



Valentines High School
Post Sixteen Prospectus 2010



Course Directory 2010

AS/A LEVEL COURSES

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BIOLOGY

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements:

GCSE grade BB in Double Science and GCSE grade C in Mathematics and English

Year 12 AS Outline:

AS Biology is comprised of three units and one piece of coursework, which is designed to test practical skills.

Unit 1 investigates the internal structure of animal, plant and bacterial cells, and details the basic biochemical structures of compounds found within the cells. The module investigates how cells obtain the chemicals they require by investigating, in detail, membrane transport, ventilation and digestion.

Unit 2 explores the structure of DNA, and explains how it produces proteins and enzymes to regulate and control the cell. The latest issues in genetic engineering are investigated, including the principles behind DNA fingerprinting and how certain diseases such as cystic fibrosis are treated.

Unit 3 investigates the transport systems in the human body, including the structure of the circulatory and ventilation systems. The structure of plants is considered, with detail of how chemicals are transported about the plant.

Year 13 A2 Outline:

A2 Biology builds upon the AS scheme. It too consists of three units, but an additional paper called the synoptic paper is included. A2 Biology also contains a coursework on ecology, where pupils attend a field course to plan an investigation.

Unit 4 investigates the human body in great depth, including the structure of the brain, the structure of the nervous system and nerves, the principles behind homeostasis and the structure of muscles. The module also covers the principles of inheritance, explaining why children may look similar to, but not identical to their parents.

Unit 5 involves the dynamics of ecosystems, exploring the interactions between different organisms, and how they interact with their habitat.

Unit 6 looks at how a habitat and the physiological and behavioural adaptations of organisms influence the diversity of species living within an ecosystem. The module investigates how pollution has affected the diversity of organisms, and how humans are attempting to protect certain organisms against extinction using conservation methods.

Assessment

The AS level and A level will be assessed externally and the coursework will be teacher assessed and externally moderated.

The Future

Successful completion of the AS GCE and Advanced GCE in Biology offers students several routes for progression. Many of our students have gone on to a range of higher education courses including degrees in subjects such as medicine and life sciences and Higher Nationals in applied sciences and sport sciences.--Some have gone directly into employment, especially into science and related sectors.



AS/A LEVEL COURSES

BUSINESS STUDIES

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in Business Studies (or English)

Year 12 AS Outline

The first unit is called "Planning and Financing a Business" and covers the challenges and issues of starting a business and enterprise as well as key financial concepts including sources of finance, cash flow, contribution and break even. Unit 2 is called "Managing a Business" and covers such topics as communication, recruitment, motivation of staff, quality control, customer services, the use of technology, measuring profit and aspects of the marketing of a business.

Year 13 A2 Outline

Unit 3 is called "Strategies for Success" and covers financial strategies and accounts, marketing strategies, methods of improving efficiency in operations and in human relations. The themes covered in this second year might be seen as the more stretching topics and you will also be required to draw on all areas of the syllabus when answering questions. Unit 4 is "The Business Environment and Managing Change" and examines external factors that can affect a business such as changes in the economic, political, social, legal and ethical environment. This unit will also look at leadership styles, the role of leaders, corporate culture and managing change.

Assessment

The AS examination consists of two written papers. Paper 1 is called Planning and Financing a business and is 20% of the final mark. This paper will consist of short answer questions and extended responses based on a mini case study. Paper 2 is called Managing a Business and is 30% of the final mark. This is made up of compulsory questions based on some data that is provided during the exam.

The A2 examination also consists of two examination papers. Both exam papers are 25% of the final A level mark and unit 3 (Strategies for Success) is based on an unseen cases study drawing upon knowledge from this and the AS units. Unit 4 (The Business Environment and Managing Change) sets some pre release research tasks leading to the first section of a two section examination. The second section will consist of a choice of essays. All of these will expect the student to use knowledge from the entire course.

The Future

In the past many of our students have pursued university courses in business related topics following their A levels. Following success at university many have then gone off to careers in areas such as accountancy, banking, business/retail management, ICT, human resource management and marketing.

CHEMISTRY

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grades BB in Double Science and GCSE grade C in English and Mathematics

Year 12 AS Outline

Coverage of the topics in the first two modules in year 12 provide a sound foundation for the more complex and detailed study of the inorganic and organic chemistry contained in the A2 modules. The remaining module covers the laboratory work and the development of the experimental skills involved in the course. The teaching programme is composed of lectures on the principles and scientific models upon which chemistry is based. This theory is punctuated with practical work, demonstrations and videos which bring these ideas to life and develop your practical skills.

Year 13 A2 Outline

In year 13 we further develop the concepts and ideas encountered earlier. Two modules are theoretical whilst the third is a practical one that involves further development of practical and experimental skills. Throughout the course care is taken to broaden not only your chemical knowledge but also to make you aware of the different areas in which your newly acquired knowledge and skills apply. The course continually relates the reactions dealt with, to social, environmental and industrial applications.

Assessment

The AS level course consists of 3 modules, 2 of which are theoretical and examined by a written paper. Assessment of the four main practical skill areas

- 1) General Practical Competence
- 2) Quantitative Observation
- 3) Quantitative Measurement
- 4) Preparation of a Chemical

takes place during the course. Area 1 is assessed from a minimum of 8 practicals. Whilst areas 2, 3 and 4 are assessed by 3 practicals carried out under exam conditions.

The cohort A2 course is made up of 2 theoretical modules and a practical module which is designed to further develop their practical skills. This module includes the synoptic component of the course where all the different strands of chemistry are drawn together. There is a lot of emphasis on practical skills throughout the course.

The Future

Of the three main areas of science, A level Chemistry is the qualification most often needed to join a science based degree course. A qualification in Chemistry can lead to a very wide range of careers and vocations. The need for people with a good understanding of Chemistry is increasing with the need for the development of new materials. An understanding of Chemistry is essential in physiology, medicine, dentistry, forensic science and polymer technology. There is a strong emphasis on group work, discussion and preparation of presentations including power points during year 12 and 13. This helps develop the skills students need for university applications and interviews.

AS/A LEVEL COURSES

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in Drama (or English)

Year 12 AS Outline

There are two modules which will develop and test your understanding of Drama, your ability to communicate as an actor, director, designer and your ability to analyse theatre.

The first module Exploration of Drama and Theatre will develop your understanding of how plays work, how they communicate their ideas and how these might impact on an audience in performance. Two texts will be examined in detail using practical workshop techniques and discussion. Your practical and theoretical research on both plays will be recorded in the form of exploration notes, which are submitted to the moderator.

'Text in Performance', the second module, will develop and test your skills in communicating a role to an audience. You will work with a teacher/director in preparing and rehearsing a role from an extant text and performing it to a live audience. You will also be required to perform a short monologue dialogue.

Your work in module two will feed directly in to the knowledge you need for the written exam. You will also need to see at least one professional production. You will be encouraged to look critically and consciously at the creative process.

Year 13 A2 Outline

In the first module of the A2 exploration of dramatic performance you will devise an original piece of drama for presentation to an audience. Along with this activity you will produce a "Structured Record" recording the process. The final module requires the study of two play texts. One is set by the board and the other covers a specific historical period. This module is assessed through a 2½ hour written exam. You will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the social, cultural, and/or historical contexts of the play.

Assessment

Throughout the course assessment takes three main forms. These are externally assessed performance, written coursework that is internally marked and externally moderated, and externally assessed written examination.

The Future

Advanced Level Drama is a recognised qualification for entry onto many degree courses in Higher Education. It is not only a useful qualification for those pursuing a career in the Arts, but also for a variety of jobs including personnel management, publishing, journalism, teaching, the media, the law and business in general.

ECONOMICS

AS/A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in Business Studies (English and Maths)

Year 12 AS Outline

Unit 1: Competitive Markets – How They Work and Why They Fail

This unit provides an introduction to the nature of economics and examines how the price mechanism allocates resources in markets. It analyses the nature of market failure, its causes and possible policy remedies. At the end of this unit, students should be able to apply supply and demand analysis to real-world situations; to understand why markets might not allocate resources efficiently and the methods of dealing with market failure, together with an evaluation of their effectiveness.

Unit 2: Managing the Economy

This unit introduces the key measures of economic performance and the main objectives and instruments of economic policy. Students should be able to use a basic AD/AS model to understand why demand and/or supply side policies may be seen as appropriate ways of managing an economy; predict the possible impact of such policies and to recognise the assumptions involved; argue for different approaches and identify criteria for success.

Year 13 A2 Outline

Unit 3: Business Economics and Economic Efficiency

This unit develops the content of Unit 1 and examines how the pricing and nature of competition between firms is affected by the number and size of market participants. At the end of this unit, students should be able to analyse the pricing and output decisions of firms in different contexts. They should also be capable of making an appraisal of government intervention aimed at promoting competitive markets.

Unit 4: The Global Economy

This unit develops the knowledge and skills gained in Unit 2 so that they can be applied in a global context. The application, analysis and evaluation of economic models is required as well as an ability to assess policies which might be used to deal with economic problems. An awareness of trends and developments in the global economy over the last 10 years is required.



AS/A LEVEL COURSES

Assessment

The AS examination consists of two written papers, Paper 1 is called 'Competitive Markets' and is 25% of the final mark. This paper will consist of supported multiple-choice questions and one data response question out of a choice of two questions. Paper 2 is called 'Managing the Economy' and is 25% of the final mark. This made up of one data response question out of a choice of two questions.

The A2 examination also consists of two examination papers. Unit 3 'Business Economics and Economic Efficiency' is 20% of A2 and this paper consists of supported multiple-choice questions and one data response question out of a choice of two questions. Unit 4 'The Global Economy' make up 30% of the A2 and consists of one essay question with two parts from a choice of three topic areas, and one data response question out of a choice of two questions.

The Future

Our students will be able to confidently apply for Economics courses at university. Following success at university many of them will be able to pursue future careers in areas such as broking, accountancy, banking, and business management.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE Grade B in English and English Literature

Year 12 AS Outline

Unit 1a: Introduction to the study of language

This unit introduces you to the techniques and terminology that we use to analyse language use, using a series of seven frameworks. In the exam, you have to group a set of texts according to their similarities and differences in terms of language use. You also have to write a detailed analysis of two texts, examining how they use language for effect.

Unit 1b: Categorising Texts

This unit introduces you to the connection between language and different social contexts. The three topic areas for examination in 2011 are: Language and Power, Language and Gender and Language and Technology. The exam asks you to examine a range of texts and to write a commentary about what they demonstrate with regards to language and social contexts.

Unit 2: Creating Texts

This is the unit where you get to use your writing skills. You have to submit two pieces of writing, demonstrating that you can write for different audiences and purposes. An important part of the coursework is the submission of a commentary, examining your own work and analysing how you have used language for effect.

Year 13 A2 Outline

Unit 3: Developing Language

In this unit you will study child language acquisition and language change and in the exam you'll answer one question on each topic.

Unit 4: Investigating Language

In the Unit 4 coursework you will carry out a language investigation of your choice. This unit is designed to enable you to benefit from independent study, devising methodology, collecting data and analysing and evaluating your own findings.

Assessment

Unit 1: 60% of AS, 30% of A Level. 2 hour written examination.
Unit 2: 40% of AS, 20% of A Level. Coursework – internally assessed, and externally moderated by AQA.

Unit 3: 30% of A Level. 2 hour 30 minutes written examination
Unit 4: 20% of A Level. Coursework – Internally assessed, and externally moderated by AQA.

The Future

This course is particularly suitable for those students who wish to study English Language, Linguistics or English Studies in Higher Education. These in turn can lead to a variety of career options in media, journalism and the law to name but a few.

AS/A LEVEL COURSES

ENGLISH LITERATURE

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in English and English Literature

Year 12 AS Outline

Unit 1: Aspects of Narrative

In unit 1 you will explore the ways in which authors tell stories, and readers read them, focusing on contemporary novels and narrative poems. With four texts to study, the emphasis will be on skills and connections rather than line by line going through each text. You will study two novels (one post 1990) and two poetry texts (1800-1945).

Unit 2: Dramatic Genres

In the coursework unit, you will study two plays under the banner of tragedy, and your teachers will be able to take creative approaches to teaching and assessing the texts. A portfolio of two pieces of written coursework is produced, each piece being 1200-1500 words.

Year 13 A2 Outline

Unit 3: Texts and Genres

The aim of this unit is to develop ideas on the significance of genre which have been established during the AS course. Texts will be grouped within two broad categories: Elements of the Gothic and Elements of the Pastoral. Individual texts will be explored and evaluated against some of the commonly accepted principles of the chosen genre, and three texts (or more) will be compared as representatives of the genre.

Unit 4 : Further and Independent Reading

There are a number of aims to this unit. The first is to introduce you to the study of a wide range of texts, some of which may be of your own choosing. The second is to introduce you to different ways of reading texts for study, including independently. The third is to introduce you to some critical ideas, and for these ideas to be applied with discrimination to literary text. A portfolio of two pieces of written coursework is produced. One is a comparative study of two texts (1500-2000 words) and the other is on a pre-released critical anthology (1200-1500 words).

Assessment

Unit 1 – Written examination 2 hours (Open Book) 30%

Unit 2 – Coursework portfolio 20%

Unit 3 – written examination 2 hours (Closed Book) 30%

Unit 4 – Coursework portfolio 20%

The Future

English Literature A level is a well-respected qualification leading to many degree courses. It can be valuable for careers in the Media, the Law, Business, Education, management or any field in which the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to literary study, and accurate and coherent writing are valued.

FRENCH

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in French

Year 12 AS Outline

The course will help you to develop your general study skills, but most of all you will learn to communicate at a higher level in French and learn about a wide range of aspects of the French-speaking World.

- Unit 1: Spoken Expression and Response in French

This unit rewards you for your ability to converse in French on a general topic area that you have chosen in advance.

- Unit 2: Understanding and Written Response in French

This unit requires you to understand and convey your understanding of French language texts and recordings as well as demonstrating an ability to manipulate the French language in continuous writing.

Year 13 A2 Outline

In Year 13 you will extend the knowledge gained at AS by consolidating your Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing skills.

- A2 Unit 3: Understanding and Spoken Response in French

This unit requires you to demonstrate the effectiveness of your French-language skills by presenting and taking a clear stance on any issue of your choice.

- A2 Unit 4: Research, Understanding and Written Response in French

This unit requires you to demonstrate skills in A-level French writing, translation from English into French and evidence of independent, advanced-level French language reading and research.

Assessment

Year 12

- Spoken Expression and Response in French: (AS 30%/GCE 15%)

8-10 minute assessment in **two** sections.

- Understanding and Written Response in French (AS 70%/GCE 35%)

2 hour 30 minute paper in **three** sections.

Year 13

- A2 Unit 3: Understanding and Spoken Response in French (35% A2 / 17.5% GCE)

11-13 minute assessment

- A2 Unit 4: Research, Understanding and Written Response in French (65% A2 / 32.5% GCE)

The Future

There will be a range of opportunities open to you. Some choose to do degree courses in French; others choose to pursue a higher education course in another subject, but choose French alongside it. Having French at AS or Advanced GCE will improve your employability, in particular with companies which have international branches.

Whether you are interested in continuing your studies or working at home or abroad, a French course at AS or Advanced GCE is an excellent step towards achieving your goals.



AS/A LEVEL COURSES

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade A in Mathematics

A level Further Mathematics builds upon those skills acquired while studying AS/A level Mathematics. This is a challenging course for those with a real interest in and aptitude for the subject. It equips you with skills such as logistic analysis and deduction, data handling, mathematical modelling and problem solving, all of which can be applied in almost any field of work.

Year 12 AS Outline

AS further maths is available to those students who gain either an A or A* grade at GCSE. You will study it in separate lessons in addition to your normal AS maths lessons. The course consists of 3 AS units; Further Pure Maths 1 (FP1), Statistics 1 (S1) and Decision 1 (D1).

Year 13 A2 Outline

To continue onto year 13 (to gain the full A level in further maths), you need to have gained at least a grade B in AS further maths in year 12. In addition to your normal A2 lessons you will study Further Maths 2 (FP2), Further Maths 3 (FP3) and Statistics 2 (S2).

Assessment

The maths department follows the Edexcel Scheme with assessments taking place in January and May/June. Your exams will take place as follows:

Year	Exam Session	Examination *
12	January	S1 (C1)
12	May/June	FP1, D1 (C2,M1)
13	January	S2 (C3)
13	May/June	FP2, FP3 (C4, M2)

* The units in bold are the further maths units and those in brackets are the normal maths units.

Upon successful completion of the course you will have gained 2 A levels in maths, one in normal maths and another in further maths.

The Future

A level Mathematics is a much sought after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full-time courses in Higher Education. There are also many areas of employment that see a Mathematics A level as an important qualification and it is often a requirement for the vocational qualifications related to these areas. Higher Education courses or careers that either require A level Mathematics or are strongly related include Economics, Teaching, Medicine, Psychology, Architecture, Environmental Studies, Engineering, Computing and Accountancy. If you should wish to continue your study of mathematics after A levels you could follow a course in Mathematics at degree level or even continue further as a postgraduate and get involved in mathematical research.

GEOGRAPHY

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in Geography (or English)

Year 12 AS Outline

The students follow the issues based syllabus Edexcel Syllabus B.

Unit one covers the topic of changing landforms and their management. Here coastal and river environments will be studied. Furthermore, unit two, managing change in rural and urban environments, will investigate the issues faced in rural and urban areas and how they can be managed effectively. Finally, students will complete an environmental investigation on a topic of their choice on an issue studied in units 1 and 2. Students will attend a five day residential field trip in North Wales and a one day field visit to the Olympic site in Newham.

Year 13 A2 Outline

Year 13 builds in the issues covered at AS level. The students cover three units. Unit 4 introduces the concepts of Global Challenge where the topics of Atmospheric Processes, Ecosystems under Threat, Global Population and Migration and Globalisation and the changes in the Global Economy are studied. Students also carry out Unit 5 – Researching Global Futures. Here they study Hazards and Hazard Management and carry out a piece of coursework based on issues ranging from Feeding the World's Population, Health and Welfare to the Geography of Sport and Leisure. Finally, Unit 6 culminates in a Synoptic Paper being taken. This consists of issues analysis involving problem solving and decision making skills on a topic which combines physical, human and environmental elements of Units 1, 2 and 4. We aim to organise a foreign residential fieldtrip in Year 13.

Assessment

At AS the assessment is through structured questions using stimulus material as well as completing the coursework task of the Environmental Investigation which is based in fieldwork.

At A2 level assessment is through structured exam questions on the Global Challenge Unit, a synoptic exam based on issues analysis, an essay in a Global Futures issue and finally a coursework report on a second issue covered in the Global Futures section.

The Future

A Level Geography is a means of entry to both Science and Arts courses in Colleges and Universities. It encourages an enquiring mind, as well as developing skills in IT, numeracy and essay and report writing.

The study of A Level Geography is welcomed by many employers. Specific careers involving Geography include journalism, tourism, teaching, surveying, cartography, banking, town planning and the Armed Forces. It also provides a valuable insight into the protection and management of the built and natural environment which lends itself to employment in the civil service, local government, the Environment Agency and environmental groups. Refer to the websites of the Royal Geographic Society Association for further information on careers.

The subject will make the student a more rounded person enabling him/her to fully appreciate the changing world in which we live.

AS/A LEVEL COURSES

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in English or a humanities subject

Year 12 AS Outline

You will examine the key features of our political system in the UK and evaluate how effective and representative our democracy really is.

You will complete two units. In unit 1 you will study 'People and Politics'. This unit introduces you to the key channels of communication between government and the people. It encourages you to evaluate the adequacy of existing arrangements for ensuring representative democracy and participation. In unit 2 you will study 'Governing the UK'. This unit introduces you to the major governmental processes with the UK. It encourages you to develop a critical understanding of the role and effectiveness of key institutions, and of the relationship amongst them in the context of multi-level governance.

Year 13 A2 Outline:

You will complete two units. In unit 3 you will study 'Representative Processes in the USA' This unit looks at the representative processes of the US political system and considers their adequacy in terms of popular participation and full democracy. In unit 4 you will study 'Governing the UK'. This unit examines the institutional framework of US government and considers the interrelationships between its legislative, executive and judicial processes and the health of US federalism.

Assessment

All 4 units are examined.

The Future

Government and Politics is compatible with social science, law, politics and humanities degrees.

HISTORY

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in History (or English)

Year 12 AS Outline

You will complete two units. In unit 1 you will study 'Russia In Revolution, 1881-1924: From Autocracy To Dictatorship' and 'Stalin's Russia, 1924-1853'. In unit 2 you will study 'Poverty, Public health, and the Crown of Government in Britain, 1830-1875.

Year 13 A2 Outline:

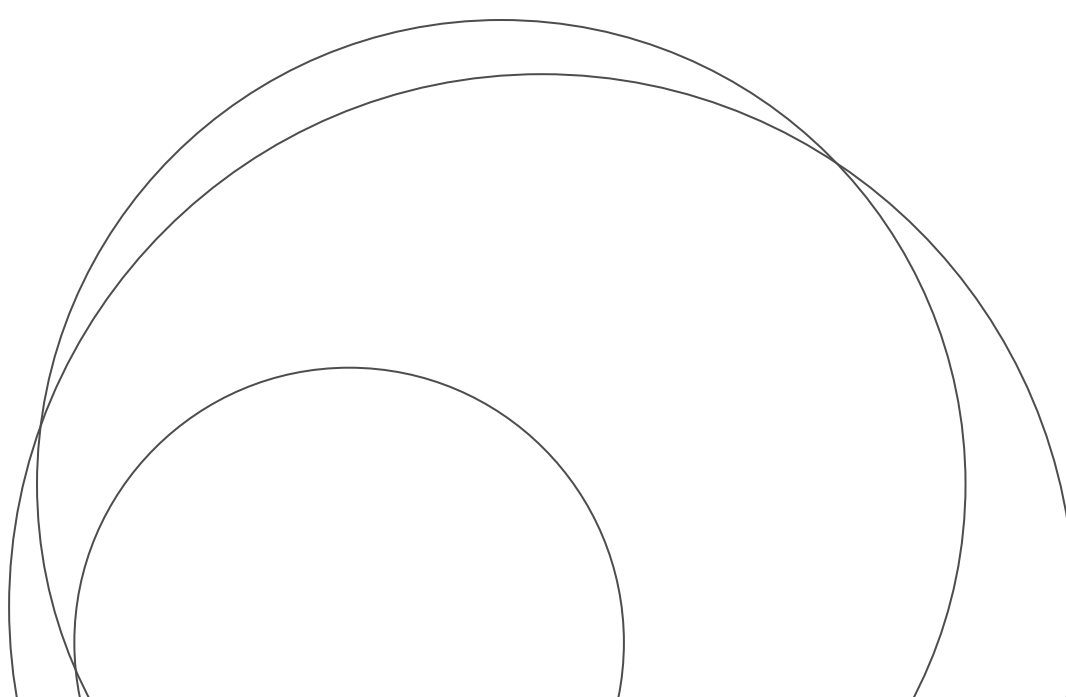
You will complete two units. In unit 3 you will study 'From Kaiser to Fuhrer: Germany 1900-45'. In unit 4 you will study 'Representation and Democracy in Britain, 1830-1930'.

Assessment

Units 1, 2, and 3 are examined. Unit 4 is a coursework unit requiring you to conduct a historical enquiry resulting in two extended essays.

The Future

If you are successful at A Level History you will have the ability to discuss problems and analyse evidence. You will be able to write clear, well-organised explanations and evaluate conflicting interpretations. All of these activities make an A Level in History a very useful and much sought after qualification in employment areas such as management, finance, law, civil service, teaching, journalism, librarianship, writing and politics. Those who go on to courses or degrees in higher education which might lead to one of these careers will find an A level in History is an excellent preparation.





AS/A LEVEL COURSES

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE ICT or a Distinction in BTEC ICT. A B grade in English or Mathematics is preferred.

Year 12 AS Outline

AS ICT is comprised of two units and externally assessed examinations. The units are concerned with applying ICT to solve problems and the study of the opportunities for, and effects of using ICT in the world today. Learners will have the opportunity to put into practice a wide range of software and hardware to create solutions and solve problems.

Unit 1: Practical Problem Solving in the Digital World

- 50% of total AS mark, 25% of total A' Level mark.
- Practical use of ICT, identifying, designing, producing, testing, documenting and evaluating solutions.
- Data entry, storage, output of information, use of software, current health and safety.

Unit 2: Living in the Digital World

- 50% of total AS mark, 25% of total A' Level mark.
- ICT systems, their components, uses, users safety and security.
- Data and information, data transfer, back-up and recovery.

Year 13 A2 Outline

A2 also comprise of two units and externally assessed examinations. Learners will study the concepts associated with the use of ICT in the 21st century. Learners will also have opportunities for acquiring skills needed in the IT profession such as co-operatively working and project management. Students will also be given the opportunity to develop in areas of ICT that are of interest of them.

Unit 3: Practical Issues involved in the Use of ICT in the Digital World

- 60% of total AS mark, 30% of total A' Level mark.
- Developments in technology, information needs of organisations, ICT systems, management of ICT.
- Developing ICT systems, introducing large ICT systems into organisations.
- Training and supporting users of ICT systems.

Unit 4: Coursework Practical Issues Involved in the Use of ICT in the Digital World

- 40% of total A2 mark, 20% of total A' Level mark.
- Practical issues involved in managing the use of ICT in organisations.
- Investigating, analysing, defining requirements.
- Selecting and using appropriate technologies, designing solutions, methods for testing and installation, documenting and evaluating.

The Future

Successful completion of the Advanced GCE ICT course offers several routes of progression. Students can go onto a computer related degree at university or may want to complete a joint degree course with an element of business. The higher education options are quite diverse. However, there is also the alternative of changing direction to employment and moving into an ICT job-related sector.

AS/A LEVEL COURSES

LAW

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in English (or English Literature)

Year 12 AS Outline

This is a very popular course indeed and, currently, two groups are being run in each year.

The course consists of two distinct sections. In 2008 you will study the new two module specifications. They are **English Legal System** and **Sources of Law**.

Year 13 A2 Outline

Candidates who are successful in these two AS modules may opt to receive an award at Advanced Subsidiary Level or you may carry on to the second year to the full Advanced Level.

This will comprise the study of CONTRACT LAW, which provides an in-depth analysis of the rules governing the formation and termination of a contract. There will be also some study of Consumer law. You will assess and analyse cases and learn to apply legal reasoning.

Law is not an easy option. In common with all A Level subjects it requires a good deal of self-discipline and determination to get through a syllabus that is both wide and very detailed. Those of you who wish to take up this demanding subject must be able to communicate your thoughts and ideas clearly.

You are expected to read widely newspapers, journals and Law Reports. Also, the school is currently subscribing to a highly detailed on-line Law programme, which is available to all Law students at the school. You will be encouraged, indeed required, to think for yourself. Not only will this help you pass your A Levels but will set you in good stead for the rest of your life.

Assessment

This is by written examination which you will sit in June. In 2008, the A2 pass rate was 100%. 69% attained an A-C with a total of 19% gaining an A.

The future

Finally, it should be pointed out that Law A (or AS) level is a well regarded qualification and will complement any subject you subsequently wish to follow, whether or not Law-based.

MATHEMATICS

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in Mathematics.

Year 12 AS Outline

In year 12 you will study 2 modules of Pure Mathematics (C1 and C2), and one module in Mechanics or Statistics, and take examinations in each of these areas. When studying Pure Mathematics at AS and A level you will be extending your knowledge of such topics as algebra and trigonometry, as well as learning some brand new ideas such as calculus.

If you choose to study Mechanics you will learn how to describe mathematically the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them, from cars in the street to satellites revolving around a planet. You will learn the technique of mathematical modelling; that is, of turning a complicated physical problem into a simpler one that can be analysed and solved using mathematical methods.

If you choose to study statistics you will learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions about it. You will extend the range of probability problems that you started for GCSE by using the new mathematical techniques studied on the pure mathematics course.

Year 13 A2 Outline

You will study two more modules of Pure Mathematics (C3 and C4) and choose another module in Mechanics or Statistics. It may be possible for suitably qualified individuals to take 3 extra modules towards an AS in Further Mathematics.

Assessment

Each module is examined by a 1 hour 30 minute examination paper.

The Future

A level Mathematics is a much sought after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full-time courses in Higher Education. There are also many areas of employment that see a Mathematics A level as an important qualification and it is often a requirement for the vocational qualifications related to these areas. Higher Education courses or careers that either require A level Mathematics or are strongly related include Economics, Teaching, Medicine, Psychology, Architecture, Environmental Studies, Engineering, Computing and Accountancy. If you should wish to continue your study of mathematics after A levels you could follow a course in Mathematics at degree level or even continue further as a postgraduate and get involved in mathematical research.



AS/A LEVEL COURSES

MEDIA STUDIES

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in Media Studies (or English)

Year 12 AS Outline

Two units are available in year 12. Both are worth 50% of the AS mark. Coursework is a practical exercise and is made up of a preliminary task followed by the main task. An evaluation has to be produced in electronic form. The examination covers the concepts of representation, audience and institution. These are examined through a textual analysis (TV Drama) and a case study (Newspapers).

Year 13 A2 Outline

As with the AS, two units are available for study. Both are worth 50% of the A2 mark. Coursework is a practical exercise which consists of a portfolio, comprising of a main and ancillary text, with a presentation of research, planning and evaluation in electronic form. The examination comprises of two sections; a theoretical evaluation of the production and a discussion on contemporary media issues.

Assessment

AS – year 12 – The coursework is internally examined and externally moderated by OCR. The examination is externally marked.

A2 – year 13 – The coursework is internally examined and externally moderated by OCR. The examination is externally marked.

The Future

It is possible to study for a Media Studies degree or a similar course. Media Studies A level is also a useful qualification if you wish to apply for any of a number of degree courses in the Arts, Humanities and Social Services. Media Studies does not necessarily open the door into the world of the media but some of our past students have gone on to careers in advertising, production and journalism. Media Studies will give you a critical understanding of the mass media, which are an extremely important part of modern society. The more we progress into the twenty-first century, the more media literate we need to be.

Mark Reid, head of education at the British Film Institute said that although everyone involved in media studies in schools emphasises that it is not a route into working in the media, he believes it is impossible to be literate in the 21st century without an understanding of the media. "The UK isn't going to lead the world in manufacturing any more, but where we do lead is in creative applications. Any qualification that supports that agenda is going to be popular and important," he says.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in one of PE, English, Science and grade C in the other 2

Year 12 AS Outline

The subject is split into four sections. These are: Anatomy, where you will learn about how the body moves in sport; Acquisition of skill, where you will learn how the mind works in order for you to improve your skills, and Contemporary studies, where you learn about sport and PE in society. The fourth section is a practical assessment of you in your two best sports and a formal observation and analysis test.

Year 13 A2 Outline

In year 13 you will develop a deeper understanding of the physiological and psychological processes and their effects on the ability of performers to optimise their performance. By this stage you will be able to analyse, through PE the effects of global trends on participation; and be able to critically evaluate the socio-cultural and contemporary issues which influence trends of participation in sport in UK, France and the USA. You will be practically assessed in one sport.

Assessment

Two of the four modules are assessed by written examination. The other two are practical assessments and formal observation and analysis tests.

The Future

Physical Education is a popular A level subject both with Universities and with employers. Students are able to continue their studies at degree level in Sport, Education or Science related subjects. They may also enter directly into the expanding leisure industries or may wish to study any unrelated field at university.

AS/A LEVEL COURSES

PHYSICS

AS / A level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade BB in Double Science and GCSE grade C in Mathematics

Course details

You will be studying the specification: OCR Physics A
Details of the specification can be found at www.ocr.org.uk

Year 12 – AS Outline

During this year of the course you will be studying two physics modules and completing a Practical Skills in Physics assessment task. The modules are Mechanics and Electrons, Waves and Photons. The course is designed to apply knowledge to everyday life and to extend into previously uncharted territory – by the end of the year you will be able to hold your own in a discussion on quantum physics.

Year 13 – A2 Outline

During this year you will extend the knowledge gained at AS by studying two units called Newtonian work and Fields, Particles and Frontiers of Physics. You will also complete a Practical Skills in Physics assessment task.

Assessment

Assessment is by a mixture of written examinations and assessed practical work.

The Future

In an increasingly complex world, Physics is a highly valued qualification for a wide range of careers. These range from medicine to electronics and electronics, engineering; from astronomy and space science to forensics. Physics is also essential for all forms of engineering, such as civil engineering and aeronautics. Employers quite rightly regard Physics at A level and beyond very highly, as it shows that you have advanced numeracy and problem solving skills, that you can apply knowledge to unfamiliar situations and express ideas logically and clearly.

PRODUCT DESIGN

(3-D Design) AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in a technology subject

This course has been designed to encourage candidates to take a broad view of design and technology. It will develop candidates' capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

Year 12 AS Outline

At AS level candidates should develop an understanding of a broad range of materials, with emphasis on the life cycle of products, manufacture and final disposal. This specification also considers the broader issues for the designer including the environmental sustainability of products and consumer safety.

There are two units as AS level.

Unit 1

- Developing an understanding of the physical and mechanical properties in a broad range of materials and components.
- The broader issues for the designer including the environmental sustainability of products and their manufacture.
- Methods in which materials and components can be manipulated to manufacture products.
- Health and safety issues relevant to working with materials.
- Computer aided design (CAD) and computer aided manufacture (CAM).
- Ergonomics and anthropometrics, inclusive design, and consumer safety.
- The life cycle of products including manufacture, use and functional aspects and final disposal.

Assessment

Unit 1 is assessed by a written exam, this paper is worth 50% of the AS grade and 25% of the A level. The paper is based primarily on Materials and Components.

Unit 2

Coursework consisting of a design portfolio and manufactured outcome(s).

Coursework may take a number of forms; a single design-and-make project, two smaller projects and/or a portfolio of work.

Assessment

Unit 2 is assessed through the design portfolio and manufactured outcome(s) and is worth 50% of the AS grade and 25% of the A level.

The Future

3D design could take you into a number of exciting career paths and allow you to assess further study at university. Of course there is product or automotive design but what about computer generated cartoons? Or may be CAD for industry appeals to you more? This course could take you into architecture, manufacturing, advertising, electrical or mechanical engineering, civil engineering or even teaching.



AS/A LEVEL COURSES

PRODUCT DESIGN

(Textiles) AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in a technology subject

This course has been designed to encourage candidates to take a broad view of design and technology. It will develop candidates' capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

Year 12 AS Outline

At AS level candidates should develop an understanding of a broad range of materials, with emphasis on the life cycle of products, manufacture and final disposal. This specification also considers the broader issues for the designer including the environmental sustainability of products and consumer safety.

There are two units as AS level.

Unit 1

- Source and classification of the main fibre groups.
- Yarn types and properties and the blending and mixing of fibres.
- Fabric manufacture: woven, knitted, nonwovens and smart materials created to provide specific properties.
- Fabric finishes and surface decoration.
- Product components.
- Industrial and commercial practice, manufacturing systems, ICT application, pattern drafting, product manufacture and environmental concerns.
- Development of design, design in practice, communication methods and design in the human context.

Assessment

Unit 1 is assessed by a written exam, this paper is worth 50% of the AS grade and 25% of the A level. The paper is based primarily on Materials and Components.

Unit 2

Coursework consisting of a design portfolio and manufactured outcome(s).

Coursework may take a number of forms; a single design-and-make project, two smaller projects and/or a portfolio of work.

Assessment

Unit 2 is assessed through the design portfolio and manufactured outcome(s) and is worth 50% of the AS grade and 25% of the A level.

The Future

Textile Design could take you into a number of exciting career paths. Of course being a textile designer is a natural outcome, but there are other job prospects. Like working as an interior designer or in fashion merchandising and buying.

The advertising and marketing profession always needs creative people too, as does the manufacturing industry. You could also apply this A level to your portfolio of skills as a teacher.

PSYCHOLOGY

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in one of English, Science, Mathematics and a grade C in the other 2

Year 12 AS Outline

By following this course in year 12 you will develop an understanding of different areas of Psychology. These areas include cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, social psychology, biological psychology and abnormal psychology.

Students learn about theories of human behaviour and the psychological research which has been conducted to test these theories. In addition you will learn about the application of psychological theory to everyday life.

Year 13 A2 Outline

The year 13 syllabus allows you to expand on some of the topics covered at AS Level. An increased emphasis is placed on commentary and evaluation skills in relation to psychological theory, empirical studies and the methods of research used in Psychology. The year 13 Syllabus allows students to study in topics in depth such as Mental Illness and Addiction.

Assessment

In year 12 the AS examination consists of two 90 minute written papers containing structured questions.

The assessment in year 13 is also through written examination. There will be two examination papers. There is no coursework.

The Future

Many students have gone on to study this subject at degree level. Career possibilities exist in personnel management, advertising and marketing, clinical psychology, educational psychology, forensic psychology and any other job where an understanding of human behaviour would be relevant.

AS/A LEVEL COURSES

SOCIOLOGY

AS / A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in English (or English Literature)

Course details

Sociology is largely regarded as a skills subject by universities. With this qualification you will be seen as good at debating, research and essay writing. At Valentines High School most pupils get A and B grades in this subject and you'll be expected to work hard and achieve your best.

The main topics studied are education, families and households, religion and crime and deviance. They're all interesting to discuss and easy to relate to your own life and experiences.

Year 12 AS Outline

Unit 1: Families and Households

Written exam consisting of five questions, 1 hour
Weighting: 40% of the total AS marks

Unit 2: Education and Sociological Methods

Written exam covering both topics, 2 hours. Weighting: 60% of the total AS marks. Candidates choose one topic (Education or Health) and answer:

- One question on the chosen topic. This question consists of four parts.
- One question on sociological research methods in the context of the chosen topic. This question consists of one part.

In addition, candidates answer one question on free-standing research methods. This question consists of four parts.

Year 13 A2 Outline

Unit 3: Beliefs in Society

Written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes, Weighting: 40% of the total A2 level marks. Candidates choose one topic from four and answer one compulsory question and one question from a choice of two. The compulsory question consists of either two or three parts and the optional question consists of one essay.

Unit 4: Crime and Deviance; Theory and Methods

Written paper, 2 hours. Weighting: 60% of the total A level marks. Candidates choose one topic (Crime and Deviance or Stratification and Differentiation) and answer:

- One question on the chosen topic. This question consists of two parts.
- One question on sociological research methods in the context of the chosen topic. This question consists of two parts.

In addition, candidates answer one question on theory and methods. This question consists of one essay.

As noted, assessment is entirely exam-based. There is no coursework in Sociology. For a detailed outline of the topics mentioned, please search the AQA specification for 2009 onward.

The Future

Sociology is a very widely accepted "skills" subject that can be useful in itself or used as a subsidiary with other A Levels. Students often study Law, Business, Psychology or Finance with this A level as well as pursuing courses in Education.

SPANISH

AS/A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in Spanish

Year 12 AS Outline

The course will help you to develop your general study skills, but most of all you will learn to communicate at a higher level in Spanish and learn about a wide range of aspects of the Spanish-speaking World.

- **Unit 1:** Spoken Expression and Response in Spanish

This unit rewards you for your ability to converse in Spanish on a general topic area that you have chosen in advance.

- **Unit 2:** Understanding and Written Response in Spanish

This unit requires you to understand and convey your understanding of Spanish language texts and recordings as well demonstrating an ability to manipulate the Spanish language in continuous writing.

Year 13 A2 Outline

In Year 13 you will extend your knowledge by consolidating your Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing skills.

- **A2 Unit 3:** Understanding and Spoken Response in Spanish

This unit requires you to demonstrate the effectiveness of your Spanish-language skills by presenting and taking a clear stance on any issue of your choice

- **A2 Unit 4:** Research, Understanding and Written Response in Spanish

This unit requires you to demonstrate skills in A-level Spanish writing, translation from English into Spanish and evidence of independent, advanced-level Spanish language reading and research.

Assessment Year 12

- **Unit 1:** Spoken Expression and Response in Spanish: (AS 30%/GCE 15%)

8-10 minute assessment in two sections.

- **Unit 2:** Understanding and Written Response in Spanish (AS 70%/GCE 35%)

2 hour 30 minute paper in three sections.

Assessment Year 13

- **A2 Unit 3:** Understanding and Spoken Response in Spanish (35% A2 / 17.5% GCE)

8-10 minute assessment in two sections.

- **A2 Unit 4:** Research, Understanding and Written Response in Spanish (65% A2/ 32.5% GCE)

The Future

There will be a range of opportunities open to you. Some choose to do degree courses in Spanish; others choose to pursue a higher education course in another subject, but choose Spanish alongside it. Having Spanish at AS or Advanced GCE will improve your employability, in particular with companies which have international branches.

Whether you are interested in continuing your studies or working at home or abroad, a Spanish course at AS or Advanced GCE is an excellent step towards achieving your goals.



VOCATIONAL A LEVEL

BTEC LEVEL 3

ICT

Vocational A level ICT BTEC National Award

Entry requirements

5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE Maths. There is strong maths content in the second year of this course. If you have a BTEC First qualification in ICT it must be at a Merit grade or above.

Course details

This six unit award offers a specialist qualification that focuses on particular aspects of employment within the sector. This qualification is equivalent to one A level.

Units that you will cover include:

Communication and Employability Skills

Computer Systems

Website Production and management

Computer Graphics

E-Commerce

And either one of the following:

Advanced Database Skills or Advances Spreadsheet Skills

Experience you will gain, include practical experience with computer hardware within the computer systems unit and understanding parts of hardware and trouble shooting.

Assessment

This course is assessed by presentations, coursework set by the teacher and assignments set by the exam board. There are no examinations for this course.

There is no AS award to this course. Therefore you cannot cash in year 12 units, you must continue to the end of year 13 to cash the qualification.

Future

You will be in good position to continue your ICT career at university. This qualification will give you valuable experience and knowledge of the role of an ICT consultant. You may choose to take up a degree specialising in one of the units covered in this course at university.

ART & DESIGN

BTEC National Certificate in Art & Design

Entry requirements

One of the following:

- A BTEC first certificate or diploma in a related subject (merit)
- At least five GCSEs at grades A*- C

Students must show a real interest for the course and a willingness to work very hard and independently. Most students are able to present a supporting portfolio, which may include examples of Art, Graphics, Design and Technology, and Textiles work.

About the course

A BTEC National certificate is a full-time, practical, work-related course, which takes two years to complete. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. As well as learning about the employment area you have chosen, you develop the skills you need to start or progress a career.

The course will cover a wide range of Art and Design disciplines including: ceramics, computer graphics, printing drawing and painting, illustration, photography, 3D work, and the research into how artists and designers work.

Throughout the two years students have the opportunity of visiting practising artists and designers, and working from industry briefs.

They will also visit gallery and museum exhibitions, to help support their work.

Assessment

The course is made up of 12 units – 7 mandatory core units, and five specialist units. The specialist units enable you to study particular areas in depth. At the end of the course you will get a pass, merit or distinction. All the units will be assessed through portfolio presentation by subject tutors.

The Future

This course is equivalent to two A levels which means when you have finished the course you can choose whether to move into a career straight away or go into higher education, and study subjects such as:

- Interior Design
- Fashion production/retail
- Textile and Fashion design
- Graphic design
- Photography
- Fine Art
- Architecture

BTEC LEVEL 3

BUSINESS

BTEC National Award in Business/Certificate in Business

Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs of C grade or better across a range of subjects or BTEC First in Business at Merit or Distinction level.

Year 12 AS Outline

This is a two year course consisting of 12 business units. The BTEC National Award is for the 6 units that are completed in Year 12 and the BTEC National Certificate is for the 12 units that will be completed over the two years.

Students will be taught by three teachers over the year and each teacher will deliver two units. These units cover a broad range of business related topics as outlined below.

Following an induction period when some basic introductory topics are taught, students will start work on three separate units. They will continue the introductory work with "Exploring Business Activity" in which they will look at types of business organisation, aims and objectives, functions roles in a business and how external factors affect business. They will also start "Effective people, Communication and Information" which will look at the importance of people to an organisation and methods of communication with them. The third unit will be "Introduction to Marketing" which examines the principles of marketing, market research and marketing techniques. The other three units are titled, "Investigating Business Resources", "Introduction to Accounting" and "Investigating Recruitment and Selection". These units will further develop some of the skills taught in the earlier units.

Year 13 A2 Outline

The second year of the course will cover six more units covering the broad range of business related topics ranging from Accounting, Marketing, Law, Human Resources through to Enterprise.

Assessment

All units are internally assessed, meaning that the teachers will set the assignments, mark them and send off a sample for the external verifier. For each unit students can be awarded a fail, pass, merit or distinction. It is therefore possible for the students to get the same grades for the overall award. To get a merit, students will have to have achieved a merit or distinction in most of the units and likewise to get a distinction. The BTEC National Award is the equivalent of one GCE A level and the BTEC National Certificate is the equivalent of two GCE A levels.

The Future

This qualification is suitable for 16-19 year olds who are clear about the area of employment they wish to enter i.e. business related. In the past many of our students have gone on to pursue university courses in accountancy, banking, business/retail management, personnel/HR and marketing.

BTEC LEVEL 2

ART AND DESIGN

BTEC First Diploma in Art and Design

Entry requirements

5 GCSE D grades or a BTEC foundation certificate in a related subject. Students must show a real interest for Art and Design, and a willingness to work very hard and independently. Most students are able to present a supporting portfolio, which could include examples of Art, graphics, Design and technology, and textiles GCSE work.

About the course

The course is full time, and takes one year to complete. It is a practical, work related course. You learn about different Art and Design disciplines by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands.

During the course you will cover a range of different skills and techniques using a variety of materials. There will also be opportunities for work placements/visits, and projects set by practicing artists and designers.

You will cover a wide range of Art and Design disciplines over the year, including: ceramics, ICT-(including paint shop pro package), printing, drawing and painting, illustration, textiles, fashion and 3D work in a variety of materials. All of these skills will be underpinned with visits to gallery and museum exhibitions.

Assessment

The course consists of 6 units - four mandatory core units and two specialist units. The specialist units enable you to study particular areas in more depth. All units will be assessed through portfolio presentation by subject tutors. At the end of the course you will get a pass, merit or distinction.

The Future

After successful completion of the BTEC first diploma you will be in a good position to continue onto a more advanced course such as the BTEC national Diploma or certificate. From there you can go onto Higher Education and into an Art and Design profession, such as: Interior design, fashion production/retail, textile design, graphic design or photography.



BTEC LEVEL 2 BTEC LEVEL 2

BUSINESS

BTEC First Diploma

Entry requirements

5 GCSE's of D grade or better

About the course

BTEC Firsts in Business have been designed to develop knowledge and understanding in the business sector. Students will be taught a range of important business topics that will give them a taster of what they might come across on a higher level course or in employment.

This is a one year course consisting of 6 business units. Students will be taught by three teachers over the year and each teacher will deliver two units. The units that will be covered are outlined below.

Students will start with "Exploring Business Purposes" in which they will examine the types of ownership of businesses, the classification of businesses, their aims and objectives and the different functional areas within a business. The second unit is "Developing Customer Relations" and involves students looking at all aspects of customer service and business. The third unit is called "Investigating Financial Control" and students will learn about costs, revenues, profit, costs, break even, cash flow and how to record financial transactions.

The second half of the year will require students to do units called "Business Communication" which will look at all aspects of communication in business, "People in Organisations" which involves the rights and responsibilities of employees and employers and finally, "Starting a small business".

Assessment

All units are internally assessed, meaning that the teachers will set the assignments, mark them and send off a sample for the external verifier to check. For each unit students can be awarded a fail, pass, merit or distinction. It is therefore possible for the students to get the same grades for the overall award. To get a merit, students will have to have achieved a merit or distinction in each of the 6 units and to get a distinction they should have been awarded a distinction in all units. The BTEC First Diploma is the equivalent of four GCSE grades A* - C.

The Future

In the past many of our students who have done a similar course have gone on to do the next level course which would be either the BTEC National Certificate or AS and A levels and have then gone on to study university courses in accountancy, banking, business/retail management, personnel/HR and marketing.

APPLIED SCIENCE

BTEC Applied Science First Diploma Level 2

Entry Requirements

5 GCSE passes at grade D, preferably including Science, Maths and English. All applicants must show an interest in science and a willingness to work hard.

About the course

One year full time.

For Edexcel to award a First Diploma at level 2, you must complete 6 units, 2 core units which are compulsory and 4 specialist units which are optional.

During the course you will examine science based employment and carry out scientific tasks: investigation of organisms, investigation of the properties of solid materials and their uses and the analysis of substances. You will also look at how to obtain products from cultivated plants and how to obtain pure substances. You will also practise scientific approaches by monitoring the performance of tasks by the human body. In further modules you will research the effect of mans activities on the environment.

The purpose of this vocational Science course is to highlight how Science is used by scientists and technicians. This theme permeates the course intentionally to promote Science as a worthwhile career.

Assessment

Evidence of learning, understanding and achievement is assessed regularly throughout the course and the award of a pass, merit or distinction is made at the end of the course. All six vocational units are internally assessed. You have two opportunities during the course to sit the externally examined test, which is designed to confirm an understanding of the units.

The Future

A successful student at BTEC Applied Science Level 2 could go on to an advanced level Applied Science at level 3 and from there to a degree level course. Science related careers include: technician, nursing, physiotherapy, engineering, chemistry, pharmacy, analytical technician and opportunities in the chemical industry.

Exceptionally successful students will be considered for AS levels in Chemistry and Biology.

GCSE COURSES

ENGLISH GCSE

Entry Requirements

This is a one year course and is intended for students who have the ability to gain a grade C in English after a further year of study. Students who have gained a D at their first attempt will be given priority.

Programme of Study

Students are expected to produce a range of coursework assignments, including a Shakespeare unit. The aims of the course are to improve literacy skills, to develop a variety of styles of writing and to encourage responses to literary and non-literary reading. Oral work is an important part of the course and students should be prepared to contribute fully to speaking and listening activities.

Assessment

Two examination papers, a coursework folder and oral coursework assess the course. The examinations account for 60% of the marks and cover non-literary and literary texts. The coursework folder, which is worth 20% of the final mark, should consist of three units of work. The remaining 20% of the marks are awarded for achievement in speaking and listening activities.

The Future

GCSE English is a very important qualification for all students to gain. Most employers and colleges of further education expect students to have gained a GCSE pass, preferably at Grade C or above. It is useful in the study of many other subjects and some A level courses require a good pass in English GCSE.

MATHEMATICS GCSE

Entry Requirements

The course is intended for students who have the ability to gain a grade C in Mathematics after a further year of study. Students who have gained a D grade at their first attempt will be given priority.

Programme of Study

This is a one year course. The programme of study follows the National Curriculum guidelines with the following: the topic areas of using and applying mathematics, number and algebra, shape, space and measure and data handling.

Assessment

Students need focus only on the two written examination papers (80%).

The Future

A grade C or above in GCSE Mathematics may be a requirement for employment or further study.



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