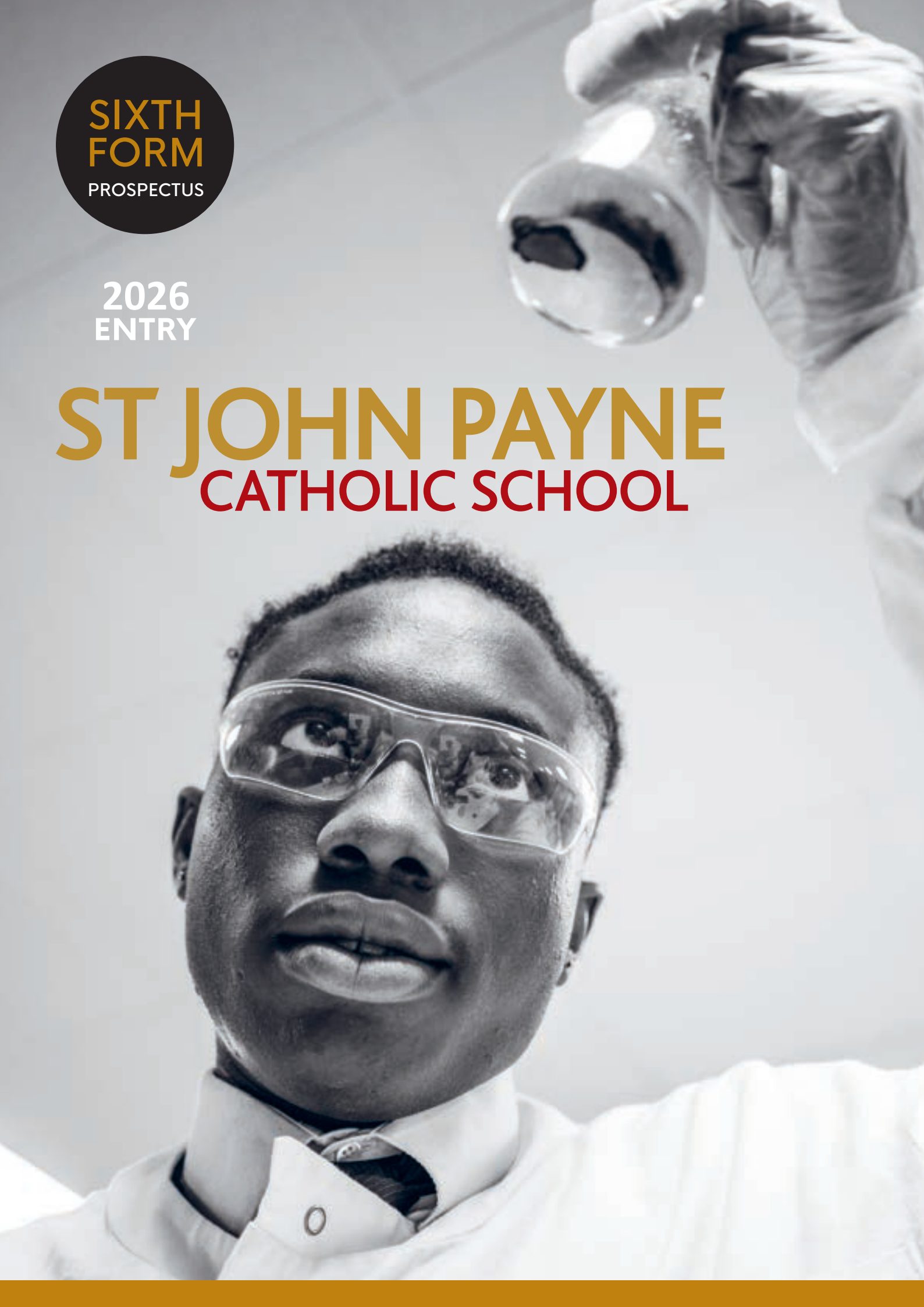




**SIXTH
FORM**
PROSPECTUS

**2026
ENTRY**

ST JOHN PAYNE **CATHOLIC SCHOOL**



WELCOME TO ST JOHN PAYNE

Making the decision about which Sixth Form to attend after the GCSE examinations is an important one and it gives us great pleasure to introduce you to our Sixth Form in this prospectus.

The Sixth Form at St John Payne is a vibrant place and we have an outstanding record of academic attainment that enables our students to successfully access a range of future pathways including university, apprenticeships and employment. In 2019, we retained our Outstanding grading from Ofsted. We are rightly proud of our post 16-provision and every year 40% of our students proceed to Russell Group universities,

“Sixth Form students receive excellent provision. Students are mature and motivated to succeed. They are proud of their school and take an active role in supporting younger pupils, for example acting as mentors for Key Stage 3 pupils. Teachers have strong subject knowledge and a secure understanding of examination requirements. As a result, the proportion of students who attain higher grade A Levels meets and often exceeds the national average”

Ofsted Report January 2019

including Oxford and Cambridge. As a comprehensive school, many of our students receive contextualised offers for places on competitive courses, which are lower than for applicants studying at selective or independent schools. The Sixth Form is academic in its focus yet offers a broad range of courses to meet the personal interests and ambitions of our diverse student body. We are delighted to be able to offer A Level Photography and A Level Film Studies, along with a number of Level 3 qualifications such as the Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate in IT and the BTEC National Level 3 Diploma in Business and BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport. We are committed to providing our students with the highest quality teaching in the best possible facilities and our Sixth Form Building provides a dedicated purpose-built learning environment.

The biggest change from studying at GCSE is that we expect students to take greater responsibility for their own learning. Throughout their time with us, the students are supported to develop the mature independent study skills that enable them to manage their time effectively so that they meet the considerable demands placed on them through their studies. Students are progressively given more autonomy and independence to prepare them for life post-sixth form.

Our extra-curricular and pastoral provision is crucial in helping our students develop into well-rounded individuals ready to make a contribution to society upon leaving school. Students naturally play an active part in the wider life of the Sixth Form and the School and we place much emphasis on this with students encouraged to lead as Jesus did, through service. Examples of this include volunteering at Columbus College, acting as mentors for the younger students, serving on the student leadership team and partaking in the HCPT trip to Lourdes as helpers and supervisors.

Thank you for your interest in our school. Whether you are currently studying with us or elsewhere, we look forward to working with you to find the right curriculum that enables you to achieve your potential.

Mr T. Coen
Headteacher

Mr D Hewlett
Head of Sixth Form



WHAT DOES BEING A CATHOLIC SCHOOL MEAN TO US?

Our Catholic identity permeates all aspects of our life as a school. Religious Education is an important part of the curriculum, with all students studying the subject to GCSE level, but education in the faith is a wider phenomenon than achievement in an academic subject. In their time at St John Payne School a student will know what it is to live out their faith, part of a wider community that does so.

Throughout the year there will be opportunities for prayer, reflection, spiritual retreat and renewal, charitable work and celebration of the Eucharist. We welcome one of the parish priests from our deanery each week when Mass is celebrated in our Chapel for each Form in turn. On one day each term we arrange Masses to allow everyone in the school to be able to attend and receive the Blessed sacrament.

As well as the celebration of our faith, all those who know the school will recognise the importance with which we view each person. It is our belief that we should love one another, putting the needs of others beyond those of ourselves. Our students know that they are cared for and our students care about others. They will take these core values with them wherever they go.

“Students value, appreciate and benefit enormously from the Catholic life and ethos of the school and, in a wide variety of ways, make an impressive contribution to it.”

— Diocesan Report

OUR MISSION TO DEVELOP OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

*20 + A Levels
or equivalent
courses, ensure
students can
choose subjects
best suited to
their abilities,
aspirations
and academic
interests.*

A LEVEL REFORMS AND OUR CURRICULUM

OUR CORE VALUES MEAN THAT WE:

- Foster a community where life is lived according to Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Help each and every student realise their full potential with a curriculum and teaching style to cater for individual needs.
- Support the education of the whole child by working as a three way partnership with the home, the school and the church.
- Meet each student's personal and social needs to promote the acquisition of moral values.
- Create an environment in which students are happy, feel safe, valued as individuals, and learn to co-operate with one another.
- Provide opportunities for students and staff to experience, express, celebrate and live out our faith.

***In all that we
do, our aim is
to truly care
for those with
whom we work
by doing as Jesus
has instructed
us: "Love one
another as I have
loved you".***

Our Sixth Form is traditional in the sense that we offer an academic programme based on A Levels with an increasing number of other Level 3 qualifications.

In common with the vast majority of sixth form providers, we do not offer AS qualifications to students. Students will have access to over 20 A Levels or equivalent courses, ensuring that they can choose subjects and courses best suited to their abilities, aspirations and academic interests. Students are expected to select 3 A Levels, or equivalent Level 3 courses, and there is the opportunity to study a fourth A Level, where appropriate, with Further Mathematics counting as a fourth A Level. The school is also able to offer students an opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification, which is designed to complement our core provision.

This project is very much like a university-style dissertation, enabling students to study in-depth an area of particular academic interest and laying firm foundations for effective research at university.

Whilst entry requirements for A Level science allow students to be considered for entry with G5 maths in addition to the science requirement of G6 from Single Subject Science or G7/7 from Combined, outcomes suggest that G6 maths is required to attain A*-B in A Level science.

Students who do not achieve a Grade 4 in English and Maths at GCSE will be offered a one-year re-take course to gain a good pass in these subjects. All students also have compulsory RS education, delivered either as weekly lessons or as a number of enrichment days throughout the year.

SIXTH FORM LIFE

The school encourages its sixth form students to become independent learners and meet the considerable demands placed upon them as A Level students. Throughout their time in Year 12, if a student does not have a lesson then they complete private study under supervision in Bosco Hall. Students are expected to spend at least 15 hours per week on their studies in addition to the time they spend in lessons and as a result, we have found that these study arrangements are an excellent way to encourage students to manage their time effectively. In Year 13, the students have more freedom and can study in a number of study spaces that include the library and a study room that is exclusively for the use of sixth form students.

Beyond their academic studies, students are encouraged to take an active part in the wider life of the school. Students are invited to serve the school community by applying for positions as student leaders. These posts hold significant responsibilities across our school community and provide the perfect platform through which students can develop their leadership potential.

The sixth form has strong links with Columbus College and School, a local school for students with a wide range of additional needs. Students can volunteer to offer classroom support on a weekly or fortnightly basis, which has proved mutually beneficial for both schools. Year 12 students are also given the opportunity to act as mentors and form buddies, supporting Year 7 and 8 students individually and in tutor groups. In addition, sixth form students volunteer annually as helpers on the HCPT trip to Lourdes at Easter. We are very proud of the service our sixth form students give to the school and the wider community.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS AND MONITORING Progress is closely monitored through day-to-day contact with tutors and with subject teachers. Each term, the students have a mentoring session with their form tutor to discuss their academic performance

and to set targets for future progress. These conversations are based on the tracking data that is generated three times a year, which is also communicated with parents. This forms part of a rigorous student monitoring system, which leads to timely intervention to ensure that all students are empowered to achieve their potential.

BEYOND 18 Our dedicated Beyond 18 programme ensures that every student is given the best possible support to help them make decisions about their future, regardless of whether they wish to apply to university, an apprenticeship or enter the world of work.

St John Payne has a strong tradition of students leaving Year 13 and going on to university. 80% of our leavers go on to Higher Education each year, and typically 40% of our university applicants achieve admissions to Russell group institutions. The students are carefully guided through the whole application process that starts in the summer of Year 12. Support is readily available from the form tutors as well as the wider sixth form team to ensure that the students submit their very best university application. In addition, each department provides students with a reading list and suggested enrichment activities that are designed to boost their ability to demonstrate extra-curricular interest in their subjects. Students are actively encouraged to attend the open days and higher education fairs that are organised by individual universities and UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service), in order to make informed decisions about their future.

Careers guidance is also available for those students who wish to undertake an apprenticeship, gap year or enter the job market. Individual careers interviews with an independent advisor can be arranged and are invaluable in helping some of our sixth form students make decisions about their future. This is very much in keeping with our aim that every student leaves us properly equipped for the next stage of their lives, be that further education, training or employment.



PROGRAMME OF STUDY

	Programme of Study	Minimum Entry Requirements
Pathway 1	3 or 4 A Levels	38 Points or above including subject entry requirements
Pathway 2	A combination of A Levels and vocational courses	34 Points or above including subject entry requirements
Pathway 3	Combination of selected or vocational courses	30 Points or above <i>*G4 in Maths or English</i>

A LEVELS

For entry onto the A level pathway, students are required to have 38 points from their best 8 GCSE subjects. This is calculated as follows using the numerical grades: Grade 9 = 9 points, Grade 8 = 8 points, Grade 7 = 7, etc. They also need to meet individual subject entry requirements. For entry onto the BTEC pathway, students are required to have 34 points from their best 8 GCSE subjects. They also need to meet individual subject entry requirements for any additional course.

Subject	Minimum Entry Requirements	GCSE English and Maths Requirements
Art & Design	Grade 5 in GCSE Art	
Biology	Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or Grade 7-7 in GCSE Combined Science	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
Business		Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature and Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
Chemistry	Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or Grade 7-7 in GCSE Combined Science	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
Computer Science	Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
Drama & Theatre	Grade 6 in GCSE Drama	
Economics		Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics

Subject	Minimum Entry Requirements	GCSE English and Maths Requirements
English Language	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language	
English Literature	Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature	
Film Studies	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Literature	
French	Grade 6 in GCSE French	
Geography	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
German	Grade 6 in GCSE German	
Government & Politics		Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature
History	Grade 6 in GCSE History	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature
Mathematics (A Level)	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics	
Further Mathematics	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics	
Music	At least Grade 5 standard (you do not have had to have taken the grade) on an instrument. GCSE Music Grade 5. Or Grade 5 Theory (if not studied at GCSE).	
Physics	Grade 6 in GCSE Physics or Grade 7-7in GCSE Combined Science	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
PE	Grade 5 in GCSE PE Theory and a Grade 5 in GCSE Combined Science	
Psychology		Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature
Religious Studies - Philosophy & Ethics	Grade 6 in GCSE RS	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature
Sociology		Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature
Photography	Grade 5 in GCSE Art is advantageous but not essential	

VOCATIONAL COURSES

For entry onto the BTEC / AAQ pathway, students are required to have 34 points from their best 8 GCSE subjects. They also need to meet individual subject entry requirements for any additional course.

Subject	Minimum Entry Requirements	GCSE English and Maths Requirements
BTEC National Level 3 Diploma in Business (Equivalent to 2 A Levels)		8 GCSEs at Grade 4+ including Maths and English Language or Literature at Grade 4+
WJEC Level 3 Applied Certificate in Criminology		Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature
AAQ Level 3 in Health & Social Care	Grade 4+ in Science	Grade 4+ in GCSE Maths or English
AAQ Level 3 Medical Science	Grade 5+ in Combined Science	Grade 4+ in GCSE Maths or English
AAQ IT – Data Analytics Extended Certificate	P2 in iMedia or similar IT course	
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport		8 GCSE at Grade 4+ including Maths and English Language or Literature Grade 4+

Subject Offerings for Pathway 3

- BTEC** Business Diploma & - Data Analytics Extended Certificate (Point Score 30 points or above and either Maths or English @ G4+)
- BTEC** Business Diploma & AAQ Health & Social Care (Point Score 30 points or above and either Maths or English @ G4+)
- BTEC** Business Diploma & Applied Criminology (Point Score 30 points or above and either Maths or English @ G4+)
- BTEC** Business Diploma & Film Studies (Point Score 30 points or above and either Maths or English @ G4+)

PLEASE NOTE

We will not include a GCSE grade in a modern foreign language as part of the total points score if the language is a student’s native tongue.

For students who have studied with us in Year 11, if you do not achieve the minimum entry requirement but wish to apply for special consideration for entry into our Sixth Form then you must contact the Headteacher in writing for your case to be considered.

The School reserves the right to not offer a student a place in the Sixth Form even if they meet the entry requirements if their general conduct, behaviour for learning and attitude have been a cause for concern in Years 10 and 11.



A Level Art & Design

Examining Board: EDEXCEL
Entry Requirements: At least a grade 5 in GCSE Art and Design. It would also be preferable for them to have a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature.

Synopsis of content

The course consists of a Personal Investigation which is worth 60% of the final grade. This incorporates a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points. Students are also expected to produce a personal study which is evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum of 1000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images.

The final component is the Externally Set Assignment (ESA) which is worth 40% of the final grade. This allows students opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s) in response to an externally set theme.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Personal Investigation.	Three major elements: - Supporting studies - Practical work - Personal study.	60% of total grade. Internally assessed. Externally moderated.
Externally Set Assignment	Supporting studies leading to a 15 hour timed practical examination.	40% of total grade. Internally assessed Externally moderated.

Teaching & Learning A variety of teaching and learning strategies are employed throughout the course. Students should expect to work independently, take part in group critiques, visit galleries and research artists’ styles and techniques using the internet.

Subject Combination Art combines well with any other subject offered within the Sixth Form. However, because of the nature of the subject it does combine particularly well with English Literature, Psychology, Photography, Design and Technology and Computing.

University/Vocational destinations and careers The Art and Design industry is most easily accessed through a relevant degree. There are plenty of prestigious universities who offer degree courses in the Arts and these are generally accessed through an interview where a portfolio of the practical work completed at A level must be presented.

Candidates may often find that they are offered unconditional places if successful at interview. Potential careers include architecture, animation, games designer, theatre and costume design, fashion and jewellery design, graphics design, photography, interior design, illustration, advertising and web design.

A Level Biology

Examining Board: AQA
Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or Grade 7-7 in GCSE Combined Science, and a Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.

Synopsis of content

The A level Biology syllabus builds upon the concepts and skills that have been developed in the new GCSE science specifications. The course is split into eight sections which provide an insight into the working of the Human body and how organisms interact with their environment.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Paper 1	Any content from tropics 1-4 including relevant practical skills. - Biological molecules - Cells - Organisms exchange substances with their environment - Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms	Written examination 91 marks 2 hours 35% of the qualification
Paper 2	Any content from topics 5-8 including relevant practical skills. - Energy transfer in and between organisms. - Organisms respond to change in their internal and external environment - Genetics, population, evolution and ecosystem. - The control of gene expression	Written examination 91 marks 2 hours 35% of the qualification
Paper 3	Any content from topics 1-8 including relevant practical skills	Written examination 78 marks 2 hours 30% of the qualification

Teaching & Learning A variety of teaching and learning strategies are employed throughout the course. Students will carry out the required practical work throughout the course to develop their laboratory skills. Students have the opportunity to work independently or in groups.

Subject Combination The Biology course complements the other Sciences offered in the Sixth Form, especially Chemistry. In addition, Biology is often chosen by those students taking Mathematics, PE, Geography and Psychology.

University/Vocational destinations and careers Many past students have gone on to use the skills acquired on their Biology course to study medicine, veterinary science, environmental science, biochemistry, nursing and other science related courses.

A Level Business

Examining Board: EDEXCEL
Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in English Language or Literature and a Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.

Synopsis of content
The course aims to develop a critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value. This involves consideration of the internal workings and management of organisations and, in particular, the process of decision making in a dynamic external environment.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Theme 1: Marketing and people	Meeting customer needs The market Marketing mix and strategy Managing people Entrepreneurs and leaders	3 x Written exams. Paper1 2 Hour exam - 35% of final grade. Paper 2 2 Hour exam - 35% of final grade. Paper 3 2 Hour exam - 30% of final grade.
Theme 2: Managing business activities	Raising finance Financial planning Managing finance Resource management External influences	
Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy	Business objectives and strategy Business growth Decision-making techniques Influences on business decisions Assessing competitiveness Managing change	
Theme 4: Global business	Globalisation Global markets and business expansion Global marketing Global industries and companies (multinational corporations)	

Teaching & Learning A variety of teaching and learning approaches are used to help the students develop skills such as data analysis, problem solving and essay writing. These include independent research, group work, presentations, debate and discussion.

Subject Combination This subject combines well with virtually all courses on offer in the Sixth Form but is particularly well matched with Law and ICT. Students are advised to seek advice if they are considering taking Business Studies and Economics.

University/Vocational destinations and careers These transferable skills can be used within any subsequent course of study. The subject is particularly useful for anyone considering a career in management, accounting, financial services, banking, marketing or human resources and learner progressing into a managerial role within any organisation.

BTEC National Level 3 Diploma in Business (Equivalent to 2 A Levels)

Examining Board: EDEXEL
Entry Requirements: 8 GCSEs at Grade 4+ including Maths and English Language or Literature at Grade 4+.

Synopsis of content
The qualification gives learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin the business sector that will prepare them for further study or training. This includes the opportunity for learners to choose two units from a selection of options to supplement the mandatory units which reflect the key topics in business: marketing, business environments, international business, management and finance.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	GLH	Type	Assessment Details
Mandatory Units - learners complete and achieve all units			
Developing a Marketing Campaign	90	Mandatory and Synoptic	External
Personal and Business Finance	120	Mandatory	External
Principles of Management	120	Mandatory	External
Mandatory Internal Units - learners complete all units and achieve at least 2			
Exploring Business	90	Mandatory	Internal
Managing an Event	90	Mandatory and Synoptic	Internal
International Business	90	Mandatory and Synoptic	Internal
Optional Units - learners complete 2 units			
Recruitment and Selection Process	60	Optional	Internal
Team Building in Business	60	Optional	Internal
Recording Financial Transactions	60	Optional	Internal
Final Accounts for Public Limited Companies	60	Optional	Internal
Financial Statements for Specific Businesses	60	Optional	Internal
Cost and Management Accounting	60	Optional	Internal
Investigating Customer Service	60	Optional	Internal
Investigating Retail Business	60	Optional	Internal
Visual Merchandising	60	Optional	Internal
Digital Marketing	60	Optional	Internal
Creative Promotion	60	Optional	Internal
Pitching for a New Business	60	Optional	Internal
Investigating Corporate Social Responsibility	60	Optional	Internal
Training and Development	60	Optional	Internal
Market Research	60	Optional	Internal
The English Legal System	60	Optional	Internal

A Level Chemistry

Examining Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or Grade 7-7 in GCSE Combined Science, and a Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.

Synopsis of content

The Chemistry syllabus will appeal to those students who enjoyed the subject in Years 10 and 11 and want to find out more about how Chemistry affects all of our lives. Chemistry is based on experiment and a proportion of the course is devoted to practical work. Chemistry is an exciting but very demanding subject that requires logical thought processes and the ability to apply knowledge to new situations. Students wanting a career in medicine, forensics or pharmacology are usually required to have Chemistry at A Level.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Paper 1	Relevant physical chemistry topics plus inorganic chemistry and the relevant practical skills.	2 hour written examination. 105 marks. 35% of A Level. Short and long answer questions.
Paper 2	Relevant physical chemistry topics plus inorganic chemistry and the relevant practical skills.	2 hour written examination 105 marks 35% of A Level. Short and long answer questions.
Paper 3	All content and practical skills.	2 hour written examination 90 marks 30% of the A Level. Questions on practical techniques and data analysis and content from across the specification. Some questions will be multiple choice.

Teaching & Learning Chemistry is fundamentally an experimental subject. Within this specification there are numerous opportunities to use practical experiences to link theory to reality, and equip students with the essential practical skills they need. During the course students will complete 12 required practicals as part of the assessment. There are also numerous opportunities for independent learning and working out concepts using logic and problem solving skills.

Subject Combination The Chemistry course compliments the other sciences well, especially Biology as it can explain some of the processes that happen in living things. There is a significant mathematical content in the course and students ought to be competent in the handling of algebraic equations and graphs.

University/Vocational destinations and careers Many past students have gone on to use the skills acquired in their chemistry A Level at university studying chemistry, biochemistry, medicine, veterinary science, pharmacology, forensics, and other science courses.



A Level Computer Science

Examining Board: AQA
Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science and a Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.

Synopsis of content

The course consists of a programming paper that is assessed online where students extend a predefined piece of code; paper 2 is a theoretical paper that assesses student’s understanding of computer science concepts. The non-exam element is a programming project undertaken by the student in a language of their choice.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Paper 1	Fundamentals of programming. Data structures. Algorithms. Theory of computation. Systematic approaches to problem solving.	On screen examination. 2 hour 30 minutes. 40% of the qualification. Preliminary material will be issued (a skeleton program available in each of the programming languages) and, where appropriate, test data for use in the examination.
Paper 2	Computer systems. Computer organisations and architecture. Consequences of the uses of computing. Communication networks. Fundamentals of databases. Big data and functional programming.	Written examination. 2 hour 30 minutes. 40% of the qualification.
Non – examined assessment	The non-exam assessment assesses a student’s ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem.	Practical task undertaken in class. 75 marks. 20% of the qualification.

Teaching & Learning A variety of teaching and learning approaches will be used, including independent learning and programming, group work, peer programming, use of IT, decision making, abstraction and decomposition of problems.

Subject Combination This subject combines well with Mathematics, ICT and the Sciences.

University/Vocational destinations and careers Computer Science prepares students for many of the courses available at university including computing, software engineering, business and computing or computing graphics/animation, amongst others.

Career possibilities include computing, analysis, computer programming, animation, medicine, law, business and many more.

Level 3 Applied Certificate in Criminology

Examining Board: WJEC
Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature. It is also desirable for the students to have achieved a similar grade in other essay-based subjects such as GCSE Sociology, Geography or History.

Synopsis of content

The first mandatory unit will enable the learner to demonstrate understanding of different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported.

The second mandatory unit will allow learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crime, drawing on what they have learned in Unit 1.

The third mandatory unit will provide an understanding of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified to the verdict. Learners will develop the understanding and skills needed to examine information in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases.

In the final mandatory unit, learners will apply their understanding of the awareness of criminality, criminological theories and the process of bringing an accused to court in order to evaluate the effectiveness of social control to deliver criminal justice policy.

You will be expected to stay up-to-date with current events, in order to participate in discussions relating to the content taught in class. If you have commitment and enthusiasm then you will easily be able to manage the challenging workload both in and outside of the classroom. You will be assessed by a controlled assessment in each year, as well as an external timed exam.

Teaching & Learning There will be a variety of approaches to teaching and learning including group work, independent study, use of IT, decision-making, and investigative/practical/fieldwork. Learners are assessed through coursework as well as exams at the end of each academic year which is each worth 25% of the course.

Subject Combination There are a number of subjects that work well alongside Criminology. Sociology, Psychology, English and the Humanities help with essay writing in this subject.

University/Vocational destinations and careers The main purpose of the course is mainly to use the qualification to support access to higher education degree courses, such as: BSc Criminology / BA Criminology / BA Criminology and Criminal Justice / BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology / LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology / BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology / BA (Hons) Criminology / BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology / BSc Criminology with Law

Alternatively, the qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service.

A Level Drama & Theatre

Examining Board: OCR
Entry Requirements: At least a grade 6 in GCSE Drama.

Synopsis of content

This course is open to students with a keen interest, enjoyment and relevant experience and aptitude in Drama and the theatre. The course is broken down into four components - two non-exam assessments and two exam assessments. For the non-exam assessments students will research and practically explore practitioners and the work of others. Students will then use their learnings to inform the creation of an original devised performance. Students will also explore one performance text that will be performed as a piece of live theatre. For the two written exam assessments students will explore two performance texts on a chosen theme and evaluate and analyse a live theatre performance. Students will also interpret and explore practically a performance text considering how to create, develop and direct a performance for an audience.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Practitioners in Practice Component 11/12	Learners will: Research and practically explore practitioners and the work of others. Create, devise and perform original theatre. Supported by written coursework.	120 marks Non-exam assessment Research Report & Portfolio: 80 marks Performance: 40 marks 40% of total A level
Exploring and Performing Texts Component 21	Learners will: Explore one performance text. Perform live theatre.	60 marks Non-exam assessment (Visiting examination) Concept Proforma: 10 marks Performance: 50 marks 20% of total A level
Analysing Performance	Learners will: Explore practically two performance texts on a chosen theme. Analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.	60 marks 2 hours 15 minutes Written paper
Deconstructing Texts for Performance	Learners will: Interpret and explore practically a performance text considering how to create, develop and direct a performance for an audience.	60 marks 1 hour 45 minutes Written paper 20% of total A level

Teaching & Learning Practical lessons and workshops run throughout the course alongside theory work. Performing in front of peers, a live audience and a visiting examiner are key elements of the course. There will be a number of opportunities to experience live theatre that will not only provide ideas and stimulus for practical work but are an essential requirement to the written exam. Students are required to be exceptional independent learners and are required to rehearse in their own time throughout the two years.

Subject Combination A Level Drama and Theatre combines well with any other subject offered within the Sixth Form. However, the course draws upon elements of Literature, Media Studies, History, Psychology and Design.

University/Vocational destinations and careers The study of Drama and Theatre has grown in popularity due to the course helping to create independent learners, critical thinkers and effective decision makers – all personal attributes that can make a student stand out as they progress through their education and into employment. Any student considering a career that requires high level communication skills will benefit from studying this course. It will also prepare learners for the further study of Drama or Performing Arts courses in Higher Education as well as developing transferable skills desired by all sectors of the industry.

A Level Economics

Examining Board: OCR
Entry Requirements: No prior knowledge of Economics is assumed; however, students must have achieved at least a Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics as 20% of the marks will require quantitative skills.

Synopsis of content

The study of Economics emphasises the importance of economic issues in a modern industrial society and seeks to encourage the development of a basic economic competence which will help to prepare the student to play a full part in society.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Component 1	Microeconomic theory including the theoretical workings of the free market, imperfections and market failures and government intervention.	Written examination 2 hour written paper 80 marks 33.3% of total A Level
Component 2	Macro economy functions on both the domestic and global level including policy approaches and the changes in macroeconomics over time.	Written examination 2 hour written paper 80 marks 33.3% of total A Level
Component 3 - Themes in economics	A synoptic component looking at themes in economics. The assessment will draw on content from both the microeconomics and macroeconomics components, applied to particular themes.	Written examination 80 marks 2 hour written paper 33.3% of total A Level

Teaching & Learning A variety of teaching and learning approaches are used to help the students develop skills such as data analysis, problem solving and essay writing. Students should expect to undertake independent research, make presentations and work collaboratively to debate and discuss a variety of economic theories.

Subject Combination This subject combines well with virtually all courses on offer in the Sixth Form. It is an excellent bridge between the arts and sciences and compliments Geography, History and Mathematics. Students are advised to seek advice if they are considering taking Business Studies and Economics.

University/Vocational destinations and careers Economics is a well-regarded A Level and prepares students for further study or a career in finance, banking, insurance, accounting and other City-based occupations.

A Level English Language

Examining Board: AQA
Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 6 in English Language.

Synopsis of content

Students will develop their skills of analysis of spoken, written and multi-modal texts through the study of key linguistic frameworks. The course covers the study of child language development and language change, as well as language diversity topics such as language and gender, language and occupation and regional and national variation.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Component 1 Section A - Textual Variations and Representations Section B - Children's Language Development	Analysis of two texts (one contemporary and one older text) linked by topic or theme. A discursive essay on children's language development.	Written Examination. 2 hours 30 minutes. 100 marks. 40% of total A Level.
Component 2 Section A - Diversity and Change Section B - Language Discourses	An evaluative essay on language diversity or language change. Analysis of two texts about a topic linked to the study of diversity and change. Directed writing task.	Written Examination. 2 hours 30 minutes. 100 marks. 40% of total A Level.
Component 3	A language investigation (2,000 words excluding data) and a piece of original writing and commentary (1,500 words total) based on a personal interest.	Non-exam Assessment 100 marks 20% of total A Level

Teaching & Learning Students will be expected to read widely and research the relevant language topics and theories in preparation for the examination and coursework components. Students are also expected to offer ideas and opinions through class discussion and debate.

Subject Combination This subject is commonly combined with Philosophy and Ethics, English Literature, Sociology, Psychology, Law and History.

University/Vocational destinations and careers Students who study English Language at A Level often go on to study English Language or Literature, Linguistics, Law, Philosophy and Ethics, and other Arts/Humanities related subjects at University. Possible career choices linking to this subject include teaching, linguistics/lexicography, speech therapy, journalism, publishing, advertising/marketing and law.



A Level English Literature

Examining Board: OCR
Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 6 in English Literature.

Synopsis of content

Students will study a variety of texts, ranging from Shakespeare to modern day and contemporary writers. Study encompasses all genres and gives students ample opportunity to read widely.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Component 1	Shakespeare Drama and poetry pre 1900	2½ hour written examination Closed text 60 marks 40% of total A level
Component 2	Close reading in chosen topic area Comparative and contextual study from chosen topic area	2½ hour written examination Closed text 60 marks 40% of total A level
Component 3	Critical essay Linked texts essay Literature post 1900 Novel, drama and poetry to be covered	Non-examined coursework 40 marks 20% of total A level

Teaching&Learning Studentswillbeexpectedtoreadandresearchtheexaminationandcourseworktextsindependently so that lessons can focus on discussion and essay writing skills. They are regularly assessed and encouraged to reflect upon the feedback they are given, in order to develop their skills as analytical writers. The coursework allows students to select their own texts. When the opportunity arises, theatre and lecture visits are arranged through the school.

Subject Combination This subject is commonly combined with Philosophy and Ethics, English Language, History, Sociology and Psychology.

University/Vocational destinations and careers English Literature is a highly regarded A Level. Students who study this subject in the Sixth Form often go on to study English Literature or Language, History, Law, Philosophy and Ethics, Sociology, Psychology and other Arts/Humanities related subjects at university.

Possible career choices linking to this subject include teaching, journalism, publishing/editing and work in the field of the Arts.

A Level Film Studies

Examining Board: Eduqas
Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in English Language and Literature.

Synopsis of content

Students will study a variety of different films, ranging from classic Hollywood to Experimental film. Study will focus on the construction of meanings and the impacts of social contexts on film-making through time.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Component 1	Hollywood 1930-1990 American film since 2000 British film since 1995	2 1/2 hour written examination 35% of total marks
Component 2	Global film Documentary film Film movements – Silent cinema Film movements –Experimental film (1960-2000)	2½ hour written examination 35% of total marks
Component 3	Production piece: - either a short film (4-5 minutes) or a screenplay for a short film (1600-1800 words) plus a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay - an evaluative analysis (1600 - 1800 words)	Non-examined coursework 40 marks 20% of total A level

Teaching & Learning Students will be expected to read widely in the area of film and access a diverse range of films independently. A variety of teaching learning approaches will be used, including research, discussion and essay writing, to develop students’ critical and aesthetic skills.

Subject Combination This subject can be combined with a range of subjects such as English, Art, Philosophy, History and Sociology to demonstrate a breadth of study and an understanding of contemporary issues.

University/Vocational destinations and careers Many universities provide undergraduate and/or postgraduate courses in Film Studies. Pupils studying Film at A Level may go on to choose a wide range of courses and careers including (but not limited to) Media Studies, PR, Advertising, Journalism, Art, Drama and English.

A Level French

Examining Board: AQA
Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 6 in GCSE French.

Synopsis of content

The A Level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE, focusing on language, culture and society. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where French is spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in the target language. Students will study technological and social change, looking at diversity and the benefits it brings. For example, students studying French will consider French-speaking artistic culture, including francophone music and cinema, and learn about political engagement and who wields political power in the French-speaking world.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation both ways	Social issues, trends and political and artistic culture.	Written exam (40% of marks) 2 hours 30 minutes Students have individual control of CD
Paper 2: Essay	Students must study either one text and one film or two texts from a list provided by the exam board.	Written exam (30% of marks) 2 hours
Paper 3: Oral	Conversation on one topic based stimulus card, a 2 minute presentation on a research based topic with follow up discussion.	Speaking exam (30% of marks) 21-23 minutes Conducted by class teacher in May of Year 13

Teaching & Learning Students will be encouraged to enhance their linguistic skills and promote and develop their capacity for critical thinking on the basis of their knowledge and understanding of the language culture and society of the country or countries where the language is spoken. They will be taught to develop language learning skills and strategies, including communication strategies, in order to sustain communication and build fluency and confidence. At the same time they will equip themselves with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or to employment.

Subject Combination French combines well with any subject offered in the Sixth Form.

University/Vocational destinations and careers The A Level course is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or further study, including a modern languages degree. Popular career choices include translating, international business and teaching.

A Level Geography

Examining Board: OCR

Entry Requirements: At least a grade 6 in GCSE Geography with a Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.

Synopsis of content

The course encourages learners to apply geographical knowledge, theory and skills to the world around them. In turn, this will enable learners to develop a critical understanding of the world’s people, places and environments in the 21st century. This specification draws on both physical and human geography, explores people-environment interactions and encourages development of fieldwork at the local level.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Exam Paper 1 - Physical systems	- Landscape systems - Earth’s life support systems - Geographical skills	1 hour and 30 minutes written paper 66 marks 22% of total A-Level
Exam Paper 2 - Human Interactions	- Changing Spaces; Making Places - Global Connections - Geographical skills	1 hour and 30 minutes written paper 66 marks 22% of total A-Level
Exam Paper 3 – Geographical Debates	Optionality – study 2 of 5 - Climate Change - Disease Dilemmas - Exploring Oceans - Future of Food - Hazardous Earth - Geographical skills	2 hours and 30 minutes written paper 108 marks 36% of total A-Level
Unit 4 - Investigative Geography	NEA (Non-Examination Assessment) Independent fieldwork project.	60 marks 20% of total A-Level.

Teaching & Learning Fieldwork is considered an essential part of the course and, in order to maximise fieldwork experiences, all students are expected to participate in organised fieldwork activities and also carry out independent fieldwork tasks for Unit 4.

Subject Combination Geography complements both Arts and Science subjects and therefore is often studied with a diverse range of subjects including Economics, Biology, History and Modern Foreign Languages.

University/Vocational destinations and careers The inter-disciplinary nature of this subjects means that it helps students access an Arts, Social Science or Science Degree. The subjects can also create opportunities in a wide range of careers including environmental science, planning, City-based occupations, marketing, education and leisure and tourism.

A Level German

Examining Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 6 in GCSE German.

Synopsis of content

Languages are an invaluable asset in today’s multicultural world and the course aims to enable students to express themselves proficiently in conversation and in writing on a variety of topical issues, as well as developing research skills. It will develop their ability to extract information from a range of spoken and written texts, to recognise points of view and opinions and develop their awareness of other cultures, including their literary heritage.

This is a two-year linear course, during which time students will study topics under the following four themes: Aspects of German-speaking society (family, technology and the role of voluntary work), Artistic culture in the German-speaking world (music, cinema, heritage), Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world (teenagers, politics and immigration). There will be a focus on knowledge and understanding of the target language culture.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation both ways	Social issues, trends and political and artistic culture	Written exam (50% of marks) covering the skills of listening, reading and translation
Paper 2: Essay	Students must study either one text and one film or two texts from a list provided by the exam board	Written exam (20% of marks)
Paper 3: Oral	Conversation on one topic based stimulus card, a 2 minute presentation on a research based topic with follow up discussion	Speaking exam (30% of marks) Conducted by class teacher in May of Year 13

Teaching & Learning Students will be encouraged to enhance their linguistic skills and promote and develop their capacity for critical thinking on the basis of their knowledge and understanding of the language culture and society of the country or countries where the language is spoken. They will be taught to develop language learning skills and strategies, including communication strategies, in order to sustain communication and build fluency and confidence. At the same time they will equip themselves with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or to employment.

Subject Combination German combines well with any subject offered in the Sixth Form.

University/Vocational destinations and careers The A Level course is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or further study, including a modern languages degree. Popular career choices include translating, international business and teaching.



A Level Government & Politics

Examining Board: AQA
Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 5 in English Language or Literature.

Synopsis of content

The specification requires in depth study of UK and US government and politics. Students will be required to identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of politics. This will ensure that students develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, political institutions and political processes. The political ideas to be studied have relevance to both of the systems of government and politics. The study of four ideologies will enhance the students’ knowledge and understanding of politics, political debate and political issues in both the UK and the USA.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Unit 1: The Government and Politics of the UK	Students will consider both the government of the UK and its institutions as well as the politics of the UK and how people participate in the UK political process.	A 2-hour exam at the end of Year 13 where students answer three short questions and two essay questions
Unit 2: The Government and Politics of the USA & Comparative Politics	Students will consider the government and politics of the USA as well as comparing the US institutions and processes to their UK counterparts.	A 2-hour exam at the end of Year 13 where students answer three short questions and two essay questions
Unit 3: Political Ideologies	Students will study 4 different ideological traditions: Conservatism, Liberalism, Socialism and Feminism.	A 2-hour exam at the end of Year 13 where students answer three short questions and two essay questions

Teaching & Learning A variety of teaching and learning approaches are used to help the students develop skills such as debate and essay writing. These include independent research, group work, debate and discussion.

Subject Combination This subject combines well with English Language or Literature, History, Law, Philosophy and Ethics and other Humanities subjects.

University/Vocational destinations and careers Students studying A Level Politics go on to study for a variety of degrees including History, Law, Economics, Politics, International Relations, Journalism and Sociology. This can lead to a variety of careers including teaching/lecturing, law, journalism, politics, publishing and the police.

AAQ Level 3 in Health & Social Care

Examining Board: PEARSON
Entry Requirements: At least high level 4 in Maths, English and Science

- Students will need to interpret data, so Maths is necessary
- Students will need to write extended assignments, so English is necessary
- Many theories of health care are based on biological knowledge so Science is necessary

Synopsis of content

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate) is an Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) designed for post-16 students with an interest in health and social care and aiming to progress to higher education as a route to graduate level employment.

Equivalent to one A Level in size, it is suitable for students looking to develop their applied knowledge and skills in health and social care alongside two A Levels.

Teaching & Learning

The qualification has three mandatory units covering the following topics:

- Human Lifespan and Development – PIES and factors affecting growth and development, interventions and the different professionals providing care and treatment
- Human Biology and Health – Human body structure and systems, normal physiological functioning and the impact of common disorders
- Health and Social Care Practice – Core principles, values and legislation that underpin and influence health and social care, and the effect of social determinants on an individual health status.

Students have a choice from four optional units covering the following topics:

- Health, Social Policy and Wellbeing – Public health policy and its influences, including health-related organisations/ groups and a range of strategic factors
- Promoting Health Education – Health education, its purpose and use of different approaches and models to achieve positive health outcomes
- Safe Environments in Health and Social Care – Appropriate provisions in services relevant to different needs; governance relating to safe environments
- Health Science – Types of infections and their potential impact on a local, national and international scale.

Subject Combination The following subjects are a popular combination with this BTEC: A-level Biology, Psychology, Sociology, English and Geography.

University/Vocational destinations and careers Many students go on to study higher education degree courses such as BA Health and Social Care / BSc Public Health and Wellbeing / BSc Healthcare and Health Science / BSc Health Sciences / BSc Nursing and many more.

A Level History

Examining Board: OCR
Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 6 in GCSE History and a Grade 5 in English Language or Literature.

Synopsis of content

This qualification is designed to foster the development of critical and reflective thinking with an understanding of historical topics and issues, and to encourage an awareness of the importance of historical awareness in explaining contemporary issues. It offers a range of topics covering events from the Early Modern Period to the late 20th Century. We look at British History as well as World History.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
1C The Tudors: England, 1485–1603	Students will study the Reign of the Tudor dynasty in England, covering Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I	2 Hour 30 Minute exam at the end of Year 13 where students answer one 30-mark interpretation question and two 25-mark essay questions. This exam forms 40% of the students’ final mark.
2R The Cold War, 1945-1991	Students will study the evolving course of international relations during an era of tension between communist and capitalist powers which threatened nuclear Armageddon. It explores concepts such as communism and anti-communism, aggression and détente.	2 Hour 3 0 Minutes exam at the end of Year 13 where students answer one 30-mark source question and two 25-mark essay questions. This exam forms 40% of the student’s final mark.
3 Historical Investigation NEA	Students will be required to submit a Historical Investigation based on a development or issue which has been subject to different historical interpretations. This will likely be based on the History of Civil Rights in the USA during the late 19th and 20th Centuries.	One 4000-word essay to be completed by students between the Summer Term of Year 12 and Spring Term of Year 13. This will be internally marked and moderated. This essay forms 20% of their final A-Level mark.

Teaching & Learning A variety of teaching and learning approaches are used to help the students develop skills such as source analysis and essay writing. These include independent research, group work, debate and discussion.

Subject Combination This subject combines well with English Language or Literature, Law, Philosophy and Ethics and other Humanities subjects.

University/Vocational destinations and careers Students studying A Level History go on to study for a variety of degrees including History, Law, Economics, Politics, International Relations, Journalism, Museum studies and Archaeology. This can lead to a variety of careers including teaching/lecturing, law, journalism, politics, publishing, museum work and the police.

AAQ IT – Data Analytics Extended Certificate

Examining Board: OCR
Entry Requirements: P2 in iMedia and at least a Grade 5 in English language or literature.

Synopsis of content

Data Analytics will equip students with the confidence to use knowledge and skills relevant for progression to undergraduate study in IT or data-related fields. It covers the fundamentals of data analytics, Big Data, data modelling with spreadsheets and databases, the Internet of Everything and digital marketing.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
F200 –Fundamentals of data analytics	In this unit you will learn about data, including an introduction to big data, and the different data formats that can be used. You will learn about how data is gathered, including the importance of data assurance, and data lifecycle management.	1 hour 15 minutes written paper 60 marks OCR set and marked
F201– Big data and machine learning	In this unit you will learn about the challenges of managing big data. You will also learn about data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). It will lead to big innovations in the future. Finally, you will learn about the legal and ethical issues in data management and how big data can be used in environmental work and social developments.	1 hour 30 minutes written paper 60 marks OCR set and marked
F202: Spreadsheet data modelling – Compulsory NEA	In this unit you will learn how to communicate with a client to identify the information and data which must be gathered to solve a problem. You will also learn how to use a range of tools and techniques used in spreadsheets to develop inputs and complete processes to produce outputs.	60 marks OCR set and marked
F204 Data and Internet of everything		60 marks OCR set and marked
F206 Data and digital marketing		60 marks OCR set and marked

Teaching & Learning A variety of teaching and learning approaches will be used, including independent research and study, small group work and IT based learning.

Subject Combination OCR AAQ IT is complimentary to many other subjects offered in the Sixth form.

University/Vocational destinations and careers This Level 3 course attracts UCAS points, and as such, many students go on to higher education studying a range of different IT courses or combining it with one of their other subjects.

A Level Mathematics

Examining Board: EDEXCEL
Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 6 at GCSE Mathematics along with a good grade profile across all subjects.

Synopsis of content
The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics consists of three externally-examined papers. All the examinations listed below must be sat in the same examination year.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1	Proof Algebra and functions Coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane Sequences and series Trigonometry Exponentials and logarithms Differentiation Integration Numerical methods Vectors	Written Examination 2 hours 33.33% of the qualification Paper 1 and Paper 2 may contain questions on any topics from the Pure Mathematics content. Calculators can be used in the assessment.
Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2	All of the topics listed above	Written Examination 2 hours 33.33% of the qualification Paper 1 and Paper 2 may contain questions on any topics from the Pure Mathematics content. Calculators can be used in the assessment.
Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics	Section A: Statistics Statistical sampling Data presentation and interpretation Probability Statistical distributions Statistical hypothesis testing Section B: Mechanics Quantities and units in mechanics Kinematics Forces and Newton's laws Moments	Written Examination 2 hours 33.33% of the qualification Paper 3 will contain questions on topics from the Statistics content in Section A and Mechanics content in Section B. Calculators can be used in the assessment.

Teaching & Learning Students will be exposed to a variety of approaches to teaching and learning including learning formula from first principles alongside mathematical proofs. There will be some opportunity of group study although the majority of the course requires a great deal of independent study. Students will need to use the Casio CLASSWIZ calculator.

Subject Combination The study of Mathematics is usually combined with Physics, Computer Science and Economics but is also studied with a broad range of subjects offered in the Sixth Form.

University/Vocational destinations and careers As a highly regarded A Level, studying Mathematics can support any application to University and is sought after by employers.



A Level Further Mathematics

Examining Board: EDEXCEL
Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics along with a very good grade profile across all subjects.

Synopsis of content
The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Further Mathematics consists of externally-examined papers. All the examinations listed below must be sat in the same examination year.

Component/Unit/ Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Core Pure Mathematics 1	Proof Complex numbers Matrices Further algebra and functions Further calculus Further vectors Polar coordinates Hyperbolic functions Differential equations	1 hour and 30 minutes Written examination 25% of the qualification. Paper 1 and Paper 2 may contain questions on any topics from the Pure Mathematics content Calculators can be used in the assessment.
Core Pure Mathematics 2	Proof Complex numbers Matrices Further algebra and functions Further calculus Further vectors Polar coordinates Hyperbolic functions Differential equations	1 hour and 30 minutes Written examination 25% of the qualification. Paper 1 and Paper 2 may contain questions on any topics from the Pure Mathematics content Calculators can be used in the assessment.
Paper 3: Further Mathematics Option 1	Students take one of the following four options: A: Further Pure Mathematics 1 B: Further Statistics 1 C: Further Mechanics 1 D: Decision Mathematics 1	1 hour and 30 minutes Written examination 25% of the qualification. Calculators can be used in the assessment.
Paper 4: Further Mathematics Option 2	Students take one of the following seven options: A: Further Pure Mathematics 2 B: Further Statistics 1 C: Further Mechanics 1 D: Decision Mathematics 1 E: Further Statistics 2 F: Further Mechanics 2 G: Decision Mathematics 2	1 hour and 30 minutes Written examination 25% of the qualification. Calculators can be used in the assessment.

Teaching & Learning Students will be exposed to a variety of approaches to teaching and learning including learning formula from first principles alongside mathematical proofs. There will be some opportunity of group study although the majority of the course requires a great deal of independent study. Students will need to use the Casio CLASSWIZ calculator.

Subject Combination The study of Further Mathematics is usually combined with Physics, Computer Science and Economics but is also studied with a broad range of subjects offered in the Sixth Form.

University/Vocational destinations and careers As a highly regarded A Level, studying Further Mathematics can support any application to University and is sought after by employers.

A Level Photography

Examining Board: EDEXCEL
Entry Requirements: It would be preferable for students to have studied and achieved at least a Grade 5 GCSE in Art and Design however this is not essential. In addition, it would also be preferable for them to have Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature.

Synopsis of content
The course consists of a personal Investigation which is worth 60% of the final grade. This incorporates a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points. Students are also expected to produce a personal study which is evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images.

The final component is the Externally Set Assignment (ESA) which is worth 40% of the final grade. This allows students opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s) in response to an externally set theme.

Component/Unit/ Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Personal Investigation.	Three major elements: supporting studies, practical work and a personal study.	60% of total grade. Internally assessed, externally moderated.
Externally Set Assignment	Supporting studies leading to a 15 hour timed practical examination.	40% of total grade. Internally assessed, externally moderated.

Teaching & Learning A variety of teaching and learning strategies are employed throughout the course. Key functions of a digital SLR will be taught throughout the course. Students should expect to work independently as well as part of a group, take part in group critiques, visit galleries and research photographers’ styles and techniques using the internet.

Subject Combination Photography combines well with any other subject offered within the Sixth Form. However, because of the nature of the subject, it does combine particularly well with Art and Design, English Literature, Psychology, Design and Technology and Computing.

University/Vocational destinations and careers The photography industry is most easily accessed through a relevant degree. There are plenty of prestigious universities who offer degree courses in the Arts and these are generally accessed through an interview where a portfolio of the practical work completed at A Level must be presented. Candidates may often find that they are offered unconditional places if successful at interview.

Potential careers include portrait photographer, commercial photographer, scientific photographer, photojournalist/ news photographer and freelance photographer.

A Level Music

Examining Board: EDUQAS
Entry Requirements: At least Grade 5 standard (you do not have had to have taken the grade) on an instrument. GCSE Music Grade 5. Or Grade 5 Theory (if not studied at GCSE).

Synopsis of content

Music is constantly evolving, inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can. The A-level course is relevant and contemporary the qualification offers you the chance to study a wide range of musical genres.

brings listening, performance and composition to life in new and engaging ways, and links to the world around us. The specification allows you to develop particular strengths and interests, encourage lifelong learning and provide access to higher education and university degree courses in music and music-related subjects as well as music-related and other careers.

The Subject content is divided into three components: Appraising music / Performance / Composition.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Component 1: Appraising Music	Western Classical tradition Rock and Pop 20th Century Music	40% of the qualification (120 marks) A single exam paper with listening and written questions using excerpts of music
Component 2: Performing Music – 35% of the qualification	Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist, or vocalist and/or music production (via technology).	35% of the qualification A recital performance that is recorded and sent to the examiner
Component 3: Composing Music – 25% of the qualification	3 Compositions: 2 to a brief and one free	25% of the qualification

Teaching & Learning Practical lessons and compositional tasks run throughout the course alongside music theory work. There will be use of Music technology to assist in composing tasks. Performing in front of an audience is a key element of the course. Students are required to be independent learners and are required to practice their instrument of choice in their own time throughout the two years.

Subject Combination A Level Music combines well with any other subject offered within the Sixth Form. However, the course draws upon elements of Art, Drama, Maths, History, Psychology and Computing.

University/Vocational destinations and careers The course should be taken by students who wish to study music in higher education and those who wish to pursue a career of whatever sort in music. Virtually all universities offer the subject, often in conjunction with another arts subject especially a language, and increasingly music technology can be studied at a variety of institutions.

The course should be taken by those interested in an arts administration career, a possible career in the recording industry and those intending to teach music. It may also be taken by those students who seek to pursue a course that will offer insight into one area of the performing arts.

In the future as technology increase, Creativity is going to be one of the most important and in demand skills at work (world economic forum).

This means the study of creative subject such as music is becoming event more important and relevant, whatever your ambitions.

A Level Physics

Examining Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 6 in GCSE Physics or a Grade 7-7 in GCSE Combined Science, and at least a Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.

Synopsis of content

The A Level Physics course develops the skills that enable students to adopt a flexible approach to problems, think logically and critically and to use mathematics efficiently and confidently. These analytical and mathematical skills have many applications both academically and in the workplace.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/ Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Paper 1	Measurement & error Particles & radiation Waves Mechanics & materials Electricity Further mechanics & thermal physics Fields and consequences Nuclear physics	Written examination. 85 marks. Combination of short and long answer questions along with multiple choice. 34% of the A Level.
Paper 2	Further mechanics & thermal physics Fields and Consequences	Written examination 85 marks. Combination of short and long answer questions along with multiple choice. 34% of the A Level.
Paper 3	Practical skills and analysis plus one optional topic from the list below: Astrophysics Medical physics Engineering physics Turning points in physics Electronics	Written examination 80 marks Combination of short and long answer questions. 32% of A Level

Teaching & Learning Practical work is an important aspect of the course. The purpose of this is to reinforce and test theoretical principles as well as ensuring students are adequately prepared for conducting experimental work when they leave St John Payne. This component of the course is assessed in the written examinations. Additionally, subject teachers have to verify that students have completed a portfolio of practical work during the course and award students ‘pass’ or ‘fail’.

Subject Combination Although Mathematics at A Level is not required for the study of A Level Physics, students tend to find that the two subjects go well together and some of the course content is common to both subjects. Physics is also a popular choice with the other Sciences along with Geography and Design and Technology.

University/Vocational destinations and careers In the past students who have studied this A Level have gone on to study physics, astrophysics, medicine, natural sciences, IT, meteorology and engineering.



A Level Physical Education

Examining Board: AQA
Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 5 in the theory component of GCSE PE along with a Grade 5 in Additional Science. In addition, students must be playing sport outside of school. This means participating at club level and competing at regular intervals (video evidence will be required).

Synopsis of content
It is important to note that the course has both theoretical and practical components, with the latter not only requiring a practical performance in physical activity and sport but also a written analysis looking at strengths and weaknesses of performance.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport.	Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology Section B: Skill acquisition Section C: Sport and society	2 hours Each section worth 35 marks. Multiple choices, short answer and extended writing. Written exam: 2 hours 105 marks 35% of A-Level
Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport	Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics Section B: Sport psychology Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport	2 hours Each section work 35 marks. Multiple choices, short answer and extended writing. Written exam: 2 hours 105 marks 35% of A-Level
Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport	Students assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity. Plus: written/verbal analysis of performance.	Internal assessment. External moderation 90 marks 30% of A-level

Teaching & Learning A variety of the teaching methods will be used when studying this course. Lessons will include classroom –based theoretical work along with some practical lessons where appropriate. The content will be delivered through a combination of group work and independent study, and students should be prepared to use ICT to research information to consolidate the knowledge and understanding they will develop in the lessons.

Subject Combination This subject combines well with a variety of humanities and sciences in the Sixth Form and is particularly popular with Biology, History, Psychology and Sociology.

University/Vocational destinations and careers Studying A Level PE could lead to undergraduate study in Sports Science, Physical Education Teaching, Sports Coaching and Sports Management with a subsequent career in coaching, sports nutrition, sports psychology, sports journalism and the leisure industry including personal training.

A Level Psychology

Examining Board: AQA
Entry Requirements: At least a grade 5 in English Language or Literature.

Synopsis of content
Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour. Psychologists observe and conduct experiments to find out more about the way people act and interact. They try to understand what motivates, challenges or changes us and use this understanding to help us tackle personal and social problems.

Content Overview

Component 1: Performing 30%	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology	Social influence Memory Attachment Psychopathology	Written Examination 2 hours 33.3% of the qualification
Paper 2: Psychology in Context	Approaches Biopsychology Research Methods	Written Examination 2 hours 33.3% of the qualification
Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology	Issues and Debates Relationships Schizophrenia Aggression	Written Examination 2 hours 33.3% of the qualification

Teaching & Learning There will be a variety of approaches to teaching and learning including group work, independent study, use of IT, decision-making, and investigative/practical/fieldwork. Students will also have the opportunity to conduct their own psychological research while studying this A Level.

Subject Combination There are a number of subjects that work well alongside Psychology. Sociology, English and the Humanities help with essay writing and it is also beneficial to study Mathematics as 25% of the new A Level involves mathematical skills.

University/Vocational destinations and careers While studying Psychology, students will master a range of different skills that will be beneficial for their academic development and will lead to a strong application onto any undergraduate level degree course. It can also open up a number of doors with regards to your career and future employment. People with skills in Psychology are sought after in business, management, teaching, research, social work and careers in medicine and healthcare.

Religious Studies – A Level Philosophy & Ethics

Examining Board: AQA
Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies.

Synopsis of content
A Level Religious Studies is split into 3 areas or themes: Theme 1 - Philosophy of Religion, Theme 2 - Religion and Ethics and Theme 3 - The Systematic Study of one Religion; Christianity.
The course is designed to ensure students have a thorough understanding of diverse philosophical and ethical viewpoints.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Component 1 - Philosophy of Religion and Ethics	Section A: Philosophy of religion Arguments for the existence of God, Evil and suffering, Religious experience, Religious language, Miracles, Self and life after death.	Written exam 3 hours 100 marks 50% of the A Level Sections A and B: Compulsory two-part questions, each worth 10 marks and 15 marks. In both sections, questions may span more than one topic.
	Section B: Ethics and religion Ethical theories, Issues of human life and death Issues of animal life and death, Introduction to meta ethics, Free will and moral responsibility, Conscience, Bentham and Kant	
Component 2 - Study of Religion and Dialogues	Section A: Study of religion - Christianity Sources of wisdom and authority, God/gods/ultimate reality Self, death and the afterlife, Good conduct and key moral principles, Expression of religious identity Religion, gender and sexuality, Religion and science, Religion and secularisation, Religion and religious pluralism.	Written exam 3 hours 100 marks 50% of A-level Section A: Compulsory two-part questions, each worth 10 marks and 15 marks relating to the religion chosen. Questions may be set that span more than one topic. Section B: One unstructured synoptic question from a choice of two (25 marks). Section C: One unstructured synoptic question from a choice of two (25 marks)
	Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion. How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied.	
	Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion. How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on ethical studies in relation to the issues studied	

Teaching & Learning Students can expect a variety of teaching methods such as group work, research and independent study, use of IT, presentations, debate and investigation.

Subject Combination This subject combines well with English Literature, Law, Sociology, Geography, History and Psychology.

University/Vocational destinations and careers Religious Studies students find that the range of degree courses and professions open to them are many and varied: management, stockbroking, the media, journalism, nursing, retailing, social work, law, education, medicine, environmental studies, politics and the media. Students gain critical and evaluative skills sought by higher education and employers.

BTEC AAQ Level 3 Medical Science

Examining Board: PEARSON
Entry Requirements: At least high level 4 in Maths and English and a minimum of a grade 5 in Combined Science. Students will need to interpret data and write extended assignments so Maths and English are necessary.

Synopsis of content
Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Medical Science (Extended Certificate)Students must complete 3 mandatory units and 1 optional unit.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Unit 1: Principles of Human Physiology, Anatomy and Pathology	Students will explore the biological principles that underpin medical science.	Equivalent in size to one A Level.
Unit 2: Health Issues and Scientific Reporting	Students develop their understanding of medical science through learning about contemporary health issues, alongside developing knowledge about scientific analysis, evaluation and reporting.	4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external.
Unit 3: Practical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases	Students will investigate the effect of antimicrobial agents on the growth of microorganisms, by selecting and applying knowledge of microorganisms and infectious diseases. They will draw on their wider scientific understanding and skills to plan and carry out a range of practical techniques.	Mandatory content (83%).
The optional units provide opportunity for students to choose one of the following specific specialist area in which they wish to develop their knowledge and skills:	Diseases, disorders, treatments and therapies	External assessment (58%).
	Biomedical science	
	Human reproduction and fertility.	

Teaching & Learning There will be a variety of approaches to teaching and learning including group work, independent study, use of IT, decision-making, and investigative/practical work. Learners are assessed through coursework as well as exams at the end of each academic year.

Subject Combination This subject works well with most courses apart from the Science A Levels, but especially Health & Social Care and Sport.

University/Vocational destinations and careers A variety of science-related jobs or degrees such as: Forensic Science, Pharmacy, Biomedical Science, Midwifery, Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Clinical Sciences/Medicine Foundation, Occupational Therapy, Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences.

A Level Sociology

Examining Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature. It is also desirable for the students to have achieved a similar grade in other essay-based subjects such as Geography or History.

Synopsis of content

Sociology is the study of how society is organised and how we experience life. The course consists of studying human behaviours and the interaction between human groups and institutions. Sociologists take an in depth look at social inequalities (including race, gender, and class); the environment; cultural traditions; family relations; health care; globalization; politics and social movements; and crime and justice.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	Content Overview	Assessment Details
Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods	Education Methods in Context Theory and Methods	Written Examination 2 hours 33.3% of the qualification
Paper 2: Topics in Sociology	Family and Households Beliefs in Society	Written Examination 2 hours 33.3% of the qualification
Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods	Crime and Deviance Theory and Methods	Written Examination 2 hours 33.3% of the qualification

Teaching & Learning There will be a variety of approaches to teaching and learning including group work, independent study, use of IT, decision-making, and investigative/practical/fieldwork. Students will also have the opportunity to conduct their own research while studying this A Level.

Subject Combination There are a number of subjects that work well alongside Sociology. Psychology, English and the Humanities help with essay writing in this subject.

University/Vocational destinations and careers People who study Sociology go on into a wide variety of jobs. The new course now includes exercises in team work, so you will learn to work in collaboration with others, but also how to work effectively without close supervision. Sociology gifts each student with an array of transferable skills that can be used in the workplace, for example being analytical, conducting research, conducting interviews, using statistics and presentation skills. Popular career destinations include civil service, charity work, HR, public relations communications and teaching.



BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport

Examining Board: EDEXCEL
Entry Requirements: 8 GCSEs at Grade 4+ including Maths and English Language or Literature at Grade 4+.
In addition, students must be playing sport outside of school. This means participating at club level and competing at regular intervals (video evidence will be required).

Synopsis of content

Equivalent in size to one A Level.

4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external. Mandatory content (83%). The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. Employers and professional bodies have also been involved and consulted to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice for learners who may choose to enter employment directly in the sport sector. Learners will study three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology
- Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
- Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry.

Learners will also choose one optional unit from a range which has been designed to support choices in progression to sport courses in higher education, and to link with relevant occupational areas.

Content Overview

Component/Unit/Examination	GLH	Type	Assessment Details
Mandatory Units - learners complete and achieve all units			
Anatomy and Physiology	120	Mandatory	External
Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being	120	Mandatory and Synoptic	External
Professional Development in the Sports Industry	60	Mandatory	Internal
Optional Units - learners complete 1 unit			
Sports Leadership	60	Optional	Internal
Application of Fitness Testing	60	Optional	Internal
Sports Psychology	60	Optional	Internal
Practical Sports Performance	60	Optional	Internal

University/Vocational destinations and careers A broad basis of study for the sport sector. This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

Subject Combination This subject combines well with a variety of humanities and sciences in the Sixth Form and is particularly popular with Biology, History, Psychology and Sociology.

University/Vocational destinations and careers BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport could lead to undergraduate study in Sports Science, Physical Education Teaching, Sports Coaching and Sports Management with a subsequent career in coaching, sports nutrition, sports psychology, sports journalism and the leisure industry including personal training.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

- At St John Payne we offer the AQA Extended Project Qualification in Year 13 which allows students to:
- Develop essential skills for higher education and the workplace, in a subject area of their own choice.
 - Develop greater ownership over their studies than ever before. They have free choice of project topic so can choose to explore an aspect of a subject they are studying, or another subject, or choose a topic in which you have a personal interest.

This level of choice and flexibility means students are engaged and motivated, and gain valuable research and project management skills along the way.

Sixth Form Religious Studies – Non-examination Course

The general Religious Studies programme aims to treat each student as an individual with different unique experiences. The course content varies each year to incorporate current moral issues, with other areas including attitudes to faith, worship, the liturgical year, Cafod initiatives, sex and relationships, coping with stress, drug related issues and opportunities to share in the experiences of Holocaust survivors.

The programme aims to encourage a deeper knowledge of Catholic and Christian traditions, through a flexible and adaptable programme. It encourages young adults to look into faith, morality and religion from their own perspective.

The course challenges students to study and evaluate the attitudes and opinions of others and aims to provide each student with the skills necessary to articulate how they feel about faith and moral issues in an ever-changing world.

We engage in a variety of learning strategies including creative practical activities such as making icons for prayer, junk modelling, preparing and presenting assemblies, small group discussions retreats etc. A number of outside speakers give personal witness accounts relating to issues such as addiction, vocation, and the Holocaust experience. Year 12 students are invited to volunteer for leadership experience in assisting with Year 7 retreats, and both year groups have the opportunity to help with the disabled in a pilgrimage to Lourdes each year at Easter.

Overall the course offers opportunities to learn from and to share in personal experiences, gaining a broader insight into human nature, thus enhancing personal development.

How to apply

Stage 1: Open Evening

Our Sixth Form Open Evening takes place on **15th October 2025**, providing an excellent opportunity for all students to learn more about our Sixth Form including the courses we offer. We will attach further detail as the date nears.

Stage 2: Making an Application

Current St John Payne Students will receive an invitation via email allowing them to register their interest in our Sixth Form and allow them to indicate the subjects they would like to study at A Level. External Students should complete the online application form by **31st January 2026**.

External students are required to apply through an on-line platform (Applicaa). The following link will take you to the applications platform, where students will be able to start an application and also login to amend or complete their application: <https://sjp.applicaa.com/year12new>

Stage 3: Informal Meetings

Both current St John Payne students and external applicants will be invited to attend a short individual meeting with a member of the School Leadership Team to discuss their application. These meetings take place in **February and March 2026**. We will discuss students' future plans and advise on suitable pathways. Successful external applicants will receive a formal letter confirming the offer of a place. They will need to let us know if they accept the offer at this stage. All current SJP students are offered a place in our Sixth Form providing they meet the entry requirements detailed in the prospectus and have demonstrated good behaviour for learning throughout Key Stage 4.

Stage 4: Sixth Form Taster Day

Applicants are encouraged to attend our sixth form taster day, which will be held on **Wednesday 24th June 2026**. We welcome and encourage both internal and external applicants to attend this day.

Stage 5: GCSE Results Day

Students who have indicated that they will be returning to the Sixth Form at St John Payne will need to formally confirm that this is still their intention by completing the final stage of their online application by **midday on GCSE Results Day**.

Stage 6: September Enrolment

All students who have accepted their provisional offer of a place in our Sixth Form will be invited to formally enrol for their A Level subjects on the first day of term in September.

WHAT MAKES OUR SIXTH FORM SO SUCCESSFUL?

Sixth Form students follow programmes that give them the required subject skills and knowledge to perform at the highest levels. Teachers have high expectations, setting aspirational targets for each student and, through close monitoring and high quality, expert teaching, the students are well prepared to meet or exceed these. Students leave our Sixth Form to take up places at the top universities including Oxbridge and Russell Group, with often more than the minimum grades required of them.

In addition to academic excellence, the Sixth Form is well regarded for its sense of community. Our students say that they have really enjoyed their time in the Sixth Form. It is a welcoming and friendly place to study with much support from both teachers and fellow students. Students are able to join our Sixth Form from neighbouring schools if places on courses are available. Several of our senior students take on additional leadership roles in our school within the House Councils, Chaplaincy Team or in the House System. They do so much to give the whole school its tremendous feeling of community and demonstrate excellent role models for the younger students. The leadership training they receive and the experiences available to them give our sixth form students an excellent foundation for future responsibilities in their chosen careers.

***“Learning
and progress
in the sixth
form lessons
is outstanding
because of the
high quality of
teaching.”***

— Ofsted Report



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