



# Post 16 Prospectus 2022



Co-op Academy  
Priestthorpe

# Welcome to Post 16

On behalf of the staff, students and governors of Co-op Academy Priesthorpe, welcome to our new Post 16 prospectus.

At the heart of our offer to students is a commitment to a world class curriculum offer, for students of all abilities, which is reinforced by an enrichment programme that fosters and develops core values and behaviours, such as resilience, integrity, tolerance, empathy and citizenship. We are determined to prepare students to live in and contribute to society in the 21st century.

Outstanding teaching provides the platform to deliver our curriculum and, in turn, rich learning experiences. We have teams of staff, who are experts in their subject areas, and who provide great opportunities for students, both within and beyond the classroom. We celebrate excellence and have a strong record in supporting and equipping our students with the necessary skills and knowledge to access a wide array of University courses, many of them at Russell Group Universities, and also Apprenticeships, or employment. Through our sponsors, the Red Kite Learning Trust and the Co-op Academies Trust, students, staff and parents have access to a wealth of resources and experience, which adds significant value to the complete curriculum offer. This includes access to world class training for our staff to ensure best practice and opportunities for students to experience a wide range of experiences and the chance to learn in different environments.

Most importantly, however, is the fact that our Trusts are aligned by common values, ethos and behaviours and a commitment to provide the best possible educational experiences for our students.



# Employability & Careers

## Experience working life

Encouraging our students to experience a wide range of employment interactions is something we take very seriously here at Priesthorpe.

“My placement in a small engineering firm taught me loads about how to work in a team; the people I was working with took so much time to explain how I can make the next step towards becoming an engineer myself.”



Representatives from different businesses attend our Careers fair, STEM fair and our apprenticeship workshops, giving our students the chance to meet and ask questions of a wide range of employers.

CV writing, application procedures and interview skills are interwoven into their wider curriculum.

All Year 12 students undertake a week's work experience at the end of year 12 which is carefully calibrated to their aspirations and skills. Work is done to follow this experience up with meaningful reflection on their findings where they are encouraged to think about what they've learned, what they enjoyed and what they feel they need to develop further to embark upon their chosen career.



# Beyond the Curriculum

## Enrichment

Post 16 education is not simply about achieving results to be proud of. It's about offering experiences and opportunities beyond the academic curriculum.



We bring outside agencies in to discuss a range of issues with our students to ensure that they are able to develop into young adults with the knowledge they need. These include workshops on how to make sense of money and debt, student well being, sign language teaching and water safety.

Mental Health awareness also plays a prominent part in these sessions. These are all underpinned by a character curriculum which focuses on a range of personal, social and health education.

Students are encouraged to play a part by their involvement in opportunities such as First aid qualifications, Maths hub support, Literacy Leaders, supporting in subjects and taking on the role of Faith Ambassadors or Mentors.

Our links with Farsley Rehoboth, Northern Rail, NCS and LEAP Business Enterprise has allowed students to form positive links within the community and become involved in local projects.

# Higher Education

## Aiming higher together

We offer all our students a wealth of information about potential routes after Sixth Form. We are very proud that the percentage of students who secure work, training or higher education upon leaving us is significantly higher than average.

Visits to university open days and UCAS fairs are offered as part of our curriculum and we attend a housing workshop with them to teach them how to plan to live independently.

Those seeking to go to University are offered support from experienced mentors to aid with their UCAS applications.

The 'Scholars' Programme', Access to Leeds, Next Steps York, Realising Opportunities, Reach for Excellence, and the Sheffield University Progression schemes, all allow students who meet their criteria to access their outreach programmes and obtain valuable advice and support to access Russell Group universities. The Social Mobility Foundation has provided vulnerable students with access to mentoring, workshops and support for university applications.

We have formed positive relationships with all of these providers and we actively encourage all students to engage with one or more of these outreach programmes to enhance and support their intended destination.

# EPQ

## Step towards your goals

Our students are encouraged to undertake the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).



“Staff here work really hard behind the scenes to help us achieve.”



Our students are encouraged to undertake the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). The EPQ allows our students to study a topic area which extends their learning in their own field of study, a related area or is relevant to their own personal interests. The EPQ is highly regarded by universities and employers. It allows you to move beyond what you are taught in class and can be used to provide evidence for a passion you have, which may come in handy in university and job interviews. It is often an excellent way of showing an interest in a degree subject that is not available at A level.

# Curriculum Offer

## Find the pathway for you

We offer a wealth of courses and we are sure you will be able to find the combination that best suits you.



We offer a mixture of A Level and BTEC, AQA and OCR Level 3 courses (which are equivalent to A Levels yet follow a more vocational pathway).

For students who have not yet reached the grades required to access Level 3 courses, there may be the opportunity to discuss a more bespoke Level 2 pathway. The majority of students follow a 2 year programme of three Level 3 qualifications with enhancement qualifications available to enrich the curriculum offer.

Level 3 courses are all 2 year programmes of study. A levels are mostly examination based, but may have a non-examined element where a particular interest can be pursued. BTEC and other Applied courses have more examined content than in previous years.



# Progression Module

## Aiming higher together

This is a year long, structured higher education and employment preparation programme for Sixth Form students.



Students are guided through how to research different courses, how to construct a CV and effectively budget. Students also undertake a mock interview and are assessed on their final presentation. It will assist with research, decision making and applications to university and employment. Students obtain 12 UCAS points, recognised by Leeds Beckett, Leeds Trinity and Huddersfield University.



# Maths & English

## Second chance to resit

If you have not yet achieved a grade 4 in English Language or Maths, then re-sits in one or both of these qualifications will be a compulsory part of your programme.

“The staff are really supportive and make your time in the Sixth Form fun and enjoyable.”



# Course Entry Requirements

## What do you need?

We require all students to demonstrate considerable success at GCSE before entry to a full time, two year Level 3 programme.

As a minimum profile we would be expecting students to attain 5 GCSE grades of at least grade 4 including at least a 4 in English Language/English Literature and at least a 4 in Mathematics. Passes at Level 2 in qualifications such as BTEC, VCERT, OCR National Certificates will be accepted as equivalent to GCSE, where appropriate.

If a student is applying for an A Level course that they have studied at GCSE it is expected that a student would attain a minimum of a grade 5 in this subject.



# Entry Requirements

QUALIFICATION	SUBJECT	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
BTEC Level 3	Applied Science	5x 9-4 at GCSE, including Science and 4 in Maths
A Level	Art	5x 9-4 at GCSE, including 5 in Art
A Level	Biology	5x 9-4 at GCSE; 2x 6 in Sciences; 5 in Maths
A Level	Business	5x 9-4 at GCSE; 5 in English and Maths
BTEC Level 3	Business	5x 9-4 at GCSE; 4 or above in English and Maths
A Level	Chemistry	5x 9-4 at GCSE; 2x 6 in Sciences; 5 in Maths
A Level	Computer Science	5x 9-4 at GCSE, including 5 in Computer Science or Maths
Level 3 Certificate	Core Maths	5x 9-4 at GCSE, including 5 in Maths
Level 3 Diploma	Criminology	5x 9-4 at GCSE including English Language and Literature
Technical Level 3	A Level Product Design	5x 9-4 at GCSE, including Science and Maths
A Level	English Literature	5x 9-4 at GCSE; 6 preferred in English
A Level	French	5x 9-4 at GCSE, including 6+ in French and English
A Level	Geography	5x 9-4 at GCSE; 6 preferred in English
BTEC Level 3	Health and Social Care	5x 9-4 at GCSE
A Level	History	5x 9-4 at GCSE; 6 preferred in English
OCR Level 3	Information Technology	5x 9-4 at GCSE
A Level	Mathematics	5x 9-4 at GCSE, including 6 in Maths
RSL Level 3	Music Practitioners	5x 9-4 at GCSE
A Level	Philosophy and Ethics	5x 9-4 at GCSE including English Grade 4
A Level	Physics	5x 9-4 at GCSE; 2x 6 in Sciences; 5 in Maths
A Level	Psychology	5x 9-4 at GCSE, including 5 in Maths and 6 preferred in English and Science
A Level	Sociology	5x 9-4 at GCSE; 6 in English
A Level	Spanish	5x 9-4 at GCSE, including 6+ in Spanish and English
CTEC Level 3	Sport and Physical Activity	5x 9-4 at GCSE



# Course Details

## See what you can study

### **BTEC National Applied Science (Edexcel)**

Applied Science offers students the chance to concentrate on some of the vocational aspects of science. This course also gives post 16 learners a more practical study of science at a higher level. Topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics address Science in the modern world developing experimental techniques through scientific investigation.

In year 1 students complete the following units: Principles and applications of science (assessed through an external exam), Practical scientific procedures and techniques (internally assessed). In year 2 there is an externally assessed exam on science investigatory skills and another internally assessed unit.

BTEC Applied Science is a good choice for students considering higher education in any science-based course, examples could include: Biochemical Sciences, Chemistry, Food Technology, Human Physiology, Nursing, Sports Science, Materials Science and Medical Physics. Career opportunities for students who study A Level Applied Science include: the Chemical Industries, Healthcare, Medical and Laboratory- based Science, Sports and Leisure sectors and Food and Catering industries.

### **Art (Fine Art) A Level (AQA)**

Students are required to conduct a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

Externally Set Assignment: Separate question papers will be provided for each title. Each question paper will consist of a choice of eight questions to be used as starting points. Students are required to select one. Students will be provided with examination papers on 1 February, or as soon as possible after that date. Usually students who want to progress through art will complete an Art Foundation course following on from A Level and then progress onto a degree course. Art courses lead to employment within many areas of art and design, i.e. Interior Design, Product Design, Architecture, Fashion, Textiles, Graphics, Furniture and Computer Aided Design.

The creative industries contributed a record £91.8bn to the UK economy in 2016, official statistics show. Between 2010 and 2016, the creative industries sub sectors - which include: Advertising, Film and TV, Architecture, Publishing, Music, Design, Games, Museums and Galleries, Fashion, Crafts, and the Creative use of Technology - grew their economic contribution by 44.8 per cent.

## Biology A Level

Students will study a broad range of biological topics ranging from cellular biology to genetics and ecology. Post-16 learners will develop their understanding of scientific techniques and procedures through a series of 12 required practical assignments which are conducted across the two years of study. In addition, students may have the opportunity to use practical skills to further develop their knowledge of theory. A level biology is a great choice for students who enjoy biology at GCSE but want to progress their knowledge further and understand biology at a deeper level. An A level in biology can lead to careers in forensic science, ecology and conservation, health care, veterinary science, clinical science and pharmaceutical sciences.

## Business A Level (AQA)

The course is taught through 10 themes:

1. What is business?
2. Managers, leadership and decision making.
- 3 .Decision making to improve marketing performance.
4. Decision making to improve operational performance.
5. Decision making to improve financial performance.
6. Decision making to improve human resource performance.
7. Analysing the strategic position of a business (A Level only).
8. Choosing strategic direction (A Level only).
9. Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies (A Level only).
10. Managing strategic change (A Level only).

Students can go on to study a wide variety of academic and vocational courses in HE with this qualification, and/or go into a wide variety of careers in a range of industries including Finance, Management, Marketing and Human Resources.

## **Business Level 3 BTEC Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma (Edexcel)**

This is a very popular choice at Post-16. Students study a wide range of business theory with a focus on vocational contexts. The course is an excellent choice regardless of future education or career choice, however is especially useful for students who are considering careers in business or studying business at university e.g. finance, marketing or management. In year 1 students studying for the Extended Certificate (one A Level equivalent) study two units: Exploring Business, which is internally assessed and Developing a Marketing Campaign which is externally assessed through a controlled assessment task.

In year 2 to complete the qualification further units in Personal and Business Finance, which is externally assessed through an examination and an optional unit are added. Students studying for the Diploma (2 A Level equivalent) study units entitled Managing an Event and International Business in year 1.

In year 2 International Business is continued with a coursework unit which builds on the controlled assessment task assessed in the first year. An optional unit completes the programme of study.

## **Chemistry A Level (OCR)**

A Level Chemistry will give you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of chemistry. It covers the key concepts of chemistry and practical skills are integrated throughout the course. You will learn about chemistry in a range of different contexts and the impact it has on industry and many aspects of everyday life. You will learn to investigate and solve problems using a range of concepts.

Topics studied in the programme are: atoms, compounds, molecules and equations; amount of substance; acid-base and redox reactions; electrons, bonding and structure; the periodic table and periodicity; group 2 and the halogens; reaction rates and equilibrium; pH and buffers; enthalpy, entropy and free energy; redox and electrode potentials; transition elements; organic chemistry; polymers; organic synthesis and analytical techniques.

A Level Chemistry is a good choice for students considering careers in the Health and Clinical Professions, including Medicine, Veterinary Science, Nursing, Dentistry and Forensic Science. Studying Chemistry will also prepare students for Industry Careers, such as those within the Pharmaceutical or Petrochemical Sectors.



## Computer Science A Level (OCR)

This will give pupils an understanding and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including: abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation. Pupils will also gain the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving problems this will include writing programs using high level programming languages. Pupils will learn a capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically to see relationships between different aspects of computer science as well as further Mathematical skills.

The course content covers the characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices; Software and software development; exchanging data; data types, data structures and algorithms; Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues; elements of computational thinking; problem solving and programming and algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms.

Students will also complete a Programming Project, where students select their own user-driven problem of an appropriate complexity and solve it by computational methods. Students will need to analyse the problem, design a solution, implement the solution and give a thorough evaluation.

This qualification is suitable for students intending to pursue any career within the Digital Design Industry or further computational study. It will provide students with a range of transferable skills with links in areas such as Maths, Science and Design and Technology. Computer science is a very creative subject and skills such as problem solving and analytical thinking will all be refined and explored as students progress through the learning and assessment programme.

## Core Maths AS (AQA)

Core Maths is an excellent new course for students who want to continue their study of maths to AS Level, in order to support study of other AS and A Level subjects which require a high degree of competency in maths. Content includes: analysis of data; maths for personal finance; estimation; critical analysis of given data and models (including spreadsheets and tabular data); critical path analysis; expectation; cost benefit analysis.

The course is designed to give examples of where mathematical skills are used in the 'real world'. This will be useful in applying for jobs or an apprenticeship, or the qualification can be used as UCAS points towards a university place. Please note, the course is only available to As level. Over the 2 years of study it should be combined with another As level or EPQ qualification. It can also be studied alongside 3 A levels as an enrichment option.

## **Criminology Level 3 Diploma (Exam Board WJEC)**

Learners will study 4 units; Changing Awareness of Crime, Criminological Theories, Crime Scene to Court Room, Crime and Punishment. Learners will gain skills in differentiating between myth and reality, recognising that common representations may be misleading and inaccurate. They will understand the importance of changing public perceptions of crime and will be asked to plan a campaign for change in relation to crime; for example to raise awareness, change attitudes or change reporting behaviour.

Learners will apply their understanding of the public perceptions of crime and campaigns with criminological theories to examine how both are used to set policy. Criminologists have produced theoretical explanations for why people commit crime, but which is the most useful? Students will review criminal cases, evaluating the evidence in the cases to determine whether the verdict is safe and just. Looking at the trial process and the many different people and agencies it involves. Learning about the many rules involved will allow the learner to assess whether the aims of the criminal justice system have been met.

Unit 4 allows learners to think about the criminal justice system in England and Wales and how it operates to achieve social control. Looking at the organisations, which are part of our system of social control and their effectiveness, evaluating the delivery of policy in different contexts.

## **English Literature A Level (AQA)**

In Year 1, students will study two drama texts and a prose text, alongside a selection from the exam board's Poetry Anthology. In Year 2, students will develop their understanding of the content taught in Year 1 in greater breadth and depth. They will study a Shakespeare text, along with another drama text and one further text which must be written pre-1900. In addition, students will complete a genre study. Within the pathway chosen by the class teachers, they will study three texts: one post-2000 prose text; one poetry and one further text, of which one must be written pre-1900. Students will also complete a unit of course work worth 20% of the full A Level.

Students can go on to study a wide variety of academic and vocational courses in HE with this qualification, and/or go into a wide variety of careers in which communication skills are important, for example Business, Management, Media, Law and Education. Study of literature encourages and develops understanding of the world and empathy for the human condition.

## French A Level (WJEC)

In Year 1, students will study the following key areas: Leisure and Lifestyles (including travel and tourism, sport, hobbies, entertainment, customs, traditions, healthy living, unhealthy living); and The Individual and Society (including relationships and responsibilities, gender issues, youth culture, education, vocational training and future careers).

In Year 2, students will study the following key areas: Environmental Issues (including: technology, pollution, global warming, transport, energy, nuclear energy, renewable energies, conservation, recycling, sustainability); and Social and Political Issues (including the role of the media, racism, immigration, social exclusion and integration, terrorism, and the world of work) In addition they will study two from the following 3 options: The World of Cinema; The World of Literature; The Regions of France.

Students can go on to study a wide variety of academic and vocational courses in Higher Education with this qualification, and/or go into a wide variety of careers in which communication and foreign language skills are important, for example, Translating and Interpreting, Business, Management, Media, Law and Education.

## Geography A Level (AQA)

Geography offers an exciting and wide-ranging experience at A Level. In Year 1, students study two compulsory modules in human and physical geography: Changing Places and Water and Carbon Cycles. Here, you will explore cultural approaches to representation of place and take a more scientific approach to investigating key systems in nature. For fieldwork, a two- day residential course takes place at the Cranedale Centre at the edge of the North York Moors where these two core modules are explored in more detail using primary data collection methods. Later on in the year, a joint human and physical module on Natural Hazards then follows, examining the causes and consequences of volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, wildfires and tropical storms. Field methods are then revisited as students prepare to carry out an independent investigation of 3,000 – 4,000 words on a topic of their choice based on the training they will have received and tutorial support provided prior to the summer break.

Year 2 includes a physical Geography topic on Hot Deserts or Coastal Landscapes, For the human geography topic you will study Contemporary urban environments which examines the issues faced when living in cities across developed and developing countries. The last topic is 'Global Systems and Governance' which focuses on trade patterns, economic systems and the role of Antarctica.



Geography is a broad based academic subject well respected by employers and universities. Taking the subject at Post-16 develops a range of skills preparing students well for both Higher Education and the world of work. Geography has links with a wide range of careers and sits well alongside both Arts and Sciences. Graduates in the subject now work in Law, the Armed Forces, Central and Local Government, Town Planning, Environmental Management, Journalism or Teaching. Those in the Commercial World, Engineering or Science would also favour a geographical education and training.

## **Health and Social Care BTEC Level 3 Certificate/Extended Certificate (Edexcel)**

This popular vocational qualification prepares students to go on to study a wide variety of academic and vocational courses in Higher Education, and/or go into a wide variety of careers in which good communication skills are essential, including nursing, education, social work and a variety of opportunities within health care providers such as the NHS. It develops knowledge and skills in the vocational context of the caring industries.

In year 1 students study a unit in Human Lifespan Development, which is assessed by an examination and Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs assessed internally. In year 2 a further two units, Working in Health and Social Care (exam) and Sociological Perspectives in Health and Social Care (internally assessed) complete the programme of study.

## **History A Level (AQA)**

Year 1 course allows the students to study breadth and depth topics which cover issues of change, continuity, cause and consequences. It includes the following study topics: Consolidation of the Tudor Dynasty 1485 – 1603; and the first section of Democracy and Nazism: Germany 1918 – 1945 (The Weimar Republic 1918 – 1933).

Year 2 History builds on the skills and knowledge gained at AS and consists of two components: The Tudors, England 1485 – 1603 (England: Turmoil and Triumph 1547 – 1603); and Democracy and Nazism; Germany 1918 – 1945 (Nazi Germany, 1939 – 1945). For course work, students will also complete an independent historical investigation which will focus on a university-style referenced essay on an aspect of Civil Rights in the USA.

Students can go on to study a wide range of academic courses in higher education with this qualification. Students can go into a wide range of careers where written

communication, research, analytical and team work skills are important. Examples are Heritage Manager, Education, Archivist, Journalism, Political or Editorial Assistant, Solicitor, Law, to name but a few.

## **Information Technology Level 3 Cambridge Technical Certificate/Introductory Diploma (OCR)**

This qualification aims to develop your knowledge and understanding of the principles of IT and Global Information Systems. You will gain an insight into the IT sector as you investigate the pace of technological change, IT infrastructure, and the flow of information on a global scale and the importance of legal and security considerations. You will also develop professional, personal and social skills through interaction with peers, stakeholders and clients, as well as theoretical knowledge and understanding to underpin these skills. These support the transferable skills required by universities and employers such as communication, problem solving, time management, research and analytical skills.

You will take two mandatory units to achieve this qualification, Fundamentals of IT and Global information, both of which are externally assessed. You will then study three further units which are internally-assessed and moderated by the exam board. The optional units include Project Management, Product Development, Systems Analysis and Design, the Internet of Everything, Application Design, Mobile Technology, Social Media and Digital Marketing, Software Engineering for Business, Games Design and Prototyping, Web Design and Prototyping and Big Data Analytics.

## **Mathematics A Level (Edexcel)**

All students will study for the Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics (9MA0). The Pure Mathematics content represents two-thirds of the course, and will cover the following topics: Proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate geometry, Sequences and series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and logarithms, Calculus (Differentiation & Integration), Numerical methods, Vectors.

The remaining one-third of the course covers material related to Statistics and Mechanics. At the end of the two-year course students will sit three externally assessed written examination papers, each lasting for 2 hours.

The key aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- Understand mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence, fosters enjoyment and provides a strong foundation for progress to further study.
- Understand how different areas of mathematics are connected and how to apply mathematics in other fields of study.
- Use their mathematical knowledge to make logical and reasoned decisions in solving challenging problems, and represent situations mathematically, understanding the relationship between problems in context and mathematical models that may be applied to solve them.
- Make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions by using mathematical reasoning, communicating their understanding.
- Use technology such as calculators and computers effectively and recognise when their use may be inappropriate.

The modern world needs mathematicians. Maths and Science are required for the continued development of our increasingly technological lives. The UK's knowledge economy needs more mathematical skills for the financial, communication, transportation sectors and areas like genome modelling etc. Therefore there are a wide range of career options and degrees open to students who have A Level Mathematics, including Software Professionals, Information and Communication Technology Managers, IT Strategy and Planning Professionals, Teachers, Management Consultants, Actuaries, Economists and Statisticians. There are a huge range of degree courses at UK universities for which you would benefit from the study of A Level Mathematics.

## **Music Practitioners Award Level 3 (RSL)**

This is a practical course. A practical background and instrumental/vocal ability is required. A wide range of music related units will be studied including a combination of: live performance, music rehearsal skills, ensemble and solo skills, composing, audition skills, production techniques; planning and delivering a music product; music sequencing; the sound and music industry; live sound techniques, acoustics and music technology in performance.

This course is designed to teach you elements of both the performance/ composition and technical side of music using industry standard software and hardware. You will take part in a number of performances throughout the course. Talks by industry professionals and related visits are components of the course.



## Philosophy and Ethics A Level (Eduqas)

The Philosophy of Religion component covers a range of philosophical and theological issues and provides students with the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and assess a variety of different schools of thought, covering topics such as the existence of God, religious language, religious experience and the problem of evil and suffering. Students are assessed via essay work covering both AO1 knowledge and understanding skills and AO2 development and assessment skills.

The Ethics component involves students considering where morality comes from and how people decide what is a right and wrong action. Students will consider a range of ethical theories such as Natural Law, Utilitarianism and Situation Ethics and apply these to contemporary moral issues such as abortion, euthanasia and nuclear weapons. Ethics involves a good knowledge of current affairs and being able to contribute well to discussion. Students are assessed by essay work which considers both knowledge and evaluation of the different theories we have studied.

The Islam component builds on student knowledge gained at GCSE. It covers themes such as the life of the Prophet Muhammad in detail and looks at key concepts in Islam such as Tawhid, the Day of Judgment and belief in angels. Students will study the significance of the Five Pillars to Muslims and also consider different forms of Islam and the religious practices that shape identity. Students are assessed via essay work looking at both their knowledge of religion and their ability to evaluate information that they have been given.

## Physics A Level (AQA)

Physics has no limits; everything in the universe and beyond is part of the remit. All the gadgets we take for granted, like laptops and mobile phones, would not be here without Physics. The World Wide Web was invented by a physicist. As well as constantly discovering and inventing new things, physicists deal with the big questions, from parallel universes and time travel, to why the smallest bits of cereal are always found at the bottom of the packet. This is a course that will stretch your imagination, as well as test your powers of analysis.

The specification has been developed to ensure that the subject content is relevant to real world experiences and is interesting to teach and learn. It is presented in a straightforward way, giving students the freedom to learn in the way that works for them. Physics is a stepping stone to future study; the specification allows students to develop the skills that universities want to see. The specification will support and inspire students, nurture a passion for Physics and lay the groundwork for further study in science or engineering. Physics is a solid choice for students considering a career in Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Computing, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Environmental Science. Physics will also prepare students for careers in industry, such as those within the engineering or electronics sectors.

## Product Design A Level (AQA)

This course looks at the design and manufacture of products with creativity and originality, covering a variety of practical activities with a product engineering focus. Students will develop designing and making skills looking at a range of materials, design issues, processes and manufacture and use of computers in design. Students have access to one of the best equipped school workshops in the area including a CNC cutter, laser cutter, 3D printers, lathes, sublimation printing etc as well as many machines and hand tools.

Year 12 - Students develop a range of products across 1 year in the form of a portfolio of design sheets and products. Students should be able to design creatively, with skills such as drawing, rendering, 3D computer modelling and using technologies such as 3D printing will be taught early on. This allows the students to develop their skills through a variety of different projects, which is assessed internally. There is an internal examination component too based on Paper 1 which assesses core technical, design and making principles.

Year 13 - Using the skills learnt in Year 12, students have the opportunity to design anything, so long as it satisfies a chosen need or problem. Projects could include furniture or design for a vulnerable group or sustainable design. Students are taught how to use a wide range of tools and equipment in our very well equipped design rooms. A portfolio of work is developed alongside a product. Paper 1 is assessed in Year 13, as well as Paper 2 which assesses specialist knowledge of technical design and making principles.

Assessment Examination: Theory based Paper 1 (25%) Examination: Theory based Paper 2 (25%) Year 13 Coursework: Major Project (50%)

Students can use the A level to go on and study at degree level and future pathways careers such as Architecture, Product Design, Engineering, illustration etc.



## Psychology A Level (AQA)

In year 1, students will study Introductory Topics in Psychology including Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology. In addition, they will study Psychology in Context focusing on Approaches, Biopsychology and Research methods.

In year 2 students will study Issues and Options, focusing on major debates within the discipline and exploring the options of Relationships, Schizophrenia and Aggression. Students will also build on their year 1 study of Psychology in Context considering further Approaches, Biopsychology and Advanced research and statistical skills. Across all topics, students will demonstrate skills of knowledge and understanding, the ability to evaluate theoretical concepts and research studies, and to apply their learning to novel contexts.

Psychology is a recognised scientific discipline. It is a valuable qualification for any career progression involving working with people. A Level Psychology is welcomed for example, for the study of Medicine, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy, and Teaching. Studying Psychology to graduate level affords the opportunity to specialise in areas such as Clinical Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Sports Psychology, Educational Psychology and many more fields of expertise.

## Sociology A Level (AQA)

In year 1 students will study education with methods in context, considering the role of education in society. Students will be required to apply sociological research methods to the study of education. Students will also complete the unit on Research Methods and Families and Households, studying different methods of collecting primary and secondary data and the relationship with sociological theory, as well as the role and function of the family in society.

In year 2 students will study Beliefs in Society, focusing on theories of religion and science, the relationship between religion and social change, patterns and trends in religious participation and the significance of globalisation on religion. Students will also be asked to study in greater depth and complexity the scientific nature of sociology, issues of subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom, structural and social action theories, concepts of modernity and post-modernity, and the relationship between sociology and social policy.

In work on crime and deviance with theory and methods students will study different theories of crime and deviance, the social distribution of crime and victimisation, global, environmental and state crime, the effectiveness of crime prevention and punishment and the role of the criminal justice system. Students can go on to study a wide variety of academic and vocational courses in Higher Education with this qualification, and/or go into a wide variety of careers in which communication, evaluation and research skills are important.

## **Spanish A Level (AQA)**

Advanced level Spanish is designed to build on the skills developed at GCSE. Students cover four topic areas through the skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking with a focus on authentic materials from the target language country. Students will be expected to complete translation exercises as part of the course.

In the first year aspects of social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of Spanish speaking countries. This is done using authentic resources and teaching in the target language with exploration of key grammatical structures as well as specialist vocabulary. In the second year further aspects of the social background are studied, this time focusing on matters associated with multiculturalism and the political landscape of Spain and young people's involvement in politics. Assessment in the subject is through reading, listening, writing and speaking examinations.

For A Level, students will conduct an individual research project, which will relate to a country or countries where Spanish is spoken. This will be presented and discussed during the speaking examination. This course will provide a foundation that will enable students to progress to higher education study in Spanish or Spanish Studies. In addition, the variety of analytical, communication and research skills that are developed throughout the course are valuable for a variety of non-linguistic higher education courses. Job opportunities exist in the tourism industry as well as bilingual sales and within the education sector.

## **Sport and Physical Activity Level 3 Cambridge Technical Certificate/Extended Certificate (OCR)**

Learners will study five units made up of mandatory and optional units. Mandatory units: Body systems and the effects of physical activity (examination), Sports coaching and activity leadership (Course work) and Sports organisation and development (examination).

Optional units: Sports injuries and rehabilitation, and Sport and exercise psychology.

The OCR Cambridge Technical qualification is a great choice for people who want to continue into academic and vocational courses in HE, and/ or go into a wide variety of careers in Sport, Teaching, Coaching, Health and Fitness, Performance, Public Services and Armed Forces. The course develops key leadership, organisation and communication skills.

**For further detailed information on all courses, please speak to the relevant subject staff or check the specification at the relevant exam board website.**





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