



**SHIRELAND  
BIOMEDICAL**  
UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Science HU

# Sixth Form Prospectus



**BIRMINGHAM CITY**  
University

PROUDLY PART OF



**SHIRELAND**  
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY TRUST

# Introduction

Previously Health Futures UTC, Shireland Biomedical UTC (SBU) joined Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust in April 2022 and has now entered a new chapter in its journey to provide an outstanding education for all students.

We offer a fully inclusive sixth form welcoming students from all backgrounds and abilities, serving our local community and the wider borough of Sandwell in the West Midlands.

We provide a set of opportunities and qualifications that will produce an excellent foundation for students to enter careers in health and science as well as a wide range of other opportunities.



## Welcome

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Shireland Biomedical University Technical College Sixth Form.

Our aim is to create an environment where you can fulfil your potential, having the opportunity to excel in everything you do. Whilst academic success is important, so is ensuring that you develop into a well-rounded individual who can take the skills you learn into later life, ensuring you are successful in whichever path you choose to pursue.

Our Sixth Form will work in partnership with other schools in our Trust to offer an even better provision to our students.

Our staff include highly skilled subject specialists who work tirelessly to support you in fulfilling your potential; in return they will have high expectations of you.

We are looking forward to working with you to support you in achieving your goals and equipping you with the skills required for the next phase of your journey.



**Mr Jaskiran Madahar**  
Principal



**Sir Mark Grundy**  
CEO of Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust

## Welcome from Head of Sixth Form

A very warm welcome to our Sixth Form prospectus, which has been designed to offer you an insight into what our Sixth Form here at Shireland Biomedical UTC looks like. Whether you are a prospective student seeking information on what we can offer, or a parent looking for information on how we will support and develop your child, this prospectus is designed to answer some of your questions.

Being part of Shireland Biomedical UTC's Sixth Form will provide you with the academic and personal skills and qualities that you need in order to embark on the next stage of your career, whether that is a degree, a degree apprenticeship or employment. Our aim is that you will develop into a confident, independent, resilient, and well-rounded young person.

Our Sixth Form offers a supportive and innovative environment that provides a real feeling of community and family. This underpins everything that we do, from providing pastoral support with tutors who see you daily, regular interactions with parents, and academic support to ensure that you can achieve the very best that you can.

I look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form soon.

**Mrs Kayleigh Steed**

Head of Sixth Form



## What is a UTC?

University Technical Colleges (UTCs) are government funded schools with a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM) focus. They provide a range of unique and relevant approaches to education which address the changing needs of students and employers in the 21st century.

UTCs were established by companies and universities in areas with high demand for talent. Alongside national curriculum teaching, UTCs also offer sought-after vocational and technical qualifications and benefit from industry-standard equipment and specialist staff to provide students with skills that are highly valued by employers.

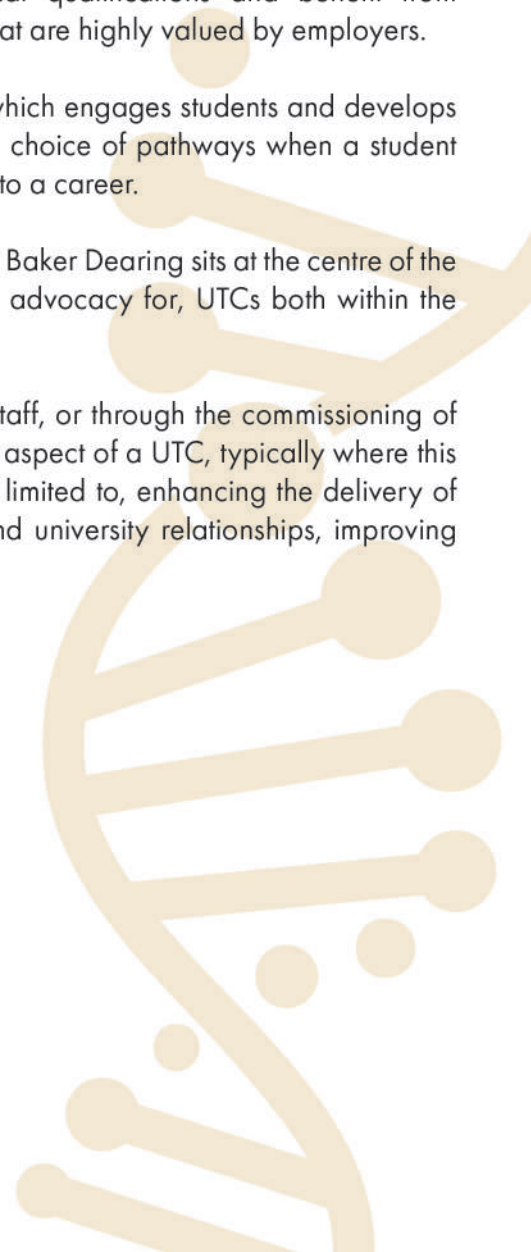
The UTC curriculum has a strong emphasis on real life project-based learning which engages students and develops their personal character. Because of this unique offer, UTCs allow for a broad choice of pathways when a student reaches 18 years old: university, higher or degree apprenticeships, or directly into a career.

The Baker Dearing Educational Trust exists to support UTCs. Established in 2009, Baker Dearing sits at the centre of the UTC network and is uniquely placed to provide co-ordinated support to, and advocacy for, UTCs both within the network and a to a broader audience.

Baker Dearing helps UTCs directly, with its small team of highly experienced staff, or through the commissioning of assistance from others across the network. Individual support targets the unique aspect of a UTC, typically where this help does not exist elsewhere in the education system. This includes, but is not limited to, enhancing the delivery of technical education, bolstering student recruitment, strengthening employer and university relationships, improving UTC finances, and assisting UTCs to join multi academy trusts.

**Baker Dearing**  
Educational Trust

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## Our Philosophy and Vision

Our philosophy is to provide a traditional sixth form experience that develops our students into well-rounded, independent learners. Shireland Biomedical UTC provides students with the latest cutting-edge technology to enhance learning, an environment that is spacious, welcoming, and supporting and staff who care about their students. Our Sixth Form students remain on site throughout the day, which gives them the time that they need to develop their independence and time management skills alongside subject specialists to help them with their work.

Our vision is to provide a Sixth Form that empowers our students to make considered decisions using the skills and knowledge that they have gained. We want our students to be inspired, aspirational and motivated to excel in all that they do, realising that there are no limits to what they can achieve. All the staff here want our students to be happy and feel safe in the knowledge that we have their best interests at the centre of everything that we do. We want all our students to be able to appreciate and embrace difference and to be able to show respect and empathy for all of those around them.

## Partnerships



### **Birmingham City University**

Shireland Biomedical UTC are excited to be working in partnership with Birmingham City University (BCU). BCU have over 26,900 students who come from all over the world. The University, which is located in the heart of Birmingham, has a focus on practice-based learning, which allows students to gain hands-on and real-life experience in their chosen degrees. BCU is a research-centred university with strong links to industry and has world-renowned research centres that cover subjects including health and social care and social sciences.

The partnership between SBU and BCU provides us with an amazing opportunity to work collaboratively on innovative projects and initiatives as well as allowing our students access to fantastic facilities, staff, and outstanding research that will enhance their learning. Being able to work with BCU will provide us with more opportunities to promote high aspirations for all of our students both academically and personally. We will work together to promote wider cultural awareness and understanding and to help our students to develop the transferable skills that are highly valued by employers, such as communication, team building and leadership skills.

Our students will also have access to BCU's widening participation scheme. This includes interactive workshops on topics such as life as a university student and finance and budgeting, which will give our students a first-hand experience of higher education.

Having a partnership with a diverse university like BCU allows us to add further value to our students' sixth form experience.

### **Health sector**

At Shireland Biomedical UTC we also have strong connections to West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) and local NHS Trusts.

We were the first school in the region to successfully develop and deliver the WMAS Challenge. This bespoke programme offers students an insight into working as a paramedic, including learning to use some of the equipment that is used to treat patients.

NHS Trusts such as Sandwell and West Birmingham have supported our Sixth Form students in mock interviews to prepare them for higher education, apprenticeships and jobs. They have also delivered talks around their professions and whole-day workshops focussing on specific job roles such as psychology.

## What We Offer

Our aim is to ensure that the experience our students gain at our Sixth Form is tailored to meet the needs of all our learners. Our Sixth Form programme is not just about academic studies, but also about developing you as a whole individual, providing you with additional opportunities that will improve your skills, qualities and abilities. The diagram below shows the different elements to your programme.





## Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Our Sixth Form students have access to a wide range of extra-curricular activities that allow them to build individual skills and qualities alongside their academic studies to support them in becoming well-rounded, independent individuals. These extra-curricular activities can be additional academic qualifications, after school clubs that allow you to challenge your thinking, opportunities for work experience or volunteering and activities that allow you to unwind and relax after a day at school. Some of the extra-curricular opportunities that we can offer include:

- Work experience – both virtual and in person.
- BMAT/UCAT test support
- University trips including the UCAS and Apprenticeship Fayre
- Extended Project Qualifications (EPQ)
- Debate club
- Book club
- Student Leadership Positions
- Duke of Edinburgh Qualifications

## Futures

During your time at Shireland Biomedical UTC Sixth Form, there will be a wide range of enrichment opportunities on offer. The students who remain open minded and engage with this range of opportunities are those who will gain the most.

Future sessions are compulsory and will focus on preparing you for university and/or employment. The sessions will help develop your ability to apply successfully for a chosen programme or job and include support and guidance on career pathways, UCAS/employment applications, interview techniques, financial matters as well as living independently.

Work experience is compulsory for all Year 12 students. The purpose of this is to provide you with the experience of the world of work. This can then be included in your personal statement and applications which allow you to gain an advantage over other applicants. You will be provided with support and guidance on finding this work experience placement.





## Facilities

Shireland Biomedical UTC has state-of-the-art facilities that offer students the opportunity to experience real-life medical situations in our simulated hospital ward. We also have an immersive room that provides opportunities for students to experience subjects in a different way by bringing your learning to life, immersing you in real-life situations and contextualising your learning, all of which will provide you with transferable skills to put what you learn in the classroom into practice.

Our Sixth Form students also have access to a dedicated Sixth Form area that provides students with a space to complete group work or to study independently.

## Technology

Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust is at the forefront of technological developments. Shireland Biomedical UTC has been equipped with the latest technology in classrooms to allow teaching staff to plan and deliver outstanding lessons using a range of innovative technology. When joining Shireland Biomedical UTC, you will be provided with a laptop that you will use in lessons, to communicate with staff and that you can take home to provide you with an opportunity to continue your studies outside of school.

## Sixth Form Bursary

A bursary fund is available for students to access. This money is discretionary and designed to be used to support students in overcoming financial barriers faced by individuals, not to provide set amounts of funding irrespective of actual need.

Bursary applications will be made online towards the end of each term. Any payments are retrospective and can be subject to having met a range of criteria including attendance, punctuality and progress in your subjects. Payment is made directly to each student, so a bank account number and sort code, in the student's name, must be provided.

## Rewards

We firmly believe in rewarding our students for outstanding performance in their academic studies, engaging in our school community and having excellent attendance. Sixth Form students will have the opportunity to take part in reward trips at the end of each term. Shireland Biomedical UTC runs a house system which all students are part of from Year 7 through to Year 13. Taking part in house competitions will allow students to earn points that can then be used for reward trips.

## Student Leadership

Sixth Form students at Shireland Biomedical UTC are seen as role models for students throughout the school. We have high standards of how our students should perform both in lessons and within the school community. All our students will have the opportunity to apply for leadership positions, both within the school and by acting as the main liaison with our partners. We also have leadership roles within our hospital ward that all students will be able to apply for, including Ward Manager and Scenario Manager. All these roles involve supporting staff and younger students in aspects of school life.







**INNOVATE**  
**INSPIRE**  
**COLLABORATE**

## Choosing Your Subjects:

We are an inclusive Sixth Form and offer a range of subjects dependent on a student's prior academic attainment and interests.

Shireland Biomedical UTC in conjunction with other schools from within the Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust will offer the following subjects:

### **A Level**

Biology  
Chemistry  
Computer Science  
Dance  
Drama  
English Language  
English Literature  
Geography  
German  
History  
Maths  
Music  
Music Technology  
Photography  
Physics  
Product Design  
Psychology  
RE  
Sociology  
Textiles  
Travel and Tourism

### **BTEC**

Applied Science Single Award  
Applied Science Double Award  
Business Single Award  
Health and Social Care Single Award  
Health and Social Care Double Award  
Health and Social Care Triple Award  
Human Biology  
ICT  
Sport Single Award

## Your Application Timeline

Once you have decided that Shireland Biomedical UTC Sixth Form is the right place for you, you are then ready to apply. Below shows a timeline of the application process.



### November 2022

Complete your application form. This should be done online by visiting our website. The online application form requires information about you, contact details and the courses you are interested in.



### December 2022 onwards

Attend your consultation evening appointment. We aim to ensure you are well supported throughout your application. As part of this, we invite you and your family to attend a consultation evening to discuss your choices and offer advice and guidance. This is not an interview.

Following your consultation evening appointment, we will send you a conditional offer letter.



### March 2023

You are invited to meet subject staff, ask questions and meet other students who will be joining you in September.



### May to June 2023

GCSE exam season!



### June 2023

Attend our induction programme to meet your new teachers, new classmates and start your academic studies.



### 24 August 2023

GCSE Results Day! Once you have collected your results, you can then come and enrol with us. Here we will confirm your subject choices. If you don't meet the entry requirements, we will look at what other courses we can offer you, subject to availability.



### September 2023

Your academic studies in Sixth Form begin!





## Student Testimonials

### Charlie Male

"I enjoyed the fact that at Shireland Biomedical UTC you got a lot more support than you would in a normal college. You got to build stronger relationships with teaching staff because of this which made me feel comfortable in my environment. It made my studies much easier because I felt like I could go and speak to them if I needed help or if I was struggling. There were additional opportunities provided to me. For example, I qualified as a Mental Health First Aider which then gave me the chance to be appointed Student Leader for Mental Wellbeing. I firmly believe that young people should study at Shireland Biomedical UTC because it offers a wide range of help and opportunities that are suitable for everyone and guidance from caring, supportive staff. Now I have left sixth form I am studying for an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Criminology at Aberystwyth University."



### Fatou Demba

"Smaller class sizes really benefited us to gain a better understanding of the topics. Teachers offer a huge amount of support, pushing us to get better and to achieve those higher grades. I believe that other students should come and study at Shireland Biomedical UTC because of the opportunities that are available for example the partnerships with the NHS and being able to meet with health and social care professionals. I am planning to attend a local university to study Health and Social Care and Criminology."



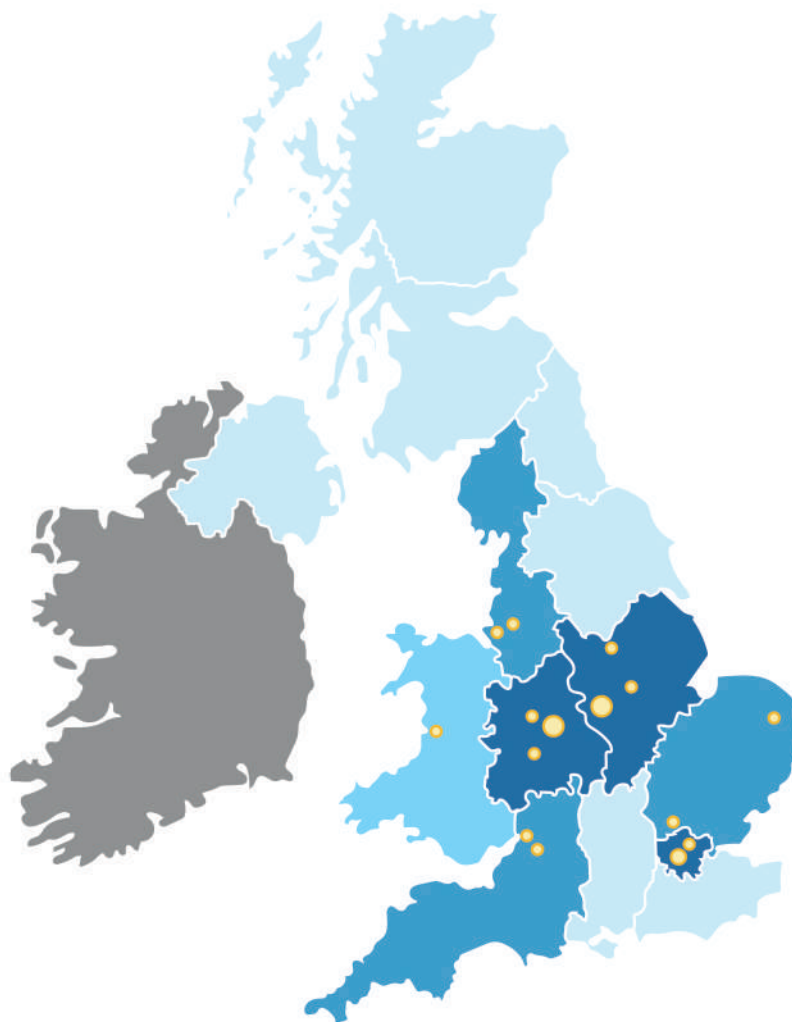
### Fazeela Shahid

"I have been here for the last two years in KS4 and then decided to stay here for my post-16 studies. The relationships that I have been able to build with staff have meant that I feel supported, listened to and pushed to achieve my dreams. I have been able to attend lots of extra opportunities like working with professionals in our projects and attending mock interviews with health and social care workers. I believe that I will be successful here in my sixth form studies because I have the support from staff. Having laptops and technology that I wouldn't get anywhere else means that I can work at home and access all my work online in a constructive way. I am planning on pursuing an apprenticeship with the NHS as a nursing assistant."



## Our Students' Destinations

92% of students who study with us go on to higher education at a range of universities across the country. 8% of students go on to apprenticeships or employment.



# Health and Social Care Qualifications

## Why Health and Social Care?

Health and Social Care provides students with the necessary skills and knowledge required to work in hospitals, schools, social care settings or to continue into higher education. This course can open up a whole range of job opportunities in both health and social care which can offer more than 300 distinct career pathways. The health and social care sector employ almost four million people across the UK and, since the COVID-19 pandemic, is a sector which is growing on an almost daily rate. Studying Health and Social Care at SBU also provides opportunities for you to develop clinical skills in our clinical area and to engage with a whole host of employers.

## Career opportunities:

On completion of this course, you could move on to higher education or training, employment or an apprenticeship. This could lead to a career in nursing, midwifery, social work, speech therapy, teaching, health promotion, physiotherapy, occupational health or a general degree in health studies, psychology, sociology/social policy or criminology.

## Health and Social Care – BTEC National Extended Certificate

This course is equivalent to 1 A level.

## Structure of the course:

Exam board: Edexcel

The course consists of 4 units, 2 of which are mandatory and 2 are externally assessed units.

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development. Externally assessed - 1 hr 30 mins

Unit 2: Working in Health and Social Care. Externally assessed - 1 hr 30 mins

Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care Needs. Internally assessed.

Unit 12: Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs. Internally assessed.

## Health and Social Care – BTEC National Diploma

This course is equivalent to two A Levels.

### Structure of the course:

Exam board: Edexcel

The course consists of 8 units, 3 of which are mandatory and 3 are externally assessed units.

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development. Externally assessed - 1 hr 30 mins

Unit 2: Working in Health and Social Care. Externally assessed - 1 hr 30 mins

Unit 4: Enquiries into Current Research. Externally assessed - 3hrs

Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care Needs. Internally assessed.

Unit 7: Safe Practice in Health and Social Care. Internally assessed

Unit 8: Promoting Public Health. Internally assessed

Unit 11: Psychological Perspectives. Internally assessed.

Unit 12: Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs. Internally assessed.

## Health and Social Care – BTEC National Extended Diploma

This course is equivalent to three A Levels.

### Structure of the course:

Exam board: Edexcel

The course consists of 13 units, 6 of which are mandatory and 4 are externally assessed units.

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development. Externally assessed - 1 hr 30 mins

Unit 2: Working in Health and Social Care. Externally assessed - 1 hr 30 mins

Unit 3: Anatomy and Physiology. Externally assessed - 1 hr 30 mins

Unit 4: Enquiries into Current Research. Externally assessed - 3hrs

Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care Needs. Internally assessed.

Unit 6: Work Experience in Health and Social Care. Internally assessed.

Unit 7: Safe Practice in Health and Social Care. Internally assessed

Unit 8: Promoting Public Health. Internally assessed

Unit 11: Psychological Perspectives. Internally assessed.

Unit 12: Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs. Internally assessed.

The final three units are decided following discussion between the groups to decide which units best fit the groups' needs. These can include infection control, physiological disorders, mental health, dementia care and microbiology.

# Applied Science | BTEC National Diploma

## Why Applied Science?

The Applied Science course here at SBU is designed to offer academic and vocational experiences to prepare students for both higher education and health-centred careers. Studying a BTEC National Extended Certificate in Applied Science will provide students with a range of knowledge around working in science and science-related organisations including animal and plant cells, tissues, atomic structure and bonding, chemical and physical properties of substances related to their uses and waves and their applications in communications. The course offers you the opportunity to be introduced to laboratory equipment and how to use this equipment safely along with the chance to develop your investigative skills with a specific focus on scientific and enquiry-based learning. Finally, there are opportunities to discuss the operations of laboratories, pharmaceutical and bulk chemistry industries and carry out your own investigative project in collaboration with the department.

This course is equivalent to two A levels.

## Structure of the course:

Exam board: Pearson

The course consists of 8 units, 6 of which are mandatory and 3 are externally assessed units.

Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science 1 – externally assessed. 3 40-minute papers in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Unit 2: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques – internally assessed.

Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills. 45-minute Part A. Part B is 1 hr and 30 minutes.

Unit 4: Laboratory Techniques and their Application – internally assessed.

Unit 5: Principles and Applications of Science 2 – external assessment. 2hrs 30 minutes.

Unit 6: Investigative Project.

Unit 7/8: Optional units.

## Career opportunities:

95% of universities and colleges in the UK accept students who have successfully completed a BTEC qualification, including competitive Russell Group universities. There are many career pathways that you can follow with a qualification in Applied Science including Forensic Scientist, Science Technician, medical sciences, biochemical sciences or environmental sciences. Other possible career paths could include NHS careers, engineering and education.

# Biology | A Level

## Why Biology?

The Biology A Level course at SBU offers students a wide range of opportunities to develop their academic skills whilst developing practical skills that will help students to demonstrate their knowledge of the theory. During this qualification, students will look at the circulatory system and the importance of lifestyle choices alongside the impact that these choices can have on the health of the cardiovascular system. Biological principles through the context of genetic diseases are considered that allow students to deepen their knowledge around DNA and social/ethical issues surrounding the genetic screening for genetic conditions. Students will be given opportunities to follow the development of multicellular organisms from single cells to complex individuals. Finally, students are able to focus on the development of the brain and the nervous system as well as analytical techniques and how these are used to determine how bacteria and viruses can spread around the world.

## Structure of the course:

Exam board: AQA

The course consists of three written papers that will be taken at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1: The Natural Environment and Species Survival - 2 hours

Paper 2; Energy, Exercise and Co-ordination - 2 hours

Paper 3: General and Practical Applications in Biology - 2 hours

Practical endorsement in Biology (Not examined – reported separately)

## Career opportunities:

Graduates with a Biology degree are highly employable, as it is a fundamental subject for careers in the science and health sectors. There are many other routes you can take with an A Level in Biology. These include medicine, medical sciences, biochemical sciences, or environmental sciences. There are also pathways into physiotherapy, forensic science, nursing, midwifery, laboratory research and many other careers within the NHS.

# Chemistry | A Level

## Why Chemistry?

Chemistry is the study of the composition, structure, properties and reactions of substances. Chemistry seeks to explain everything that we see around us daily on a molecular, atomic or even sub-atomic level. From how the food we eat provides our bodies with energy for us to function to how the materials which make up the chair you are sitting on interact with each other to prevent you from falling to the floor. Chemistry explores the building blocks of all living and non-living substances and tries to explain why certain substances interact with each other, how they interact and what happens when they interact.

## Structure of the course:

Exam board: AQA

The course consists of three written papers that will be taken at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1: Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry - 1 hr 45 mins

Paper 2: Advanced Organic and Physical Chemistry - 1 hr 45 mins

Paper 3: General and Practical Principles in Chemistry - 2hr 30 mins.

Practical endorsement in Chemistry (Not examined – reported separately)

## Career opportunities:

This qualification can lead to careers in areas such as medicine, pharmacy and dentistry. It is also extremely useful for careers in the biological sciences, physics, maths and analytical chemistry. Please note you will need a Chemistry A Level qualification if you wish to study Medicine or Veterinary Medicine at university. Chemistry can also be useful for people who intend to study subjects like Law and Philosophy, because it demonstrates an ability to understand difficult concepts.



# English Literature | A Level

## Why English Literature?

English Literature is a subject which provides students with a wide range of opportunities. The course builds on the GCSE and allows the students to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for the texts that are studied whilst also encouraging critical thinking and fluency in communication. The course reflects moments of historical, political and social change and offers a deeply compassionate, personal insight into what it means to be human, at a world level, but also at an intimate and personal level.

## Structure of the course:

Exam board: AQA

You will study one main component in the first year, along with the non-exam assessment and a further component in the second year along with the completion of the NEA.

Year 12:

Component 1: Love through the ages. Paper 1 to be taken at the end of Year 12 – 3 hours

Component 3: Non-Exam Assessment

Year 13:

Component 2: Modern times: Literature from 1945 to the present day. Paper 2 to be taken at the end of Year 13 – 2.5 hours.

Component 3: Non-Exam Assessment

## Career opportunities:

English Literature graduates can demonstrate highly developed communication skills and often go on to rewarding careers in publishing, journalism, broadcasting, writing, teaching, training and coaching, social work, youth work and mentoring. Many will consider careers in the political arena or local government since an understanding of world events often promotes an interest in government and social change. Students with strong A Levels in English can sometimes elect to study Law or History at university. These provide strong foundations for careers in marketing, communications and even business.

## Maths | A Level

### Why Maths?

The course allows you to build on your previous understanding of Mathematics from GCSE. You will expand your knowledge of algebra and functions and will learn to use Mathematics in the real world by studying mechanics and statistics. All these elements of the course make it applicable to almost any future career you might be considering. The modules covered in this course will also help you with other A Level courses such as Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

### Structure of the course:

Exam board: Edexcel

The course consists of three written papers that will be taken at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 – 2-hour exam

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 – 2-hour exam

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics – 2-hour exam

### Career opportunities:

There are many careers you can go into with a Mathematics A Level. Those who pursue a degree involving Mathematics are very likely to earn more. The list of careers is endless. Careers can range from engineering, accounting, investment banking, business analyst, teaching and many more.

# Physics | A Level

## Why Physics?

Modern Physicists have been responsible for some of the greatest achievements of our era. Just think – without our understanding of atomic theory there would be no computers, no internet, no smartphones. The digital age as we know it would not exist. Without quantum mechanics there would be no lasers or satellite navigation. Who knows where future scientific discoveries and inventions will take us? If you're up for shaping tomorrow's world, an A Level in Physics could take you to the frontline of the latest emerging technology. Whether you are working in a field directly related to physics like nuclear physics or astronomy, or one that simply uses the skills you've gained, your Physics A Level can really help you to make a difference. The aim of the course is to provide a stepping-stone from GCSE including quantum physics, medical physics, nuclear physics, mechanics and magnetism. It prepares students not only for studying physics further but any course and career which requires logical thinking and a structured approach to problem solving.

## Structure of the course:

Exam board: AQA

The course consists of three written papers that will be taken at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1: Topics 1-5 and 6.1 Periodic Motion - 2 hrs

Paper 2: Topics 7-8 and 6.2 Thermal Physics - 2 hrs

Paper 3: Practical Skills and Data Analysis. Medical Physics - 2 hrs

Practical endorsement in Physics (Non-examined – reported separately)

## Career opportunities:

Students studying Physics at A Level have the opportunity to go onto study subjects such as Physics, Engineering or Mathematics at university. Others have found the course beneficial in a career in medicine or the other sciences. The career options for Physicists are too extensive to list, but here are a few: defence, astronomy, education, meteorology, energy, research, telecommunications, finance, computing, law. Highly-paid careers are available for students with physics degrees.

# Psychology | A Level

## Why Psychology?

Psychology is a science and is the study of brain and behaviour. We all have ideas about people and about ourselves, and psychology relates to those ideas but draws on scientific methods to build a body of knowledge about such issues. Psychology can be theoretical, looking at how the brain works and what drives our behaviour, including issues such as early childhood experiences and what happens to us as we develop. Psychology can be practical, such as in therapy and treatments as well as in the workplace, such as when devising advertisements or advising the police. You might think of psychology as listening to people on a couch and to an extent you would be right. There is much more to it than that, however. The most important quality for anyone wanting to study psychology is to find people fascinating.

Are you intrigued by why people act in the way they do? If so, then Psychology will capture your imagination. You will need to:

- be willing to have your opinions and values challenged
- be willing to listen to and take on board new ideas and novel arguments
- be able to see both sides of an issue and not reject one side simply because you believe initially that it is wrong

Psychology provides many opportunities to develop skills in assessing debates and arguments. Psychology is a very useful subject for any career where you interact with people. Occupations such as journalism, nursing and marketing all welcome trainees who have studied psychology.

## Career opportunities:

Many fields of psychology including: clinical psychology, forensic psychology, counselling, probation, HM prison service, police, teaching, educational psychology, sports psychology and many more.

# Sociology | A Level

## Why Sociology?

Sociology is the study of society. It is about all kinds of social relationships that people share with each other in their families, schools and work. The methods developed by sociologists are used in other academic areas such as market research and management studies. You will study all varieties of human experience. Social theory is also important in Sociology. It teaches us that there are no right or wrong answers when it comes to studying the way people live together. What is important for a sociologist is the ability to evaluate evidence and choose between possible explanations. You will enjoy Sociology if you are the type of person who is not afraid to have new ideas and who is not afraid to work at a demanding pace.

## Career opportunities:

On completion of this course, you could enter higher education or training, employment or an apprenticeship. This could lead to a career in:

- Social work
- Nursing
- Police force
- All public-sector professions
- Social policy
- Journalism
- Criminology

# BTEC Sports | BTEC National Extended Certificate

## Why Sports?

Sport is a popular choice at sixth form and for university courses. This course will give you a broad range of skills and knowledge that can be used in a variety of jobs in the sports industry and can aid you when studying at university. Your BTEC Sport course will cover an in-depth knowledge of the human body including bones, muscles and energy systems. You will learn skills critical for university such as presentation skills and sports-specific coaching skills. There will be opportunities to take part in a variety of sports.

This course is equivalent to one A Level.

## Structure of the course:

Exam Board: Edexcel

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology. Externally assessed exam. 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport, and Wellbeing. Part A is a case study provided 1 week before the assessment. Students have 4 hours to prepare notes. Part B is a 2hour 30-minute timetabled examination.

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry. Internally assessed.

Unit 7: Practical Sports Performance. Internally assessed.

## Career opportunities:

Sport as a subject can lead to a variety of careers or higher education courses. The following is a list of possibilities for careers and higher education courses: teaching PE, coaching in sport, physiotherapy, sport & exercise science, leisure management, nutritionist/dietician, sports psychology, sports development.



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