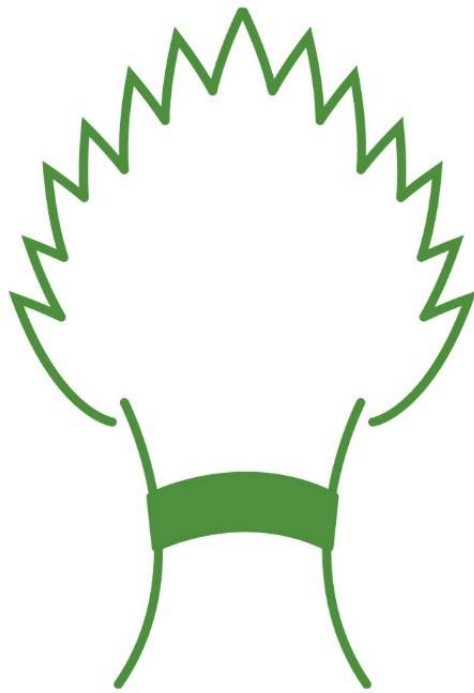


SANDBACH SCHOOL SIXTH FORM



2019 ENTRY

COURSE DETAILS

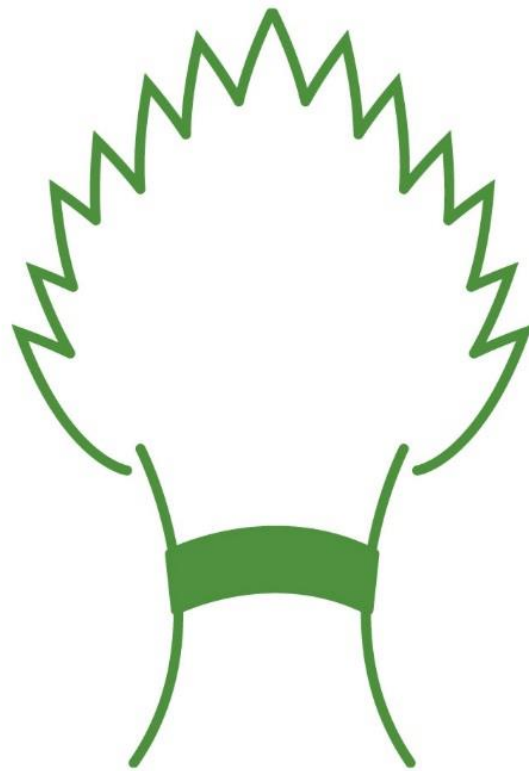
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR A LEVEL COURSES

For A level study the basic aspirational entry requirement is five GCSEs, grade 5 (grade C) or above.

The table below indicates if a GCSE in the subject to be taken at A level is desirable. The final column details the specific grade expected and further information.

Subject	Prior GCSE	Specific Subject GCSE Grades Expected/Additional Skills
Art Craft & Design/Graphics	✓	5 in Art or Art Graphics if taken otherwise evidence of good work ethic and practical skill.
Biology	✓	6 in Additional Science or 6 in Biology in Triple Science. Also 6 in Maths (higher tier).
Business	✗	C in Business Studies if taken, but not necessary, 5 in English Language and Maths.
Chemistry	✓	6 in Additional Science or 6 in Chemistry in Triple Science. Also 6 in Maths (higher tier).
Computer Science	✓	6 in GCSE Computer Science. Other candidates may be considered, this should be discussed with the subject teacher.
Design Technology	✓	C in Design (not food), evidence of good work ethic/design skills.
Drama & Theatre	✓	5 in English or History.
Economics	✗	6 in English and Maths.
English Language	✓	6 in English Language.
English Literature	✓	6 in English Language or Literature.
French	✓	7 in French.
Further Maths	✓	7 preferably 8 in Maths.
Geography	✓	6 in Geography and Maths.
German	✓	7 in German.
History	✓	5 in History if taken, otherwise 5 in English or another humanities subject. Evidence of a good reading, comprehension and writing skills
Law	✗	6 in English.
Maths	✓	7, 6 if completed bridging course to cover the grade 7-9 aspects of GCSE.
Media Studies	✗	5 in English Language. 5 in Literature would be considered with a 4 in Language.
Music	✗	Either Music grade 5 or significant extra curriculum/out of school music.
Philosophy & Ethics	✓	5 in any humanities subject.
Physical Education	✓	5 in GCSE written paper, serious commitment to one extra-curricular activity listed by examination board.
Physics	✓	6 in Additional Science or 6 in Physics in Triple Science. Also 6 Maths (higher tier)
Politics	✗	5 in English, evidence of good reading, comprehension and writing skills. Plus a keen interest in current affairs.
Psychology	✗	6 in Maths, English and Science. Must have a willingness to read and be inquisitive.
Sociology	✗	6 in English.

A LEVEL COURSES



Art Craft & Design - Eduqas (WJEC)

Course Content

The AS represents a stand-alone qualification within a two year A level qualification. It consists of one unit:

- **Unit 1:** Personal Creative Enquiry (100% of AS), internally assessed, externally moderated.

In the initial stage of Unit 1, learners will have the opportunity to explore and cultivate fundamental skills, knowledge and understanding through a variety of experiences. These may include guided use of sources to gather visually rich research. The learning programme will also provide opportunities for experimentation using a wide range of materials and processes, collaboration, creative decision-making and innovation, as well as activities to help learners develop analytical skills, from which personally significant creative enquiries can be generated as the course progresses.

The A Level consists of two additional units:

- **Unit 2:** Personal Investigation (60% of A level), internally assessed, externally moderated.

The development of a broad skills base through an exciting unit based on visits to urban environments where students may use galleries, museums and other sites and experiences to inform their work. Emphasis is placed upon students working independently with a focus on showing an awareness of the work of others through critical analysis.

- **Unit 3:** Externally Set Assignment (40% of A level), internally assessed, externally moderated.

Lesson Structure

Lessons can be delivered in a variety of ways - students are encouraged to take responsibility for their progress and are supported through whole class sessions, one-to-one tutorials and target setting exercises.

Assessment Pattern

Assessment takes place formatively throughout the course. Learning is supported through the use of detailed briefs and starting points which allow for differentiated learning outcomes. Tutorials are key to assessing current student progress and identifying how to progress further. The units are formally assessed internally at the end of the year and marks submitted to the exam board. The work is then moderated by an exam board representative

Extra Information

Students have opportunities to work with artists in residence as part of the development of their skills and understanding and developing their awareness of the work of others. They will also have a series of work-related learning presentations to develop personal portfolios and their understanding of the creative industries

Art & Design: Graphic Communication - Eduqas (WJEC)

Course Content

The AS represents a stand-alone qualification within a two year A level qualification. It consists of one unit:

- **Unit 1:** Personal Creative Enquiry (100% of AS), internally assessed, externally moderated.

In the initial stage of Unit 1, learners will have the opportunity to explore and cultivate fundamental skills, knowledge and understanding through a variety of experiences. These may include guided use of sources to gather visually rich research. The learning programme will also provide opportunities for experimentation using a wide range of materials and processes, collaboration, creative decision-making and innovation, as well as activities to help learners develop analytical skills, from which personally significant creative enquiries can be generated as the course progresses.

The A level consists of two additional units:

- **Unit 2:** Personal Investigation (60% of A level), internally assessed, externally moderated.

The development of a broad skills base through an exciting unit based on visits to urban environments where students may use galleries, museums and other sites and experiences to inform their work. Emphasis is placed upon students working independently with a focus on showing an awareness of the work of others through critical analysis.

- **Unit 3:** Externally Set Assignment (40% of A level), internally assessed, externally moderated.

Lesson Structure

Lessons can be delivered in a variety of ways - students are encouraged to take responsibility for their progress and are supported through whole class sessions, one-to-one tutorials and target setting exercises.

Assessment Pattern

Assessment takes place formatively throughout the course. Learning is supported through the use of detailed design briefs which allow for differentiated learning outcomes. Tutorials are key to assessing current student progress and identifying how to progress further. The units are formally assessed internally at the end of the year and marks submitted to the exam board. The work is then moderated by an exam board representative.

Extra Information

Students have opportunities to work with a designer in residence as part of the development of their skills and understanding and developing their awareness of digital medias and graphic design. Visits are used to investigate and explore themes, ideas and the work of others. Students have access to good quality resources including computers with specialist software on a lesson-by-lesson basis. They will also have a series of work-related learning presentations to develop personal portfolios and their understanding of the creative industries.

Biology - AQA

Course Content

Year 1

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Plus relevant practical skills

Year 2

5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

Plus relevant practical skills

Lesson Structure

Formal teaching, small group work, practical work, problem solving tasks, research.

Assessment Pattern

A level Examinations

June of second academic year, three exams, each 2 hours in length.

Paper 1

Content: Section 1 - 4 plus practical skills, 91 marks, 35% of A level

Paper 2

Content: Section 5 - 8 plus practical skills, 91 marks, 35% of A level

Paper 3

Content: Section 1 - 8 plus practical skills, 78 marks, 30% of A level

AS Examinations

If students choose this pathway examinations are sat in June of the first academic year. This include two 1hour 30 minute exams.

Paper 1

Content: Section 1 - 4 plus practical skills, 75 marks, 50% of AS Level

65 marks: short answer questions plus 10 marks: comprehension question

Paper 2

Content: Section 1 - 4 plus practical skills, 75 marks, 50 % of AS Level

65 marks: short answer questions plus 10 marks: extended response questions

Extra Information

Candidates should come from a Double Science background, preferably with a minimum grade 6 in Core Science and Additional Science, or in Biology. An inquisitive mind, a good understanding of Mathematics at GCSE and a keen interest in Biology are also useful prerequisites. The Biology Course is an excellent complement to Physics and/or chemistry. It may also prove useful to those studying Geography with an interest in Ecology or PE and Physiology. It offers a gateway to many careers in Science and Medicine.

Business - Edexcel

Course Content

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business is structured into four themes and consists of three externally examined papers. Students are introduced to business in Themes 1 and 2 through building knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work. Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, with applications to a wider range of contexts and more complex business information, are developed in Themes 3 and 4, requiring students to take a more strategic view of business opportunities and issues.

Theme 1: Marketing and People

Students will develop an understanding of:

- meeting customer needs
- the market
- marketing mix and strategy
- managing people
- entrepreneurs and leaders

Theme 2: Managing Business Activities

Students will develop an understanding of:

- raising finance
- financial planning
- managing finance
- resource management
- external influences

Theme 3: Business Decisions and Strategy

This theme develops the concepts introduced in Theme 2. Students will develop an understanding of:

- business objectives and strategy
- business growth
- decision-making techniques
- influences on business decisions
- assessing competitiveness
- managing change

Theme 4: Global Business

This theme develops the concepts introduced in Theme 1. Students will develop an understanding of:

- globalisation
- global markets and business expansion
- global marketing
- global industries and companies (multinational companies)

Lesson Structure

Students are encouraged to use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of business, understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives and challenge assumptions.

Assessment Pattern

A level Examinations

June of second academic year, three exams, each 2 hours in length.

Paper 1

Content: Themes 1 and 4, 100 marks, 35% of A level

Paper 2

Content: Themes 2 and 3, 100 marks, 35% of A level

Paper 3

Content: Themes 1-4 based on a pre-released context, 100 marks, 30% of A level

Extra Information

GCE Business leads into many different pathways, from apprenticeships with multi-national corporations to degree courses in Business Management, Accountancy, Economics, etc.

Chemistry - AQA

Course Content

Physical Chemistry

Atomic structure, Amount of substance, Bonding, Energetics, Kinetics, Chemical equilibria, Le Chatelier's principle and K_c , Oxidation, reduction and redox equations, Thermodynamics (A level only), Rate equations (A level only), Equilibrium constant K_p for homogeneous systems (A level only), Electrode potentials and electrochemical cells (A level only), Acids and bases (A level only).

Inorganic Chemistry

Periodicity, Group 2 - the alkaline earth metals, Group 7(17) - the halogens, Properties of Period 3, (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).

Lesson Structure

Formal teaching, small group work, practical work, problem solving tasks, research.

Assessment Pattern

Year 1

Paper 1 (50% of the AS): Relevant physical chemistry and inorganic chemistry topic.

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (65 marks of short and long answer questions/15 marks of multiple choice questions)

Paper 2 (50% of the AS): Relevant physical chemistry and organic chemistry topics.

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (65 marks of short and long answer questions/15 marks of multiple choice questions)

Year 2

Paper 1 (35% of A level): Relevant physical chemistry and inorganic chemistry topics.

Written exam: 2 hours (105 marks of short and long answer questions)

Paper 2 (35% of A level): Relevant physical chemistry and organic chemistry topics.

Written exam: 2 hours (105 marks of short and long answer questions)

Paper 3 (30% of A level): Any content

Written exam: 2 hours (40 marks of questions on practical techniques and data analysis, 20 marks of questions testing across the specification and 30 marks of multiple choice questions)

Extra Information

Candidates should come from a Double or Triple Science background, preferably with a minimum grades of 6 in Core and Additional Science, or Chemistry. An inquisitive mind, a good understanding of Mathematics at GCSE and a keen interest in Chemistry are also useful prerequisites. The Chemistry Course is an excellent complement to Physics and/or Biology and is an essential component for those students intent on a medical career.

Computer Science - OCR

Course Content

Component 1 - Computer Systems

The characteristics of contemporary computer systems, programming techniques, number representation and a range of other computer science theory topics.

Component 2 - Algorithms and Programming

Elements of computational thinking, algorithms, problem solving and programming.

Component 3 - Programming Project

An engaging, extended practical project where learners are expected to develop a programmed solution to solve a real world problem.

Lesson Structure

Your time will be equally split between theory and practical.

Theory lessons will involve a variety of activities from independent research through to creating problem solving scripts. Practical activities will be mostly programming oriented in a range of languages.

Assessment Pattern

Component 1

Written Paper: 2 hours 30 minutes

Weighting: 40% of total A level marks

Component 2

Written Paper: 2 hours 30 minutes

Weighting: 40% of total A level marks

Component 3

Non Exam Assessment - internally Marked and externally moderated. Weighting 20% of total A level marks

Extra Information

This GCE specification encourages candidates to gain an understanding of systematic methods – such as the use of algorithms and test strategies, the maintenance of computer systems, and the skills associated with documenting solutions – and encourages candidates to further develop skills associated with applying this knowledge and understanding to producing computer-based solutions to real problems.

Design Technology - Product Design - AQA

Course Content

Designing and making tasks, improving key skills and building on skills learnt at GCSE. There is a 10% weighting on Maths and Science on this course, so lessons will be dedicated to this.

In Year 12 pupils will study a range of min projects which focus on one of the key areas. Dedicated theory lessons will complement the projects and specialist exam revision and study skills lessons are delivered to help pupils with exam technique.

Lesson Structure

Formal teaching, small group work, practical work, problem solving tasks, research, designing, making and theory lesson.

Assessment Pattern

Examinations

Paper 1 - Technical Principles

Written exam, 2.5 hours, 30% of A level, 120 marks

Mixture of short answers and extended responses

Paper 2 - Designing and Making Principles

Written exam 1.5 hours, 20% of A level, 80 marks

Mixture of short answer and extended response questions

Section A - Product Analysis

30 marks, up to 6 short answers based on visual stimulus of product(s)

Section B - Commercial Manufacture

50 marks, mixture of short and extended style questions

Non-exam Element (Coursework)

Practical Application of technical principles, design and making principles and specialist knowledge. How is it assessed?

Substantial design and make task. 100 marks, 50% of A level

Evidence

Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype.

Extra Information

Students will need to be creative, open-minded with good observational and analytical skills and show dexterity and an enjoyment of working with materials.

This is a very demanding course and with this qualification you can go on to Higher Education leading to a wide choice of careers e.g. Engineering, Design, Manufacturing, Teaching, Architecture, Construction, etc.

Drama and Theatre - Eduqas (WJEC)

Course Content

Drama and Theatre Studies is a combination of practical, practitioner influenced workshops and written analysis and reflection. Workshops will be challenging, fast paced and engaging and require students to research performance genres, director influence on contemporary theatre and the history of theatre. The course covers performance, technical and directing skills and also requires the study of politics, history and literature to support the development of a broad understanding of theatre.

Lesson Structure

Lessons will be a combination of theory and practise. Practical workshops are supported by written research and reflection to link with the assessment structure which is a combination of practical and written exams.

Assessment Pattern

The course will be examined through a combination of 40% written exam and 60% practical reflection using the following criteria:

Component 1: Theatre Workshop

Non-exam Assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated, 20% of qualification.

Learners are assessed on either acting or design.

Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text chosen from a list supplied by WJEC. The piece must be developed using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. Learners must produce: a realisation of the performance or design and a creative log.

Component 2: Text in Action

Non-exam Assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner, 40% of qualification.

Learners are assessed on either acting or design. Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus supplied by WJEC:

1. A devised piece using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company (a different practitioner or company to that chosen for Component 1)
2. An extract from a text in a different style chosen by the learner. Learners must realise their performance live for the visiting examiner. Learners choosing design must also give a 5-10 minute presentation of their design to the examiner. Learners produce a process and evaluation report within one week of completion of the practical work.

Component 3: Text in Performance

Written Examination: 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of qualification.

Learners study three play scripts in the context of practical performance: **Hedda Gabler** by Henrik Ibsen, **Saved** by Edward Bond and **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time** by Mark Haddon. The exam features questions on design, rehearsal, acting and the influence of contemporary theatre practise.

Economics - AQA

A level Economics will give you an excellent understanding of how economies allocate their scarce resources to meet the needs and wants of their citizens. You will develop a greater understanding of the economic problems which face individuals, firms and governments on a local, national and global level and the alternative ways these problems can be resolved.

Course Content

You will investigate microeconomic topics such as how individual decisions impact economic outcomes, the importance of competition, how markets operate and why they fail and how the distribution of income and wealth is affected. At the same time you will learn about macroeconomics, looking at the 'big picture' of how our national economy fits into the global context, the global impact of financial markets and monetary policy and the operation of the international economy.

Year 1

Component 1: Operation of markets and market failure (Microeconomics)

This area of study covers topics like the economic problem and economic methodology; price determination in a competitive market; production, costs and revenue; competitive and concentrated markets; and the market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets.

Component 2: The national economy in a global context (Macroeconomics)

This area of study covers topics like measurement of macroeconomic performance; how the macro economy works: the circular flow of income, aggregate demand/aggregate supply analysis and related concepts; and economic performance and macroeconomic policy.

Year 2

Component 1: Individuals, firms, markets and market failure (Micro)

This area of study covers topics like individual economic decision making; production, costs and revenue; perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly; the labour market; the distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality; and the market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets.

Component 2: The national and international economy (Macro)

This area of study covers topics like the measurement of macroeconomic performance; how the macroeconomy works: the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis and related concepts; economic performance; financial markets and monetary policy; fiscal policy and supply-side policies; and the international economy.

Component 3: Economic principles and issues

An investigation into how micro and macroeconomics can be applied to contemporary national and global economic issues.

Lesson Structure

Lessons will follow a varied pattern of seminar style and group based sessions aimed at ensuring all students can take an active part in the learning experience.

Assessment Pattern

Year 1, each of the two components are assessed equally with two 90 minute exams.

Year 2, each of the three components are assessed with three equally weighted 2 hour exams.

Component 1: 33.3%

Component 2: 33.3%

Component 3: 33.3%

English Language - AQA

Lesson Structure

Group work - discussion
Presentation
Research
Writing workshops
Formal teaching
University visits/lectures
Seminars

Assessment Pattern

Year 1

Paper 1 - Language and the Individual

- Analysis of two texts on a common theme, focusing on meanings, representations and contexts.

Paper 2 - Language Varieties

- A discursive essay about language diversity (gender, occupation, dialect)
- A directed writing task about attitudes to language.

Year 2

Paper 1 - Language, the Individual and Society (40%)

- Analysis of two texts on a common theme (one is an older text) using the concepts for language analysis.
- Discursive essay on children's language development.

Paper 2 - Language Diversity and Change (40%)

- An evaluative essay on diversity or change. This explores debates about social attitudes to language and includes topics such as gender and dialect.
- An analysis of how two texts use language to present ideas, attitudes and opinions.
- A directed writing task.

Coursework - Language in Action (20%)

- A language investigation exploring and analysing language data independently.
- A piece of original writing and commentary.

Extra Information

This course offers clear skills progression from GCSE with exciting text and data-based sources of language in its various forms and contexts. The variety of assessment styles used, such as data analysis, discursive essays, original writing and research-based investigative writing, allows students to develop a range of skills. These include critical reading, data analysis, evaluation, the ability to develop and sustain arguments and a number of different writing skills which are invaluable for both further study and future employment. Career opportunities: Print journalism, public relations, teaching, the media (TV & radio), the civil service and publishing.

English Literature - Edexcel

Course Content

Component 1: Drama

“Hamlet” by William Shakespeare and “A Street Car Named Desire” by Tennessee Williams.

Component 2: Prose

Two texts studied on the theme of “Colonisation”: “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” by Mark Twain and “The Lonely Londoners” by Sam Selvon”.

Component 3: Poetry

Studies will be based around a collection of modern poetry (post 2000) and romantic poetry.

Component 4: Coursework

Free study of texts.

A unit of work on Gothic fiction will be studied to support this. Texts read will include “The Wasp Factory” by Iain Banks and “Frankenstein” by Mary Shelley.

Lesson Structure

Group work - discussion

Presentation

Formal teaching

Student teaching

Theatre visits

Assessment Pattern

All assessments will be completed in the summer of Year 13.

Component 1 - written 2 hour examination (open book)

Component 2 - written 1 hour examination (open book)

Component 3 - written 2 hour examination (open book)

Component 4 - coursework assignment of 2500 - 3000 words

Extra Information

The course will stimulate your enthusiasm for the study and enjoyment of literature whilst developing your skills of critical reading, writing and communication. Career opportunities: Law, teaching, management, journalism and media. English Literature is a facilitating subject for the Russell Group universities.

French - AQA

Course Content

1. Social issues and trends
2. Political and artistic culture
3. Grammar Options
4. Works: Literary texts and films

Lesson Structure

Teaching in small groups, normally with two different teachers.
Regular contact with Foreign Language Assistant for extended speaking practice.
Opportunities to travel to France.

Assessment Pattern

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

2 hours 30 minutes • 100 marks • 50% of A level

- Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources. All questions are in French, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French (30 marks).
- Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes. All questions are in French, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French (50 marks).
- Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).
- Translation into French; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).

Paper 2: Writing

2 hours • 80 marks in total • 20% of A level

- Either one question in French on a set text from a choice of two questions and one question in French on a set film from a choice of two questions or two questions in French on set texts from a choice of two questions on each text. Students are advised to write approximately 300 words per essay.

Paper 3 Speaking

21-23 minutes including 5 minutes preparation time • 60 marks in total • 30% of A level Questions

- Individual research project. One of four themes. Aspects of French speaking society: current trends, Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues, Artistic culture in the French-speaking world, Aspects of political life in the French speaking world.
- Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).
- Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).

Extra Information

Language learning is about communication and students will participate in group discussions, make presentations and will have opportunities to develop I.T. skills. The study of a major European language complements any other subject.

Further Maths - EDEXCEL

Course Content

If you choose Further Maths you will be studying for two A levels in Maths. This could mean that you spend two thirds of your time at school doing Maths. You have to really enjoy the subject. It is highly recommended if you are considering studying a degree in Maths, Physics, Engineering or Economics at one of the best universities.

The A level is made up of both Pure and Applied Maths. These extend the skills from A level maths and introduce decision mathematics (which includes networks, algorithms and sorting).

Lesson Structure

As with A level maths, lessons will be delivered in a variety of ways, however more emphasis will be placed on learning independently and it is likely that the class size will be smaller. Students will have an additional two teachers for their Further Maths course.

Assessment Pattern

The assessment is 100% exam based. Four 1 hour 30 minutes, equally-weighted, externally assessed written exams are taken in June at the end of the course. Two are Pure Mathematics, Further Statistics 1 and Further Decision 1 are the Applied Maths examinations.

Extra Information

Further Maths is a challenging qualification, which both extends and deepens students' knowledge and understanding beyond the standard A level Mathematics.

Any student planning to take a mathematics-rich degree, (such as Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Finance/Economics, etc., as well as Mathematics itself) will benefit enormously from taking Further Mathematics. You will study more maths that's relevant to your university course, which will help you to hit the ground running. Some prestigious university degree courses now require a Further Maths qualification, and many university courses prefer students who have studied Further Maths to at least AS level. This has resulted in more and more students studying Further Maths over the last few years.

Geography - Edexcel

Geography is a dynamic subject and is at the forefront of understanding many of the world's current events. It enables students to make sense of the world around them, as well as the forces that shape it. It is unique in bridging the social sciences with the natural sciences and allows students to investigate the links between people and their environment on both a local and global scale. Geography encompasses the natural processes that shape the world, the cultural diversity of its inhabitants, and issues of environment, development and globalisation.

Course Content

Component 1 - Dynamic Landscapes and Physical Systems and Sustainability

In Year 1 you will study Tectonic Processes & Hazards and Coastal Systems, Processes & Change. In Year 2 you will study The Water Cycle & Insecurity and The Carbon Cycle & Energy Security.

Component 2 - Dynamic Places and Human Systems and Geopolitics

In Year 1 you will study Globalisation and Shaping Places. In Year 2 you will study Superpowers and Global Development & Connections.

Component 3 - Synoptic Investigation of a Contemporary Geographical Issue

Based on a geographical issue within a place based context that links to the three synoptic themes and is rooted in two or more of the compulsory content areas.

Component 4 - Independent Investigation (coursework)

A student-defined question or issue, relating to the compulsory content. The investigation will incorporate fieldwork data and own research and/or secondary data.

Lesson Structure

Geography is taught by a friendly, well-qualified and experienced teaching team. We offer regular 1:1 and small group support, with a focus on exam technique to help ensure that all students achieve to their full potential. Students will have the opportunity to take part in fieldtrips, both locally and globally. Students will also gain practical experience and develop key skills which enhance their employability such as numeracy, literacy, environmental awareness and problem solving.

Assessment Pattern

Unit 1 - 2 hour 15 minutes written paper – 30% of A level

Unit 2 - 2 hour 15 minutes written paper – 30% of A level

Unit 3 - 2 hour 15 minutes written paper – 20% of A level

Unit 4 - 3000-4000 word Investigation (Non Examination Assessment) - 20% of A level

Extra Information

Geography students tend to be good team workers, have the ability to think analytically and critically, and are highly computer literate. Ultimately, geography students will develop a global mind-set – they will understand different cultures and how industries work across borders. This global awareness will help students to succeed in an increasingly global world and is a very desirable characteristic according to top employers.

Geography is highly valued by Universities as an A level choice. The Russell Group report published names Geography as a key facilitating subject therefore will keep more options open to you at University. Geographers are employed in a wide range of sectors, including the public sector, education, commerce, industry, transport and tourism. It is a myth that geographers can only do certain types of jobs. Employers include: Meteorologist; geologist; mineral surveyor; oceanographer; Ordnance Survey; environmental consultant; ranger; forestry; National Trust; charity worker; urban development; local council; radio and television broadcaster; reporter; aviation & air traffic control; Police Service; Ministry of Defence; Royal Navy; RAF; airplane pilot; lawyer; politician; investment banker; estate agent.

German - AQA

Course Content

1. Social issues and trends
2. Political and artistic culture
3. Grammar Options
4. Works: Literary texts and films

Lesson Structure

Teaching in small groups, normally with two different teachers.
Regular contact with Foreign Language Assistant for extended speaking practice.
Opportunities to travel to Germany.

Assessment Pattern

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

2 hours 30 minutes • 100 marks • 50% of A level

- Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources. All questions are in German, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in German (30 marks)
- Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, All questions are in German, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in German (50 marks)
- Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks)
- Translation into German; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks)

Paper 2: Writing

2 hours • 80 marks in total • 20% of A level

- Either one question in German on a set text from a choice of two questions and one question in French on a set film from a choice of two questions or two questions in German on set texts from a choice of two questions on each text. Students are advised to write approximately 300 words per essay.

Paper 3 Speaking

21-23 minutes including 5 minutes preparation time • 60 marks in total • 30% of A level Questions

- Individual research project. One of four themes. Aspects of German speaking society: current trends, Aspects of German-speaking society: current issues, Artistic culture in the German-speaking world, Aspects of political life in the German speaking world
- Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks)
- Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks)

Extra Information

Language learning is about communication and students will participate in group discussions, make presentations and will have opportunities to develop I.T. skills. The study of a major European language complements any other subject.

History - OCR

Course Content

History is an exciting and insightful discipline and taught at Sandbach School to inspire a student's curiosity of the past. We look for student's to engage with our independent learning ethos. Studying history will create a depth understanding of the value and significance of events in the past and gain a deeper understanding of social, religious, economic and cultural issues.

Examinations will follow the linear model and there will be a coursework element that will count to 20% of your final A level. If you would like further clarification or input please speak to a history teacher.

Topics studied:

Year 1

The Early Stuarts, Origins of the Civil War and the execution of Charles I 1603–1660 (50% of AS; 25% of A level)

The American Revolution 1740-1796 (50% of AS; 15% of A level)

Year 2

China and its Rulers 1839-1989 (40%)

Topic Based Essay - The Crusades (20%)

Assessment Pattern

Unit 1 - Source analysis; Essay question

Unit 2 - Comparing factors and making a judgement; essay question

Unit 3 - Historical interpretations question; thematic essay

Unit 4 - Topic based essay - an extended essay of 3000 – 4000 words, arising from independent study and research

Lesson Structure

Formal teaching and teacher led discussion

Individual research

Group research

Presentations

Individual tutoring, developing students' own strengths

Lessons will often be student based and geared to supplement and consolidate research tasks. Extensive use is also made of specialist conferences addressed by leading university lecturers.

Extra Information

History combines admirably with almost any other subject, giving academic rigour and credibility to your course, and the opportunity to develop Key Skills, especially communication, working with others and independent research.

A History degree is always in demand from employers, in areas such as the law, journalism and management. History is classified as a 'facilitating subject' by the Russell Group and therefore leaves open a wide range of courses to you for study at university.

Law - AQA

Course Content

This course allows students to develop their knowledge and understanding of the law in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It develops an understanding of legal methods, the ability to communicate legal arguments and conclusions as well as the ability to think logically and analyse and solve problems through the application of legal rules.

The course has been designed to cover topics such as procedures in the criminal courts, the magistrates and jury system, the offences of murder, manslaughter and GBH and concepts such as justice and morality.

Lesson Structure

Lessons are structured to develop your problem solving, logical analysis, essay writing and independent learning skills through the use of e-learning, group work on problem solving exercises, case studies, research activities, role-play activities, discussions and debate. Students will be expected to keep an up to date folder and also an Independent learning log.

Course Content & Assessment Pattern

Paper 1

Criminal Law and the English Legal System
(For example the roll of the jury and the magistrates)

Paper 2

Tort and The English Legal System
(For example the process of suing someone for personal injury)

Paper 3

Human Rights and The English Legal System
(Understanding the rights people have such as the right to a fair trial)

Extra Information

The course is entirely exam based and includes visiting speakers such as University Law students and magistrates as well as visits to local Crown and Magistrates' Courts.

Whether you want a career in the law or in other areas like education, human resources, finance or business, A level Law can open doors for you. Lots of GCE Law students also study Business Studies, Sociology, Psychology, Government & Politics, History, English, Critical Thinking and Philosophy. A level Law can be a great asset if you wish to study Law at University. A minimum grade of a 6 at GCSE in English is essential due to the highly analytical nature of the subject.

Mathematics - EDEXCEL

Course Content

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 Maths make sure the qualification is widely respected even in non-mathematical arenas. The A level is made up of both Pure and Applied Mathematics. The Pure Maths makes up two-thirds of the qualification and provide the techniques in Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry and Calculus that form the fundamental building blocks of the subject. Mathematical applications make up the remaining third of the qualification and students will study Mechanics (forces, energy and motion) and Statistics (probability, data handling and testing hypotheses) in both AS and A2

Lesson Structure

Lessons will be delivered in a variety of ways - students are encouraged to take responsibility for their progress and are taught through some whole class teaching, one-to-one explanations, small group work and investigative exercises.

The Mathematics Department is well resourced with knowledgeable, qualified and experienced staff. Students will have two teachers for their Mathematics course and this allows for both the Applied and Pure areas to be taught in parallel.

Outside of lessons the department provides extra support for students including access to MyMaths online to support their learning at home in addition to all students being invited to attend Maths Clinic each week after school; a drop-in session run by A level teachers which is brilliant for helping with home learning.

Assessment Pattern

The assessment is 100% exam based. Three 2 hour, equally-weighted, externally assessed written exams are taken at the end of the two year course. Two are Pure Mathematics and the other is Applied; Statistics and Mechanics.

Extra Information

The study of mathematics can satisfy a wide range of interests and abilities. The strongest reason for studying mathematics to an advanced level is that it is interesting and enjoyable. People like its challenge, its clarity, and the fact that you know when you are right. The solution of a problem has an excitement and a satisfaction. The course emphasises how Mathematics can be applied to find solutions to not only theoretical models but real life problems as well.

According to the Russell Group informed choices guide, Maths is a 'facilitating' subject, which means that it will help you to study many other subjects and pursue lots of different careers. Maths helps supports the study of subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, IT, Economics, Business and Biology which can also help with your Maths revision. But studying Maths alongside an essay subject like English or History can help keep your options open for more jobs and university courses.

Finally, maths A level can lead to just about everything! People with Maths degrees and other qualifications can go into: accounting, medicine, engineering, forensic pathology, finance, business, consultancy, teaching, IT, games development, scientific research, programming, civil service, design, construction and astrophysics to name a few... It's not surprising that Maths is popular A level choice at Sandbach School!

Media Studies - AQA

Course Content

Media One

What's assessed?

Section A will focus on Media Language and Media Representations. Questions in this section will test the following forms: advertising and marketing, music video.

Section B will focus on Media Industries and Media Audiences. Questions in this section can test any two of the following forms: radio, newspapers, film (industries only).

How it's assessed?

- Written exam: 2 hours, 84 marks, 35% of A-level

Questions

- A range of questions relating to an unseen source and Close Study Products.
- Two essay questions (20 marks), one of which is an extended response question.

Media Two

What's assessed?

Questions will focus on the in-depth media forms of television, magazines and online, social and participatory media/video games.

How it's assessed?

- Written exam: 2 hours, 84 marks, 35% of A-level.

Questions

- One medium length unseen analysis question.
- Three essay questions (25 marks), one of which is an extended response question and one of which is a synoptic question.

Non-exam assessment: Creating a cross-media production

What's assessed?

- Application of knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework.
- Ability to create media products.

How it's assessed?

- A choice of one of six annually changing briefs, set by AQA, 60 marks, 30% of A-level, assessed by teachers, moderated by AQA.

Tasks

Students produce:

- a statement of intent.
- a cross-media production made for an intended audience.

Lesson Structure

Students will work in a variety of ways, depending on the task. This will include group work, formal teaching sessions, practical workshops, independent research, investigation, planning and production work.

Extra Information

The course will provide a sound understanding of the Mass Media and its role in society and will develop your skills of critical analysis, and the communication of ideas and concepts. In particular the course offers key practical media production skills by industry experts. Career opportunities: the creative industries, media, radio & television, journalism, film, public relations and advertising.

Music - AQA

Course Content

Component 1 - Appraising Music

- Listening
- Analysis
- Contextual understanding

How is it assessed - Exam paper with listening and written questions using excerpts of music.

Section A: Listening (56 marks)

Section B: Analysis (34 marks)

Section C: Essay (30 marks)

Component 2 – Music Performance

How is it assessed - solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist, or vocalist and/or music production (via technology)

A minimum of **ten minutes** (no more than twelve minutes) of performance is required

Component 3 - Composition

How is it assessed - Composition 1: Composition to a brief (25 marks), Composition 2: Free composition (25 marks)

A minimum of **four and a half minutes** (no more than six minutes) of music is required

Assessment Pattern

Component 1 - Appraising Music

Listening

Analysis

Contextual understanding

How is it assessed - Exam paper with listening and written questions using excerpts of music.

Section A: Listening (56 marks)

Section B: Analysis (34 marks)

Section C: Essay (30 marks)

This component is **40% of A level marks** (120 marks in total)

Component 2 – Music Performance

How is it assessed - solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist, or vocalist and/or music production (via technology).

A minimum of **ten minutes** (no more than twelve minutes) of performance is required

This component is **35% of A level marks**, 50 marks in total, externally assessed

Component 3 - Composition

How is it assessed - Composition 1: Composition to a brief (25 marks), Composition 2: Free composition (25 marks)

A minimum of **four and a half minutes** (no more than six minutes) of music is required

This component is worth **25% of A level marks**, 50 marks in total, externally assessed

Extra Information

This course encourages students to develop particular strengths and interests and extend the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to communicate through music, and provides access to music - related careers.

Philosophy & Ethics - Edexcel

Students will engage with arguments and debates on religious and non-religious views of life, which focus on some key areas of controversy that shape modern views of the world, such as the problem of evil and suffering. Students will study issues and practical problems such as equality, war and peace and sexual ethics. These issues and problems will provide a sufficient balance of breadth and depth for students to acquire the skills they need to address a wide range of contemporary moral dilemmas and to progress to further study.

Course Content

Philosophy of Religion

- Philosophical issues and questions
- Are science and religion compatible?
- Problems of evil and suffering

Religion and Ethics

- Ethical theories i.e. Utilitarianism/Natural Law/Situation Ethics
- Environmental and equality issues
- War & peace and sexual ethics

Study of Religion: New Testament studies

- Context to the New Testament - World of the First century and historical background to Israel, Roman occupation and Jewish rebellion
- Interpretation of the New Testament - the meaning behind the signs and miracles
- Scientific challenges - Resurrection as a fictional event

Lesson Structure

A variety of learning activities are used including teacher led discussions, the use of video and Internet research and essay writing practice. Much responsibility lies with students with a heavy emphasis on discussions, debates and individual presentations.

Assessment Pattern

A two year linear course with written exams that will assess your understanding

Philosophy of Religion

Written examination: 2 hours
33.33% of the qualification
80 marks

Religion and Ethics

Written examination: 2 hours
33.33% of the qualification
80 marks

Study of Religion: New Testament

Written examination: 2 hours
33.33% of the qualification
80 marks

Extra Information

This subject would suit those who would like to fine tune their reasoning skills and develop the ability to form judgements based on clear evaluation of information. Students would develop a range of transferable skills e.g. the ability to put your point of view across clearly. Courses involving the study of philosophy and ethics are highly regarded by universities and are a popular choice for study beyond sixth form, for example when combined with politics and economics (PPE). It is further seen as a useful stepping stone into career paths such as law, politics, journalism etc.

Physical Education - OCR

Why choose Physical Education?

Open up the World of Sport – They encourage students to immerse themselves in the world of sports and PE with the chance to perform or coach a sport (through the non-exam assessment component), and delve into the how and why of physical activity and sport.

An Excellent Platform – Students receive a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of PE, sport and sports science. This complete grounding in the subject provides a fantastic base from which to build when they move on to higher education, employment or further training.

Skills for a Modern World – Students can develop a range of practical skills, including communication using appropriate language, dealing with pressure, split second decision-making, analysing and evaluating performance, and more.

This specification will create confident, independent thinkers and effective decision makers who can operate effectively as individuals or as part of a team – all skills that will enable them to stand out and effectively promote themselves as they progress through life.

Course Content

The content is divided into four components. Each component is further sub divided into topic areas and the detailed content associated with those topics.

Component 1: Physiological Factors Affecting Performance

- 1.1 Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- 1.2 Exercise Physiology
- 1.3 Biomechanics.

Component 2: Psychological Factors Affecting Performance

- 2.1 Skill Acquisition
- 2.2 Sports Psychology

Component 3: Socio-cultural Issues in Physical Activity and Sport

- 3.1 Sport and Society
- 3.2 Contemporary Issues in Physical Activity and Sport

Component 4: Performance in Physical Education (NEA)

- 4.1 Performance or Coaching of an Activity, taken from the approved lists*
- 4.2 The Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI)

Assessment Pattern

Physiological factors affecting performance (01)* 90 marks 2 hour paper 30% of total A level
Psychological factors affecting performance (02)* 60 marks 1 hour paper 20% of total A level
Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport (03)* 60 marks 1 hour paper 20% of total A level
A level Performance in physical education (04)* 60 marks** Non-exam assessment (NEA)

- Performance or Coaching
- Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI) 30% of total A level

* Indicates inclusion of synoptic assessment.

** Examination is weighted up to 90 marks to equal the total marks combined for the two tasks. Learners who are retaking the qualification may carry forward their result for the non-exam assessment component.

Physics - AQA

Course Content

1. Measurements and their Errors
2. Particles and Radiation
3. Waves
4. Mechanics and Materials
5. Electricity
6. Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics
7. Fields and their Consequences
8. Nuclear Physics
9. Engineering Physics

Assessment Pattern

Year 1

Paper 1 (50% of the AS): Topics 1 to 5

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (70 marks of short and long answer questions)

Paper 2 (50% of the AS): Topics 1 to 5

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

Section A: 20 marks of short and long answer questions on practical skills and data analysis

Section B: 20 marks of short and long answer questions from across all areas of AS content

Section C: 30 multiple choice questions)

Year 2

Paper 1 (34% of A level): Sections 1 to 5 and 6.1 (Periodic motion)

Written exam: 2 hours, 85 marks: 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content.

Paper 2 (34% of A level): Sections 6.2 (Thermal Physics), 7 and 8, Assumed knowledge from sections 1 to 6.1)

Written exam: 2 hours, 85 marks: 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content.

Paper 3 (32% of A level): Section A Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis Section B: 9. Engineering Physics

Written exam: 2 hours, 80 marks: 45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis (Section A). 35 marks of short and long answer questions on Astrophysics (Section B).

Politics - Edexcel

Course Content

Our politics course is structured into three parts:

- How people vote and engage in politics, and the ideas of the three main political parties
- The organisations and structures governing the UK; a study of Anarchism and how that relates to UK politics.
- The politics of the USA

Year 1

Paper 1

- Democracy and participation
- UK Elections and Voting
- Political parties
- Voting Behaviour and Media
- The ideas of the three main political parties: Conservatism; Socialism; Liberalism

Paper 2

- The Constitution
- UK Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Parliament
- Relations between Institutions
- Nationalism

Year 2

Paper 3

- Democracy and Participation
- The US Constitution
- The US Presidency
- US Congress
- Federalism
- Comparisons to the UK

Lesson Structure

Lessons will often be student based and geared to supplement and consolidate research tasks. Students will visit Parliament and will be offered a trip to Washington DC. The course also makes use of our thriving links with the local MP and other key local politicians.

Assessment Pattern

Three papers each 2 hour in length (33.3% each of A level)

Extra Information

Politics is a perfect complement to many other subjects. It is extremely stimulating and relevant and you will develop excellent key skills in research and communication. Are you are interested in a career in journalism, the law, government, civil service, industry, army, business, education? In short, this course will be a superb preparation for a wide range of career paths.

Psychology - AQA

This course introduces you to psychology well by studying the work of many famous psychologists in a variety of different subject areas. You will have the opportunity to carry out your own research experiments and you will learn many of the key principles that underpin Psychology. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

Course Content

Introductory Topics in Psychology

Social Influence
Memory
Attachment
Psychopathology

Psychology in Context

Approaches in Psychology
Biopsychology
Research Methods

Issues and Options in Psychology

Issues and Debates in Psychology
Gender
Schizophrenia
Forensic Psychology

Lesson Structure

5 hours per week of taught classroom sessions. Sessions will build upon previous lessons as well as reading that will be set before the lesson allowing for seminar style sessions. Students will be expected to keep an up to date folder and also an Independent learning log.

Assessment Pattern

A two year linear course with written exams that will assess your understanding as follows:

Paper One - 2 hours

Introductory Topics in Psychology

Paper Two - 2 hours

Psychology in Context

Paper Three - 2 hours

Issues and Options in Psychology

Extra Information

Due to the scientific nature of the subject, you will conduct experiments and then carefully analyse the data found. 25% of the course assesses your research based skills and 15% assesses your mathematical skills. The course is assessed purely by written exams which are made up of several essays. For this reason a GCSE grade 6 is essential in English, Mathematics and Science.

Sociology - AQA

Sociology is about the society in which we live, where that has come from and the factors that develop its progression and transformation. There are innumerable influences on how we as individuals develop over the course of our life time ranging from the influence of parents, education, peer group, class, gender, ethnicity etc. and they are unique to us. With each of us being unique it is no wonder that we have different attitudes and perspectives on how our society should be shaped and the direction it takes. The Sociology A level explores in depth the biggest influences on how we as individuals and as a society have developed.

Course Content

Education with Theory and Methods

Education

Methods in Context

Theory and Methods

Topics in Sociology

Family and Households

Media

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Crime and Deviance

Theory and Methods

Lesson Structure

5 hours per week of taught classroom sessions. Sessions will build upon previous lessons as well as reading that will be set before the lesson allowing for seminar style sessions. Students will be expected to keep an up to date folder and also an Independent learning log.

Assessment Pattern

A two year linear course with written exams that will assess your understanding as follows:

Paper One - 2 hours

Education with Theory and Methods

Paper Two - 2 hours

Topics in Sociology

Paper Three - 2 hours

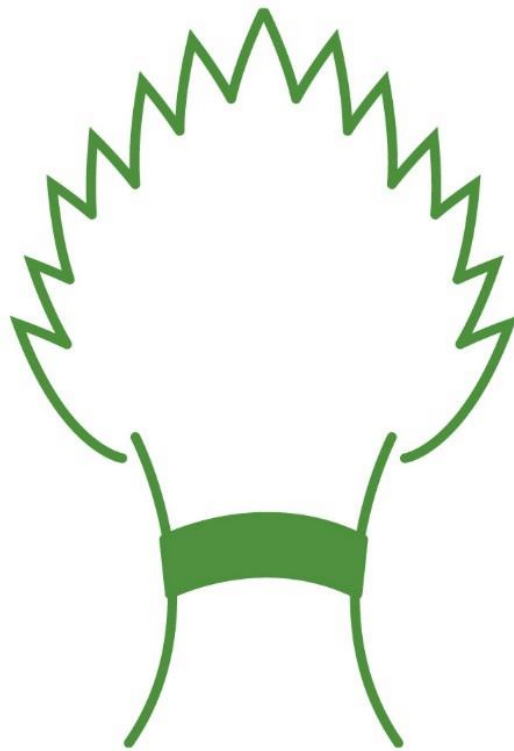
Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

This is a linear qualification. In order to achieve the award, students must complete all exams in May/June in a single year. All assessments must be taken in the same series.

Extra Information

The course is assessed purely by written exams which are made up of several essays. For this reason, a GCSE grade 6 is desirable in English Language whilst a GCSE grade 5 is essential.

LEVEL 3
VOCATIONAL
COURSES



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR VOCATIONAL COURSES

For a level 3 course the basic entry requirement is four GCSEs, grade 4 or above.

The table below indicates if a GCSE in the subject to be taken at Level 3 BTEC is desirable. The final column details the specific grade expected and further information.

Subject	Prior GCSE	Specific Subject GCSE Grades Expected/Additional Skills
National Extended Diploma in Business		Must demonstrate enthusiasm for studying Business and an ability to act as an independent learner.
Technical Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media	✘	5 in Art or Art Graphics, Drama or Music. An interest/competence in using digital media.
National Extended Certificate in Information Technology	✓	Previous study in an information technology subject is an advantage but not essential.
National Extended Diploma in Information Technology	✓	Previous study in an information technology subject is an advantage but not essential.
Subsidiary Diploma in Music Technology	✘	Previous study in a music or music technology subject is an advantage but not essential.
BTEC National in Sport	✘	Previous study of PE/Sport an advantage.
BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport & Exercise Science	✘	Previous study of PE/Sport an advantage.

BTEC National Extended Diploma in Business

Course Content and Assessment Pattern

The course runs over two years and is equivalent to three A levels. Students will have to complete 13 units of varying sizes and will be assessed in a variety of methods and will be provided approximately 1080 guided learning hours (GLH) as well as a significant amount of independent study.

Mandatory Units

Unit Title	Unit Size (GLH)	Assessment
Exploring Business	90	Internal
Developing a Marketing Campaign	90	External – 3 hour supervised assessment. 70 marks
Personal and Business Finance	120	External – 2 hour examination. 100 marks
Managing an Event	90	Internal
International Business	90	Internal
Principle of Management	120	External – 3 hour supervised assessment. 88 marks
Business Decision Making	120	External – 3 hour supervised assessment. 70 marks

Additional units

Unit Title	Unit Size (GLH)	Assessment
Recruitment and Selection Process	60	Internal
Recording Financial Transactions	60	Internal
Final Accounts for PLC's	60	Internal
Investigating Corporate Social Responsibility	60	Internal
Training and Development	60	Internal
Branding	60	Internal

The Extended Diploma is a two year, full-time course that meets entry requirements in its own right for learners who want to progress to higher education courses in business areas before entering employment. It can also support learners who want to progress directly to employment in job roles in business or business management and Higher Apprenticeships in the business sector.

Lesson Structure

Students will be expected to demonstrate a clear commitment to studying business and the ability to work independently in a dedicated manner, on their application form. Once on the course they will be required (in addition to any tasks set in lessons) to undertake a significant amount of independent research to support their studies. This may be internet secondary research or involve visiting businesses and talking to customers and employees as part of primary research.

Extra Information

The teachers in the Business and Economics Department will guide and support you throughout the process in order to ensure you reach your highest potential. We will help you access the Schools resources as well as having extensive use of computer facilities, library and study areas to support your assignments and research.

For further information do not hesitate to contact Mrs Shakesheave, Curriculum leader in Business and Economics.

OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media - 1 A level (60 credits)

Course Content

The two year course provides learners with the opportunity (through applied learning) to develop the core specialist knowledge, skills and understanding required in the digital media sector. Areas studied include TV & film, web, radio, computer games, newspapers and magazines. The qualification is designed to be taken as part of a study programme alongside other vocational qualifications or A Levels, such as English, Art & Design and Performing Arts. Learners will take between five and seven units, three mandatory and between two and four optional units. Learners will study the following mandatory units:

- Media products and audiences
- Pre-production and planning
- Create a media product

These units will give learners an understanding of how different media institutions operate to create products that appeal to specific target audiences. They'll gain knowledge and understanding of the pre-production, planning and production processes and go on to create their own media product(s). Through this learners will also develop transferable skills such as planning, communication, adaptability and leadership.

The optional units provide learners with the opportunity to broaden their knowledge, understanding and skills in areas like scriptwriting and advertising. The optional units are:

- Advertising media
- Plan and deliver a pitch for a media product
- Scripting for media products
- The creation and use of sound in media

Lesson Structure

Lesson time will be split between developing knowledge and understanding of the mandatory units and creating media products in a vocational setting. You will work with subject specialists and have opportunities to develop links with industry and work with creative practitioners. Work related learning and relevant visits / trips will also inform your work.

Assessment Pattern

The course is a combination of externally and internally assessed projects, the former by exams and the latter by the production of coursework. Each unit specifies a number of skills which students must develop, and which can be demonstrated at Pass, Merit or Distinction level. Learning is driven by assignments which allow these skills to be demonstrated. The exams comprise short answer questions and some that require a little more of an extended response. The coursework is assessed internally and a sample is externally moderated.

Extra Information

The Extended Certificate can be studied alongside other A Levels including English and the creative Arts subjects. You will have access to resources and equipment that will enable you to explore new and exciting ways of working and which will enable you to move towards level 4 courses or employment / apprenticeships.

BTEC Extended Certificate in Information Technology

Course Content

Students study the relationship between hardware and software and managing and communicating information and data across three mandatory units:

- Information Technology Systems (the theory of how and why we use IT in our personal and working lives)
- Creating Systems to Manage Information (the use of MS Access to create relational databases)
- Using Social Media in Business (how social media can be used by businesses)

Students select an additional unit of study on either data modelling (using MS Excel to build a solution to a problem) or website development to complete the qualification.

Lesson Structure

Lessons could involve learning and practising new practical skills, assessing how your knowledge can be applied to a scenario, writing a report, discussing real-world examples of how IT is used, researching how IT has been used to solve a particular problem or practising skills needed for the exam.

Assessment Pattern

Year 12:

Creating Systems to Manage Information: 10 hour practical exam over 5 days, usually in May.
Using Social Media in Business: Assignment 1 - autumn term, Assignment 2 - spring term.

Year 13:

Information Technology Systems: 2 hour written exam in January.
Data Modelling or Website Development: both assignments spring term.

Extra Information

Students wishing to take this qualification should have successfully completed a GCSE level course in ICT or Computer Science.

When studied with other level 3 qualifications in complementary or contrasting subjects, such as Mathematics, Physics, Science, Arts, Business or Technology, the qualification provides an opportunity for students to progress into higher education on a diverse range of degree courses or vocational apprenticeship roles and trainee/entry level roles such as a social media specialist, content developer, web developer or business analyst.

For more information:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/information-technology-2016.html>

Or talk to Miss Scott (jscott@sandbachschool.org) and in Room 1.

BTEC Extended Diploma in Information Technology

Course Content

1	Information Technology Systems
2	Creating Systems to Manage Information
3	Using Social Media in Business
4	Programming
9	IT Project Management
11	Cyber security and Incident Management
14	IT Service Delivery

5	Data Modelling
6	Website Development
7	Mobile Apps Development
8	Computer Games Development

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Information Technology is equivalent in size to 3 A levels. Students study the relationship between hardware and software, managing and communicating information and data, and the principles of designing and developing digital technologies and processes to support organisations across seven mandatory units:

Assessment varies by unit with a mix of internal assessment by assignment and external assessment by examination. In addition, students will study six units tailored to their interests, and likely to include the following:

Lesson Structure

Lessons could involve learning and practising new practical skills, assessing how your knowledge can be applied to a scenario, writing a report, discussing real-world examples of how IT is used, researching how IT has been used to solve a particular problem or practising skills needed for the exam.

Assessment Pattern

Year 12: 2 units requiring external exams and 5 units requiring internal assessment.

Year 13: 2 units requiring external exams and 4 units requiring internal assessment.

Extra Information

Students wishing to take this qualification should have successfully completed a GCSE level course in ICT or Computer Science.

As this qualification is equivalent in size to three A Levels, it fully meets the requirements for progression to a wide range of degree programmes in IT and related areas. These include:

- BSc in Business Information and Technology
- BSc in Digital Technology Solutions
- BSc (Hons) in Computer Games Technology
- BSc (Hons) in Creative Technology
- BSc (Hons) in Information Technology Management for Business
- BSc in Computing Forensics
- BSc in Computer Networks and Security.

For students wanting to follow the apprenticeship route, this course provides a practical and relevant preparation for a wide range of apprenticeships in IT, Computing and Business.

For more information:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Nationals/Information-Technology/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446939512-BTEC-nat-L3-extdip-IT-spec-prepub.pdf>

Or talk to Miss Scott (jscott@sandbachschool.org) and in Room 1.

RSL Subsidiary Diploma in Music Technology

Course Content

During this course learners will need to demonstrate

Sound recording skills
Mixing and mastering skills
Sequencing and production skills
Understanding of contextual issues relating to music technology

Radio programming skills
Video production skills
Live sound skills

Compulsory Units

Planning for a Career in Music 30 credits (Externally Assessed)
Live Sound Recording 15 credits

Optional Units

Music Sequencing and Production 15 credits
Music Promotion 15 credits
Music Event Management 15 credits
Radio/Podcast Production 10 credits

To gain a qualification, candidates must earn 90 credits. Both Compulsory Units (one of which will be externally assessed) must be passed. All other units will be internally assessed based on a portfolio of evidence collated during practical tasks. At present the course must be taken for two years, since no qualification can be awarded for part completion. There are four bands of assessment (pass, merit, distinction and distinction*). The Subsidiary Diploma is equivalent to more than one A level as outlined in the table below...

UCAS Points	RSL Grade	A Level Equivalent
84	D*	
72	D	
56		A*
48	M	A
24	P	D

Lesson Structure

Lessons are delivered through whole class sessions for practical music production and for the start of new assessment briefs. Students also work independently and are expected to take responsibility for their learning and monitor their progress throughout assessment tasks.

Assessment Pattern

The course is completed almost entirely through the production of coursework. Each unit specifies a number of skills which students must develop, and which can be demonstrated at Pass, Merit or Distinction level. All learning is driven by assignments, which allow these skills to be demonstrated. Where a skill is not initially evident at a minimum pass level, further assignments can be undertaken.

Extra Information

The music industry is a very wide field, encompassing an enormous number of different career paths, most of which are not that of the performing musician. Roles such as Producer, Studio Engineer, Studio Assistant, Arranger, Media Composer, etc., all directly require the skills developed in Music Technology. It is not essential to have studied Music Technology course previously in order to opt for this course, nor must you be a performing musician. The main requirements are a strong interest in music and an ability to be creative.

BTEC National in Sport

Course Content

The course runs over 2 years and is the equivalent to 3 A-Levels. To pass the course students must complete 14 units, 10 of which are mandatory and 4 are externally assessed through 4 exams. While completing the course students will have the opportunity to develop their level of fitness, attend an extended extra-curricular programme in the 3 main winter sports of Hockey, Football and Rugby and gain valuable work experience in a relevant work based setting.

Mandatory Units

Unit Title	Unit Size	How is the Unit Assessed
Anatomy and Physiology	120	Exam
Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well Being	120	Exam
Professional Development in the Sports Industry	60	Course Work
Sports Leadership	60	Course Work
Practical Sports Performance	60	Course Work
Coaching for Performance	60	Course Work
Research Methods in Sport	60	Course Work
Development and Provision of Sports and Physical Activity	120	Exam
Investing Business in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry	90	Exam
Skill Acquisition in Sport	60	Course Work

Optional Units

Unit Title	Unit Size	How the Unit is Assessed
Principles and Practices for Outdoor and Adventurous Activities	60	Course Work
Sports Performance Analysis	60	Course Work
Work Experience in Active Leisure	60	Course Work
Sports Injury Management	60	Course Work

BTEC National in Sport is a vocational type of course. It is linked to a number of different areas including sports coaching, personal training, sports business and sport development. The course will provide opportunities to learn various industry specific skills that will allow you to move towards further study at university level or into the sports industry. The course is nationally recognised and attracts points on the NQF framework in the same way as A-level qualifications.

Expectations

All students will be expected to show a clear commitment to the extra-curricular sports programme at the school either in a playing, officiating or coaching role. There would also be requirements to assist in Key Stage 3 PE lessons and at various after school primary school events throughout the two year course.

BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science

BTEC Nationals Sport and Exercise Science is a vocational type of course. It is linked to the specific area of Sport and Exercise Science industry. The course will provide opportunities to learn various industry specific skills that will allow you to move towards further study at university level or into the Sport and Exercise Science industry. The course is nationally recognised and attracts points on the NQF Framework in the same way as A level qualifications.

Course Content

The course runs over 2 years and is the equivalent of 3 A levels. To pass the course students must complete 13 units, 7 of which are mandatory and 4 are externally assessed. This also includes an external written exam paper.

Mandatory Units

Unit Title	Unit Size	How is the unit Assessed?
Sport and Exercise Physiology	120	Externally
Functional Anatomy	90	Externally
Applied Sport and Exercise Psychology	120	Externally
Field and Laboratory Based Fitness Testing	90	Internally
Applied Research Methods in Sport and Exercise Science	90	Internally
Coaching for Performance and Fitness	90	Internally
Nutrition for Sport and Exercise Performance	120	Externally

Optional Units

Unit Title	Unit Size	How is the unit Assessed?
Sports massage	60	Internally
Specialised Fitness Training	60	Internally
Technology in Sport and Exercise Science	60	Internally
Physical Activity for Individual and Group-based Exercise	60	Internally
Sociocultural Issues in Sport and Exercise Science	60	Internally
Sports Injury and Assessment	60	Internally

Extra Information

All students will be expected to show a clear commitment to the extra-curricular sports programme at the school either in a playing, officiating or coaching role. There would also be requirements to assist in Key Stage 3 PE lessons and various after school primary school events throughout the two year course.



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