEL • **EXAM BOARD:** AQA

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE English.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Sociologists are interested in why society works in the way that it does and the extent to which our behaviour - and even opportunities - can be shaped by our social class, age, gender and race. We question the society in which we live in order to understand the relationship between individuals and institutions such as the education system, religion and the mass media.

By choosing sociology, you will learn to understand the world in which you live, how and why it functions as it does, and who has power and who does not. During the course, you'll be asking more questions such as:

- Has Facebook, Twitter and the blogosphere empowered people?
- Is there an 'ideal family'?
- Why is it that factors such as class, ethnicity and gender appear to impact on how well - or otherwise - we do at school?
- Is there a rise in extremism and fundamentalism?
- Why does crime occur and how reliable are official statistics?
- Who has 'power' in society and why?

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

You will participate in discussion and debate, group work, individual research, presentations and essay writing. You are expected to keep up to date with current affairs and read widely around the subject.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam: Education with Theory and Methods	2 Hrs	33.3 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: Topics in Sociology. Two from the following: culture and identity, families and households, health work, poverty and welfare, beliefs in society, global development, the media stratification and differentiation	2 Hrs	33.3 %
Paper 3	Written Exam: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods	2 Hrs	33.3 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

Sociology is a well-respected A-Level that will help to gain access to a variety of degree courses and professional qualifications. It is particularly useful for those considering a career in Teaching, Law, Media, Health, Criminology and Social Research.

SPANISH

COURSE: A-LEVEL • EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE English.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The A-Level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. The course is divided into 4 strands:

- Social issues and trends in the Hispanic Society
- Political and artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Grammar
- Literary texts and films: either one novel and one film or two novels

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

In A-Level Spanish you are expected to be an independent learner with a desire for success and for understanding the Hispanic world and culture. Additional study and the commitment to reading around the subject is essential.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Paper 1	Written Exam: Will involve listening, reading, and writing about aspects of Hispanic society, artistic culture in the Hispanic world, multiculturalism and aspects of political life in Hispanic society, and grammar	2 Hrs 30 mins	50 %
Paper 2	Written Exam: Will involve writing about one text, one film, or two texts from the specified list	2 Hrs	20 %
Paper 3	Oral Exam: Will involve speaking about your individual research project	21-23 mins (including 5 mins preparation time)	30 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

A-Level Spanish will develop students' capacity to speak, read, write and listen in Spanish. Grammatical accuracy will be developed as well as cultural awareness of Hispanic countries.

Success in A-Level Spanish shows that a student is intelligent linguistically and can apply themselves outside of their comfort zone. Language A-Levels are extremely desirable by universities and can benefit employment in every sector imaginable.

I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN
ABLE TO LEARN A LOT FROM
THE DIFFERENT CULTURES.

BTEC SUBJECT GUIDE

BUSINESS STUDIES 60

HOSPITALITY 61

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SPORT 63

BUSINESS STUDIES

COURSE: BTEC • EXTENDED DIPLOMA, DIPLOMA OR SUBSIDIARY DIPLOMA

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Four GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including English and Mathematics. BTEC Business Studies Level 2 or GCSE Business Studies would be advantageous. However, overall acceptance on the course is dependent on the Head of Post-16 Studies.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

BTEC Business is a hands on vocational qualification that allows you understand the fundamentals of business organisations. The four core units give you an introduction to and understanding of business activity, management of resources, marketing and communication – all fundamental to the success of business organisations. Dependent on the qualification you chose (Diploma or Subsidiary Diploma), optional units to study will cover events management, business ethics, economics and teamwork.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

Teaching and learning is carefully designed to give you the best opportunity to link knowledge in the classroom to practical skills. Teachers will provide you opportunities to research about real businesses to incorporate into your assignments and you will work on planning on a large scale event. You will also be able to undertake work experience which will be assessed by placement visits. Furthermore, there will also be a number of trips organised, which students are highly encouraged to attend.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Coursework	All units are internally assessed and are externally verified by a visiting examiner from Edexcel. You will be awarded an Unclassified, Pass, Merit or Distinction for each unit of work and will be awarded a final grade at the end of your two year course. The grade achieved will be equivalent to A-Level grades (A-E) and will achieve UCAS points dependent on the final grade you achieve.	-	100 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

Some learners may wish to gain the qualification in order to enter a specialist area of employment or to progress to a higher education foundation degree, HND or other professional development programme. This qualification also develops many transferable skills including business, literacy, numeracy, organisation and communication.

HOSPITALITY

COURSE: BTEC • DIPLOMA OR SUBSIDIARY DIPLOMA

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Four GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including English and Mathematics. GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition would be advantageous. However, overall acceptance on the course is dependent on the Head of Post-16 Studies. You will also need enthusiasm within the hospitality industry.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

This exciting new qualification is designed to provide highly specialist, work-related experience within a range of vocational sectors. Although this is a Hospitality qualification, many of the skills learned are transferable across a range of other subjects and vocations. Dependent on the qualification, you will study compulsory units as well as optional units. Units covered include Providing Customer Service in the Hospitality Industry, Food Units (European and Asian) and Nutrition. Furthermore, dependent on your chosen pathway, there will be opportunities for cross-curricular links within the Business BTEC qualification.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

Working with local businesses, you will be involved in the organisation and service of some catering events. You will plan and deliver presentations based on areas of study and will be encouraged to take part in workplace training programmes to link the theory with the practical application.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Coursework	All units are internally assessed and are externally verified by a visiting examiner from Edexcel. You will be awarded an Unclassified, Pass, Merit or Distinction for each unit of work and will be awarded a final grade at the end of your two year course. The grade achieved will be equivalent to A-Level grades (A-E) and will achieve UCAS points dependent on the final grade you achieve.	-	100 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

Some learners may wish to gain the qualification in order to enter a specialist area of employment or to progress to a higher education foundation degree, HND or other professional development programme. This qualification also develops many transferable skills including business, literacy, numeracy, organisation and communication.

PERFORMING ARTS

COURSE: BTEC • SUBSIDIARY DIPLOMA / DIPLOMA / EXTENDED DIPLOMA

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Four GCSEs at grade 4 and above, including English and Mathematics. GCSE Music, Drama or Dance would be advantageous.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

This course will enable you to apply your new found knowledge and skills to practical experiences/performances which will support mastery in the following areas:

- Development of performing arts skills (dance, singing, acting)
- Management of projects
- Self-analysis and reflection
- Appreciation of the performing arts industry and your future role in it
- The ability to present yourself and your achievements effectively

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

The performing arts play an important role in the evolution of who we are and what we believe in today. The course provides opportunities for you to passionately explore the world of performance and storytelling through dance, singing and acting. This will ultimately lead to a successful pathway to join the performing arts industry in the future.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Coursework	All units are internally assessed and are externally verified by a visiting examiner from Edexcel. You will be awarded an Unclassified, Pass, Merit or Distinction for each unit of work and will be awarded a final grade at the end of your two year course. The grade achieved will be equivalent to A-Level grades (A-E) and will achieve UCAS points dependent on the final grade you achieve.	-	100 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

Modern performing arts practitioners need to meet broad and varied requirements, including the ability to adapt to performance styles, production and creation contexts, and to understand how stylistic knowledge fits into them. The Performing Arts course has been designed for learners who wish to pursue a career in the Performing Arts industry via higher education, to access graduate entry employment.

SPORT

COURSE: BTEC • SUBSIDIARY DIPLOMA / DIPLOMA

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Four GCSEs at grade 4 and above, including English and Mathematics. GCSE PE or Biology would be advantageous.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The content of this qualification has been designed to support progression to a career in the sporting sector, either directly into entry-level roles or more likely into higher-education. You will be required to take compulsory units in the following areas:

- Health and Wellbeing in Sport
- Careers in Sport and Active Leisure Industry
- Applied Sports Anatomy and Physiology
- Sport Development
- Practical Sports Performance

WHAT ARE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

This course has been developed in collaboration with employers and representatives from higher education, and relevant professional bodies. With this, teaching and learning has been designed in a way that ensures the content is up to date and includes the knowledge, understanding, skills and personal attributes required in the sporting sector.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment	Description	Duration	Weight
Coursework	All units are internally assessed and are externally verified by a visiting examiner from Edexcel. You will be awarded an Unclassified, Pass, Merit or Distinction for each unit of work and will be awarded a final grade at the end of your two year course. The grade achieved will be equivalent to A-Level grades (A-E) and will achieve UCAS points dependent on the final grade you achieve.	-	100 %

WHY IS THIS QUALIFICATION USEFUL?

This qualification is designed and delivered in a way that develops students transferable and employability skills. It provides learners with the opportunities to work collaboratively, to negotiate and influence as well to think critically and to problem solve. It focuses on the growth of students' interpersonal and communication skills as well as their ability to self manage and work independently. This qualification supports progression to job opportunities in the sports industry at a variety of levels. Examples of typical career paths are; physical education instructor, assistant coach, gym instructor, personal trainer, sports administrative assistant, sports agent, sport facilities manager.



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