WEST COAST SIXTH FORM

at

THE WHITEHAVEN ACADEMY

THE WHITEHAVEN ACADEMY

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

2026

The Whitehaven Academy

WEST COAST SIXTH FORM

Cumbria Education Trust

CONTENTS

WELCOME TO OUR SIXTH FORM

THE WEST COAST SIXTH FORM AT THE WHITEHAVEN ACADEMY

MR YOUNGMAN, HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the prospectus for Sixth Form at The Whitehaven Academy. As part of West Coast Sixth form we take considerable pride in offering high quality support for all our students. We work closely with national and local partners to ensure that we support each and every student to fulfill their ambitions. Irrespective of whether your ambitions are to study at a leading university or you aim to secure a degree apprenticeship on the Energy Coast, all our staff are committed to guiding you to success.

DR GRAHAM, HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

I have worked with 6th form students for many years and was thrilled to take on the role of Head of Sixth form in September 2025. I am passionate about working closely with students to help them reach their full potential and leave 6th form as confident, independent, fearless young adults. I see my role as providing support and guidance to students to help them navigate academic studies, social life and emotional wellbeing. As a parent of two young adults myself, I recognise the joys and challenges that 6th form studies bring!

MR SMITH, SENIOR ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER, SIXTH FORM

I am the strategic lead for the West Coast Sixth form here at Whitehaven and enjoy ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn, grow and prosper. We provide our young people with the necessary skills and experiences to develop them both academically and as a valued member of our community. am passionate about providing opportunities and challenges to our students and driving them to be the best they can be. I enjoy working collaboratively with our students and staff to continue to grow our sixth form provision. As an active sports person, I am keen on promoting a positive team culture within our sixth form and being one which celebrates successes both individually and collectively.

Dream boldly.

Work relentlessly.

Succeed proudly.

SIXTH FORM **LIFE**

At the Whitehaven Academy, we believe in giving students the opportunity to further enhance their knowledge and skills, so they are well prepared for the next step in their education. We ensure that all students studying with us are given the best possible opportunities to be successful.

Students are treated respectfully and are seen as young adults who are pursuing their own career aspirations. The students are polite and confident in their abilities and are driven to achieve their potential. We do all we can to support them on this journey and ensure that we build some excellent relationships and challenge them purposefully. Our students thrive in post 16 and it is fantastic to see the difference in their maturity, work ethic and personal responsibility since joining us in Year 12.

Being in the West coast sixth form allows students to receive bespoke support and advice over their two years of study. We work closely with the Access Project who provide the students with expert advice, guidance and tuition.

We also ensure that all students have the chance to work with local employers on a programme of work experience. This allows students to go out into industry and get a flavour for the world of work.

WEST COAST **SIXTH FORM**

Students in the West Coast Sixth Form, receive specific careers advice and guidance which is tailored to their needs. They receive bespoke 1-1 support regarding university applications and Degree-apprenticeships.

Students also have the opportunity to broaden their understanding of destinations after post 16. Students will visit University campuses both close to home and further afield. They will also attend University and Degree apprenticeship skills fairs taken place at Old Trafford in Manchester and St James Park in Newcastle. This provides excellent advice and guidance for both of these career pathways. Alongside this we also have local employers and companies come in to school to talk about their apprenticeship and degree apprenticeships schemes, these include certain careers like the NHS, police or Sellafield.

Students also have the opportunity to enjoy trips and visits and to gain valuable experiences alongside their studies. Students appreciate their role in school and set positive examples for our younger students. We ensure that our post 16 are role models and set high expectations of themselves and others. Our students have the opportunity to be on the sixth form council and to have their ideas, views and concerns listened to by the council members. This allows our students to have a voice in school and to have their opinions well considered.

A-Level | Art

Why you should study Art:
This is an exciting range of courses for students who want to develop a breadth of Art skills.

Students should consider one or more of these courses if they want to widen their expertise to cover: Graphics, Ceramics, Jewellery, Fashion & Textiles, Drawing, Painting, Photography, Sculpture.

Each course is a 2-year AQA, A Level that covers a range of Art and Design disciplines. Students are welcome to choose more than one of these courses.

• Fine art: this option explores fine art concepts and principals with more of a focus on drawing, painting, printing, photography and sculpture. This is a varied mixed media course that allows for vast exploration.

• Art, craft and design: this course focuses on design aspects as well as giving students time to explore 3d and 2d techniques, it is a good all-round course that allows students to explore a range of media materials and techniques including ceramics, textiles, drawing and painting.

Course Content **EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA**

Component 1: Personal investigation
The course begins with a theme that encourages exploration of techniques and materials suitable to the course. In Art, Craft and Design these are highly varied and can include: painting, drawing, textiles, sculpture, jewellery, book binding, ceramics, print, digital manipulation and wire work.

The Fine Art course looks at both 2d and 3d techniques to create contemporary art that that explores concepts and use of space.

After experimenting with the materials and exploring concepts and ideas all students are required to conduct a personal investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material 1000-3000 words. Students select the focus of this investigation which informs the direction of the coursework, resulting in a personal exciting portfolio.

Component 2: Externally set assignment
This unit begins with a choice of starting points set by the exam board and after a period of research, it concludes with a 15 hour (three day) controlled time in exam conditions. Students are to select the materials, artists and create a range of samples and designs to inform the outcome. All preparation work is handed in at the start of the supervised time.

A-Level | Art

Assessment

In both courses, both units are internally assessed, and grades are verified by a moderator.

- Component 1: Personal investigation: 60%
- Component 2: Externally set task: 40%

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

Students are able to develop a full portfolio of work that can be used for University interviews. Many of our students go on to study Art further in London, Cumbria, Newcastle, Dundee, Leeds, Manchester and Glasgow to name a few. Courses include Architecture, Fine Art, Fashion, Fashion Communication, Illustration, Sculpture, Graphic Design, Knitwear and Art Craft and Design.

The design process is the key to success on this course. Students will be taught how to;

- Apply knowledge and understanding of other artists' practice.
- Apply skills, techniques and understanding.
- Conduct analysis, synthesis and evaluation

We encourage our students to develop research skills and practical ability, this is often done in conjunction with workshops and gallery visits.Recent trips include visits to Newcastle, Glasgow, Manchester, London and New York Art galleries.

Entry Criteria

Grade 5 in GCSE Art or Photography, or strong portfolio assessed at interview.

A-Level | Biology

Why you should study Biology:

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from microorganisms to mammoths. Biology is one of the most popular A Level subjects in the country, attracting students studying a wide range of other subjects.

Many of these students enjoy the subject so much they eventually choose a biologically related degree course. Others go on to careers in law, computing, accounting or teaching.

So, whatever field you eventually work in, you will find biology a very rewarding and challenging course which will develop many of the skills essential for a successful career.

Course Content

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

1 Biological molecules
2 Cells
3 Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4 Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5 Energy transfers in and between organisms (A-level only)
6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments (A-level only)
7 Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems (A-level only)
8 The control of gene expression (A-level only)

A-Level | Biology

Assessment | A-Level (2-year course)		
Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
What's assessed Any content from topics 1–4, including relevant practical skills	What's assessed Any content from topics 5–8, including relevant practical skills	What's assessed Any content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills
Assessed · written exam: 2 hours • 91 marks • 35% of A-level	Assessed • written exam: 2 hours • 91 marks • 35% of A-level	Assessed · written exam: 2 hours · 78 marks · 30% of A-level
Questions • 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions • 15 marks: extended response questions	Questions • 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions • 15 marks: comprehension question	Questions · 38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques · 15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data · 25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

A-level Biology is a great choice for people who want a career in health and clinical professions, including medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, nursing and forensic science.

Knowledge/skills developed:

• A critical awareness of current social and environmental issues and an understanding and respect for living things.
• Analytical, evaluative and synoptic skills.
• Practical skills, including the ability to plan and manipulate data.

Entry Criteria

1) Either Grade 6 in Biology or Grade 6-6 in Combined Science
2) Grade 6 in Mathematics

A-Level | Business Studies

Why you should study Business Studies:

A-level Business is one of the most dynamic and relevant subjects you can choose, because it helps you understand the real world you're already living in. Every organisation you interact with—from your favourite brands to global companies—relies on decisions about marketing, finance, people and operations. This course gives you the tools to understand how those decisions are made and why they matter. You'll explore modern issues like digital technology, sustainability, ethics, globalisation and the impact businesses have on society.

If you're curious about how businesses grow, why some succeed while others fail, or how entrepreneurs turn ideas into reality, A-level Business gives you the insight and confidence to make sense of it all.

It's also a subject that builds powerful, transferable skills that universities and employers value. You'll learn how to analyse real business situations, interpret data, solve problems and make informed decisions—skills that are essential whether you want a career in business, law, finance, marketing, management, or even if you dream of starting your own company one day.

Course Content

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

Unit 1: What is business? Managing marketing and finance

- Business and objectives
- Forms of business and stakeholders
- Marketing management
- Financial management

Unit 2: Managing people and operations

- People management
- Operations management
- Managing business culture

Unit 3: Business and society, the external environment and business strategy

- Business and society
- Business and the external environment
- Strategy
- Change

A-Level | Business Studies

Assessment

For the A Level qualification there are three exams in addition to a non-exam assessment:

- Paper 1 (2 hours) – 33.3%
- Paper 2 (2 hours) – 33.3%
- Paper 3 (2 hours) - 33.3%

Each exam paper involves two case studies – each case study will be followed by five compulsory questions worth 45 marks.

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

- Develop strong analytical skills – interpreting data, evaluating options and making informed decisions.
- Build confidence with financial and numerical information used in real business contexts.
- Improve communication and problem-solving abilities through case studies and decision making tasks.
- Understand how different business functions connect, from marketing and finance to HR and operations.
- Develop awareness of ethics, sustainability and the wider impact of business decisions.
- Gain practical skills such as teamwork, critical thinking and strategic planning.

Business Studies can lead to a variety of careers, including the following job roles (with average salary*):

- Marketing Executive – average salary around £28,000–£35,000
- Human Resources Officer – typically £30,000–£38,000
- Business Analyst – usually £35,000–£50,000
- Project Manager – often £40,000–£55,000
- Accountant / Finance Officer – around £28,000–£45,000 depending on qualifications
- Operations Manager – typically £35,000–£55,000
- Sales Manager – often £35,000–£60,000 with potential bonuses
- Management Consultant – usually £45,000–£70,000+
- Digital Marketing Specialist – around £30,000–£45,000
- Supply Chain / Logistics Coordinator – typically £28,000–£40,000
- Retail Manager – usually £28,000–£40,000

Entry Criteria
Grade 6+ in Mathematics
Grade 6+ in English

A-Level | Chemistry

Why you should study Chemistry:
By studying AS/A Level Chemistry you will develop your understanding of the properties and reactions of substances. You will have the opportunity to apply your understanding to familiar and more challenging new situations through a wide range of problem-solving activities. Practical work is an important and essential aspect of the course.

Course Content **EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA**

Physical Chemistry
- Atomic structure
- Amount of substance
- Bonding
- Energetics
- Kinetics
- Chemical equilibria and Le Chatelier's principle
- Oxidation, reduction and redox equations
- Thermodynamics
- Rate equations
- Equilibrium constant Kc for homogeneous systems
- Electrode potentials and electrochemical cells
- Acids and bases

Inorganic Chemistry
- Periodicity
- Group 2, the alkaline earth metals
- Group 7, the halogens
- Properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides (A-level only)
- Transition metals (A-level only)
- Reactions of ions in aqueous solution (A-level only)

Organic Chemistry
- Introduction to organic chemistry
- Alkanes
- Halogenoalkanes
- Alkenes
- Alcohols
- Organic analysis
- Optical isomerism (A-level only)
- Aldehydes and ketones (A-level only)
- Carboxylic acids and derivatives (A-level only)
- Aromatic chemistry (A-level only)
- Amines (A-level only)
- Polymers (A-level only)
- Amino acids, proteins and DNA (A-level only)
- Organic synthesis (A-level only)
- Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (A-level only)
- Chromatography (A-level only)

A-Level | Chemistry

Assessment:

Paper 1 (Physical and Inorganic) and Paper 2 (Physical and Organic):
- 2 hours
- 105 Marks
- 35% each

Paper 3 (Synoptic):
- 2 hours
- 90 Marks
- 30%

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

With GCE A Level in Chemistry, the following career opportunities are possible: Chemist, GP, physician, biochemist, forensic scientist, pharmacologist, biomedical scientist, lawyer, insurer, accountant, environmental scientist, marine biologist, nutritionist, and laboratory analyst.

Entry Criteria

11) Either Grade 6 in Chemistry or Grade 6-6 in Combined Science
2) Grade 6 in Mathematics

BTEC National
Child Development

Why you should study Child Development:

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Early Childhood Development (Extended Certificate) allows students to engage in a broad investigation of the children's care and education sector (0-8 years). The course is designed for post-16 students with an interest in Education and Early Years and aiming to progress to higher education as a route to graduate level employment.

Course Content **EXAMINATION BOARD: PEARSON**

There are four mandatory units; two examined and two internally assessed. The internally assessed units give students the opportunity to engage in applied knowledge and understanding tasks to develop their early childhood development knowledge.

Unit Number	Unit Title	GLH	Type	How assessed
1	Children's Development	90	Mandatory	External
2	Keeping Children Safe	90	Mandatory	External
3	Play and Learning	90	Mandatory	Internal
4	Research and reflective practice in an Early Childhood setting	90	Mandatory	Internal

The qualification has four mandatory units covering the following topics:

Children's development – Children's developmental progress from birth up to eight years, including the theories, principles and factors relating to development, and the potential impact of a range of factors on a child's progress through the developmental milestones.

Keeping Children Safe – Health and safety and safeguarding responsibilities of an individual working in an early years setting; emergency best practices and when to address concerns about a child's welfare.

Play and Learning – The concept of play, the influence of theories and approaches to play, and the benefits of play and learning activities for children.

Research and Reflective Practice – The influence of research findings on policy and provision for children and how this influences the behaviours and expectations of an individual working in an early years setting.

BTEC National
Child Development

Assessment

The Early Childhood Development course is graded from Distinction Star to U. (D*, D, M, P, U)

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

Students will develop the following knowledge and skills:

- Knowledge and understanding of children's development, importance of play and learning in development, and health and safeguarding practices
- Knowledge and understanding of how research findings influence legislation, policy and provisions for children
- Skills to support the safeguarding and maintenance of children's safety, including in emergencies
- Skills to support children's play and learning experiences, including numeracy and literacy
- Critical thinking, secondary research and reflective practice skills.

Understanding children's development and safeguarding gives students a good foundation for transition to degrees such as nursing, teaching, and social work. Through the work placement in this qualification, students develop professional practice and interpersonal skills as well as resilience, which will help them to better cope with the demands of the placement in many of these degree courses. In addition, transferable skills such as critical thinking and research are important for academic success.

Students are given the opportunity to undertake a work placement whilst enrolled on this course. The work placement setting should be with children from birth up to eight years and support students with completion of Unit 4: Research and Reflective Practice in an Early Childhood Setting. However, please note that students who do not have the opportunity to complete a work placement can still achieve this unit.

Which subjects will complement this qualification?

The following subjects would be suitable to combine with this qualification:

- Health and Social Care
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Biology/ Science
- English

What further learning will this qualification lead to?

- Nursing – BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing, Nursing – Child – BSc (Hons)
- Teacher Training – Childhood and Early Years Studies BA (Hons)
- Social Work – BA (Hons) Social Work
- Psychology – Psychology BSc (Hons)

Entry Criteria

The entry requirements for the Early Childhood Development Course are:

- Grade 4 in English and Science
- A Pass in Health and Social Care will be a benefit, but it is not essential.

A-Level | Core Maths

Why you should study Core Maths:
Mathematics is a key subject, looked upon favourably by all employers. This course in mathematics focuses on key applicable skills that can be used to support learning in a range of subjects, from science to business and geography to ICT.

The course allows opportunity to develop mathematical and statistical problem-solving skills, as well as evaluation and data analysis skills above the level reached at GCSE
The topics studied are broad in nature and are regularly explored through investigative methods.

Course Content **EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA**

Core skills Paper 1
Analysis of data
- ·Collecting and sampling data
- ·Representing data numerically and diagrammatically

Maths for Personal Finance
- Percentages
- Interest Rates, repayments and the cost of credit
- Graphical representation of finance data
- Taxation

Estimation
- The Modelling Cycle
- Fermi Estimation

Paper 2 Critical Analysis and Models
Critical analysis of given data and models
- Presenting logical and reasoned arguments in context
- Communicating mathematical approaches and solutions
- Analysing Critically

Statistical Techniques
- The normal distribution
- Probabilities and estimation
- Correlation and regression

A-Level | Core Maths

Assessment

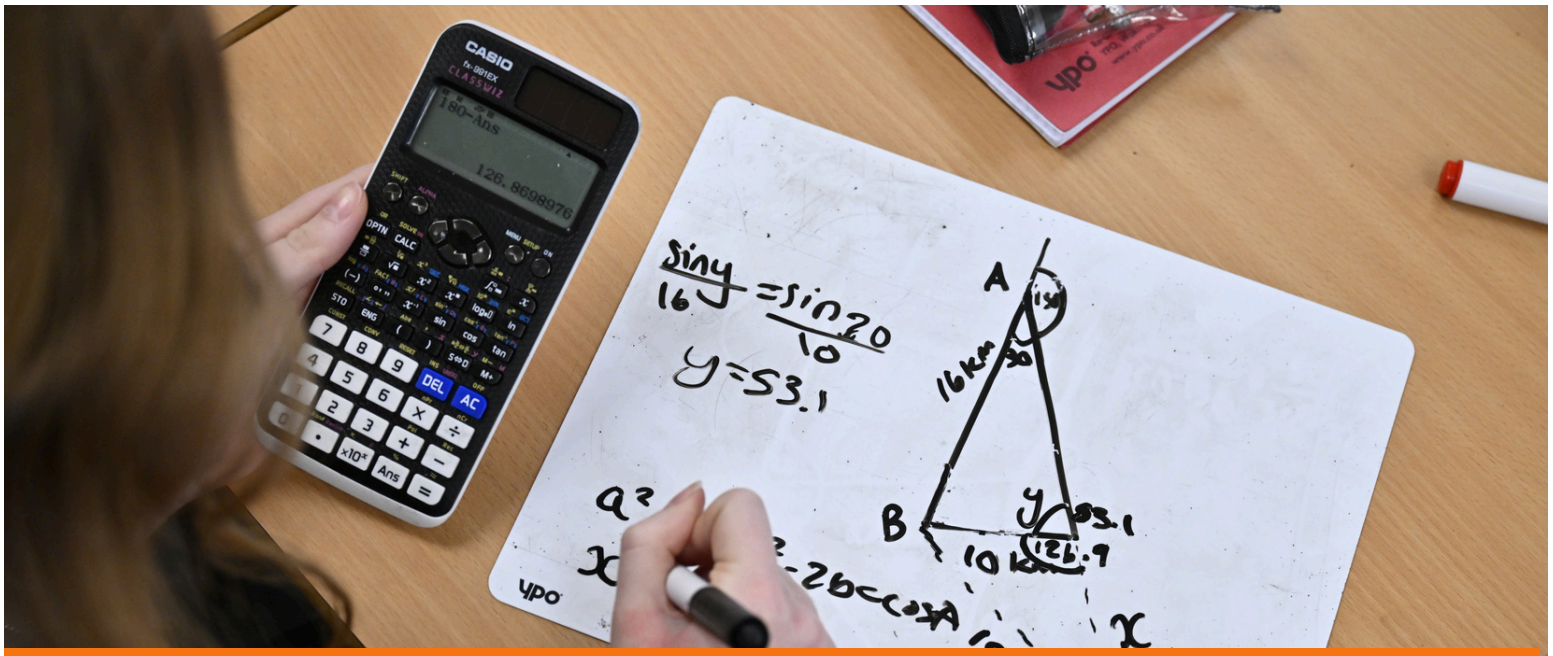
Paper 1- Covering Core skills – 1 hour 30 min (60marks)
Paper 2- Covering Critical Analysis of Data and Models – 1 hour 30 minutes (60marks)

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

GCSE Mathematics skills are built upon and extended to look at applications in the real world. Maths is relevant to a wide range of careers, with Core Maths being a great foundation to careers in a wide variety of areas, including finance, science and data analysis.

Universities have listed the advantages of studying maths to level 3 for courses including; Architecture, Biosciences, Biomedical Sciences, Business and Management Degrees, Chemistry, Education, Psychology, Economics, Pharmacology, Pharmacy, Politics, Sociology, Social Science, Sports Science and more.

For those considering a more vocational pathway, Core Mathematics is a valuable qualification to hold if considering apprenticeships in Engineering, or Business.



Entry Criteria

Students must have achieved a grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics to study this course.

BTEC | Engineering

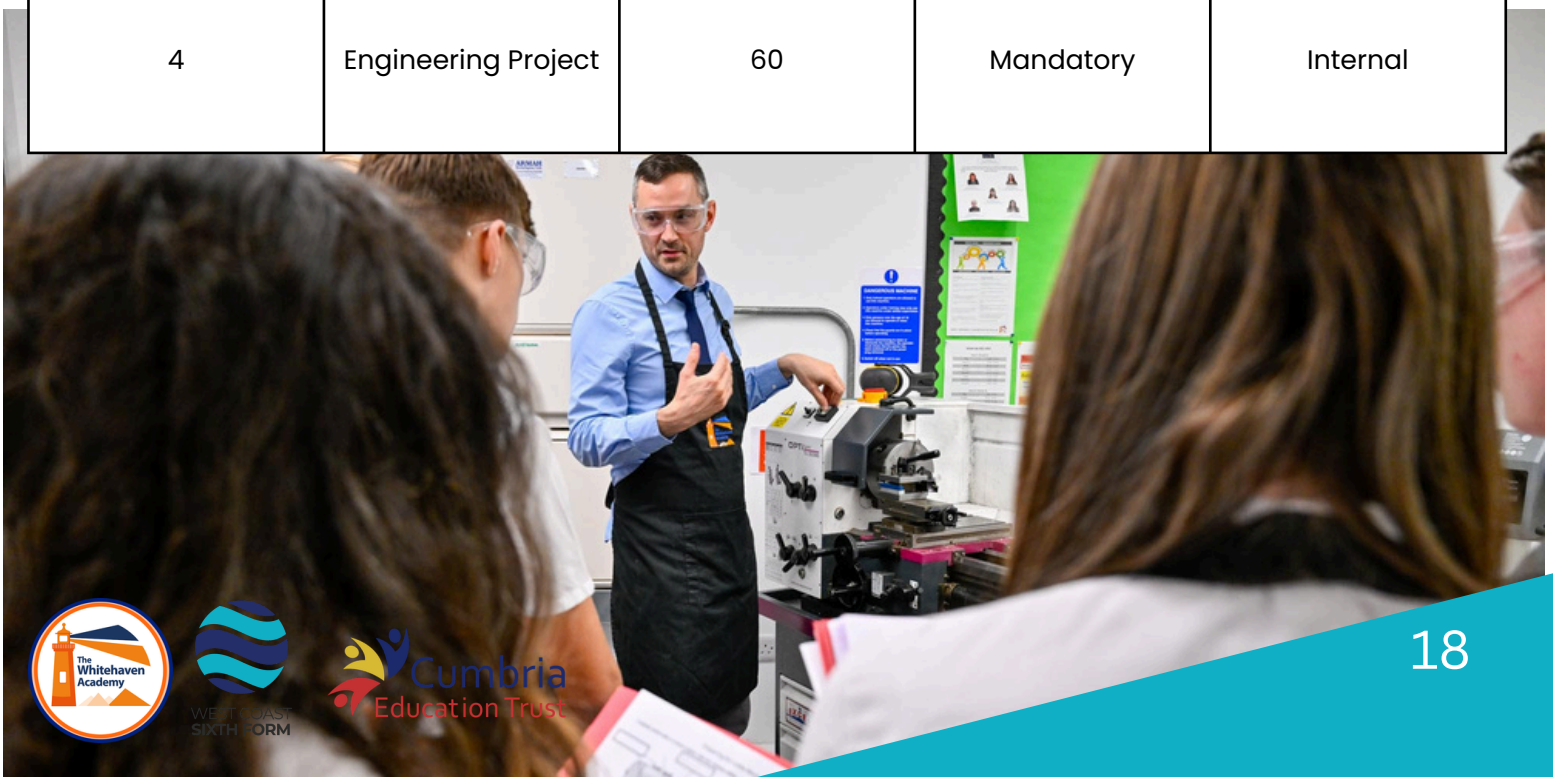
Why you should study Engineering:

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Engineering (Extended Certificate) enables students to study the principles and applications of engineering including the fundamental mechanical, electrical/electronic and mathematical principles, the engineering sectors, engineering materials, engineering processes and emerging technologies.

Students will also develop important engineering design and project management skills when developing solutions to engineering challenges/problems. There are two examined units and two internally assessed units where students will engage in practical tasks to develop their Engineering skills and knowledge.

Course Content **EXAMINATION BOARD: PEARSON**

Unit Number	Unit Title	GLH	Type	How assessed
1	Engineering Principles	120	Mandatory	External
2	Engineering Applications	60	Mandatory	External
3	Engineering Design	120	Mandatory	Internal
4	Engineering Project	60	Mandatory	Internal



BTEC | Engineering

Assessment:
Although the level 3 Engineering course has different grading criteria the overall qualification is equivalent to that of an A level.

Pass = E Merit = C Distinction = A Distinction* = A*

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers
The content of the new BTEC Nationals has been developed in collaboration with employers and representatives from higher education and relevant professional bodies. In this way, they have ensured that content is up to date and that it includes the knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes required in the sector.

Students will be able to combine this with other qualifications, such as a GCE A Level in Mathematics or Physics, which would allow them to progress to higher education to study engineering or other STEM-related programmes.

The qualification is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many relevant courses in a variety of areas of the engineering sector, for example:
• BEng (Hons) in Engineering
• BEng (Hons) in Electronics Engineering
• BSc (Hons) in Computer Science
• BSc (Hons) in Mathematics.

This qualification also supports progression to job opportunities in the engineering sector. Jobs that
are available in these areas include:
• engineering operative
• manufacturing operative
• semi-skilled operative.
This qualification also supports those following an apprenticeship in engineering who are looking to work and progress in the engineering sector as an engineering operative

Entry Criteria
The entry requirements for the Engineering course is Grade 5 in Maths and 5-5 in Combined Science.

A-Level | English Literature

Why you should study English Literature:
This course is for students who enjoy reading and wish to develop critical reading skills and the analysis and evaluation of a wide range of Literature texts.

Course Content **EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA**

AS English Literature
Students will study towards two examinations at the end of the academic year. They will study four texts in total.

A Level English Literature
This course is designed to build on the skills learned in the AS qualification. Students will study towards two examinations at the end of the academic year and complete 2 essays to complete the non-exam component. They will study eight texts in total.

A-Level | English Literature

Assessment:

AS Level – Aspects of Tragedy

Paper 1: Literary Genres: Drama

Students will study King Lear and Death of a Salesman. This makes up 50% of the AS level.

Paper 2: Literary Genres: Poetry and Prose

Students will study Tess of the d'Urbervilles and a selection of poetry by Keats. This makes up 50% of the AS level.

A Level

Paper 1: Literary Genres: Aspects of Tragedy

Students will study three texts. This makes up 40% of the A level.
These will be 3 texts from the AS year.

P**aper 2: Texts and Genres: Elements of political and social protest writing**

Students will study three texts: A Handmaid's Tale; The Kite Runner and Songs of Innocence by William Blake. This makes up 40% of the A level

N**on-exam assessment:**

Students will study three texts: one poetry, one prose text with an additional Critical Anthology and complete two essays. Students will complete an essay on each text and link to the Anthology. There is a an element of freedom with this unit as students will have some choice over texts and one essay can be a creative writing response.
This makes up 20% of the A level.

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

Like many other choices, the Study of English Literature does not lead to a specific career path. What it does do is teach you how to analyse complex information with the support of sophisticated theories and ideas. You will learn how to evaluate and consider different possible interpretations of texts as well as develop the ability to communicate these theories and conclusions with confidence – these are skills essential for many types of work.

Entry Criteria

Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature

A-Level | Extended Project

Why you should study Extended Project:

The Extended Project Qualification, or EPQ, is a fantastic way to expand your skillset and are considered to be one of the best ways to prepare for university and uses skills that are useful in employment.

You're allowed to choose whatever topic you like and it offers the opportunity to explore an area you are really interested in, in depth.

It is a Level 3 Qualification with an A* worth 28 UCAS Points which may be needed for many degree apprenticeships and university applications.

Course Content **EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL**

On completion of this qualification a learner should:

- ·Be able to identify, plan and manage a dissertation or create an artefact project
- ·Be able to undertake research, collect evidence and select information using
- appropriate methodology
- ·Be able to interpret evidence, draw conclusions and write up results into a
- finished dissertation
- Be able to present findings, conclusions and an evaluation to an audience.

A-Level | Extended Project

Assessment:
At final submission of the project, all aspects of the course are assessed.

This includes;
- Planning, time management, research and evaluation skills, a self-evaluation and presentation.

Possible EPQ titles: (you will choose your own)
- How do ""impact" society and is their role valid?
- Is the Death Penalty as is practiced in some American States an infringement of Human Rights?
- Has the UK government and World Health Organisation dealt with the Ebola Outbreak efficiently and does it remain a threat?
- How do black holes affect the surrounding galaxies?
- How might AI influence medicine?
- How is architecture affected by the need to make buildings earthquake-resistant?
- Is the widening income distribution gap as detrimental to society as it appears?
- What explanations are there regarding the bee population decline and how could this problem be resolved?
- To what extent is hydroelectricity the answer to meeting the renewable energy targets?
- Does the use of virtual reality in therapy provide benefits when treating anxiety related disorders?
- To what extent does a financial crisis increase the pressure for reform of the government?
- Should prostitution be legalised in the UK and how would this be legislated to protect employees?
- What should we do to conserve coral reefs?
- Can retail businesses survive without the use of AI for marketing?
- What are the best conservation programmes for successful reintroduction to the wild?
- Mass market protein supplements: Getting you ripped... or ripped off?
- Is democracy a key factor to positive attitudes towards homosexuality in Russia and the UK?
- Did the media representation of immigrants change British politics?
- How is personalised medicine transforming Healthcare?
- Should Human memory be used in court if science demonstrates our brains overwrite our memories?
- Does gaming cause anger management issues in young people and why might this be the case?

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers
The research, analytical and communication abilities that an Extended Project qualification provides are called 'transferable skills', they are useful in almost any occupation.

Employers appreciate this example of project management in practice. For example, students have taken their EPQ to interviews and demonstrated their skills in planning and the management of their projects. They can speak with confidence about their research and analytical skills.

Some universities may offer a place on their courses with reduced UCAS points and recognise the university level study skills demonstrated. It can also reflect a passion for their subject and self-motivation.
Students can choose a topic related to their career aspirations or equally something they are interested in. It does not have to reflect the other subjects they are studying.

Entry Criteria
Grade 5 required in English Language.

BTEC
Food Science & Nutrition

Why you should study Food Science & Nutrition:

This qualification provides an in-depth understanding of food science, nutrition, and their application in real-world contexts. You will explore the relationship between diet and health, food safety, and the development of innovative food products. The course combines academic theory with practical skills.

Each unit within the qualification has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for the learning in the unit and provides practical experiences alongside theory so will appeal to learners who enjoy more practical based learning. We will cook throughout the two years and develop practical skills alongside technical knowledge.

This qualification is brand new and starts in September 2026. This course is an ideal continuation from GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition and L1/2 Hospitality and Catering. Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition is a very popular course as it complements learning in many different subjects related to health and social care, sport, or science and where an understanding of nutrition and diets is important. This course would also be of relevance to those learners with no prior experience of the subject and who will enjoy a subject with both coursework and examinations elements.

This Level 3 qualification in Food Science and Nutrition will equip learners with the knowledge, understanding, and practical skills to progress to higher education.

Course Content **EXAMINATION BOARD: PEARSON**

Assessment is a combination of written examinations and non-examined assessments (coursework):

In Year 12:

Unit 1: Nutritional needs across the life stages – Written exam (1 hr 30 mins) – 25%
Unit 2: Developing practical food production skills – Internal assessment – 25%

In Year 13:
Unit 3: Principles of food hygiene and food safety – Written exam (1 hr 30 mins) – 25%
Plus one optional unit (Unit 4: Experimenting to solve food production problems OR Unit 5: Current issues in food science and nutrition) – Internal assessment – 25%

BTEC
Food Science & Nutrition

Unit Number	Unit Title	Weighting	Type	How assessed
1	Nutritional needs across the life stages	25%	Written examination	External
2	Developing practical food production skills	25%	Controlled assessment	Internal
3	Engineering Design	25%	Written examination	External
4	Principles of food hygiene and food safety in food production	25%	Mandatory	Internal
5	Experimenting to solve food production problems	25%	Controlled assessment	Internal
6	Current issues in food science and nutrition	25%	Controlled assessment	Internal

Units 4 and 5 are optional. Students must complete one of the two units

Unit 1 -The first mandatory unit, this unit develops knowledge and understanding of food and nutrition across the life stages. You will understand why a range of individuals have different nutritional needs and how those needs can be met.

Unit 2- This is the second mandatory unit, this unit develops your practical cookery skills by allowing you to plan, prepare, cook and present food items to meet the needs of a specific target audience, using appropriate level 3 practical skills and techniques.

Unit 3- This is the third mandatory unit, In this unit you will develop an understanding of of hazards and risks in relation to the storage, preparation, cooking and serving of food items in different environments and the control measures needed to minimise these risks. Again, practical sessions will support the gaining of theoretical knowledge and ensure learning is a tactile experience.

Unit 4 or 5:
Unit 4-This unit allows you to understand the scientific properties of food to allow you to plan and carry out a range of experiments with the aim of solving real world food production problems.

Unit 5 - This unit allows you to carry out your own investigation into current issues within the world of Food Science and Nutrition! You will complete primary and secondary research into different topic areas of interest.

BTEC
Food Science & Nutrition

Assessment:

The qualification is awarded from A*-E. The UMS marks obtained for each unit are added together and the qualification grade is based on this total. The course is equivalent to one A-Level.

Students will sit two external exams for units 1 and 2. The other units will be assessed via coursework assignments.

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

Food Science and Nutrition course is designed primarily to support learners progressing to university. It has been developed to advance understanding of Food Science and Nutrition and recognise the relevance within a wide range of professions and industries which is relevant to many industries and job roles. There are many employment opportunities within the field of Food Science and Nutrition which are available to graduates including:

- Education
- Government Agencies
- Health and Social Care
- Health Professions (dietetics, dentistry, public and community health)
- Hospitality and Catering industry
- Journalism
- Medicine
- Sport science
- Fitness training

The course is also designed for those wanting to pursue careers or learning in related areas such as the food industry production. By studying for this certificate alongside other relevant qualifications at Level 3 e.g. GCE Biology, Physical Education, Sociology, learners will gain the required knowledge to use the qualification to support entry to higher education Food courses such as:

- BSc Food and Nutrition
- BSc Human Nutrition
- BSc Public Health Nutrition
- BSc Food Science and Technology

Entry Criteria

There are no essential entry criteria as the range of units available in Food Science and Nutrition would support learners' progression from study at Level 2, but GCSE`s in Food and Nutrition, Hospitality and Catering, Biology, Physical Education/Sport and Humanities would be beneficial alongside a grade 4 in English.

A-Level | Further Maths

Why you should study Maths:

Further Maths is a challenging qualification, which both extends and deepens your knowledge and understanding beyond the standard A level Maths. Students who do it often say it is their favourite subject. If you are planning to take a degree such as Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Finance/Economics, etc., or perhaps Mathematics itself, you will benefit enormously from taking Further Maths, at least to AS level. The course introduces new topics such as matrices and complex numbers that are vital in many STEM degrees. Students who have studied Further Maths find the transition to such degrees far more straightforward. Further Maths qualifications are highly regarded and are warmly welcomed by universities. Students who take Further Maths are really demonstrating a strong commitment to their studies, as well as learning mathematical topics that are very useful for any mathematically rich degree.

If you wish to study Further Maths at AS or A2 you will need to have studied Higher GCSE and achieved a grade 8 or grade 9. An initial assessment will take place (school wide policy) approximately 3 weeks into the course. This helps assess course suitability and more importantly helps us provide appropriate and early intervention and support.

Further Maths will typically be studied alongside three other A-Levels, one of which must be Maths.

Course Content **EXAMINATION BOARD: PEARSON EDEXCEL**

Half of the course is Pure mathematics, covering: Proof; Complex numbers; Matrices; Further algebra and functions; Further calculus; Further vectors; Polar coordinates; Hyperbolic functions; and Differential equations.

The other half of the course is made up of two optional units, with most students preferring to study statistics and mechanics.

The Statistics content includes: Discrete random variables; Poisson distributions; Geometric and negative binomial distributions; Hypothesis testing; Central limit theorem; Chi-squared tests; Probability generating functions; and Quality of tests.

The Mechanics content includes: Momentum and impulse; Work, energy and power; Elastic strings and springs; Elastic collisions in one dimension; and Elastic collisions in two dimensions.

A-Level | Further Maths

- All units are fully supported by textbooks written specifically for this course, in addition to online resources designed to assist and supplement independent study and home learning. This includes thorough notes, exemplars, interactive demonstrations and model solutions for every topic within each unit, along with exercises at different levels and topic assessments to reinforce, consolidate and help master each technique.

AS Assessment:
AS Assessment:

The course is assessed by two papers, each 1 hour 40 minutes long and worth half of the total AS Level. The exams have a gradient of difficulty throughout the paper and consist of a mix of long and short questions. All questions are compulsory.

Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics
Paper 2E: Further Statistics 1 and Further Mechanics 1

A Level Assessment:

The course is assessed by four papers, each 1 hour 30 minutes long and worth 25% of the total A-Level. The exams have a gradient of difficulty throughout the paper and consists of a mix of long and short questions. All questions are compulsory.

Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics
Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2
Paper 3: Option 1 (Likely to be Further Statistics 1)
Paper 4: Option 2 (Likely to be Further Mechanics 1)

A-Level | Further Maths

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

The AS and A2 courses in Further Mathematics are both broader and deeper than A Level Mathematics. As well as building on the algebra and calculus introduced in A-Level Maths, the Further Maths pure core content introduces complex numbers and matrices; fundamental mathematical ideas with wide applications in mathematics, engineering, physical sciences and computing. Some prestigious university courses require you to have a Further Maths qualification and others may adjust their grade requirements more favourably to students with Further Mathematics. As with the Maths A level, there is a plethora of careers available to those who have studied Further Maths.

The non-core content includes different options that can enable learners to specialise in areas of mathematics that are particularly relevant to their interests and future aspirations, and gives learners the opportunity to extend their knowledge in applied mathematics and logical reasoning.

Entry Criteria
GCSE Mathematics Grade 8
You must also be studying A Level Mathematics

A-Level | Geography

Why you should study Geography:

Contemporary Geography is a subject which explicitly engages with the relationship of human populations to each other over space and time and their relationship with their physical environment at a variety of scales from the local to the global. There has never been a better or more important time to study geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. Geographers are also highly employable. Whatever your passion for the world -fascination with landscapes or concerns about inequality -geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you professionally.

Course Content

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

AS Geography

Component 1: Physical Geography and people and the environment.
Section A: either Water and Carbon Cycles or Hot Desert Environments and their Margins or Coastal Systems and Landscapes.

Section B: either Hazards or Contemporary Urban Environments.
How it's assessed: written exam (1 hour 30 minutes), 80 marks, 50% of AS.

Component 2: Human geography and geography fieldwork investigation
Section A: either Global Systems and Global Governance or Changing Places.
Section B: Geography fieldwork investigation and Geographical skills.
How it's assessed: written exam (1 hour 30 minutes), 80 marks, 50% of AS.

A2 Geography

Component 1: Physical Geography
Section A: Water and Carbon Cycles
Section B: either Hot Desert Environments and their Margins or Coastal Systems and Landscapes.
Section C: either Hazards or Ecosystems under stress or Cold Environments.
How it's assessed: written exam (2 hours 30 minutes), 96 marks, 40% of A-Level.

A-Level | Geography

Component 2: Human Geography
Section A: Global systems and Global Governance
Section B: Changing Places
Section C: either Contemporary Urban Environments or Population and the Environment or Resource Security.
How it's assessed: Written exam (2 hours 20 minutes), 96 marks, 40% of A-Level.

Component 3: Geographical Investigation
Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

Assessment

- 3000-4000 words
- 35 marks
- 20% of A-Level
- Marked by teachers, moderated by AQA.

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

·You will observe the world as an integrated system. You will develop skills which will enable you to observe, describe, analyse, represent, interpret and report information about the world. You will investigate changes and stability in human and physical worlds, including the causes, rates and patterns of change and the prediction of change to the foreseeable future.
·Geography involves a variety of IT, field and laboratory analytical approaches including techniques such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and fieldwork is an integral part to most courses.

You will develop skills and knowledge that will allow you to follow a variety of career paths. You may choose a route directly associated with Geography e.g. town and transport planning, chartered surveying, land and water management, sustainability, environmental consultancy, development, tourism, conservation, demography, housing and social welfare. You may also choose a route which utilises the skills you develop through studying Geography e.g. information technology, administration and management, the financial sector, marketing, research, and industry and manufacturing.

Entry Criteria
5+ in English, maths, Science and Geography

A-Level | German

Why you should study German:

Around 95 to 100 million people speak German as their first language. It's an official language in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein—seven of Europe's most dynamic and interesting countries. It's also spoken as a second language by an additional 10 to 25 million people and as a foreign language by 75 to 100 million people. In absolute numbers, German is the second most-spoken language on the continent of Europe and when it comes to native speakers in Europe, there are more native German speakers than English.

With so many award-winning scientists from the German-speaking countries, it might not come as a surprise that the German language is very important in the academic community. Those in the business world should also consider brushing up on their German. Germany is the biggest economy within Europe and the fourth largest in the world. It is home to numerous international corporations and on the front line of new technologies.

Meanwhile, the German capital, Berlin, is turning into a hub for innovative start-ups. As a consequence, knowing German has the potential to greatly enhance your career opportunities. German holds a key role in the field of environmentalism and renewable energy, serving as a cornerstone language in discussions surrounding sustainability and green technologies. Germany's dedication to environmental protection and innovation in renewable energy has positioned it as a global leader in the transition towards a more sustainable future.
German also holds a pivotal role in the realm of philosophy, standing as a language that has profoundly influenced philosophical discourse from its start: from the profound musings of Kant and Hegel to the existential inquiries of Nietzsche and the critical theory of the Frankfurt School.

Course Content

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

The course is divided into focused learning areas to ensure you are given the opportunity to cover all aspects of the German A Level curriculum. These areas include: translation skills, reading and listening comprehensions, essay writing and grammar, summary writing and speaking.

During the A Level course, you also take on an Independent Research Project (IRP). You will do research on a topic of interest for you that is related to the German-speaking world. It will be part of your final speaking examination. You will learn to write essays in German: both on our set film and on our set text.

A-Level | German

Assessment:
Paper 1: Listening, Reading & Writing (50%) – 2h30; Listening & reading comprehension; Summaries; Translation EN↔DE; No dictionaries.

· Paper 2: Writing (20%) – 2h; Two essays (~300 words each) on studied works (texts/films); Closed book; No dictionaries.

· Paper 3: Speaking (30%) – 21–23 mins incl. 5 mins prep; Discussion of theme + Individual Research Project presentation/discussion.

Structure
The course is divided into focused learning areas to ensure you are given the opportunity to cover all aspects of the German A Level curriculum. These areas include: translation skills, reading and listening comprehensions, essay writing and grammar, summary writing and speaking.

During the A Level course, you also take on an Independent Research Project (IRP). You will do research on a topic of interest for you that is related to the German-speaking world. It will be part of your final speaking examination. You will learn to write essays in German: both on our set film and on our set text.

Entry Criteria
Students must achieve at least a 6 at German GSCE to continue at A Level. You need a love of German and a desire for challenge. You need to be motivated and willing to work hard. You also need to have the ability to work independently. This means, for example, the ability to review vocabulary and grammar on your own after each lesson.

BTEC | H & S Care

Why you should study Extended Project:

The OCR Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate) is a practical, career-focused qualification designed for students who want to work in health care, social care, or related professions. It combines academic study with real-world application and is well suited to learners who enjoy coursework alongside some examined assessment.

This course gives learners an understanding of health and social care in the wider contexts of different environments and settings where care takes place, the importance of effective communication in health and social care, the importance of legislation in health and social care and how to deliver a person-centred approach in the care given. Learners will also develop transferrable skills such as communication, research, planning and organisation.

This qualification is equivalent to one A Level and is recognised by universities, colleges, and employers.

Course Content **EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR CAMBRIDGE ADVANCED NATIONAL**

For this qualification, students must complete six units:

- Two mandatory externally assessed units
- Two mandatory NEA units
- Two optional NEA units

Mandatory units:

- F090: Principles of health and social care- exam
- F091: Anatomy and physiology for health and social care- exam
- F092: Person-centred approach to care- NEA
- F093: Supporting people with mental health conditions- NEA

Optional units:

- F094: Supporting people with long term physiological conditions- NEA
- F095: Investigating public health- NEA
- F096: Supporting people in relation to sexual health, pregnancy and postnatal health- NEA
- F097: Supporting healthy nutrition and lifestyles- NEA

BTEC | H & S Care

Assessment:

The course uses a mixed assessment approach, including:

1. Internally assessed coursework (NEA)
2. Externally assessed exams set by OCR

This structure supports students who perform best with varied assessment methods rather than exams alone.

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

This course provides a broad understanding and skill set related to Health and Social Care and the academic skills required to support progression into higher education in a range of health and social care or related qualifications. You may also seek employment in the health and social care sector or a related industry. It will enable learners to progress to a wide range of degree programmes.

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses such as paediatric, adult, midwifery and mental health nursing as well as, primary and secondary education, childhood studies, physiology, social work, counselling and many more.

The transferrable skills learnt on this course can open many doors to other areas of industry through the skills gained in the units as all industries will apply the ethos and underpinning knowledge that Health and Social Care gives you.

Entry Criteria

Grade 5 in English Language
Grade 5 in Biology or 5-5 in Combined Science

A-Level | History

Why you should study History:
A Level History allows the development and acquisition of analytical and evaluative skills regarded as key by both employers, and places of further education. History gives you a depth and breadth of knowledge that allows you to successfully understand why and how the geo-political system of today evolved.

Study includes the use of original source material and many secondary interpretations giving you the unique opportunity to simultaneously see a world no longer here through the eyes and ears of the time while indulging in the ever changing canon of historians' sentiments.

Furthermore, you will have the chance to investigate your own favourite historical interest nurturing your independent research skills facilitating a thorough grounding for further higher level study.

Course Content

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

The British Empire, c1857-1967
This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

•Why did the British Empire grow and contract?
•What influenced imperial policy?
•What part did economic factors play in the development of the British Empire?
•How did the Empire influence British attitudes and culture?
•How did the indigenous peoples respond to British rule?
•How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

Part one: the High Water Mark of the British Empire, c1857–1914

1) The development of Imperialism, c1857–c1890
2) Imperial consolidation and Liberal rule, c1890–1914

Part two: Imperial retreat, 1914–1967

3) Imperialism challenged, 1914–1947
4) The winds of change, 1947–1967

A-Level | History

Entry Criteria
- GCSE English Language Grade 6
- GCSE History Grade 6

The Cold War, c1945–1991
This option provides for the study in depth of 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 and also encourages students to reflect on the power of modern military technology, what hastens confrontation and what forces promote peace in the modern world.

Part one: to the brink of Nuclear War: international relations, c1945–1963

1)The origins of the Cold War, c1945-1949
2)The Widening of the Cold War, 1949-1955
3)The Global War, 1955-1963

Part two: from Détente to the end of the Cold War, c1963–1991

1)Confrontation and cooperation, c1963-1972
2)The Brezhnev era, 1972-1985
The ending of the Cold War, 1985-1991

Assessment:

There is no AS Level exam option. This course will be the full A Level course only.

A-level students must take assessments in all three of the following components in the same series:
• Component 1: Breadth study- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of A-level
• Component 2: Depth study- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of A-level
• Component 3: Historical investigation (Personal study)- 3,500 – 4,500 words, 20% of A-level

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

Studying A Level History is a very sensible choice as it will develop your skills of analysis and evaluation. You will be able to demonstrate the ability to create and pursue a successful argument on paper, remember and organize significant amounts of knowledge, and provide you with a thorough understanding of why and how today's world operates. History at this level will obviously set you in good stead for the studying of History at University but it is also a key requirement of some courses such as Law. Not only does it help applications to arts based courses but it is seen a very beneficial subject to those pursuing scientific and engineering based futures. This is why History is one of the Russell Group's facilitating subjects.

Employers always rate this subject as it shows knowledge, skill and understanding at a high level that can aid any business environment. Nearly every sector values this subject and the skills historians possess.

A-Level | Maths

Why you should study Maths:

Mathematics becomes increasingly challenging at A level, but also more enjoyable and rewarding. Obtaining a Maths A level shows that you are a hard-working, self-motivated and intelligent person. You may not use algebra or probability in your job every day, but the transferable skills of analysis, logic and problem solving will always be valuable. Some degree subjects, like physics and engineering, ask for a maths A level as part of the entry requirements. Others, such as medicine and architecture, don't make it a necessity, but they still have a fair amount of mathematical content, so if you go in with a maths A-level, you'll have a much easier time than those who don't.

Research has shown that graduates with A Level Maths earn, on average, at least 10% more than those without, regardless of the subject of their degree.

If you wish to study Maths at AS or A level you will need to have studied the Higher GCSE course and achieved a grade 7 or higher. An initial assessment will take place (school wide policy) approximately 3 weeks into the course. This helps assess course suitability and more importantly helps us provide appropriate and early intervention and support.

A genuine interest in, and enjoyment of, mathematics is considered essential.

Course Content **EXAMINATION BOARD: PEARSON EDEXCEL**

Two thirds of the course (at A level, or 62.5% at AS) is Pure mathematics, which extends what you have learnt at GCSE and introduces new topics, covering: Proof; Algebra and functions; Coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane; Sequences and series; Trigonometry; Exponentials and logarithms; Differentiation; Integration; Numerical methods and Vectors.

One third of the course (at A level, or 37.5% at AS) consists of the applied content:

Mechanics topics including:

- Quantities and Units in mechanics
- Kinematics
- Forces and Newton's Laws
- Moments

A-Level | Maths

Statistics topics including:

- Statistical sampling
- Data presentation and interpretation
- Probability
- Statistical distributions
- Hypothesis testing

All units are fully supported by textbooks written specifically for this course, in addition to online resources designed to assist and supplement independent study and home learning. This includes thorough notes, exemplars, interactive demonstrations and model solutions for every topic within each unit, along with exercises at different levels and topic assessments to reinforce, consolidate and help master each technique.

AS Assessment:

The course is assessed by two papers of different lengths, each contributing towards the AS Level. The exams have a gradient of difficulty throughout the paper and consists of a mix of long and short questions. All questions are compulsory.

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics (2 hours; 100 marks; 62.5% of the qualification)
Paper 2: Statistics and Mechanics (1 hour 15 minutes; 60 marks; 37.5% of the qualification)
For Paper 2, some of the exam questions on the statistics section will be set in the context of the pre-release large data set and will assume familiarity with the key features of that data set.

A Level Assessment:

The course is assessed by three papers, each 2 hours long and worth 33⅓% of the total A Level. The exams have a gradient of difficulty throughout the paper and consists of a mix of long and short questions. All questions are compulsory.

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 (2 hours; 100 marks; one third of the qualification)
Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 (2 hours; 100 marks; one third of the qualification)
Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics (2 hours; 100 marks; one third of the qualification)

For Paper 3, some of the exam questions on the statistics section will be set in the context of the pre-release large data set and will assume familiarity with the key features of that data set.

A-Level | Maths

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

An A level in Maths provides excellent preparation for degree courses across a range of subject areas including biology, chemistry, computing, architecture, healthcare, economics, business and geography. A-Level Maths develops competence and confidence to deal with information given in algebraic, numerical or graphical form, all of which are valuable transferable skills. The written work of trained mathematicians tends to be logical, concise and precise.

A-Level Maths can lead to a variety of careers in myriad fields including Science, Engineering, Finance, Business, Health, Society, Entertainment, the Environment and Sport

Whether you wish to take your study of mathematics further to degree level or beyond, or use it as an entry to virtually any other subject, A Level Maths will be considered an advantage.

Entry Criteria

A grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics required.

A-Level | **Physics**

Why you should study Physics:

By studying AS/A Level Physics you will develop an understanding of core physics, the basis of much of everyday life. This will be applied to a wide range of familiar and unfamiliar contexts to test your understanding and versatility as a physicist. You will develop transferable practical and analytical skills during the practical side of the course.

Understanding physics at such a level helps develop desirable skills that are useful not only in physics, but in many fields, leading to a range of possible careers.

You will find physics a very rewarding and challenging course that will expand your understanding of how the universe works from the smallest (sometimes theoretical) particles to the largest galaxy structures observed.

Course Content

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

1 Measurements and their errors
2 Particles and radiation
3 Waves
4 Mechanics and Materials
5 Electricity
6 Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics (A-level only)
7 Fields and their consequences (A-level only)
8 Nuclear Physics (A-level only)
9 Option of: Astrophysics or Turning points in physics (A-level only)

A-Level | Physics

Assessment | A-Level (2-year course)		
Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
What's assessed Any content from topics 2–5.	What's assessed Any content from topics 6–8.	What's assessed 3A: Topic 1 and any practical content from topics 2–8. 3B: Optional topic 9.
Assessed ··written exam 1: 2 hours • 85 marks • 34% of A-level	Assessed • written exam 2: 2 hours • 85 marks • 34% of A-level	Assessed · written exam 3A: 2 hours · 45 marks · Written exam 3B: · 35 marks . 32% of A-level
Questions • 60 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions and calculations. • 25 marks: multiple choice	Questions • 60 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions and calculations. • 25 marks: multiple choice	Questions · ·3A: 45 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques 3B: 35 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions and calculations.

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

With GCE A Level in Physics, the following career opportunities are possible: Mechanical engineer, electrical engineer, civil engineer, aeronautical engineer, nuclear physicist, accountant, actuary, research physicists, electrician, lawyer, medical physicist, business manager, teacher and architect.

Knowledge/skills developed:

·Modelling different types of systems and using mathematics to be able to predict outcomes for them.
·Analytical, evaluative and qualitative descriptions to explain why certain events occur.
Practical skills, including the ability to plan and manipulate data, errors and uncertainties.

Entry Criteria
1) Either Grade 6 in Physics or Grade 6-6 in Combined Science
2) Grade 6 in Mathematics

A-Level | **Politics**

Why you should study Politics:

Politics is an incredibly important subject. It influences every aspect of our lives, directly shaping laws and making decisions that affect everyone. Having an understanding of the Political system here in the UK, but also of Political ideas more generally, provides you with the context need to analyse key policy changes, and ultimately, to assess their impact.

Politics is a subject which is valued by employers, and is also respected by universities as a rigorous A- level. Through this course you will develop skills in analysis, essay writing, evaluation and discussion. You will also understand the context behind current affairs and policy decisions, and will be able to critically engage with source material – skills which are valued by a variety of educational and employment opportunities.

Lastly, through an understanding of Politics you should develop a desire to not just understand the world around us, but also to impact and change it. Few subjects empower people in the way that Politics does to make real, lasting change. There is no better time to study Politics.

Course Content **EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA**

Through the course you will complete three topics and each will be examined. The three units you will study are:

1.Government and Politics of the UK
2.Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics
3.Political Ideas

Government and Politics of the UK

In this unit you will develop an understanding of the political system in the UK. You will cover a variety of topics, including: the British Constitution, the structure and role of Parliament, Elections and referendums and political parties to name a few.

Government and Politics of the USA

In this unit you will develop an understanding of the political system in the USA. You will cover a variety of topics, including: the constitution of the USA, the branches of US government, elections, political parties and civil rights to name a few.

Political Ideas

In this unit you will develop an understanding of the main political ideologies that lay the foundation of almost all political decisions made across the globe. You will study three 'core' ideologies, of: Liberalism, Conservativism and Socialism, and one 'other' ideology from: Nationalism, Feminism, Multiculturalism, Anarchism and Ecologism (which 'other' ideology is studied will be chosen in advance by the class teacher.)

A-Level | **Politics**

Assessment

Politics A-level is assessed through examination only – there is no coursework. You will complete three exams in total. These are:

1. Government and Politics of the UK – 2 hours, 33.3% of the total A-level
2. Government and Politics of the USA – 2 hours, 33.3% of the total A-level
3. Political Ideas – 2 hours, 33.3% of the total A-level

All exams contain a mix of medium length 'explain' questions, and longer essay style questions.

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

Politics A-level is regarded as being a highly academic and rigorous subject that is valued by universities and employers alike. Some of the key skills you will develop in this course are:

- ·Analytical skills
- ·Critical evaluation
- ·Essay writing
- ·Discussion and debate
- ·Understanding and contextualising events in current affairs
- ·Interpreting policy decisions
- ·Presentational skills

Politics A-level opens the door to many employment and educational opportunities. Politics is highly regarded by many universities, and is commonly studied by students with an interest in the humanities alongside subjects such as History, English Language and Literature, Law, Sociology, Philosophy, Religious Studies and Geography.

Key areas of employment and future possible careers include, but are not limited to:

- ·Political representative
- ·Law
- ·Education
- ·Civil Service
- ·Business
- ·Armed forces
- ·Medical profession
- Journalism

Entry Criteria

Due to the essay-based writing nature of Politics A-level, students require a minimum of a grade 6 in English Language to demonstrate necessary writing proficiency. Completion of a GCSE in History is also recommended, but not essential.

A-Level | Psychology

Why you should study Psychology:
Have you ever wondered why people act as they do? Do you have a natural curiosity for human behaviour?

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour including how people think, feel, act, and interact with others. Although it is sometimes debated, Psychology is a science and its standing as such isdiscussed throughout this course. AQA A-Level Psychology will teach the fundamentals of the subject anddevelop a range of skills through a combination of knowledge, evaluation and application of psychologicalconcepts. The course explores a range of topics from mental health to the impact of biology on behaviour!

The skills fostered throughout this course such as critical thinking and research skills are often valued by HigherEducation (HE) and employers. Some Higher Education institutions consider psychology as a science in their entry requirements alongside traditional sciences.

Course Content

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

For this qualification, students must complete 8 compulsory modules and 3 option modules:
Compulsory Content:

1. Social Influence
2. Memory
3. Attachment
4. Clinical Psychology and Mental Health
5. Approaches in Psychology
6. Biopsychology
7. Research Methods
8. Issues and Debates in Psychology
9. Cognition and Development

Optional Content (one from each option, * indicates the optional content selected):

Option 1

1. *Relationships
2. Gender
3. Cognition and Development

Option 2

1. *Schizophrenia
2. Eating Behaviour
3. Stress

Option 3

1. Aggression
2. *Forensic Psychology
3. Addiction

A-Level | Psychology

Assessment:

The course uses an exam-based assessment across three papers:

- Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology (2 hours, compulsory content 1-4 listed below)
- Paper 2: Psychology in Context (2 hours, compulsory content 5-7 listed below)
- Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology (2 hours, compulsory content 8 and optional content listed below)

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

This course provides a board understanding of psychological theory and the evaluation and research skills tosupport progression into Higher Education (HE) across a range of degree subjects. You may also choose to seekemployment at the end of your studies; the transferable skills you gain throughout this course will support youin this endeavor.

There are several transferable skills fostered throughout this course, included but not limited to; critical thinking,research skills, insight into mental health, mathematical skills, structuring a coherent argument, ethicalthinking, application of knowledge and time management.

In addition, the qualification is an A-Level and carries UCAS points recognised by HE providers. There are arange of HE courses relevant to psychology such as psychology, sociology, nursing, human resources,psychology, counselling and psychotherapy, criminology.

Entry Criteria

GCSE English Language Grade 5 GCSE Mathematics Grade 5

BTEC | Sport

Why you should study Sport:

Health, Fitness & Sport is very popular among young people and this is an excellent opportunity to study these areas. Students who have already studied PE at Key Stage 4 will find many of the ideas and concepts are expanded upon in the course. However, the study of the above courses is not an essential requirement, students without this background will be able to develop their skills without prior knowledge. This vocational course gives a great insight into the sporting 'working' world and its associated elements.

Course Content

EXAMINATION BOARD: PEARSON - BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN SPORT

This qualification is made up of mandatory and optional units, combining both externally assessed exams and internally assessed coursework.

Mandatory units

All learners must complete three mandatory units:

- Anatomy and Physiology (120 Guided Learning Hours) – assessed through an external examination
- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being (120 Guided Learning Hours) – assessed through an external examination
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry (60 Guided Learning Hours) – assessed through internal assessment

Optional units

Learners must also study at least one optional unit, each with 60 Guided Learning Hours. These units are internally assessed and allow learners to specialise in an area of interest. The optional choices include:

- Sports Leadership
- Application of Fitness Testing
- Sports Psychology Performance
- Practical Sports Performance

Assessment overview

- External assessment makes up 67% of the overall qualification
- Mandatory units account for 83% of the total qualification content

BTEC | Sport

Assessment:
Although the BTEC National Award course has different grading criteria the overall qualification is equivalent to that of an A level.
Pass = E Merit = C Distinction = A Distinction* = A*

Students will sit two external exams for units 1 and 2. The other units will be assessed via coursework assignments

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers
Like the A level equivalent course this is an accepted qualification for entry into higher education, to follow courses such as: -

- Sport and Exercise Science
- Coaching
- Physical Education
- Sports Performance
- Sports Studies
- Sports Management

- Undergraduate Teaching Course

Likewise, employment in sports coaching, officiating and personal training can be a natural progression.

Entry Criteria
A level 2 Merit or above in BTEC Sports Science or a grade 5 in GCSE P.E. If no previous experience, a grade 5 in Science/Additional Science and evidence of contribution to an individual or team sport.

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