

**BECKFOOT
OAKBANK
SCHOOL**



**The Beckfoot Oakbank
Sixth Form Pathway**

Year 11

into

Year 12 and 13

At Beckfoot Oakbank

My Beckfoot Oakbank Sixth Form Pathway

What do I do now?

- Read this Pathways Booklet to find out what is on offer at Beckfoot Oakbank.
- Make sure you visit our Open Evening on **Thursday 30th November**
- There are useful links and activities to give you a flavour of topics involved in each area and career pathways available for your fantastic future choices.
- Please apply using the paper application handed out in registration and return to your tutor.
- Applications open on the **Thursday 30th November** and 1st round closes on the **Friday 8th December**

at Beckfoot Oakbank

Our Sixth Form Team



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Sixth Form Criteria

HEADLINE: Minimum of 5 grade 4's at GCSE including English Language and Maths.

SUBJECT: Students will then be required to meet subject specific entry criteria for each programme of study which will, unless there are exceptional circumstances, (as decided by the Headteacher and Assistant Head: 14-19 Pathways), be rigorously applied.

Academic Pathway:

Course Title / Spec	Minimum expected grades	English Language Requirement	Maths Requirement
Facilitating Subjects (subjects most commonly asked for by Universities and allow access to the widest range of degrees)			
Biology	6-6 in combined Science or 6 in Biology (Single Science)	5	5
Chemistry	6-6 in combined Science or 6 in Chemistry (Single Science)	5	5
English Literature	6 in English Language or Literature	6	4
Geography	5 in Geography	5	5
History	5 in History	5	4
Maths		4	7
Physics	6-6 in combined Science or 6 in Physics (Single Science)	5	6
Spanish	6 in Spanish 6 in English Language or Literature	6	4
Non-Facilitating A Level choices (may be required by some Universities for particular degrees)			
Art	5 in Art	4	4
Computer Science	5 in Computer Science	5	5
English Language		6	4
Psychology		5	5
Sociology		5	4

Applied Pathway:

Course Title / Spec	Minimum expected grade	English Requirement	Maths Requirement
Applied Science Level 3 BTEC	4-4 in combined Science	4	4
Art & Design Level 3 BTEC	4 in Technology (any subject)	4	4
Business Level 3 BTEC	Level 2 Pass in BTEC Business or equivalent	4	4
Criminology Level 3 WJEC Diploma		4	4
Health and Social Care Level 3 BTEC		4	4
IT Level 3 BTEC	4 in IT or equivalent	4	4
Sport Level 3 BTEC	Level 2 Pass in Sport or equivalent 4-4 in Combined Science or 4 in Biology (Single Science)	4	4
Performing Arts Level 3 BTEC	4 in Drama or equivalent	4	4
Music Performance Level 3 BTEC	4 in Music or equivalent	4	4

*****We aim to support our students and provide the choices they want and accommodate these as far as possible. Subjects can only go ahead if there are viable class sizes*****

Applied Science

BTEC L3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Grade 4-4 in Combined Science.
- Grade 4 in Mathematics
- Grade 4 English Language

Units Studied:

Mandatory units in General Science; Working in the Science Industry, Perceptions of Science, Science Fundamentals and Scientific Practical Techniques.

Optional units a wide variety including Physiology of the Human Body, Medical Physics and Chemical Analysis.

Course Information:

For anyone who sees their future career in Science, the Level 3 BTEC in Applied Science is an excellent starting point. It covers a wide range of topics and will allow you to acquire a high level of practical laboratory skills alongside the learnt theory. You will learn by completing laboratory-based practical assignments, supported self-study assignments, presentations and discussions that are based on real workplace situations.

External assessment will make up 58% of the overall qualification, and 42% will be internally assessed.

Skills Required:

- Cognitive and problem-solving skills
- Problem solving and finding creative solutions
- Communicating well, working collaboratively
- Confident use of IT
- Interpersonal skills, self-management



Futures:

This course can provide progression into higher education and degree courses such as Forensic Science, Biology, Chemistry, Biomedical Sciences, Computing and Nursing and also an excellent foundation for apprenticeships.

Subject Enrichment:

Various opportunities to visit University laboratories and local industry on site links.

Art

A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Grade 5 in Art at GCSE
- Grade 4 in Maths and English Language.

Components Studied:

The components are internally assessed and externally moderated:

Component 1: Personal investigation 60%:

1. A portfolio of practical work showing a personal response to a starting point, brief, scenario, or stimulus.
2. A related study of continuous prose of between 1000 and 3000 words.

Component 2: Externally set task:

A range of questions set by AQA. You will produce a portfolio of preliminary studies and a 15-hour Controlled Test personal response.

Course Information:

You will learn to critically study artists' work and use this to help develop your own ideas, approaches and techniques in a range of media including oil painting.

Students will leave the course with both a qualification and a varied portfolio of project work that can be taken to job or university interviews.

"I like the technical skills taught and the creativity of the course". October Fox-Grange Y12

Skills Required:

- Very good observational drawing
- Painting
- Working with mixed media
- Analytical writing
- Creative thinking and presentation of work

You must be prepared to work long hours in the Art Studio outside lesson time and to work outside your comfort zone

Futures:

Students wishing to pursue art and design further could progress to a Pre-Degree Foundation Course in Art and Design followed by a University Degree in the creative specialism of their choice. Such courses include Fine Art, Illustration, Textiles, Interior Design, Fashion Design, Product Design, Animation, Furniture Design, Jewellery Design, Computer Games Design, Theatre Design and Architecture.

Subject Enrichment:

Gallery visits could include Bradford, Leeds, Keighley, Halifax, Wakefield, London, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool and abroad.



Art & Design

BTEC L3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Grade 4 in any Technology subject
- Grade 4 in English Language
- Grade 4 in Mathematics

Units Studied:

3D design materials, techniques and processes
Visual recording and communication
Use of finishes
Critical and contextual studies in design
Digital design and manufacture
Protecting Design and IP
Design for manufacturing
Design methods and processes
Design theory
Responsible design
Design processes

Course Information:

Imaginative practical work is at the heart of this course. You will develop intellectual curiosity about the design and manufacture of products. You will explore, design, create and evaluate innovative solutions in response to realistic design contexts.

Skills Required:

Imagination
Creativity
Perseverance

Futures:

Once students have gained a Level 3 BTEC in Art & Design, they may continue their studies at University on any number of Design related degrees. Students can progress on to areas within Fashion, Architecture, Engineering or other avenues within the Design sector.

Subject Enrichment:

BTEC Art & Design students undertake two external visits during Year 12, including a local visit to examine high quality design, and the second attending the UCAS Art/Design 'Create your future' exhibition in Manchester.



Biology

A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or grade 6 in Biology (Single Science)
- Grade 5 in Mathematics
- Grade 5 in English Language

Units Studied:

- Biological molecules, Cells and Exchange
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.
- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems, gene expression



Course Information: Biology is a fantastic choice for students hoping to pursue a science related career and for those students who are fascinated by the living world. Topics are wide-ranging to develop your understanding and appreciation of

the diversity of living organisms, from simple viruses to more complex animals and plants.

Assessment is in the form of three written exams at the end of Year 13, each lasting 2 hours. A-Level students will work towards an internally assessed practical endorsement in Biology.

Skills Required:

- Analytical skills
- Problem solving
- Curiosity about all living things
- Excellent communication

Futures: A Level Biology is a requirement for many science degree courses including Veterinary Medicine, Physiotherapy, Environmental Science, Conservation, Marine Biology, Sports Science, Forensic Science, Zoology and Pharmacy. It is also widely accepted as entry to non-science related degrees including Economics, International Business Management and Law.

Subject Enrichment:

Various opportunities to enter national and Biology competitions, along with a field trip to a nearby coastal environment to develop sampling techniques.

Business

BTEC L3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson / Edexcel

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Level 2 Pass in BTEC Business or equivalent
- Grade 4 in English Language
- Grade 4 in Maths

Units Studied:

- Unit 1 – Exploring Business
 - Internally Assessed Coursework
- Unit 2 – Developing a Marketing Campaign
 - Controlled Assessment
- Unit 3 – Personal and Business Finance
 - Exam
- Unit 8 – Recruitment and Selection
 - Internally Assessed Coursework

Course Information:

BTEC Business allows the in-depth study of a range of topics such as business finance, personal finance, types of organisation, current external factors and marketing. Enterprises are a central part of the modern global society and BTEC Business provides the

ability to understand, explain and act in various types of organisational contexts.

Skills Required:

- Numerical skills
- Analytical skills
- Application skills

Futures:

BTECs are now a strong pathway to university too, so whatever direction you take after Sixth Form, this course will equip you with valuable skills. The BTEC qualifications in Business provide a route to employment into the many diverse areas of business.

These could include roles in specialist areas such as management, marketing, finance, customer service or human resources, in large organisations or a small local business.



Student Quote

"I really enjoy learning the new topics, these will set me up well for the course I want to do at university."

Chemistry

A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or grade 6 in Chemistry (Single Science)
- Grade 5 in English Language
- Grade 5 in Mathematics

Units Studied:

- Physical Chemistry
- Inorganic Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry

Course Information:

Students will build upon the knowledge gained at GCSE to develop an advanced knowledge of the fundamental concepts of Chemistry, as well as extending their range of practical skills through context based learning.

Assessment is in the form of three written exams at the end of Year 13, each lasting 2 hours.

In addition, A-Level students will work towards a practical endorsement in Chemistry, which is internally assessed, and reported separately from the overall grade.

Skills Required:

- Analytical skills
- Problem solving
- Inquisitive mind

Futures:

Once students have gained a Chemistry A Level, they may further continue their studies at university on a scientific degree or enter

the job market. It is usually a requirement for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science degrees. Chemistry students are always sought after because of the demanding nature of the Chemistry A Level and the wealth of transferrable skills which the study of Chemistry requires.

Subject Enrichment:

Various opportunities to enter national and international Chemistry competitions, along with visiting speakers from the Royal Society of Chemistry.



Student Quote: *"I enjoy studying Chemistry because, although it can be challenging, it teaches you how to think logically. Also, you get to do lots of experiments and build up your practical skills."* – Sarah, Year 13

Computer Science

A Level

Exam Board: OCR

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Grade 5 in Computer Science
- Grade 5 in English Language
- Grade 5 in Maths

What is the course about?

Computer science is the study of computers and the theory behind their working- it's a part of everything we do. From the hardware to the software, students will learn how a computer functions and how to design their own programs to utilise the power of computers.

Course Information:

This course is assessed through two exams and a non-exam assessment:

Unit 1 is worth 40% of the total marks and is assessed through a 2.5 hour written exam

Unit 2 is worth 40% of the total marks and is assessed through a 2.5 hours exam

Unit 3 is worth 20% of the total marks and is assessed through an independent coursework assignment.

Skills Required:

An interest in coding and problem solving.
The self-motivation to work

independently. Good problem-solving skills. Able to work to deadlines.

Futures:

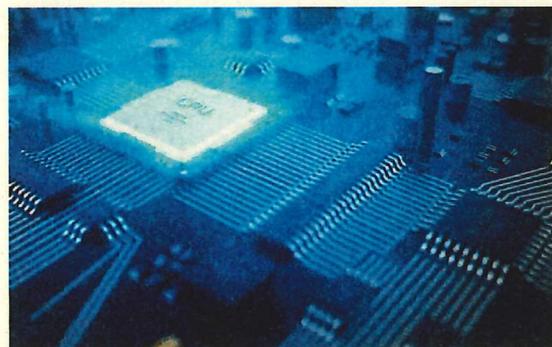
Computer Science students have careers in a variety of fields: System Analysts, Stockbrokers, Bankers, Gaming Industry, Architecture, Software Engineering, App Developers, Web Designers, Media and many more.

With a computer Science A-Level you can go onto university courses such as: Computer Science, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Cyber Security, Game Design or may be combined with other degrees such as architecture, engineering etc.

Subject Enrichment:

Nationwide cyber security challenges entered throughout the year- CyberDiscovery, CyberCenturion , Matrix Challenge.

Bebras Computation Thinking challenge entered in November.



Criminology

Level 3 Diploma

Exam Board: WJEC

Subject Specific Criteria:

- 4 in English Language
- 4 in Mathematics

Units Studied:

- Unit 1 – Changing awareness of Crime
- Unit 2 – Criminological Theories
- Unit 3 – Crime Scene to Courtroom
- Unit 4 - Crime and Punishment

Course Information:

This is an exciting course which will allow students to gain a wealth of knowledge linked to criminal justice. A stimulating grounding in the study of criminology can be achieved. Students will have the opportunity to acquire both practical and academic skills through applied learning, and the focus of some assignments provide opportunities to learn from practitioners in the criminal justice sector.

Skills Required:

- Well organised
- Extended writing skills
- Inquisitive mind

Futures:

The course can develop critical thinking, analytical and communications skills. Jobs within this area can include a Community development worker, Police officer, Prison officer, Probation officer, Social worker, Youth worker, Local government officer, Social researcher or Solicitor.

Subject Enrichment:

- Visit to the Combined Courts
- Opportunity to attend The SPRUCE programme



Student Quote

“Learning about why people commit crimes has made me view society differently”

English Language

A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Grade 6 in English Language
- Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics

Units Studied:

- **Language, the Individual and Society (40% - exam)**

Students will study two texts (one contemporary and one older text) linked by topic or theme and will prepare and write a discursive essay on children's language development.

- **Language Diversity and Change (40% - exam)**

Students will prepare and answer one question from a choice of two - **either** an evaluative essay on language diversity **or** an evaluative essay on language change. Students will read and study two texts about a topic linked to the study of diversity and change.

- **Language in Action 1900 (20% - non exam assessment)**

Students read three texts from different time periods and must complete a language investigation and a piece of original writing and commentary.

Skills Required:

- Analytical and critical thinking skills
- Independent learning
- Communication skills

Course Information:

This course builds on the study of English Language at GCSE. It aims to encourage students to develop an interest and enjoyment of English Language through reading widely across time and genre, and opportunities for creative writing.

Futures:

This course is widely accepted by universities as an entrance qualification for those wishing to read English or other related subjects. It also develops higher level analytical skills which are useful in a wide range of University courses and careers.

Subject Enrichment:

Students will have the opportunity to see live performances of plays and theatre trips.



English Literature

A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Grade 6 in either English Language or English Literature
- Grade 4 in Mathematics

Units Studied:

- **Love through the ages (40%)**

Study of three texts: pre 1900 poetry anthology, a 20th century prose text, and one Shakespeare play. Examination will also include two unseen poems

- **Texts in shared context (40%)**

Option A: WW1 and its aftermath

Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama all based around this topic. Examination will include an unseen extract.

- **Non- exam assessment: Independent critical study: texts across time (20%)**

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.

Skills Required:

- Analytical and critical thinking skills
- Independent learning
- Communication skills

Course Information:

This course builds on the study of English Literature at GCSE. It aims to encourage students to develop an interest and enjoyment of English Literature through reading widely, critically and independently, across time and genre.

Futures:

This course is widely accepted by universities as a facilitating subject and an entrance qualification for those wishing to read English or other related subjects. It also develops higher level analytical skills which are useful in a wide range of University courses and careers.

Subject Enrichment:

Students will have the opportunity to see live performances of the plays studied (depending on availability) and a trip to London to tour The Globe, take part in a workshop especially for our students with a RSC actor, and explore London gaining an understanding of what it would have been like in Elizabethan England.



Geography

A Level

Exam Board: Edexcel

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Grade 5 in GCSE Geography
- Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
- Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics

Units Studied:

Paper 1: Physical Geography

Tectonic Processes and Hazards, Coastal Landscape and Change, Water Cycle and Water Insecurity, Carbon Cycle and Energy Security.

Paper 2: Human Geography

Globalisation, Superpowers, Diverse Places, Health and Human Rights.

Paper 3: Synoptic paper

Discussion around players, actions and futures based around a geographical issue.

Independent Fieldwork Enquiry:

A non-examined unit in which students investigate a theme of their own choosing.

Course Information:

Studying Geography enables students to explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues such as the consequences of globalisation, responses to hazards, water insecurity and climate change.

Students are given the opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of Physical and Human Geography, the complexity of people and environmental questions and issues, and to become critical, reflective and independent learners.

Skills Required:

- Analytical skills
- Graphical skills
- Mathematical skills
- Cartographical skills

Futures:

Once students have gained a Geography A Level they may further continue their studies at University on a Geography degree or an Environmental Science degree. Studying Geography can then lead to careers in Town Planning, Environmental Consultancy, Geographical Information Systems, Conservation, Teaching, Retail Planning, Meteorology and Climatology. As the third most employable degree after Medicine and Dentistry, using the skills that they have acquired, Geography can lead to a variety of careers.

Subject Enrichment:

As part of the course, students must undertake an independent fieldwork enquiry that is conducted over a four day period. The theme of this work can change each year based on the interests of the students and the size of the group.



Health and Social Care

BTEC L3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson

Subject Specific Criteria:

- 4 in English Language
- 4 in Mathematics

Units Studied:

- Unit 1 – Human Lifespan Development – Exam
- Unit 12 - Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs - Coursework
- Unit 2 – Working in Health and Social Care – Exam
- Unit 5 - Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs – Coursework

Course Information:

The Health and Social Care sector is one which everyone will come into contact with throughout their life. The study of Health and Social care will allow you to develop your knowledge on the services available within the Health and Social care sector and develop an appreciation of the roles and responsibilities of workers within such settings.

Skills Required:

- Well organised
- Self - motivated
- Extended writing

Futures:

The NHS (National Health Service) is the largest employer in Europe (over one million employees); however, many private institutions also employ people in the healthcare arena. A large amount of these people are employed as doctors, dentists, paramedics, nurses and midwives, but plenty more are engaged within managerial, I.T. and administration work.

Subject Enrichment:

As the course requires a good understanding of Health and Social Care contexts, visits to Health and Social Care settings will be encouraged/ facilitated throughout the year.



History

A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Grade 5 in History
- Grade 5 in English Language
- Grade 4 in Mathematics

Units Studied:

Unit 1: The Tudors: 1485 to 1603

Unit 2: Democracy and Nazism: Germany 1918-1945

NEA-American Civil Rights-1865 to 1965

Course Information:

You will focus in Paper 1 on a longer term study looking at the way the US became a superpower. In Paper 2, you will complete an in depth study of the English Civil War focusing on the 35-year period. Your coursework will combine the skills from both papers and require independent research.

Skills Required:

- Analytical skills
- A good level of literacy skills
- An enquiring mind

Futures:

A preferred A-level at all universities, which teaches how to critically think, research and write extended essays.

A wide range of both public and private sector occupations are open to people with a History qualification. History should be taken if Law is to be studied at university.

Subject Enrichment:

Previous enrichment opportunities have included a trip to Germany to develop our understanding of anti-Semitism in preparation for the coursework unit



Student Quote

‘The skills learnt in History will be helpful for university and future careers.’

IT

BTEC L3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson

Subject Specific Criteria:

- 4 in I.T at GCSE level or equivalent
- 4 in English Language and Maths.

An interest in ICT and its applications. The self-motivation to work independently. Good basic ICT skills and a working knowledge of the main applications. Good organisational and planning skills. Students who have not previously studied ICT may be allowed on this course at the teacher's discretion.

Units Studied:

Students will study 4 units over the 2 years comprising:

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems

Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information

Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business

Unit 6: Website Development

Course Information:

BTEC Level 3 qualifications are designed to provide specialist work-related qualifications in a range of sectors. They give us the knowledge, understanding and skills that are needed to prepare for employment. They also provide career-development opportunities for those already in work.

Skills Required:

Creativity

Perseverance

Dedication to learn software applications

Able to work to deadlines

Futures:

Completing the BTEC Level 3 in ICT qualifies for UCAS points. The qualification, when studied alongside other L3's is aimed at progression to higher education but also enables learners to develop knowledge and skills needed for entry-level roles related to IT, including vocational apprenticeship roles and trainee/entry-level roles such as social media specialist, web/content developer, or business analyst.





Mathematics

A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Grade 7 in Mathematics
- Grade 4 in English Language

Units Studied:

Pure Mathematics; Statistics; Mechanics

Course Information: Maths is a linear course comprising of Pure and Applied content.

The full A Level (single) Maths course is assessed by 100% exam, and you will sit three 2hour papers for each module. There is no coursework.

Two-thirds of the qualification is made up of Pure Core Maths, which provides techniques in Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry and Calculus - the fundamental building blocks of this subject.

Mechanics and Statistics make up the remaining third of the qualification. In Mechanics, you will study Kinematics, Forces and Newton's Laws, and in Statistics, you will study data presentation and interpretation, probability, testing

Skills Required:

- Firstly, you must really enjoy problem solving and be proactive with your learning.
- Secondly, you must be able to work independently - that means doing a lot of your learning outside of lessons.
- Thirdly, you must be really good at algebra.....

.....can you solve a quadratic equation?

.....complete the square?.....work with fractions?do you know what a surd is and can you simplify it, rationalise it?....can you factorise an expression?.....

.....these skills are really important to help you succeed; you really have to know how to do these things without really having to think about

A Level Maths provides students with a thorough grounding in the mathematical tools and techniques often needed in the workplace. The logic and reasoning skills developed by studying A Level Maths makes sure the qualification is widely respected even in non-mathematical arenas.

Futures:

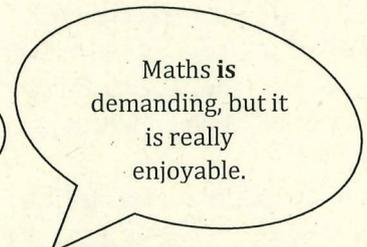
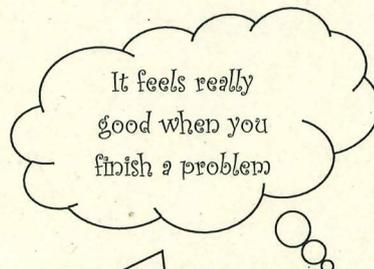
Maths opens doors to University courses. If you want to study any science based course, including medicine, engineering, computing, maths is a must. It is also good to have if you are thinking about law, psychology, economics, business studies and architecture

Since maths is one of the most traditional and hardest subjects, a good grade in maths can boost an application for pretty much every course and job you might want to apply for

Maths can earn you more money! Mathematics graduates earn, on average, a significant amount higher than the average starting salary.

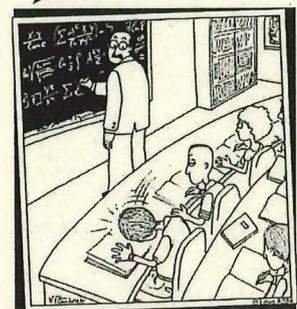
Subject Enrichment:

Opportunities could include competing in UKMT challenges and attending talks through the FMSP programme.



Maths is hard but it is not impossible. You have to keep up with the work and not be embarrassed to ask for help if you don't get it.

The teachers are always there to help you - just ask!



Professor Herman stopped when he heard that unmistakable thud - another brain had imploded.

Music

BTEC L3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Level 2 Pass BTEC Music or Grade 4 GCSE Music.
- Grade 4 in English Language and Maths

Students with extensive Music experience ie, graded exams, will also be considered.

Units Studied:

Four units, of which three are mandatory (83%) and two are externally assessed (58%).

Mandatory content

- Unit 1: Practical Music Theory and Harmony
- Unit 2: Professional Practice in the Music Industry (Externally Assessed)
- Unit 3: Ensemble Music Performance. (Externally assessed)

Optional Units

- Composing music
- Music Performance Session Styles
- Improvising music
- Solo performance

Course Information:

The programme gives a broad overview of the Music sector, with a focus on performance, including musical skills development and professional practice

External assessment:

- Performance – learners prepare for assessment over an extended window and

demonstrate skills that generate some non-written evidence.

- Set tasks – learners take the assessment during a defined window and demonstrate understanding through completion of a vocational task.

Internal assessment can include:

- Reports -write up the findings of their own research.
- Case studies to explore complex or unfamiliar situations.
- Video evidence of projects & demonstration of practical and technical skills using appropriate instruments and techniques.

Skills Required:

- Practical performance skills
- Leadership skills
- Research skills

Futures:

This course will equip you with the fundamental skills essential for progression to higher education courses, including degrees in music and music for media and will also prepare you for a variety of careers in the music and media industries

Subject Enrichment:

You will become part of a musical group, learn songs, rehearse and perform these songs to an audience.

Performing Arts

BTEC L3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Level 2 Pass BTEC Performing Arts or equivalent
- 4 in English Language and Maths

Students with extensive Performing Arts experience will also be considered.

Units Studied:

Four units, of which three are mandatory (83%) and two are externally assessed (58%).

Mandatory content

- Investigating Practitioners' work (external assessment)
- Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance (internal assessment)
- Group Performance Workshop (external assessment)

Students complete **one optional unit** from a range of units relating to Drama and/or Dance.

Course Information:

The Extended Certificate offers an introduction to the performing arts vocational sector through applied learning. For learners for whom an element of performing arts would be complementary, the qualification supports progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other vocational or general qualifications.

External assessment:

- Set tasks – learners take the assessments during a defined window and demonstrate understanding through completion of a vocational task performance – learners prepare for assessment over an extended window and demonstrate skills that generate some non-written evidence.

Internal assessment can include:

- Reports -write up the findings of their own research
- Case studies to explore complex or unfamiliar situations
- Video evidence of projects & demonstration of practical and technical skills.

Skills Required:

- Practical performance skills
- Leadership skills
- Research skills

Futures: Following the Level 3 National Certificate in Performing Arts students may further continue their studies at Drama School or University, as well as supporting students who choose to progress directly to employment.

Subject Enrichment:

Students will take part in workshops, perform to invited audiences and view a variety of live professional theatre.

Physics

A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science Trilogy or grade 6 in Physics (Single Science)
- Grade 5 in English Language
- Grade 6 in Mathematics
- Strongly recommend studying A-Level Maths alongside

Units Studied:

- Measurements and their errors; particles and radiation, waves, mechanics and energy and electricity.
- Further mechanics and thermal physics, fields, nuclear physics and an option module (e.g. astrophysics).

Course Information:

Physics is all about the physical world at every level, from the smallest particle to galaxies remote in space and time. If you enjoy exploring theories and testing them, you'll find A Level Physics fascinating, as well as gaining a valuable qualification as proof of your analytical skills and logic.

Assessment is in the form of three written exams at the end of Year 13, each lasting 2 hours. In addition, A-Level students will work towards a practical endorsement in Physics, which is internally assessed, and reported separately from the overall grade.

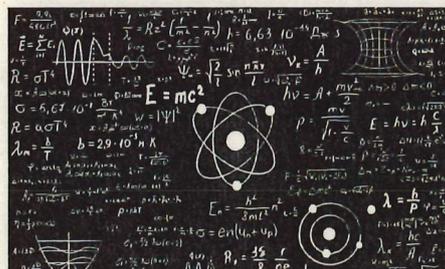
Skills Required:

- Analytical skills
- Problem solving
- Excellent numeracy skills

Futures: A Level Physics opens many doors to science-related careers such as:

- Geophysicist/field seismologist
- Health care scientist/medical physicist
- Radiation protection practitioner
- Research scientist
- Astronomy
- Engineering

Physics is also looked upon favourably in non-science related professions such as law, retail and media.



Subject Enrichment:

Various opportunities to enter national and international Physics competitions, along with lectures at Leeds University.

Psychology

A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Grade 5 in English Language
- Grade 5 in Maths

Units Studied:

- Paper 1 – Introductory Topics
- Paper 2 – Psychology in Context
- Paper 3 – Issues and Options in Psychology

Course Information:

Psychology is the study of the human mind and why people behave the way they do. If you have an inquisitive mind and want to learn more about people and their behaviour, Psychology is the subject for you! Psychologists develop a variety of explanations as to how the mind works.

Skills Required:

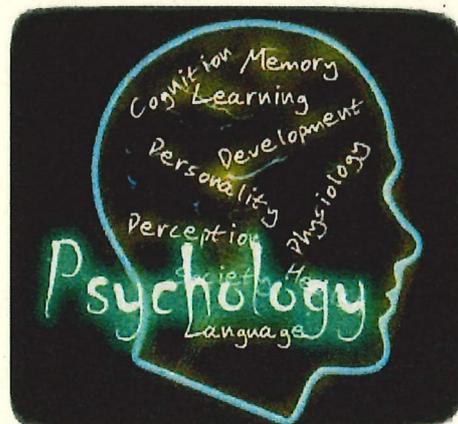
- Inquisitive Mind
- Analytical Skills
- Application Skills

Futures:

Once students have gained a psychology A-Level they may further continue their studies at university on a psychology degree or enter the job market. It is useful for a range of careers such as psychologists, psychiatrist, doctor, nurse, police officer, law, journalism, media work, counsellor, business, human resources, hospitality and leisure industry to name a few.

Subject Enrichment:

Visit the Criminal Courts



Student Quote

"This is by far my most interesting subject; I feel challenged and engaged."

Sociology

A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Specific Criteria:

Grade 5 in English Language

Grade 4 in Mathematics

Units Studied:

- Paper 1 – Education with Theory and Methods
- Paper 2 – Topics in Sociology (Family & Households, Beliefs in Society)
- Paper 3 – Crime & Deviance with Theory and Methods

Course Information:

Sociology is the study of society. Sociologists are interested in the interaction that takes place between groups and individuals within and contrasting with other societies. They offer theories that provide explanations for the way in which we as individuals can shape society and the impact society has upon the individual.

Skills Required:

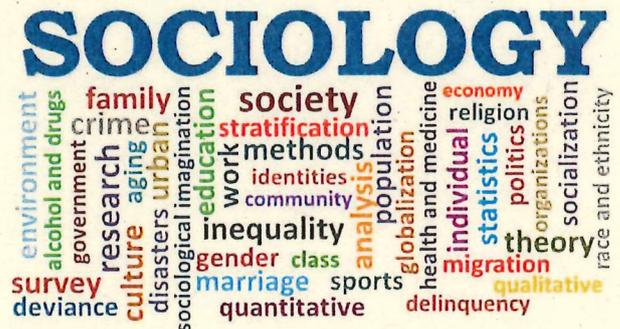
- Analytical skills
- Debating skills
- Essay writing skills

Futures:

Sociology is a well-respected discipline with a long history. It's useful for a range of different Higher Education courses and/or careers including Politics, Social Policy, History, Social Work, Counselling, Nursing, Law, the Police Force, Journalism, Teaching, Media, Business and Youth Work to name a few.

Subject Enrichment:

Visit to the Criminal Courts



Student Quote

"I feel that studying sociology at A-level has given me a good foundation of knowledge and skills that I will be able to build upon at Uni where I'll be studying Sociology."

Spanish

A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Specific Criteria:

- Grade 6 in Spanish
- Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature
- Grade 4 in Mathematics

Units Studied:

1. Social issues and trends:
 - Modern and traditional values
 - Cyberspace
 - Equal rights
 - Immigration
 - Racism
 - Integration
2. Political and artistic culture:
 - Modern day idols
 - Spanish regional identity
 - Cultural heritage
 - Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens
 - Monarchies and dictatorships
 - Popular movements
3. Grammar
4. Works: Literary text and films
 - One text – a Spanish novel
 - One film
5. Individual research project
 - A student identified subject or question which relates to a Spanish speaking country. Students need to demonstrate their ability to initiate and conduct individual research by analysing and summarising their findings to present and discuss them in the speaking exam

Skills Required:

- Firstly, you must really enjoy speaking Spanish and be proactive with your practice
- Secondly, you must be able to work independently – that means doing a lot of your learning outside lesson time
- Thirdly, you must be really strong at grammar...can you form the present, future, and past tenses correctly without thinking about? Do you enjoy problem solving – to work out the grammar rules?
- Finally, research skills – can you use different sources to select relevant information to inform your learning?

Futures:

Languages are skills for life and open a variety of opportunities, both personal and in terms of employment. Languages develop confidence in public speaking, problem solving and resilience: all skills that universities want students to have developed. Languages are in high demand across a wide range of careers and statistically the ability to communicate in additional languages increases your earnings.

Subject Enrichment:

There are a wide variety of activities students can participate in to enrich their experience of language learning. Spanish dining experiences, student conferences, Spanish cinema experiences and of course visits abroad (*Covid permitting*).



Sport

BTEC L3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: PEARSON

Subject Specific Criteria:

- BTEC Sport Level 2 Pass or equivalent
- Grade 4-4 in Combined Science or a grade 4 in Biology (Single Science)
- Grade 4 in English Language
- Grade 4 in Mathematics

Skills Required:

- Effective writing
- Analytical skills
- Organisation
- Teamwork

Units Studied:

- 1 – Anatomy and Physiology
- 2 – Fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being
- 3 – Professional development in the sports industry
- 4 – Sports Leadership

Course Information:

The course has one external exam in unit 1, an externally set task in unit 2 and internally assessed coursework for units 3 and 4.

Grading is as follows:

BTEC Grade	UCAS Points	Equiv. A Level grade
Distinction*	56	A*
Distinction	48	A
Merit	32	C
Pass	16	E

Futures:

The new BTECs are more rigorous than the previous specifications and are highly valued by universities, further education colleges and employers alike. BTECs can lead to a variety of future careers including: Sports Coaching, Teaching, Physiotherapy, Fitness Instruction and Sports Science

Subject Enrichment:

Numerous opportunities to participate and volunteer at extracurricular clubs and links to work placement. There is also an opportunity to complete the YMCA Gym instructor's course alongside the BTEC qualification.

