A Level English Literature

This is a two-year A Level course which means that students will sit all exams in the summer term of Year 13.

Core content:

3.1 Love through the ages
3.2 Texts in shared contexts
3.3 Independent critical study: Texts across time (coursework)

Paper 1: Love through the ages

- Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play
- Exam will include two unseen poems

Assessed by

• written exam: 3 hours • open book in Section C only • 75 marks • 40% of A-level

Questions

Section A: Shakespeare: One passage-based question with linked essay (25 marks)
Section B: Unseen poetry: Compulsory essay question on two unseen poems (25 marks)
Section C: Comparing texts: One essay question linking two texts (25 marks)

Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts

Option 2B: Modern times: Literature from 1945 to the present day Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000. Exam will include an unseen extract.

Assessed

• written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes • open book • 75 marks • 40% of A-level

Questions

Section A: Set texts. One essay question on set text (25 marks)
Section B: Contextual linking

- One compulsory question on an unseen extract (25 marks)
- One essay question linking two texts (25 marks)

Non-exam assessment: Independent Critical Study: Texts across Time Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900.
One extended essay (2500 words) and a bibliography

Assessed

• 50 marks • 20% of A-level • assessed by teachers • moderated by AQA

What can I do next?

English Literature is a 'Facilitating Subject' and as such opens doors to many courses at respected universities. The analytical and communication abilities that an English Literature A Level provides are transferable skills: they are useful in almost any occupation. You can go on and study English at University; English graduates find careers in a wide range of fields, including publishing, teaching, advertising, human resources or management in various public and private organisations. There are also lots of opportunities for further study and academic work.

A Level History

What is History?

In opting for A-level History you will be part of something historic! Your course will cover a period of over 500 years that has shaped our nation and our world. You will be encouraged to study four topics that will test your skills of independent research, essay planning and writing, source analysis and evaluation.

What will I study?

The Early Tudors 1485-1558

Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I with specific focus on the
Mid Tudor Crisis. The reigns of these four monarchs with focus on their domestic and foreign policy.

Dictatorship and Democracy in Germany 1919-1963

The rise of Hitler, the fall of Hitler and the aftermath of World War Two as Germany becomes divided East and West.
The Vietnam War 1945-1975
The origins, events and consequences of this costly war. Students will be asked to focus on their own independent research project within this topic.

Russia and Its Rulers 1863-1963

A one hundred year period study of changes in aspects of life in Russia from the time of the Tsars to Communist dictatorship.
The OCR specification will challenge your perceptions and stimulate your investigative and analytical skills. The units reflect the world today and will provide you with the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

How will I be assessed?

Year 12 – 2 exams on The Tudors and Germany
Year 13 – 3 exams on the Tudors, Germany, Russia and a controlled assessment on Vietnam.

What can I do next?

History is highly valued by universities as an A Level choice.
History provides its student with a balanced way of looking at the world. Popular careers for History graduates include journalism, law and teaching but if you analyse some of the most famous History graduates it is clear it is a pathway for every kind of career path. A well respected subject it has assisted comedians like Al Murray and Sacha Baron Cohen. It has also provided a strong background for politicians such as Gordon Brown and Colin Powell. Successful business women such as Anita Roddick and Shakira have also used History degrees to prepare them for their next step to success. These examples shown have displayed longevity in their careers and a study of the past can enable its students to understand how to be successful over time. History provides an interesting and strong degree for most careers.

A Level Computer Science

What is Computer Science?

Advances in computing are transforming the way we work. The A Level Computer Science qualification is a practical subject where learners can apply the academic principles of computational thinking in order to solve problems using computers.

What will I study?

You will study a range of theory topics which will be assessed through examinations:

Characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices
- Software and software development
- Exchanging data
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues
- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming

You will choose a computing problem to work through and use a high-level programming language and graphical user interface (GUI) to solve it.

How will I be assessed?

You will work towards an A Level in Computer Science. To achieve this qualification, you must complete a total of three units:

- Component 1: Computer Systems
- Component 2: Algorithms and Programming
- Component 3: Programming Project

The assessment will comprise of 2 examinations (Components 1 and 2) and a computer programming project (Component 3).

What can I do next?

This qualification is suitable for learners intending to pursue any career in which an understanding of technology is needed. It is also suitable for students wishing to pursue a career or higher education in the Computer Science field.
It will provide learners with a range of transferable skills such as problem solving and analytical thinking. This qualification is also suitable to support learning in a range of other areas such as maths, science and engineering.

BTEC Information Technology

What is Information Technology?

The BTEC Information Technology qualification provides learners with an introduction to the study of IT systems and how they can be used to manage and share information. You will learn a range of practical skills in developing database systems, data modelling and website design.

What will I study?

You will gain an understanding of how hardware and software form an IT system and how information is transmitted across computer networks. You will also learn about the impact that IT has on society.

You will learn how social media is used to communicate and share information, you will explore different social media websites and research the ways in which they can be used for business purposes. In addition, you will gain practical skills in developing a plan to use social media for a business purpose.

You will learn how database systems are used to manage and process information. You will also gain practical skills in designing, developing, testing and evaluating a database system.

You will develop an understanding of either spreadsheet or web design software and develop practical skills in data modelling or website design.

How will I be assessed?

You will work towards the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology, which is equivalent in size to one A Level. To achieve this qualification, you must complete a total of four units:

Three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Information Technology Systems
- Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information
- Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business

Plus one from the following optional units which will be selected by your teacher:

- Unit 5: Data Modelling
- Unit 6: Website Development

You will be assessed through a range of assessments, including a 2-hour examination, an assessed task and a range of BTEC assignments set by your teacher.

What can I do next?

The course is ideally suited for learners who are interested in progressing to higher education or employment in a wide range of areas. The qualification will provide you with a range of practical IT skills that are highly valued by employers.

BTEC Nationals Health and Social Care Level 3

What is Health and Social Care?

In Health and Social Care you will:

- Gain a broad understanding of health, social care and early years working environments
- Develop skills, knowledge and understanding of health, social care and early years and the day to day purpose of each setting
- Have an opportunity to apply learning in a practical and realistic way
- Follow a programme of study that enables progression to both higher education and employment in health, social care and early years
- Develop skills that are highly valued by employers and universities
- Gain confidence by developing independent learning skills

What will I study?

You learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course

These include:

- Identifying and understanding the roles and responsibilities of professionals who work in health and social care
- Identifying and explaining service users needs and how they can be met by professionals who work in health and social care
- Investigate policies, procedures and legislation that relate to health and social care
- Problem solving in a variety of situations and contexts
- Communicating and working as a group in different ways
- Understanding development across the human lifespan
- Analysing how factors can influence human growth and development
- How to meet the needs of individuals through providing the appropriate levels of care and support

How will I be assessed?

The exam board for this qualification is Pearson. 50% of the qualification is internally assessed through coursework and 50% is externally assessed through two exams which are spread out over the two year course. The full award for this qualification is graded at Pass, Merit and Distinction.

What can I do next?

Students who study Health and Social Care at an advanced level have access to a wide range of career opportunities and higher education. These include nursing, social work, early years studies, care work, teaching, paramedicine, midwifery, physiotherapy, occupational therapy along with many other health related professional careers and personnel work.

Drama And Theatre A Level

What is Drama and Theatre A Level?

This is a practical course taken over two years and builds upon the experience, skill and knowledge gained in GCSE Drama. All work is supported by your written reflections on what you see, create and learn. Along with good performance and communication skills and the ability to write well you will develop wider skills including research, working independently as well as being part of a team. You will need to be well organised and keep to clear deadlines as there is a lot to do!

What will I study?

This course is practical and creative supported by a variety of research and written tasks. It is in four units

PRACTITIONERS IN PRACTICE
The study of two contrasting theatre practitioners which will lead to a devised polished performance piece accompanied by a research project and a portfolio.

EXPLORING AND PERFORMING TEXT
A practical exploration of a play leading towards a final group performance accompanied by a pro forma of your artistic intention for the play. This will be directed by your teacher

ANALYSING PERFORMANCE
This has two sections – Section A is the practical exploration of two plays and Section B is writing a theatre review. This will lead to a written exam in the second year.

DECONSTRUCTING TEXTS FOR PERFORMANCE
Practically exploring one play from the perspective of a Director. Your practical understanding and knowledge will be shown in a written exam at the end of the second year.

How will I be assessed?

In the first year this will be by performance and a written research report and portfolio. In the second year there will be another (teacher directed) performance and then at the end of the two years there are two written exams based on your practical work.

What can I do next?

A Level Drama is recognised by all universities. You can go on to specialise in Drama related degrees or many other arts based degrees, Law, Personal Management, Advertising, Therapy. A background in Drama gives you confidence in a wide range of careers which require excellent communication skills.

OCR Cambridge technical Level 2 in Science

What is it?

The course is a level 2 course (equivalent to GCSE) that enables a more vocational delivery of science content. You will study aspects of biology, chemistry and physics and focus on how science is applied in industry. This is a great way to improve on your GCSE science grade and can be a stepping stone into level 3 courses such as A level sciences and other vocational courses.

What will I study?

There are 6 units that are broken down into smaller assignments:

- Science of the Earth; a study of Earth's structure and processes. This then considers how we use Earth's resources and impact upon our environment.
- Food production; how is food produced, processed and then made available to consumers?
- Radiology; how are x-rays, ultrasound and nuclear ionising radiations used in imaging, diagnosis and treatment?
- Chemical design; what do we put in car fuels and why are they needed? How do washing powders work?
- Science and health; how does lifestyle affect our wellbeing? How do our bodies fight infection? How does sexual health affect society? How are genetic conditions diagnosed and how do they affect us?
- Science of telecommunications; how can communication systems be used and what technologies are involved?

How will I be assessed?

There is currently no external assessment for this Cambridge technical course so students instead provide evidence of their understanding and application by building a portfolio of work which will be assessed by their teachers as we go through the course.

What can I do next?

You can use the Cambridge technical level 2 course as a stepping stone onto other relevant level 3 courses such as BTEC Sport, A level sciences, BTEC computer science. You can use this as a relevant qualification to access apprenticeships or other vocational pathways in any science or technology field.

A Level Biology

What is A Level Biology?

Biology explores in detail the living world and how it functions and interacts. From the smallest sub-units of cells and the chemistry of how every living thing exists, to the processes that formed life itself, and everything in between. Biology is a great opportunity for an enquiring mind to understand the processes and answer the burning questions biologists come across every day.

What will I study?

Topic 1 – Biological Molecules
Topic 2 – Cells, viruses and reproduction of living things
Topic 3 – Classification and biodiversity
Topic 4 – Exchange and transport
Topic 5 – Energy for biological processes
Topic 6 – Microbiology
Topic 7 – Genetics
Topic 8 – Evolution
Topic 9 – Homeostasis and nerves
Topic 10 – Ecosystems

How will I be assessed?

A level biology will be assessed by three exams at the end of Year 13 for the full A level qualification.

What can I do next?

This course is a fantastic facilitating subject for students wishing to have a well-recognised, challenging A Level subject that is respected by employers and top universities alike. With a 100% pass rate over the past three years and students achieving some of the College's top A and A* qualifications, the course is a proven success. Students with an A Level in Biology can pursue careers in medicine, health care practices (such as dentistry, nursing and optometry), marine sciences, teaching, sport, coaching and physiotherapy, law and many more.

A Level Chemistry

What is A Level Chemistry?

The course builds upon knowledge gained during your GCSEs and increases the level of detail as well as introducing you to new concepts based on the chemical world and relating them to Chemistry within industry.

What will I study?

Atoms, compounds, molecules and equations
Amount of substance
Acid–base and redox reactions
Electrons, bonding and structure
The periodic table and periodicity
Group 2 and the halogens
Reaction rates and equilibrium
pH and buffers
Enthalpy, entropy and Gibbs free energy
Redox and electrode potentials
Transition elements
Organic chemistry
Polymers
Organic synthesis
Analytical techniques (IR and MS)
Chromatography and spectroscopy

Emphasis throughout the course is on developing knowledge, competence and confidence in practical skills and problem solving. You will learn how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

How will I be assessed?

Three exam papers taken at the end of the second year.
A wide range of question types including multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions.
Opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of both theory and practical skills through the examinations.

What can I do next?

Not only will you be able to link key chemical ideas and apply these in context, which underpins careers in petrochemical engineering, forensic science, medicine, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, you will also develop a range of transferable skills including investigating, problem solving, research, decision making, mathematical skills and analytical skills. The combination of these skills opens up a wealth of career and study options at higher education including accountancy and finance, biomedical science and nursing.

A Level Physics

What is this course about?

The A Level Physics specifications provide the basis of an innovative course that has been designed to engage and inspire students who have different needs and abilities by providing two distinct, flexible, teaching and learning approaches:

- a concept-led approach. This approach begins with a study of the laws, theories and models of physics and finishes with an exploration of their practical applications

- a context-led topic approach. This approach begins with the consideration of an application that draws on many different areas of physics, and then moves on to the laws, theories and models of physics underlying this application. This approach is based on the Salters Horners Advanced Physics Project.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Physics on the go
This unit involves the study of mechanics (rectilinear motion, forces, energy and power) and materials (flow of liquids, viscosity, Stokes' Law, properties of materials, Young's modulus and elastic strain energy).

Unit 2: Physics at Work
This unit involves the study of waves (including refraction, polarisation, diffraction and standing (stationary waves), electricity (current and resistance, Ohm's law and non-ohmic materials, potential dividers, electricity EMF and internal resistance of cells, and negative temperature coefficient thermistors) and the wave/particle nature of light. Several different contexts may be used to teach parts of this unit including music, medical physics, technology in space, solar cells and a historical study of the nature of light.

How will I be assessed?

There are three exam papers taken at the end of the second year. A range of question types will be used, including those that require extended responses. Extended response questions will allow students to demonstrate their ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning which is coherent, relevant, substantiated and logically structured.
Throughout the two year course you will also complete a range of practical assessments to develop and demonstrate competency in investigative procedures.

What can I do next?

As a facilitating subject a physics qualification opens the doors to all sorts of jobs and courses. All the technology that surrounds us is based on the principles of physics, so if you are considering working in any area related to technology from music to medicine, or lasers to law – studying physics is an essential first step. Whatever you do the knowledge and skills you gain by studying physics will be useful. Physics is more than a subject – it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries. Students from Stoke Damerel Sixth Form have gone on to study engineering, astro-physics and physics at university.

A Level Psychology

What is A Level Psychology?

The course is about the scientific study of behaviour.
The course goes through the fundamental approaches, issues and debates used in Psychology and the ways in which mental health disorders are explained and treated. The Psychology of memory, attachment, stress and social interactions are studied in depth and the fundamentals of the discipline applied to these important areas.

There are some important skills taught throughout the course which are key to making progress within the two years. These include;

- Being able to outline and critically evaluate theories, experiments and case studies
- Application of the theories to real life examples
- Working independently, reading around the subject and embellishing the notes achieved from the taught lesson
- The appropriate and confident use of research methods and mathematics
- Concise and organised essay writing and an understanding of what the examination questions are asking

How will I be assessed?

Three written exam papers taken at the end of the second year.

What can I do next?

A good grade in A Level Psychology is very desirable to universities in particular. The right combination of A Levels can open up a range of careers and higher education courses in areas such as:

- Clinical Psychology
- Counselling
- Education
- Forensics
- Marketing
- Health
- Neuropsychology
- Occupational psychology
- Sport and exercise
- Teaching and researching

A Level Art and Design -3D Design

What is 3D Design?

3D Design provides a solid training platform for those wishing to progress into work or Higher Education. It is a practical course that draws on your innovation and creativity to develop and create original designs.

What Will I Study?

You will work throughout the two years developing projects and improving and building skills using 3D tools and materials. You will have the opportunity to work with a wide range of materials including wood, metal, clay, plastics, card, Styrofoam and many more. You will use modern processes and programmes such as 2D Design, Sketch up, Adobe Photoshop and the laser cutter. You will study a wide range of subject areas within 3D Design including, product design, commercial sculpture and sculptural commissions, architecture, stage and set design, jewellery design and working with client briefs. You will go on visits and trips that enrich and broaden the experience of studying 3D Design.

How will I be assessed?

There are two components to A level 3D Design. Personal investigation worth 60% of your grade and an externally set task (exam) worth 40% of your grade.

For the personal investigation, you will develop a portfolio of work over the two year course. The portfolio will include:

- Practical work showing your responses to a starting point or brief.
- A related study consisting of an extended written response of a guided minimum of 1000 words.

The externally set task will include:

- A selection of preparation work in response to a starting point, completed during lessons after 1st February in year 13.
- A 15 hour exam spread over 3 days in which you will create a practical personal response to the starting point based on your preparation work.

What can I do next?

There is a clear progression route to degree and foundation courses at Plymouth College of Art and Plymouth University in design, sculpture, fine art, interior design, architectural model making, product design, design crafts and jewellery design.

A level Philosophy and Ethics

What is A Level Philosophy and Ethics?

The 'Philosophy' comes from the Greek word meaning "love of Wisdom." It is the search, by logical reasoning for the 'meaning of life' and it asks questions about religion, right and wrong, politics, the mind, science, art and many more.
Philosophy helps us to think more clearly about our life and what we really believe.
Ethics is the area of Philosophy which deals with right and wrong. For example: is killing wrong? What reasons are there for saying killing is wrong? Is it always wrong to kill? What do we mean by wrong anyway?

What will I study?

The areas studied are component 1, 2 and 3. These are continued into Year 13

Modules
Component 1 – Philosophy and Religion
Arguments to the existence of God – ontological, cosmological and teleological; the nature of religious experience; Problem of evil and suffering; Analogy and symbol; Verification and falsification; Language games; Life after death; Religion and science

Component 2 – Religion and Ethics
Environmental issues; Equality; Utilitarianism; Situation Ethics; Natural Moral Law; War and Peace; Sexual Ethics; Meta Ethics; Deontology and Virtue Ethics; Euthanasia; Abortion

Component 3 – Study of Religion
Buddhism - The 4 noble truths; the 5 Khandas; 3 marks of existence; 3 refuges; 4 key moral principles; the life and work of Buddha; Tipitaka; Theravada; Mahayana; meditation; spread of Buddhism; trivatna; gender Buddhism; comparison of bodhisattva; ahmsa and issues in contemporary society.

How will I be assessed?

Each unit is assessed at the end of Year 13 and will consist of an external written examination. They are equally weighted.

What can I do next?

You can progress to a degree in many different courses including Theology and Philosophy and Ethics. This A Level qualification is welcomed for Higher Education courses like Law, Medicine, Social Services, Police, Management, Journalism and Teaching.

A Level Photography

What is A Level Photography?

This course consists of learning all aspects of modern digital photographic practice. Students will develop their own photography through creative, independent work. This is a comprehensive course which gives young photographers a complete skill base in order to understand and pursue a career in photography. Students will gain a critical understanding of a wide variety of photographic techniques, photographers and practice.

What will I study?

Students will be expected to develop knowledge and understanding of:

- The use of light as the most important element in photography
- The basis of digital photography, including pixel and digital
- Viewpoint, composition, focus, shutter speed, exposure
- A range of digital and analogue manipulation and post production techniques
- The relationship between colour and tone for screen and print based media
- The use of a range of source material, software and hardware in the generation and development of ideas
- How to respond to a creative brief, developing your own signature style

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed through coursework, portfolio and a final practical exam, with regular feedback via Google Classroom.

What can I do next?

This qualification can lead to opportunities in further education, training or employment. It can also be used to progress to university for successful candidates. Students this year have gone on to study photography and fashion photography at university level.

A Level Media Studies

What is A Level Media Studies?

Is this course for you?
Yes, if you have:
An interest in film, television, newspapers, magazines, photography, advertising and marketing, and popular music.
A willingness to study and analyse media texts and to produce your own creative media products.
No previous experience of Media Studies is necessary.

What will I study and how will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Meanings and Representations in the media
Study of representations of gender and ethnicity in music videos and videogames.
Study of representations of gender through changing times in advertising and film marketing.
Study of representations of issues and events in the news.

Assessed by
A written exam taken at the end of year 2, worth 30% of the A Level

Paper 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth
Television in the Global Age. Text options include Sherlock, Humans and The Bridge.
Mainstream and Alternative Magazines.
Media in the online age - a study of bloggers and YouTube.

Assessed by
A written exam taken at the end of year 2, worth 40% of the A Level

Non-exam assessment: Cross-media production
Students create two connected texts of their own from one of the following areas:
Television; advertising and marketing of film; advertising and marketing of music; magazines.

Assessed by
This is assessed by your teachers and is worth 30% of the A Level.

What can I do next?

You can progress to a degree in Media Studies and Media Production. Media Studies is also accepted for all other degree courses. Media Studies A Level can lead to careers in journalism, advertising and marketing, film, video and music production work, videogame production, multi-media authoring and graphic design.

BTEC Sport

What BTEC Sport?

The BTEC Sport is a Level 3 qualification equivalent to one A Level. This course will see you learning and developing an understanding of the human body, the importance of living a healthy and active lifestyle, as well as extending your practical skills within a range of activities. You will also have the opportunity to gain work experience in a chosen area. There is an expectation on this course that you will be involved in a leadership development programme which entails spending time working within an educational context with younger children.

What will I study?

You will study a choice of units relating to Anatomy and Physiology, Fitness Testing and Training, Practical Performance and Professional Industry. You will gain an understanding of the main body systems, namely the musculoskeletal, the cardiovascular and respiratory system and the effects that exercise has on the body both acutely and long-term.

You will gain an understanding of the importance of leading a healthy and active lifestyle, gain knowledge to able to plan and deliver a fitness training programme and provide nutritional advice to support this.

You will have the opportunity to gain relevant work experience within a chosen area within a sport and exercise context. This will provide you an excellent opportunity to gain invaluable experience within an area of interest, supporting future career aspirations.

You will develop knowledge and understanding within individual and team sports activities. Developing key skills and techniques, tactical play, coaching and officiating skills as well as analysing performance skills.

How will I be assessed?

You'll learn through a variety of active and theoretical teaching and learningapproaches. You will be assessed through an external exam Anatomy and Physiology

Unit 1, externally assessed Case Study Fitness Testing and Training
Unit 2 and internal assessed assignments Practical Performance Unit 7 and Professional Industry Unit 3. The course makes use of our fully-equipped classrooms, sports hall, and fitness suite.

What can I do next?

The course is ideally suited for learners who are interested in progressing to higher education or employment in a wide range of areas.

A Level Mathematics

What is A Level Mathematics?

A level Mathematics takes students deeper into areas of mathematics that have already been studied at GCSE, as well as introducing new concepts and how they can be applied. This qualification is for students who are gifted mathematicians (Grade 6 or more) and enjoy studying mathematics.

What will I study and how will it be assessed?

This qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all the A level exams at the end of their 2 year A Level course. 3 papers covering pure mathematics, statistics and mechanics.

Pure Mathematics and Mechanics (01) 100 marks 2 hours - 36.4% of total A Level

Pure Mathematics and Statistics (02) 100 marks 2 hours - 36.4% of total A Level

Pure Mathematics and Comprehension (03) 75 marks 2 hours - 27.3% of total A Level

Why study Mathematics?

An A Level in Mathematics is a very desirable qualification for both prospective Universities and employers. As it is has very broad subject areas it can help you to be successful in many fields, we have had students go on and study Maths or Engineering at university and others who have used the qualification to secure Higher apprenticeships. Studying Mathematics can also complement other A Level courses we offer such as Physics, Further Mathematics and Computing.

What can I do next?

An A-level in Mathematics is a prerequisite to a vast array of degrees: Mathematics, Physics, engineering, computer programming and as well as being advantageous when studying towards any science or finance based degree. It is also an A level that will open doors into any apprenticeship or job opportunity.

A Level Further Mathematics

What is A Level Further Mathematics?

For a student who is exceptionally gifted (Grade 7 or more) and are interested in taking two Mathematics A-Levels.

What will I study and how will it be assessed?

This qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all the exams at the end of their 2 year A-Level course. 3 papers covering pure mathematics, statistics and mechanics.

Assessment Overview

Mandatory paper: Core Pure (Y420)
144 raw marks (180 scaled)
2 hour 40mins
Written Paper
50% of total A Level

Major Option
120 raw marks (120 scaled)
2 hour 15mins
Written Paper
$33^{1/3}$% of total A Level

Statistics

Minor Option
60 raw marks (60 scaled)
1 hour 15mins
Written Paper
1 hour 45mins Written Paper for Y346)
$16^{2/3}$% of total A Level

Mechanics

Why Study Further Mathematics?

Studying both Mathematics and Further Mathematics increases students understanding of concepts seen in both courses. Any students with aspirations to study Maths based degrees will benefit from twice the dedicated lesson time on Maths, as well as many of the top Maths courses setting Further Mathematics as a prerequisite.

What can I do next?

An A-level in Further Mathematics is a 'highly desirable' qualification for a vast array of degrees (especially at the top Universities): Mathematics, Physics, engineering, computer programming and any science or finance based degree.

Core Mathematics

What is A Level Mathematics?

For a student who are good at Maths (Grade 4 or more) and are interested in getting a higher level Maths qualification (1 year course).

What will I study and how will it be assessed?

This qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all the exams at the end of the course.

2 Papers cover:
3.1 Analysis of Data 3.2 Maths of personal finance 3.3 Estimation 3.4 Critical Analysis
3.11 Graphical Methods 3.12 Rates of change 3.13 Exponential functions

Paper 1

Whats assessed:
3.1
3.2
3.3

Assessed:
- Written exam: 1 hour 30minutes
- 60 marks
- Scientific calculator or graphics calculator allowed (see section 5.9 for more information on calculators

Paper 2C: Graphical techniques

Whats assessed:
3.4
3.11
3.12
3.13

Students will be expected to draw on the mathematical content of Paper 1. Students will be expected to develop and demonstrate confidence and competence in the understanding and application of mathematical modelling in the soution of problems related to simple polynomial and exponential functions.

Assessed:
- Written exam: 1 hour 30minutes
- 60 marks
- Scientific calculator or graphics calculator allowed (see section 5.9 for more information on calculators

Why Study Core Mathematics?

No matter what you want to do after leaving sixth form there are aspects of this course that will benefit you. The personal finance section of the course is both interesting and useful for students as they become adults. Any students going on to higher education will have to analyse research, as part of a dissertation or other aspect of the course, therefore learning the critical aspects of the course will benefit them going forward. Additionally this course carries the equivalent UCAS points to an AS qualification.

What can I do next?

Enhances your mathematical skills to make you more employable (Higher Apprenticeships) or help you be successful in your chosen degree subject.

BTEC Level 3 Business

What is Business?

This course enables you to develop your own thinking and research methods. It will provide you with a good knowledge in using different practical skills when carrying out investigations, as well as a lively and enquiring mind, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively.

What will I study?

You will study a range of topics such as:

Developing a Marketing Campaign
Marketing
Work Experience in a Business
Recruitment and Selection
Personal and Business Finance

How will I be assessed?

To achieve this qualification, you must complete a total of four units:

The assessment will comprise of 2 portfolio's (Coursework), a Case study investigation, and an examination.

What can I do next?

This qualification is suitable for learners to pursue any career in which an understanding of Business or any related subject is needed. It is also suitable for students wishing to pursue a career or higher education in the Business field.

It will provide learners with a range of transferable skills such as problem solving and analytical thinking. It is a most desirable qualification to obtain. You can gain employment in many different areas in the UK or even abroad.

RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma: Music Practitioner (Performance)

What is Music Performance?

The RSL Music Practitioner course is a practical course that enables students to develop their musical skill and gain confidence when performing to an audience. In addition to developing instrument technique you will also learn about the music industry and learn to manage and host your own shows. If this sounds like something you would like to pursue you will need to have an interest in:

- Learning to play or sing on an instrument
- Performing locally, regionally or nationally to various audiences
- Developing instrumental technique
- Learning about music administration and management
- Attending live events
- Rehearsing solo or in an ensemble
- Documenting your rehearsal techniques

What will I study?

The units you will study for this course are;
Unit 358 Music Rehearsal Skills (Core)
Unit 359 Live Music Performance (Core)
Unit 365 Auditioning for Music (Optional)
Unit 363 Session Musician (Optional)
Unit 362 Lead Performer (Optional)
Unit 361 Performance to Camera (Optional)

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through a portfolio of work for each unit. Each unit is graded in the same way – Pass, Merit and Distinction. You will need to gain at least a Pass in each unit listed above to gain certification of this course.

What can I do next?

After successful completion of the RSL Music Practitioner course you will be able to apply to university to study for a Music degree. If you want to work in the Music Industry, you would be able to apply for jobs as a performer or train as an apprentice in sound, lighting, stage management or administration.

A Level Geography

What is Geography?

In opting for A-level geography you will be part of something amazing. Your course will cover both the physical and human environments and the complex interaction of processes that shape our world. You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher level thinking skills and showing your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing. Geography combines well with both arts and science subjects.

What will I study?

Physical • Coastal systems and landscapes • Hazards • Water and carbon cycles
Human • Changing places • Global systems and global governance • Contemporary urban environments
The AQA specification will excite your minds, challenge your perceptions and stimulate your investigative and analytical skills. The units reflect the world today and will provide your with the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of year 13 you will sit 2 exams (a human and a physical paper).
You will also produce a fieldwork investigation on an area of your choice.

What can I do next?

Geography is highly valued by universities as an A Level choice, it is named by the Russell Group report as a facilitating subject.

For careers in business, global economics forms an important part of geography. For law, human rights or international relations then geography gives you the opportunity to consider relevant issues. If you are working towards a future course in medicine or veterinary medicine then geography gives your A Level options the breadth that universities seek. For careers in sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location and climate change, geography is an obvious choice. The following careers also use geography: teacher, police officer, nurse, town planner and all of the armed services (army, navy, RAF etc).
If you do not yet have a clear idea of what kind of career you might want to pursue, remember that geography as an A level gives you the chance to keep your options open as it covers both arts and science components.

A Level Sociology

What is A Level Sociology

Sociology is the study of society. A sociology student like you would examine the way in which society shapes people's values, their education, careers, families and roles that they play in life. Sociologists examine certain trends in society like the crime rate or the divorce rate for example and attempt not just to describe these aspects of our society but also to explain how and why these changes happen.

What will I study and how will I be assessed?

Paper 1 – Education with theory and Methods
Studying the role of education in society. Why some groups do better than others and the impact the government has on education
Assessed by
A written exam lasting 2 hours

Paper 2 - Family and Beliefs
Two separate modules . the first examines the changing nature of family in Britain, reflecting the growing diversity of contemporary Britain. The second examines the sociological explanations for the importance of religion on society
Assessed by
A written 2 hour exam

Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance with theory and methods
This module looks at why we have crime in society and why some groups are more likely than others
to turn to crime. It also examines the role of the media and globalisation in contemporary crime
Assessed by
A written two hour exam

What can I do next?

You can progress to a degree in Sociology or any social science degree. Sociology is accepted for all Higher Education courses. The study of Sociology gives students a valuable insight into how both individuals and groups of people are influenced by society. All careers which involve working with people, such as those below offer potential to the A Level sociology student, especially

Level 3 Dance

What is Level 3 Dance

Level 3 Dance helps students to:
- Think critically about Dance as an art form
- Develop their knowledge for the study of Dance in higher education
- Experience performance and choreography
- Lead an active and healthy lifestyle

You will develop:

- Knowledge and understanding of performance and choreography being introduced to live performance and repertoire
- Technical and expressive skills as well as safe practice developed through performance and interpretation of Dance
- Technical and performance skills in relation to influential practitioners
- Performance skills as a soloist and as a member of an ensemble

Why Should I chose BTEC Dance?

Dance is a powerful and empowering form of non-verbal communication. It helps support areas of learning such as literacy, numeracy, analysing, communicating, team-work and problem solving across a range of subjects.

- Dance promotes fitness and wellbeing, you will see an improvement in your strength, stamina and flexibility. Classes with Miss Jackson will push you creatively and physically and you will be given many opportunities to extend your training outside of College throughout the year.
- You will develop confidence and self-esteem through performances.
- You will discover your determination to succeed and improve.
- You will develop sensitivity to others and team-working skills through group performances and choreography tasks.
- As a choreographer, you will employ the skills of problem-solving and creativity.
- You will develop your knowledge and understanding of a range of dance styles whilst performing, creating and appreciating dances.
- You will learn to make informed decisions and articulate your opinions about the dances you see.
- You will develop as an effective and independent learner as well as a critical and reflective thinker with an enquiring mind.
- You will get to watch professional works in class and in the THeatre which will help you to develop a critical appreciation of dance in its physical, artistic, aesthetic and cultural contexts.
- As a dancer, you will develop your physical, technical and expressive skills as well as your individual qualities as a performer.
- Knowledge of British values, ICT, English and Maths are part of the course and are used regularly to enhance your dance experience.

What can I do after this course?

The skills gained during this course are relevant to all subject areas, future employment and for progress to Post 16 courses. These include; Sports Leadership qualification, Level 4 courses in Dance, Drama and Performing Arts, University Courses and a range of Community based work.

A Level French

What is A Level French?

This is an exciting course which offers the opportunity to study contemporary film, literature, current affairs and issues of worldwide interest as well as giving you the chance to develop linguistic skills and accuracy of expression in the language. A Level French offers insight into the culture of France and the French speaking world. At this level, you will further develop the skills you acquired through GCSE work, i.e.: listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will build on your present knowledge and extend your expertise into higher levels throughout the topic areas listed.

What will I study?

A Level means becoming more fluent, having a much wider vocabulary and a greater level of grammatical accuracy so that you can deal with more complex situations such as working or living abroad. You will read articles in print and online from newspapers and magazines, listen to extracts from radio programmes, watch contemporary films, deal with vocational situations and develop opinions which you can support and justify in an extended discussion.

Topics

Social Issues & Trends: the changing nature of family, 'The Cyber Society', the place of voluntary work.
Aspects of French Speaking Society: positive features of a diverse society, life for the marginalised, how criminals are treated.
Political & Artistic Culture: a culture proud of its heritage, contemporary Francophone music, cinema.
Aspects of Political Life in the French Speaking World: teenagers, the right to vote, demonstrations, strikes, who holds the power, politics and immigration.

Either one text and one film or two texts; e.g. Entre Les Murs (Film) and Candide (text)
Individual research project on an area of interest.

How will I be assessed?

AS: End of Year 12 assessment on Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking including translation.

A Level: End of Year 13 assessment on Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking including translation.

What can I do next?

You can progress to a degree in French or another language. Languages are important for any career and in demand by many employers as the global market widens e.g. in journalism, business, the travel and tourism industry, law, civil service and teaching.

A Level Spanish

What is A Level Spanish?

This is an exciting course which offers the opportunity to study contemporary film, literature, current affairs and issues of worldwide interest as well as giving you the chance to develop linguistic skills and accuracy of expression in the language. A Level Spanish offers insight into the culture of Spain and the Spanish-speaking world. At this level, you will further develop the skills you acquired through GCSE work, i.e.: listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will build on your present knowledge and extend your expertise into higher levels throughout the topic areas listed.

What will I study?

A Level means becoming more fluent, having a much wider vocabulary and a greater level of grammatical accuracy so that you can deal with more complex situations such as working or living abroad. You will read articles in print and online from newspapers and magazines, listen to extracts from radio programmes, watch contemporary films, deal with vocational situations and develop opinions which you can support and justify in an extended discussion.

Topics

Social Issues and Trends: modern and traditional values, cyberspace, equal rights.
Multi-culturalism in Hispanic Society: immigration, racism, integration.
Political and Artistic Culture: modern day idols, Spanish regional identity, cultural heritage.
Aspects of political life: today's youth, tomorrow's cities, monarchies and dictatorship, popular movements.
Either one text and one film or two texts.
Individual research project on an area of interest.

How will I be assessed?

AS: End of Year 12 assessment on Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking including translation.

A Level: End of Year 13 assessment on Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking including translation.

What can I do next?

You can progress to a degree in Spanish or another language. Languages are important for any career and in demand by many employers as the global market widens e.g. in journalism, business, the travel and tourism industry, law, civil service and teaching.

A-level Art

What is A Level Art?

A Level Art involves developing your own skills and studying the work of other artists. It is mostly practical, although you will undertake your own personal research. Our aim is to provide students with opportunities to develop personal responses to ideas, observations, experiences, environments and cultures in practical, critical and contextual forms.

What will I study?

The course comprises of an induction unit where students explore the skills required to complete the course. This is followed by two units, a coursework unit and an externally set task. Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences employing a range of media, processes and techniques appropriate to the chosen area of Art, Craft and Design.

The A-level course offers progression from the GCSE Art and Design course with similar structure and assessment criteria to assist in the transition.

How will I be assessed?

A Level Assessment Units
Component 1: Personal Investigation
60% of the total A-level marks
96 marks
Personal investigation based on an idea, issue, concept or theme.
Practical unit with written material of a critical, analytical nature of no less than 1000 words and no more than 3000 words.
Supporting written work needs to be linked to the practical work and support the chosen focus for study.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment
15 hours of supervised time
40% of total A-level marks
96 marks
Separate question papers will be set for each A2 endorsement, with a choice of eight inspiring starting points.
Assesses students' ability to work independently in response to a chosen starting point.
Students produce a clearly defined selection of work, which will lead to a finished piece or pieces.

What can I do next?

You can use A Level Art for a range of degree courses and there are a wide variety of careers that use Art. These include being an artist, teaching, design, computer design, media, creative industries and fashion. Once you have completed a general introductory course in Art and Design, the field is open to move onto a Higher National Diploma or degree level study.

Degree courses tend to combine practical work with a greater proportion of theoretical study than their HND equivalents. They are more vocational by definition and sometimes more closely structured to the needs of industry and commerce. In practice the course aims vary from institution to institution and each institution's prospectus will give you the best idea of what is in store.
Students from Stoke Damerel Community College have gone on to study fashion promotion, illustration, computer game design, fine art, interior design, fashion design and footwear design.