SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

WE ARE VALLEY PARK SIXTH FORM

A LEVEL SUBJECTS ENTRY CRITERIA

Grade 5 or above in a related GCSE Art and Design subject. Or BTEC Level 2 at Merit or above, in a related Art and Design subject. Submission of a portfolio of work may be accepted if Art is not studied at GCSE.

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Computer Science (where studied) and Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics. If not studied: Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Literature and in GCSE English Language.

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Geography.
Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language or Literature.

GCSE Grade 5 or above in a related GCSE Art and Design subject. Or BTEC Level 2 at Merit or above, in a related Art and Design subject. Submission of a portfolio of work may be accepted if Art is not studied at GCSE.

Grade 5 or above in GCSE History.
Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language or Literature.

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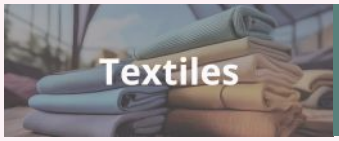
A LEVEL SUBJECTS ENTRY CRITERIA

Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

Grade 5 or above in a related GCSE Art and Design subject. Or BTEC Level 2 at Merit or above, in a related Art and Design subject. Submission of a portfolio of work may be accepted if Art is not studied at GCSE.

Meet all criteria: Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature. Grade 5:5 or above in Combined Science, and Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Geography or History.
Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language or Literature.



Grade 5 or above in a related GCSE Art and Design subject. Or BTEC Level 2 at Merit or above, in a related Art and Design subject. Submission of a portfolio of work may be accepted if Art is not studied at GCSE.

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VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS ENTRY CRITERIA

Grade 5 or above in English Language or Literature.
Grade 5 or above in GCSE Geography, History or Religious Studies.

Two Grade 5s or above in GCSE Sciences and Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics.

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Business Studies or Merit or above at BTEC level 2 in Business Studies.
If not studied: Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language or Literature Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

Grade 4 or above in GCSE English Language or Literature.

Grade 5 in GCSE Engineering or Merit or above in BTEC Engineering.
If not studied: Grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths Grade 5:5 or above in GCSE Science.

Grade 4 or above if studied at GCSE. If not studied, Grade 4 or above in English Language or Literature.
Grade 4 or above in Mathematics.

Merit or above at BTEC Level 2 Health and Social Care.
If not studied: Grade 4 or above in English Literature or Language.

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VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS ENTRY CRITERIA

Digital Systems and Data	Grade 4 in GCSE Computer Science or Merit in a Level 2 Information Technology qualification. If not studied: Grade 4 or above in Mathematics.
Medical Science	Two Grade 5s or above in GCSE Sciences and Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics.
Music	Merit or above at BTEC Level 2 or grade 4 in GCSE in Music.
Performing Arts (Foundation)	Merit or above in Performing Arts at BTEC Level 2 or grade 4 or above at GCSE in Drama or relevant performing experience, or by audition.
Performing Arts (Extended)	Merit or above in Performing Arts at BTEC Level 2 or grade 4 or above at GCSE in Dance or relevant performing experience, or by audition.
Production Arts	Relevant GCSE Grade 4 or above, or BTEC Level 2 or above in Theatre Production or Drama. If not studied: Can demonstrate experience and interest in this area.
Extended Certificate in Sport	Merit or above in Level 2 BTEC Sport and/or a GCSE PE grade 5 or above. If not studied: A grade 4 or above in GCSE English. A grade 4 or above in Science.

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WELCOME TO OUR SIXTH FORM

"We are delighted to welcome you to Valley Park School Sixth Form – a vibrant, inclusive, and ambitious learning community where we are committed to the development of the whole student.

Our Sixth Form provides a fantastic atmosphere in which students feel supported, challenged, and inspired. It is a place where individuality is valued, aspirations are raised, and success is celebrated.

At Valley Park, students thrive both academically and personally as part of a community built on ambition, respect and kindness, and a shared determination to succeed."

Mrs K Gunn
Executive Headteacher

Mr D Jones
Headteacher

Curriculum

Our curriculum offers **academic choices for all talents and interests**, designed to lead to successful outcomes. We offer a broad selection of **A-Level and vocational courses**, allowing students to tailor their learning to match their ambitions. Whether your next step is university, a degree apprenticeship, or employment, you'll be supported by subject specialist teachers who bring expert knowledge, passion, and real-world understanding into the classroom.

Life-Long Learners

We pride ourselves on offering more than just academic excellence. Our focus is on developing **independent, resilient, and life-long learners**, ready to face the challenges of an ever-changing world. Through a structured programme of mentoring, study support, and **personal development**, students are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning and develop the habits and mindset that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Student Leadership

Student Leadership plays a central role in Sixth Form life at Valley Park. Students are encouraged to take on a variety of leadership roles — from **Head Students** and **House Captains** and Prefects to peer mentors — helping them grow as role models and active contributors to our school community.

Pastoral Support

We also understand the importance of **pastoral support** in every student's journey. Our dedicated **Sixth Form Team** of staff provides individual guidance, ensuring each student is fully supported in both their academic and personal development. This supportive environment helps students navigate their academic challenges while building confidence and resilience.

Futures Programme

Our unique **Futures Programme** prepares students for life after Sixth Form, whether they're continuing to **Post-18 education**, entering the workforce, or embarking on apprenticeships. Through a blend of career workshops, university visits, industry engagements, and personalised career advice, we ensure that all students are ready for their next steps.

Real-Life Learning

Real-life learning opportunities are embedded throughout the Sixth Form experience. Students take part in **work experience placements**, **university visits, employer-led sessions,** and **volunteering activities**. These experiences build essential employability skills, expand horizons, and provide insight into the world beyond school.

Enrichment Curriculum

Our vibrant enrichment curriculum ensures that students develop as **well-rounded individuals** through opportunites to be involved in **Visual and Production arts, trips and visits to debate, and mentoring younger students**. Every student has the opportunity to explore new interests, strengthen their personal skills, and broaden their perspective.

ASPIRE

At Valley Park School, we believe in the **ASPIRE** approach to Sixth Form education, ensuring our students benefit from:

- **A**n Ambitious Programme of Study
- **S**tudent Leadership opportunities
- **P**astoral support through a dedicated Sixth Form Team of staff
- **I**ndependence, resilience, and life-long learning skills
- **R**eal Life Experiences to connect classroom learning with the world beyond
- **E**nrichment opportunities that develop well-rounded, confident individuals

Mrs N Collison
Assistant Headteacher

Mrs H Miller
Assistant Headteacher

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Lewis Jamieson - Head Student

I'm Head Student for Peer Mentoring and Safeguarding at Valley Park School, studying Health and Social Care, Business Studies and IT, as these subjects align with my aspiration to become a social worker.

I'm an active member of the school community, committed to promoting student voice, supporting others and being a positive role model for students.

I believe that community is one of the most important aspects of our school, as building a supportive, inclusive, and positive environment helps students achieve better outcomes, develop confidence and pursue their future ambitions.

Jo Greenfield - Head Student

I'm Head Student for Quality of Education at Valley Park School, studying Psychology, Criminology and BTEC Music. These subjects help me understand people, communication and different ways of thinking.

I'm passionate about making learning a positive and rewarding experience for everyone, helping students reach their full potential. In my role, I aim to represent students' perspectives, promote ambition and identify opportunities to improve school life. I believe success comes from hard work, confidence and the right support. Every student should feel empowered to challenge themselves, develop their abilities, celebrate their achievements and make the most of the opportunities available at Valley Park.

HOW TO APPLY

Valley Park School offers one of the broadest curricula in the local area. Alongside our **Programme of Study** we are able to offer our sixth form students a unique opportunity to study one qualification at **Invicta Grammar School,** providing students meet the subject's entry requirements.
The entry requirements for all our courses ensures students are on the right courses, setting students up for success from the start.

The Application Process

As part of the application process, it is important that students carefully consider their subject choices and ensure that their **predicted GCSE grades meet the entry requirements** for their chosen courses.

Each subject has specific entry criteria, which can be found in this Sixth Form Course Guide. Invicta Grammar School subject entry requirements can be found through their website.

We recommend that students:

- Discuss their choices with subject teachers and form tutors
- Attend our Sixth Form Open Evening to explore course options
- Review their predicted grades and compare them to the subject entry requirements
- Think carefully about their future aspirations, whether they are aiming for university, apprenticeships, or employment

General Entry Requirements

- 5 GCSEs at grade 4, including a grade 4 in either GCSE English Language or Literature.
- Meeting the subject specific entry requirements.
- NB: subject entry requirements are subject to change.

How to Apply

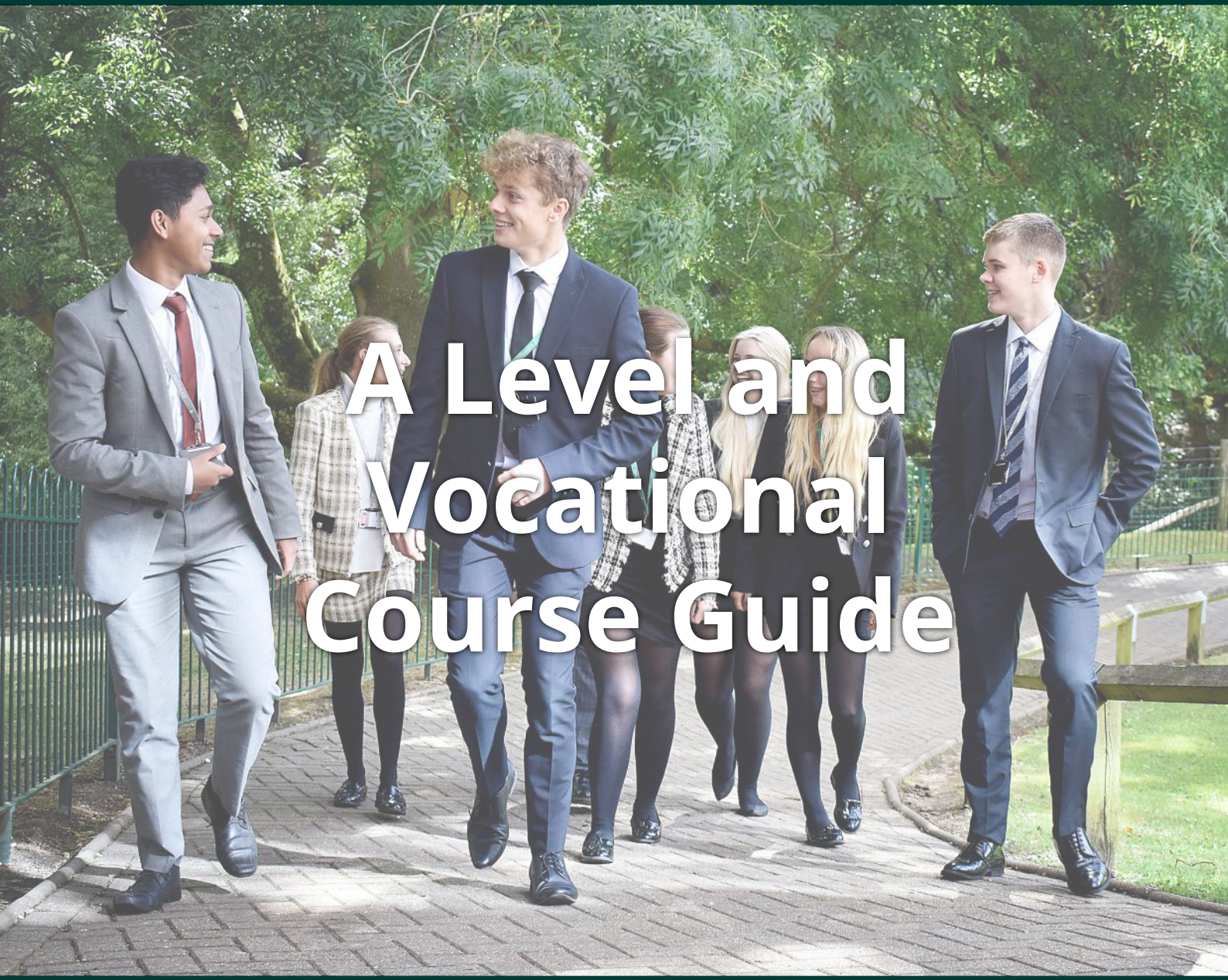
To apply to **Valley Park Sixth Form** students must submit an online application to **Kent Choices**.

KENT CHOICES

If you have any queries please contact Valley Park School.

sixthformapplications@valleypark.viat.org.uk

01622 679421



A Level and Vocational Course Guide

Performing Arts & Visual Arts

Our **Visual and Performing Arts Programme** offers an exciting and comprehensive opportunity for students to explore their creative potential in both **Fine Art, Design, Graphics, Photography, Textiles**, as well as in **Dance, Drama,** and **Music.**

These courses are designed for students who are passionate about the arts and aspire to develop their skills for further education or careers in the creative industries.

A-Level courses

Our A-Level courses in **Art, Graphics, Photography, Textiles,** and vocational course in **Performing Arts** provide students with a broad and enriching curriculum.

In the **Visual Arts**, students will experiment with a range of traditional and contemporary techniques, from painting and sculpture to digital media and textiles, while the **Performing Arts** courses encourage students to develop their skills in drama, dance, and music. The focus is on nurturing individual creativity, technical proficiency, and collaborative skills.

Diploma in Performing Arts

For students wishing to **specialize in Performing Arts**, we also offer the option of completing a Diploma in Performing Arts, which is **equivalent to 3 A-Levels**.

This highly specialized qualification provides an intensive focus on **dance, theatre,** and **musical performance**, preparing students for a career in the Performing Arts or further study at top conservatories and universities.

Subject Specialist Teachers

Guided by subject specialist teachers, students are encouraged to push the boundaries of their creativity and develop their individual style.

We take pride in the fact that our students consistently achieve **outstanding results** in their exams and coursework. The dedication, hard work, and passion they invest in their artistic practice enable them to succeed and excel at the highest level.

Our **state-of-the-art facilities**, including dedicated **art studios, performance spaces,** and **digital suites,** provide students with the tools and space they need to bring their visions to life.

Throughout the course, there are opportunities for **enrichment activities**, such as performances, exhibitions, and collaborative projects, giving students real-world experience and building confidence in their artistic practice.

Progression

Many of our students go on to attend prestigious **conservatories, art colleges,** and **university creative courses.** Graduates pursue successful careers in areas such as **graphic design, fashion design, photography, Performing Arts**, and other creative industries.

This programme is ideal for students seeking to immerse themselves in both **Visual** and **Performing Arts**, with the flexibility to specialize through a Diploma in Performing Arts, and A Level Art & Design specialisms.

It prepares students for higher education and a bright future in the creative world, all while achieving outstanding results.

The Edexcel A Level in Art, Craft and Design is a two-year course where you will explore working with 2-dimensional, 3-dimensional or time-based approaches

It will allow you to fully explore a range of techniques and develop your individual artist practice across a range of media. The course is tailored to suit individual talents and to build a creative portfolio, suitable for entry to higher level creative courses.

Taking a course in art, craft, and design offers a dynamic exploration of creativity through a diverse range of materials and techniques. Students can expect to engage with traditional and contemporary practices, experimenting with mediums like painting, textiles, ceramics, and digital design.

Entry requirements

Grade 5 or above in a related GCSE Art and Design subject. Or BTEC Level 2 at Merit or above, in a related Art and Design subject. Submission of portfolio of work may be accepted if Art is not studied at GCSE.

What to expect

Expect hands-on projects that challenge you to think critically about form, function, and aesthetics, while also considering scale; from small, intricate pieces to larger installations. The curriculum typically emphasizes the importance of context, allowing students to explore how their work interacts with cultural and societal issues.

Units studied

- Component 1: personal investigation
- Component 2: externally set task

How it's assessed

Component 1: a portfolio of work which equates to 60% of the final grade.

A supporting 1000–3000-word contextual essay.

Component 2: externally set exam with a 15-hour examination at the end of the course in the second year.

Progression

An A Level in Art, Craft, and Design provides a strong foundation for diverse creative pathways. Many students progress to higher education in fields such as Fine Art, Graphic Design, Fashion, or Architecture, while others specialise in areas like textiles, ceramics, or digital media to develop their unique artistic identity.

The course focuses on portfolio development, preparing students for further study, apprenticeships, or freelance opportunities. Graduates may pursue careers in the creative industries, start their own businesses, or with additional qualifications, move into teaching and mentoring. This qualification fosters creativity, professionalism, and adaptability across a wide range of artistic disciplines.

The OCR A Level in Computer Science is highly valued by universities and employers, as it develops analytical thinking, logical reasoning, and problem-solving skills.

The course provides an excellent foundation for further study in computer science, engineering, physics, and related disciplines. Students explore the fundamental principles of computing through practical programming, supported by theoretical understanding.

Topics range from processor architecture to key computational concepts such as decomposition and abstraction. By learning to view the world through a 'digital prism,' students gain the skills to apply computing knowledge across diverse fields including science, healthcare, business, and engineering, preparing them for modern technological challenges.

Entry requirements

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Computer Science (where studied) and Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics If not studied: Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

What to expect

- A combination of computer based and theory lessons to understand fundamental principles.
- Challenges to build on concepts and articulate relationships between computer science concepts.
- Independence in development of a solution to a programming problem.
- An expectation of consistent development of programming skills both in and out of lesson time.

Units studied

- Computer systems
- Algorithms and programming
- Non-examined assessment

How it is assessed

Two written examinations (80% in total) and a non-examined assessment (20%).

The non-examined assessment is a practical programming project, while the examinations encompass a range of programming and theory concepts.

Progression

- Supports study of Computer Science/IT in a further education setting.
- Provides transferrable skills for students progressing to computing-related apprenticeships
- Prepares for employment in sectors such as mathematics, engineering or medicine.

The Edexcel A Level in English Literature will help you develop a number of subject- specific and transferable skills through in-depth, critical and contextual thinking.

An A Level in English Literature will engender a greater love of reading and equip you with invaluable skills for life. You'll learn how to communicate effectively, extend your critical thinking by challenging assumptions and develop your analytical, comparative, evaluative and creative skills; all highly valued qualities sought after by employers in multiple career sectors.

The new specification for a level approaches the study of literature through the lens of historicism encouraging the independent study of a range of texts within a shared context, and giving logic and meaning to the way that texts are grouped for study.

Entry requirements

English Literature: Grade 6

English Language: Grade 6

What to expect

- Essay-based subject; expect lots of writing!
- Prepare to read wider than the course prescribed literature.
- Conduct reading into critical perspectives on literature.
- Expect research and pre-reading tasks ahead of lessons.

Units studied

- Drama: shakespeare's 'Othello' and the modern tragedy 'A Streetcar Named Desire'
- Science and society prose: 'Frankenstein' and 'The Handmaid's Tale'
- Poems: post-2000 poetry 'Poems Of The Decade' and Christina Rossetti's selected poems

How it is assessed

Three examinations at the end of year 13 (80% of final grade)

Paper 1: Drama

Paper 2: Prose

Paper 3: Poetry

Students will also complete a non examined assessment (nea) (20% of final grade).

Progression

- Opens up the world of classic and contemporary literature.
- Complements future studies in the arts, humanities, social sciences and law faculties at university.

The Edexcel A Level in Geography enables you to engage critically with real world issues and places, apply your own geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to make sense of the world around you.

The specification offers an issues-based approach, enabling you to evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues.

Entry requirements

Grade 5 In GCSE Geography or Grade 5 In either English Literature or Language and a Grade 4 In Mathematics.

What to expect

Prepare to read around the subject in newspapers, books, journals and internet articles - having an interest in current affairs will inform a lot of in-class discussion.

You will need to have an enquiring mind - be prepared to debate a range of issues (social, political, economic and environmental) from different perspectives.

You will learn about a range of case studies in detail - you will need to be able to apply theory to real-world examples. Fieldwork is a compulsory part of the a level course and you will be expected to complete your own independent investigation from this.

Units studied

- Dynamic landscapes (tectonics and coasts)
- Dynamic places (globalisation and regeneration)
- Physical systems (water cycle and carbon cycle)
- Human systems (superpowers and health, human rights and intervention)
- Independent investigation (NEA)

How it is assessed

There are three externally-examined papers at the end of year 13 (80% of your grade).

Paper 1: dynamic landscapes; physical systems and sustainability (2 hours 15).

Paper 2: dynamic places; human systems and geopolitics (2 hours 15).

Paper 3: synoptic (2 hours 15).

Non examined assessment (20% of a level).

Progression

Geography is a highly respected academic A level and complements future studies in both arts and science subjects at university.

The transferable knowledge and skills developed by studying geography are actively sought out by employers.

The Edexcel A Level in Graphic Communication enables students to explore creative approaches through a blend of handmade and digital techniques. They will develop Photoshop skills through experimentation and project-based briefs, enhancing both technical ability and visual communication.

Emphasis is placed on understanding how images and words convey ideas, addressing user and audience needs, and analysing how evolving design practices influence communication and presentation. Students will build a professional portfolio showcasing their creativity and versatility, providing a strong foundation for progression to higher-level art and design courses, apprenticeships, or careers in the creative industries.

Entry requirements

Gcse graphics: grade 5

Btec first diploma: merit

Portfolio

What to expect

A-level graphic communication is an exciting and rewarding experience. Students will develop proficiency in various graphic design software such as adobe illustrator and photoshop.

Practical skills will be developed by learning traditional techniques such as sketching, typography and layout design. Design principles will be covered where you will understand fundamental concepts such as colour theory composition and visual hierarchy.

Units studied

Component 1: personal investigation

Component 2: externally set task

How it is assessed

Component 1: a portfolio of work which equates to 60% of the final grade.

A supporting 1000–3000-word contextual essay.

Component 2: externally set exam with a 15-hour examination at the end of the course in the second year.

Progression

An A Level in Graphic Communication opens a range of exciting pathways in further education and the creative industry. Students can progress to degrees in Graphic Design, Illustration, Advertising, Animation, or Motion Graphics, or build their portfolios through foundation or short courses in areas such as branding and web design.

Career opportunities include roles as Graphic Designers, Illustrators, Brand or Web Designers, and Motion Graphics Specialists. Building a strong portfolio, networking with professionals, and gaining experience through internships or freelance work enhance employability. This qualification provides a versatile foundation, equipping students with creative and technical skills for a dynamic job market.

The Edexcel A Level in History engages learners through broad and in-depth studies, encouraging analysis of sources and interpretations while inspiring curiosity, informed citizenship, and a lifelong interest in understanding the past.

Studying History deepens understanding of how past events shape today's world, fostering critical thinking, empathy, and civic awareness. It teaches students to evaluate evidence, assess bias, and consider multiple perspectives—skills valuable in any field. By exploring diverse cultures and historical movements, such as those led by Rosa Parks, Mahatma Gandhi, and Malala Yousafzai, students appreciate human diversity and the power of individual action.

Entry requirements

GCSE History: Grade 5

GCSE English Language or Literature: Grade 5

What to expect

Essay-based subject; expect lots of writing.

Prepare to read wider than the course prescribed content.

A variety of homework tasks ranging from essays to critical assessments of sources and interpretations.

Challenge your preconceptions and argue about causes, consequences, change & continuity.

Units studied

Paper 1h: britain transformed, 1918-97

Paper 2h.2: Usa, challenge and conformity, 1955-1991

Paper 3: britain, losing and gaining an empire, 1763-1914

How it is assessed

3 Terminal examinations at end of year 13 (80% of your grade).

Paper 1g: Germany And West Germany, 1918-89.

Paper 2g.1: The rise and fall of fascism in italy.

Paper 3, option 30: Lancastrians, Yorkists And Henry VII.

Coursework module (20% of final grade).

Progression

Complements future studies in the arts, humanities, social sciences and law faculties at university.

Access to job roles requiring the analysis and presentation of data.

Independent research & critical analysis skills are looked upon favourably by a wide range of employers, e.G. Those in journalism, psychology, law, politics, social care, archeology, museum curation & academia.

The Edexcel A Level in Mathematics will enable students to further pursue their existing knowledge in mathematics, and relate this knowledge to real world applications.

Studying a level mathematics will allow you to develop many skills, such as problem solving, analytical skills and logic. It will open the door to many exciting and interesting careers, such as economics, it and scientific research.

A level mathematics offers a broad study of mathematical concepts, and develops key skills e.G. Problem solving and logic.

You will have the opportunity to study geometry, calculus and trigonometry in pure mathematics and to use these ideas within the applied topics such as mechanics and statistics. You will explore mathematical modelling in the real world and apply statistical methods of analysis in order to construct meaning within different real-life contexts.

Entry requirements

GCSE Mathematics: grade 7 or above

What to expect

- Home learning tasks, set at the end of each lesson, due the next lesson, to check your understanding.
- A wealth of algebraic manipulation: solving, rearranging, factorising.
- Plenty of graph work: sketching, interpreting and transforming.
- Extensive independent study to firmly consolidate the new skills acquired in lessons.

Units studied

- Pure mathematics
- Statistics
- Mechanics
- Specification

How it is assessed

Three terminal examinations at the end of year 13; two are pure-focused papers and the third is focused on statistics & mechanics.

Students study a pre-release statistical dataset throughout the course and they will be examined upon a portion of the dataset under examination conditions.

Progression

- Mathematics degree courses.
- Scientific degree courses.
- Finance, economics & engineering careers which value the key skills you've acquired.

The Edexcel A Level in Photography is a two-year course where you will learn to explore the work of others and be able to record, document and present examples of everyday life, in ordinary and extraordinary circumstances. You will use multimedia as a vehicle for artistic expression, communicating personal ideas about the world around us. You will also convey personal identity more widely than any other art form and apply it in the creative process of Photography.

Entry requirements

Grade 5 or above in a related GCSE Art and Design subject.

Or BTEC Level 2 at Merit or above, in a related Art and Design subject.

Submission of portfolio of work may be accepted if Art is not studied at GCSE.

What to expect

Practical based subject so expects lots of time in the Art Studios. Prepare to spend time to explore and experiment above and beyond the skills demonstrated in lessons. Expect to work on extended themed responses that demand volumes of work outside of timetabled lessons.

Units studied

Component 1: Personal Investigation

Component 2: Externally Set Task

How it is assessed

Component 1: A Portfolio of work which equates to 60% of the final grade.A supporting 1000–3000-word Contextual Essay.

Component 2: Externally set exam with a 15-hour Examination at the end of the course in the second year

Progression

An A Level in Photography opens exciting pathways into further study and creative careers. Many students progress to degrees in Photography, Film, Media, or Visual Arts, while others specialise in areas such as portrait, fashion, or documentary photography.

You'll build a professional portfolio showcasing your technical skill and artistic vision, preparing you for university, apprenticeships, or freelance work.

The course also develops valuable multimedia and digital storytelling skills. With experience, you could work in studios, advertising, or education, applying your creativity across disciplines and shaping visual culture through powerful imagery.

The Edexcel A Level in Psychology equips students with the skills to critically examine various explanations of human behaviour, from prejudice to phobias. They will critically evaluate theories, studies & research methods to make informed conclusions and judgements. They will be able to apply their knowledge to controversial issues within society; seeing the theoretical content from lessons within their everyday lives.

Students should study A Level Psychology if they are inquisitive to find out more about the world around them, and debate questions such as: "Is aggression due to nature or nurture?" "What makes people obey authority figures?" "Should we treat mental health disorders with drugs or talking therapies?" "How can we treat offenders to lower recidivism?"

Entry requirements

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.

Grade 5:5 or above in Combined Science.

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

What to expect

- Essay-based subject; expect lots of writing.
- Independence & taking ownership of your own learning.
- 10% Mathematics and Statistics.
- Evaluate and describe studies and carry out on your own research.

Units studied

- Foundations In Psychology
- Applications Of Psychology
- Psychological Skills

How it's assessed

For the A Level, three terminal examinations at end of year 13 (100% of the grade).

Paper 1: Foundations of Psychology (2 hours)

Paper 2: Applications of Psychology (2 hours).

Paper 3: Psychological skills (2 hours).

Progression

Complements future studies in Psychology, Mental Health, Criminology, Social Sciences, Health and Social Care, Law and other related fields.

The Edexcel A Level Politics course will change the way you look at the world around you, and will help you to question what you see or hear from people, the media and world leaders. It is a highly-respected academic A level that allows you to show off your ability to draw on your knowledge to put an argument together.

A level politics gives students an understanding of the society and world they live in, and equips them to challenge the narratives they receive in the media or from politicians. Students study and compare the uk and us political systems, and learn about how political ideas are formed.

Entry requirements

Grade 5 in English Literature or Language and a humanities subject (History preferred).

What to expect

An essay-based subject with the opportunity to give extended answers. Keep up-to-date with the news: this unique subject can change dramatically in just a few days! Vital homework tasks each week to keep your knowledge current.

Units studied

UK Politics

UK Government

Politics In The USA

Political Ideas

How it's assessed

Three equally-weighted examinations at the end of year 13; no coursework.

- Paper 1: UK politics and the core political ideologies of socialism, conservatism and liberalism.
- Paper 2: UK government and the ideology of feminism.
- Paper 3: US politics

Progression

Career-wise, politics can lead to a future in journalism, law, media, politics, education and business, due to the skills developed through this highly-respected academic a level.

Politics also can complement future university studies in the arts, humanities, social sciences and law faculties.

The Edexcel A Level Textiles course allows you to develop your artistic practice through a creative focus on fabric and design. Over two years, you'll explore a wide range of materials, techniques, and processes—both traditional and modern—to produce innovative textile outcomes. You'll research and respond to the work of artists and designers while developing your own unique creative voice.

The course encourages experimentation, self-expression, and professionalism, helping you build a strong portfolio for university, apprenticeships, or creative careers. Through design briefs and personal projects, you'll learn to create textiles that inspire, communicate, and challenge conventional ideas.

Entry requirements

- GCSE Textiles: grade 5
- Equivalent BTEC
- Portfolio

What to expect

Textiles is a two-year course where you will explore working with selecting, manipulating and the application of a range of materials and processes in order produce fabrics for different purposes.

Both traditional and modern techniques, will be investigated to help formulate outcome's purpose of self-expression and professional standard designs. Art textiles may be created to explore abstract ideas, communicate messages about the observed world and challenge existing designs.

Units studied

Component 1: personal investigation

Component 2: externally set task

How it's assessed

Component 1: a portfolio of work which equates to 60% of the final grade.

A supporting 1000–3000-word contextual essay.

Component 2: externally set exam with a 15-hour examination at the end of the course in the second year.

Progression

A Level Textiles opens the door to a wide range of creative and professional opportunities. Many students progress to degrees in Fashion Design, Textile Design, Interior Design, or Sustainable Fashion, while others take foundation or specialist courses to refine their portfolios and technical skills.

Career paths include roles such as Fashion Designer, Textile Artist, Visual Merchandiser, or Production Manager. You'll develop creativity, problem-solving, technical, and communication skills valued across industries. With experience gained through internships or personal projects, you can pursue further study, start your own brand, or enter the dynamic world of fashion and textile design.

The Edexcel AAQ BTEC National in Applied Law offers a practical and engaging introduction to the legal system in England and Wales. This qualification is ideal for students who are interested in how laws are made, applied, and interpreted, and how they affect individuals and society.

With a focus on both civil and criminal law, students will explore the workings of the courts, the roles of legal professionals, and the legal rights and responsibilities of individuals. BTEC Law is excellent preparation for further study or employment in the legal, public, or business sectors.

Entry requirements

Grade 5 or above in English Language or Literature Grade 5 or above in GCSE Geography, History or Religious Studies

What to expect

Similar in style and structure to Level 3 Criminology, this course blends academic study with real-world application and is suited to students who enjoy coursework-based learning, independent research, and applying knowledge to real-life situations.

Students study a range of legal topics, including:

- Dispute Solving in Civil Law
- Criminal Law and the Legal System
- Applying the Law to Real-Life Scenarios
- Optional Units such as Family Law, Tort Law, or Contract Law

Units studied

Core units

- Dispute Solving in Civil Law
- Investigating Aspects of Criminal Law and the Legal System
- Applying the Law

One unit chosen by teachers

- Aspects of Family Law
- Consumer Law
- Contract Law
- Aspects of Tort

How it's assessed

Units are assessed through a combination of coursework work and examinations.

Progression

This course provides a strong foundation for studying Law, Criminology, or related subjects at university. It also supports progression into careers such as:

- Legal Executive or Solicitor Apprenticeships
- Police or Probation Services
- Paralegal roles
- Legal Administration
- Business, HR, and Public Services

The Edexcel AAQ BTEC National in Applied Science (Extended Certificate) is a practical, work-related course that combines academic knowledge with the skills needed to pursue a career in a scientific setting. All science disciplines are covered, providing you with a broad based science qualification.

Students should study the applied science course if they enjoy the practical side of the subject and its application to real life.

This course is excellent for students who like science but are unsure of which area to specialised in, it provides a broader range of scientific knowledge.

It teaches transferable skills and critical thinking that is a fantastic opportunity for students to further their career should they wish to go directly into industry or attend university.

Entry requirements

Two Grade 5s or above in GCSE Sciences and Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics.

What to expect

Opportunties for independent laboratory work. An element of the course will be on calculations and mathematical problem solving. Frequent assignments/written reports that count towards your final grade. High level of challenge, particularly in the examination units, which cover all three disciplines (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

Units studied

- Unit 1 principles and application of biology
- Unit 2 principles and application of chemistry
- Unit 3 principles and application of physics
- Unit 4 practical scientific procedures and techniques
- Unit 5 science investigation skills

How it's assessed

Unit 1, 2 and 3 will be externally assessed by an exam with unit 4 and 5 being internally assessed by a portfolio and coursework.

Progression

- Enables you to follow a career in a technical scientific role.
- Complements the study of other stem pathway courses, in sixth form and afterwards such as sport sciences, nursing and further study of science.

The BTEC National Extended Certificate in Business can lead to a fulfilling career with a variety of opportunities. Business skills are in demand across all industries, and the demand for business professionals is expected to increase.

The BTEC National Extended Certificate in Business introduces students to the world of business, focusing on 4 key areas: exploring business, developing a marketing campaign and personal and business finance.

Business is an in-depth, thought provoking subject, which immerses students in the business world.

Entry requirements

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Business Studies or Merit or above at BTEC level 2 in Business Studies.

If not studied: Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language or Literature Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

What to expect

- In depth research into modern and established businesses
- High levels of passion for the subject for and the business world from teaching staff
- Problem solving type questions which encourage students to draw on wider research
- To think critically using a range of business models and theories

Units studied

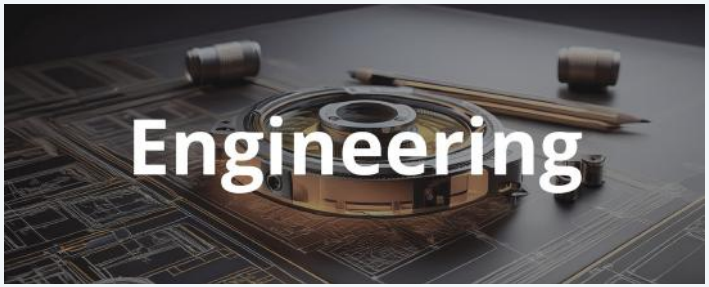
- **Unit 1** exploring business
- **Unit 2** developing a marketing campaign
- **Unit 3** personal and business finance
- **Unit 8** recruitment and selection process

How it's assessed

The qualification is formed of 4 units. 3 Are mandatory with 2 of these being external examinations. The unit 2 examination is taken in year 12 with the unit 3 examination taken in year 13.

Progression

- Opens up the world of finance and business management.
- Allows students to see the wider world in context making students the ideal candidate for employment, apprenticeship & further education.



The Edexcel Level 3 AAQ Extended Certificate in Engineering introduces you to the exciting and innovative world of engineering. You'll learn how to apply scientific principles and practical skills to design, create, and improve products and systems safely and efficiently.

The course encourages creativity, problem-solving, and analytical thinking—skills that are highly valued across industries. Engineers are in high demand, and this qualification provides a strong foundation for further study or apprenticeships. Even if you pursue a different career path, the transferable skills gained will make you adaptable, employable, and ready for future technological challenges.

Entry requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE Engineering or Merit or above in BTEC Engineering. If not studied: Grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths Grade 5:5 or above in GCSE Science.

What to expect

Engineering covers a broad variety of roles and it involves the application of scientific principles and practical knowledge to transform ideas and materials into products and systems safely, supporting them during their lifetime.

This qualification has a focus on a broad range of specialist engineering areas.

Units studied

- Engineering principles
- Engineering applications
- Engineering design
- Engineering project

How it's assessed

Unit 1: engineering principles. An external examination set and marked by pearson

Unit 2: engineering applications. An external examination set and marked by pearson

Units 3 & 4 internally assessed, set and externally verified by pearson.

Progression

- Mechanical Engineering BEng
- Civil Engineering BEng
- General Engineering BEng
- Electronic And Electrical Engineering BEng

Students may also progress to HNC or foundation degrees in Engineering.

In the **BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Esports** course, students will gain a detailed understanding of the organised competitive gaming industry known as Esports. It is the largest growing global industry with billions of pounds of investment every year. The qualification is endorsed by the British Esports Association.

Over the two years, students will develop their experience of different areas of the Esports industry and gain a wealth of transferable skills. This is a career-focused qualification, where students will develop knowledge and apply it to a range of sections within the Esports industry.

This is a unique opportunity to study a sector that crosses over into multiple subject areas such as sport, marketing, enterprise, IT and the creatives. It provides an opportunity to alignment of social, physical, mental and financial skills into one qualification to deepen and expand learning. Students will be expected to show strategy, skill and teamwork to be successful within the course overall.

Entry requirements

Grade 4 or above in English Language or Literature.

What to expect

You will gain a deeper understanding of the Esports industry, including different sectors. You will also explore current Esport players and the strategies and techniques behind their success. You will produce a clear plan for involvement in the Esports industry and be

expected to take an active role in Esports within the school; whether that be through playing, producing, analysing and managing, marketing or content creation. You will also explore the importance of health and wellbeing of the Esports area.

Units studied

- Unit 1 - Introduction to Esports
- Unit 2 - Esports Skills, Strategies and Analysis
- Unit 3 - Enterprise and Entrepreneurship in the Esports Industry
- Unit 4 - Health, Wellbeing and Fitness for Esports Players

How it's assessed

Four internally assessed coursework units that focus on developing and applying knowledge across the whole Esports industry.

Progression

Into employment in range of roles within Esports, including: Esports player, team coach, social media influencer and data analyst. Sports students in further study in education as a facilitating subject for a range of pathways.

The WJEC Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification (Extended Certificate) in Food Science and Nutrition provides an in-depth understanding of food science, nutrition, and their application in real-world contexts. Students complete the Certificate in Year 12 (equal to an AS Level), with the option to progress to the Extended Certificate in Year 13 (equal to an A Level).

You will explore the relationship between diet and health, food safety, and the development of innovative food products. The course combines academic theory with practical skills, preparing you for higher education or careers in areas such as nutrition and dietetics, sports coaching, public health, food science, and food product development.

Entry requirements

Grade 4 or above if studied at GCSE.

If not studied: Grade 4 or above in English Language or Literature.

Grade 4 or above in Mathematics.

What to expect

In addition to developing your practical and presentation cookery skills, you will also develop the skills required for working at university and in a professional environment: independent learning and development, solving problems, completing research, and developing food products.

Units studied

- Nutritional Needs Across the Life Stages
- Developing Practical Food Production Skills
- Principles of Food Hygiene and Food Safety in Food Production
- Experimenting to Solve Food Production Problems
- Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition

How it's assessed

Assessment is a combination of written examinations and non-examined assessments (coursework):

In Year 12:

- Unit 1: 25% Exam
- Unit 2: 25% Coursework

In Year 13:

- Unit 3: 25% Exam
- Unit 4 or 5: 25% Coursework

Progression

This qualification supports progression to higher education courses such as:

- BSc Food and Nutrition
- BSc Human Nutrition
- BSc Public Health Nutrition
- BSc Food Science and Technology

The Edexcel Level 3 AAQ BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate) is a practical, work-related course, which introduces you to the employment opportunities available in Health & Social Care.

It's the biggest growing employment sector in the uk; the btec nationals are designed to relate to the national occupancy standards for the care sector.

Students will develop knowledge and skills throughout this qualification that are key to health and social care related degrees.

Students have the potential to develop transferable and study skills becoming well-rounded individuals, better prepared for the demands of higher education.

Entry requirements

Merit or above at BTEC Level 2 Health and Social Care. If not studied: Grade 4 or above in English Literature or Language.

What to expect

The Pearson Level 3 AAQ BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate) allows students to engage in a broad investigation of various aspects of the health and social care sector.

It is an alternative academic qualification (AAQ) designed for post-16 students with an interest in Health and Social Care and aiming to progress to higher education as a route to graduate level employment.

Units studied

Three compulsory units and two external assessment/ examinations.

- Unit 1 Human Lifespan and Development
- Unit 2 Human Biology and Health - one compulsory units internal assessment
- Unit 3 Principles of Health and Social Care Practice - one internal assessed optional units
- Unit 4 Health, Policy and Wellbeing
- Unit 5 Promoting Health Education
- Unit 6 Safe Environments in Health and Social Care
- Unit 7 Health Science

How it's assessed

There are four units of study in total. Over the two years two units are assessed through coursework portfolios which are externally verified and two are examinations.

Progression

This qualification can lead to progression to the following degrees:

- BSc Nursing
- BSc Social Work
- BSc Subjects Allied to Health

In the **NEW Vocational Level 3 in Digital Systems and Data Course**, students will gain an insight into the IT sector as they investigate; the pace of technological change, it infrastructure, the flow of information on a global scale, & the importance of legal & security considerations.

You will develop professional, personal and social skills through interaction with peers, stakeholders and clients, as well as theoretical knowledge and understanding to underpin these skills.

These support the transferable skills are required by universities and employers such as communication, problem solving, time management, research and analytical skills.

Entry requirements

Grade 4 in GCSE Computer Science or Merit in a Level 2 Information Technology qualification. If not studied: Grade 4 or above in Mathematics.

What to expect

- Two exams in year 12 which are mandatory to achieve the qualification.
- Business proposals and feasibility study creation which are then delivered to potential stakeholders.
- Report writing exploring a range of it sectors.
- Content that's up to date, engaging, fit for purpose and suitable for global it needs beyond 2018.

Units studied

- **To be confirmed**

How it's assessed

Two units are taken as external examinations in year 12 .

Three internally assessed coursework units are taken in year 13.

Progression

- Development skills for students wanting to progress to IT-related apprenticeships.
- Prepares students for employment in the it sector.
- Supports study in further education as a facilitating subject for any pathway.

The Edexcel Level 3 AAQ Extended Certificate in Medical Science is an engaging and practical qualification for students fascinated by the science behind health, disease, and medical research. You'll explore key biological and chemical principles while learning how science is applied in real medical and clinical settings.

The course is ideal if you prefer coursework and continuous assessment, with both internal and external tasks based on real-world healthcare scenarios. Whether your goal is to work in the NHS, enter biomedical research, or study health sciences at university, this qualification provides a strong foundation for a rewarding career in the medical and healthcare industries.

Entry requirements

Two Grade 5s or above in GCSE Sciences and Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics.

What to expect

Unlike traditional A Levels, BTEC Medical Science combines academic study with practical, work-related learning. This means you will not only gain essential scientific knowledge but also develop valuable laboratory, research, and analytical skills that are directly transferable to the world of work or higher education.

Students will explore a range of topics including: human biology and physiological systems, health and disease prevention, scientific techniques and experimental methods, medical research and data analysis.

Units studied

Core units

- **Unit 1** Principles of Human Physiology, Anatomy and Pathology
- **Unit 2** Health Issues and Scientific Reporting
- **Unit 3** Practical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

One unit chosen by teachers

- **Unit 4** Diseases, Disorders, Treatments and Therapies
- **Unit 5** Biomedical Science
- **Unit 6** Human Reproduction and Fertility

How it's assessed

Assessment is through a combination of coursework, practical investigations, and externally marked assignments, with a strong focus on applying knowledge to real-world scenarios.

Progression

The BTEC Medical Science qualification supports progression to a wide range of degree courses including: Nursing, Biomedical Sciences, Radiography, Healthcare Science, Paramedic Practice.

It also opens pathways to apprenticeships and technician roles within the NHS and private healthcare providers.

The **RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma For Music Practitioners** is a highly practical course, designed to give the student an understanding of the working life of a musician. The course covers a wide range of musical styles and suits students with high level performance skills as an instrumentalist or singer.

This course will equip learners with a variety of abilities relevant to the music industry, ranging from knowledge development through to nearing professional skill acquisition. These skills will enable the successful learner at level 3 to work in a near professional capacity.

Examples of the types of employment and occupational areas that these qualifications may lead to include (but are by no means limited to): songwriter, recording artist, performer, session musician, producer, composer.

Entry requirements

Merit or above at BTEC Level 2 or grade 4 in GCSE in Music.

What to expect

Learners will:

- Perform effectively on their instrument/voice, both in class and live music events
- Rehearse and display musicianship skills initiate and develop repertoire
- Rehearse effectively and perform music live
- Understand contextual issues relating to music style, audience and the music industry
- Understand relevant aspects of composition, music technology and production

Units studied

- Rehearsal skills and live performance (core)
- Planning a career in music (core)
- Session musician
- Lead performer
- Composing styles
- Auditioning for music

How it's assessed

Internally assessed through a combination of practical and written assignments. All students will keep a folder of evidence for each unit. Practical work is submitted through video and recorded evidence of live performances and events. A sample of students and units is externally moderated at the end of the course.

Progression

Complements future studies in music performance and career progression in the music industry, or progression in any sector requiring strong communication skills, problem solving, and teamwork.

If you want to study Performing Arts alongside other subjects, the **Pearson BTEC National Foundation Diploma in Performing Arts Practice** is an ideal choice.

This exciting course lets you specialise in Dance, Acting, or Musical Theatre while developing valuable skills in communication, creativity, and problem-solving. You'll take part in a range of fun, performance-based projects and explore what it's like to work in the performing arts industry. With plenty of opportunities to perform and collaborate, you'll build confidence, teamwork, and professional experience to support your future studies or creative career.

Entry requirements

Merit or above in Performing Arts at BTEC Level 2 or grade 4 or above at GCSE in Drama or relevant performing experience, or by audition.

What to expect

You will develop your performance skills in either acting, dance or musical theatre, keeping a log book of your progress and reflecting on your performance work. You will also have lessons looking at what working in the industry is like and the training routes to get there.

Units studied

- Performing Arts skills development
- Exploring performance styles
- Creating performance material
- Performing for an audience
- The Performing Arts industry
- Planning a career in the industry

How it's assessed

This course is 100% internally assessed through log books, performance work and self reflections.

Progression

This course can lead to further study of Performing Arts, and is a good basis for study in english, media and film.

If you're passionate about Performing Arts and want to grow as a versatile performer, the **Pearson BTEC National Extended Diploma in Performing Arts Practice** is the perfect course for you.

Equivalent to three A Levels, it allows you to develop your skills in Dance, Acting, and Musical Theatre through exciting projects such as pantomime, theatre in education, and contemporary performance. You'll gain valuable experience in leadership, teamwork, and self-promotion, while exploring training routes and audition techniques. In your final year, you'll take the lead on a collaborative production, showcasing your creativity, confidence, and professional performance skills.

Entry requirements

Merit or above in Performing Arts at BTEC Level 2 or grade 4 or above at GCSE in Dance or relevant performing experience, or by audition.

What to expect

You will receive tuition in dance, acting and musical theatre as separate pathways, developing and rehearsing work for performance. You will prepare self promotion and audition material. You will also take the lead on running projects, working as a team to plan, direct and choreograph performance events.

Units studied

- Performing Arts skills development
- Exploring performance styles
- Creating performance material
- Performing for an audience
- The Performing Arts industry
- Planning a career in the industry
- Personal Performing Arts profile – using development plans to refine skills
- Producing a personal project
- Using material for self-promotion and networking
- Collaborative Performing Arts project
- Undertaking a defined creative or administrative role
- Using creative collaboration to develop a project
- Producing a collaborative project

How it's assessed

This course is 100% internally assessed through log books, performance work, self reflection and planning.

Progression

This course can lead to further study in Performing Arts at drama school or university, entry into the industry, or be a great basis for studies and careers involving problem solving and communication skills.

The OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Foundation Diploma in Performing Arts (Theatre Production Pathway) allows you to develop practical and creative skills in set design, prop making, lighting, sound, and stage management. You'll gain hands-on experience setting up and operating equipment, while learning how technical design brings performances to life.

Alongside this, you'll build essential employability skills in teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and self-discipline. The course also helps you explore a range of production arts careers—from stage management and design to lighting and sound operation—preparing you for further study or work in the Performing Arts industry.

Entry requirements

Merit or above in Performing Arts at BTEC Level 2 or grade 4 or above at GCSE in Dance and/or Drama or relevant performing experience, or by audition.

What to expect

- Involvement in performances gaining experience as a technician.
- Completing reflections and evaluations on the development of your skills.
- Theatre visits to see productions and opportunities to interview professionals from the industry.

Units studied

- Preparing to work in the Performing Arts sector
- Proposal for a commissioning brief
- Influential performance practice
- Combined arts
- Production and stage management process
- Stage lighting design and operation
- Stage sound design and operation

How it's assessed

This course has 3 mandatory externally set assessments which are based on examination material set by the exam board and 4 internally set assessments which are coursework based. The work is project based for all assessments.

Progression

- Complements future studies in Production Arts, Music Technology, Music, Performing Arts, Drama, Theatre Studies, Media.
- Career progression in the Performing Arts industry.
- Career progression in any sector requiring strong communication skills, problem solving, and team work.

Extended Certificate in Sport

The Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Sport will give you the skills and confidence you need to progress into a fulfilling, exciting career. The sport and fitness industry is always moving and changing, making it essential for you to have the drive and resilience to adapt.

At all stages of your academic career, the practical base of a BTEC in Sport will help you excel as a team player, coach and leader of the future.

This is a two year academic course which provides a comprehensive introduction to the study of sport. You will develop an understanding of the different sports careers, anatomy and physiology, fitness training and programming and sports leadership.

Entry requirements

Merit or above in Level 2 BTEC Sport and/or a GCSE PE grade 5 or above. If not studied: A grade 4 or above in GCSE English A grade 4 :4 or above in Science.

What to expect

- A theory based subject, you are not graded on your practical ability.
- **Biology!** You must be strong in Biology in order to pass the examination in unit one.
- Expect lots of reading around sport in order to maximise assignment grades.

Units studied

- Anatomy & Physiology
- Fitness Training & Programming for Health, Sport and Well-Being
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry
- Sports Leadership

How it's assessed

Four units, of which two are external.

- Unit 1: anatomy and physiology is an examination unit and
- Unit 2: fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being is a set task.
- Unit 3: professional development in the sports industry and
- Unit 4: sports leadership are assessed internally through coursework

Progression

- Opens up pathways to careers in sport such as; coaching, physiotherapy, sports science or teaching.
- Combines well with a large number of subjects and supports entry to higher education courses in a wide range of disciplines, ie ba (hons) sports studies and business.

OUR VALUES

THE FUTURES PROGRAMME