

# Sixth Form Options

2021 - 2023





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# Welcome to Duke's Sixth Form

Duke's Sixth Form is a welcoming and inclusive environment with a strong emphasis on being the best that you can be.

Our curriculum is designed around the needs and aspirations of our students and each year our results allow our students to progress onto some of the best university, apprenticeship or employment opportunities.

# Support & Guidance at Duke's Sixth Form

Students at Duke's Sixth Form receive strong support and guidance. All students join a tutor group with a tutor who takes a special interest in their welfare and progression.



**We have an excellent system of pastoral support to help students throughout their time with us.**

The sixth form team are dedicated to supporting all students to achieve their full academic potential, providing help and support where necessary.

We have a strong system of reporting progress and parents are provided with intermediate academic reports every half term where required as well as full reports on a twice-yearly basis.

## The Application Process

To select the correct curriculum for you, we will take into account your predicted attainment 8 score. More information on this can be found on P7.

As a rule, you will need to achieve at least a grade 6 in the academic subject you want to study (or an associated subject if the A Level subject was not offered at GCSE) or a Distinction or a grade 4 in English and maths for progression onto our vocational subjects.

**Sixth Form has helped improve my confidence and has allowed me to make informed choices about my future.**

*Year 13 Student*

**With help from teachers, I have been able to apply to my top university choices.**

*Year 13 Student*

**The time has come for students to consider what their destination will be following Year 11.**

**Check out the link to find out more about Duke's Sixth Form and why we believe "you don't have to travel far to get ahead".**

**<https://youtu.be/9eS-uRXn83g>**

# Extra-curricular opportunities at Duke's Sixth Form

Enrichment options are important to either help you develop skills needed for employment or university, or they can allow you to gain extra UCAS tariff points to help you enhance your university application.

## Year 13 Student

Although exam success and the gaining of excellent qualifications is the primary focus of all students and staff at Duke's Sixth Form, in a competitive world it is also imperative that our students gain additional experiences, interests and skills that will make them stand out from the crowd in future university or employment interviews.



All of our Year 12 students complete one week's work experience at a destination of their choosing. This work experience week takes place in March.

Our students have the opportunity to participate in numerous activities outside of lessons. These opportunities have included:

- University Open Day visits;
- Sutton Trust summer schools;
- Thursday guest speaker programme;
- Work experience placements;
- Careers fairs;
- Industry visits;
- Ethics conferences;
- Debates;
- Mock interviews;
- Annual theme park visits;
- Career Ready programme;
- Barclays Life Skills;
- Departmental enrichment;
- Annual Edinburgh Christmas trip;
- Student leadership team;
- Charity committee;
- Belgium exchange visit;
- Volunteering abroad.



**Duke's Sixth Form students have taken part in adventures all over the globe; from Botswana to Sri Lanka.**



# For which courses should I apply?

This is the most important decision that you have yet made in your education. Think and research carefully; find out more about the subjects by talking to the staff who teach them. Consider if your subject choices match your future ambitions, whether that be employment or university. If you are taking a purely academic pathway you will be expected to choose 3 A Level subjects that you will take over 2 years. You can also take the EPQ in Y12. If you are taking a mixed or vocational pathway you will take 4 subjects over the 2 years.

## ACADEMIC PATHWAY

In order to progress to this pathway a student must have achieved an Attainment 8 score of above 60. Students on this pathway will choose 3 A Level subjects and also take an enrichment activity.

*(Please note that there may be an individual entry grade for academic subjects. See the subject info pages for details).*

## VOCATIONAL PATHWAY

In order to progress to this pathway a student must have achieved an Attainment 8 score of at least 40. Students in this pathway will choose 4 vocational options.

*(Note: a double course counts as 2 options).*

Our Sixth Form courses are split into a number of different pathways...

## NOTE: ATTAINMENT 8

The Attainment 8 score is based on an average of all GCSE scores achieved by the individual student.

Consequently we are now using this measure as our entry criteria into sixth form study, although some individual subjects may still require the achievement of a particular GCSE grade in order to progress to A Level study.

## MIXED ACADEMIC/VOCATIONAL PATHWAY

In order to progress to this pathway a student must have achieved an Attainment 8 score of at least 50. Students in this pathway will choose a mixture of academic and vocational subjects, with a maximum of 2 academic choices.





Vocational courses help you prepare for your future by enhancing organisational and time management skills through meeting deadlines.

*Year 13 Student*





	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3	OPTION 4
VOCATIONAL	Applied Science (D)	Applied Science (S)	Sport	
	Business Studies		Health and Social Care	
	Construction	Media	ICT	
	E-Sports	Hospitality	Music	Travel & Tourism
			Engineering	Performing Arts
ACADEMIC	Art	Sociology	Psychology	Core Maths
	Psychology		Geography	



**At Duke's Sixth Form we have a varied curriculum designed to allow students to progress onto a variety of career and higher education pathways.**

We have suggested some pathways below which provide students access to the most popular careers and higher education courses students who leave Duke's Sixth Form go on to.

These are example pathways and are by no means an exhaustive list.

 Academic qualifications  
 Vocational qualifications

OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3	OPTION 4	NEXT STEPS	
				FE/HE	CAREERS
Applied Science		Sport		Sport Science Anatomy & Physiology Nutrition Medical & Health Sciences Sports Coaching	Fitness Instructor Personal Trainer Physiotherapist Sports Scientist Sports Development Officer Sports Coach Health Trainer Sports Agent
Applied Science		Health & Social Care		Nursing Midwifery Education Social Work Paramedic Science Nutrition Medical & Health Sciences	Youth Worker Care Home Manager Health Care Assistant Nurse Paramedic Pharmacy Technician Communication Support Worker Occupational Therapist Health Visitor Palliative Care Assistant Foster Carer Probation Officer Prison Instructor Special Educational Needs Teacher Drugs & Alcohol Worker Rehabilitation Counsellor
	Psychology	Health & Social Care		Psychology Criminology Social work Nursing Education Anthropology Law Sociology Gender Studies Speech Therapy	Early Years Practitioner Paramedic Nurse / Midwife Occupational Therapist Police Probation Officer Social Worker Housing Officer Teacher Nursery Nurse Clinical Psychologist Human Resources Manager Psychotherapist Social Sciences Researcher
Construction		Engineering	Core Maths	Mechanical Engineering Civil Engineering Energy & Environmental Engineering Construction Management Manufacturing Engineering Electrical Engineering Offshore Renewable Energy	Mechanical Engineer Rail Track Maintenance Worker Marine Engineering Technician Naval Architect Project Manager Offshore Engineering Worker Electricity Generation Worker Automotive Engineer Sheet Metal Work Advanced Manufacturer Production Line Operative Minerals Surveyor

OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3	OPTION 4		NEXT STEPS	
					FE/HE	CAREERS
Business Studies		ICT			Business Management Human Resources Games Development Computer Science Software Engineering Marketing Management	Data Entry Manager Civil Servant IT Security Co-ordinator Business Administrator Software Developer IT Project Manager Human Resources Manager Business Analyst / Adviser Facilities Manager Supply Chain Manager IT Trainer Franchise Owner Operational Researcher Chief Executive Medical Receptionist E-Learning Developer Market Researcher
	E-Sports	ICT			Information Systems Software Engineering Computer Science & AI Information Management Applied Computing Computer Games Design	IT Service Engineer IT Security Co-ordinator Software Developer Network Manager Games Designer IT Project Manager Forensic Computer Analyst E-Learning Developer Web Designer / App Developer Office Equipment Technician
	Psychology	Sport			Sports Science Psychology Medical & Health Science Journalism Events Management Business Management Anatomy & Physiology	Sports Scientist Sport Professional / Fitness Instructor Sport & Exercise Psychologist Barrister Sport Physiotherapist Sport Development Officer Forensic Psychologist Sports Agent Community Development Worker Physiotherapist Assistant Aromatherapist Teacher
Art	Media	Music	Performing Arts		Fine Art Interior & Landscape Design Media Communications Drama & Theatre Studies Textiles & Fashion Architecture Public Relations Publishing Film & Photography Liberal Arts & Sciences Marketing Music	Session Musician Broadcast Journalist Illustrator TV / Film Sound Technician Ceramics Design Maker Printing Assistant TV Presenter Music Composer & Arranger Furniture Designer Actor Model Maker Radio Broadcast Assistant
	Sociology	Psychology	Geography		Geography Psychology Sociology Criminology / Law English / Creative Writing Journalism Anthropology Gender Studies Liberal Arts & Sciences, Politics & International Relations Asian / African Studies Education Social Policy / Social Work Archaeology	Broadcast Journalist Diplomatic Service Officer Teacher Solicitor Forensic Psychologist Counsellor / Social Worker Copy Editor Play Therapist Author Cognitive Behavioural Therapist Probation Officer Cartographer Hydrologist Travel Guide Geographic Information Systems Technician

In addition to our main curriculum we offer students a stimulating and challenging mix of extra-curricular activities to ensure you are well-equipped with the skills needed for success and have fun along the way.

Following Post-16 education, there is a high level of competition for university places and employment opportunities. Taking part in enrichment allows students to develop skills that will strengthen their applications in the future.

We believe every student should be enabled to pursue the very best opportunities for higher and further education and the best apprenticeships possible. With this in mind, every student is encouraged to strengthen their own personal profile through enrichment activities during their time in the Sixth Form.

## ENRICHMENT

BTEC L3 Certificate in Music Performance
Gold Arts Award
Food Safety Qualification
Cooking on a Budget
GCSE English
GCSE Maths
Extended Project Qualification
Work Experience (for Childcare / HSC students)
NCEA Sport



# Important information about Sixth Form study

**Sixth Form study is different to GCSE study. All Sixth Form students are expected to partake in much more independent study than previously.**

Workloads are also higher both at school and at home. As a consequence, study skills such as time management and organisation become increasingly important in order for students to keep on top of their workload. This section of the KS5 option booklet is designed to give parents and students some important information and advice on what successful study at Duke's Sixth Form entails.

## INDEPENDENT STUDY CAN CONSIST OF:

- Re-reading and re-writing class notes;
- Using notes to make mind maps or flash cards;
- Organising files;
- Carrying out additional reading or research;
- Homework set by class teacher;
- Attempting past paper questions (accessible through all exam board websites);
- Researching for assignment work;
- Writing assignments;
- Making suggested corrections to assignment work;
- Revising for examined modules.



## IMPORTANT NOTE:

**BTEC rules are now very strict about the meeting of coursework deadlines. If you do not meet a deadline you may fail the course.**

## ACADEMIC COURSES

Exam board guidelines say that students taking A Level subjects should be carrying out at least 3 hours independent study per subject per week.

## VOCATIONAL COURSES

These courses are assessed largely on completion of coursework assignments rather than examinations, although all courses now have an examination module which has to be passed in order to pass the overall qualification.

There is not a recommendation of how long a student should carry out independent study per week as there is with academic courses, but those students who carry out more regular and effective study, particularly in preparation for the course examination elements, are generally those who achieve the higher vocational grades of D/D\*.

# How can I help my child reach their target grade?

Target grades are set within the first couple of weeks of students starting at Duke's Sixth Form. They are set using an average of each individual students GCSE performance. Sixth Form performance is then monitored half termly by comparing performance predicted by teaching staff against these target grades.

## To support students in reaching these target grades, parents can:

- Regularly discuss the targets with the students and keep them focussed on them;
- Discuss any improvement targets sent home via the Duke's Sixth Form monitoring process and help to focus towards them;
- Ensure home study is regular and effective;
- Emphasise the importance of using school study periods effectively;
- Ensure effective home study for (PPE) pre-public exams (see important dates below);
- Attend parents' and results evenings (see important dates below);
- Help promote the importance of using study periods for independent study;
- Ensure attendance at any departmental study sessions;
- Ensure overall good school attendance and punctuality.

## SOME IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES FOR YEAR 12 (SPECIFIC DATES TBC):

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Tutor Time - Study Skills Programme
	Unifrog launch
	Deadline for course changes (end of the month)
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Parents' meet and greet evening
	Initial Y12 report sent home
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Maths / English retake period
	Y13 subject report sent home
<b>JANUARY</b>	BTEC / Vocational Examination Period
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Y12 & 13 subject report sent home
	Y13 pre-public exam week
<b>MARCH</b>	Work experience week
	Y13 results and parents' evening

<b>MAY</b>	Data capture report sent home
<b>JUNE</b>	Maths / English retake period
	AS summer examination period
	Y12 progression day
	Y12 pre-public exam week
<b>JULY</b>	PPE re-sit week
	PPE results' and parents' evening
<b>AUGUST</b>	PPE re-sit results day
	AS Level results day



# A Level Study

## ART & DESIGN

### A Level Art, Craft & Design (AQA)

*Requires:* Grade 5 in GCSE Art, Photography or 3D Design

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of fine art media, processes and techniques. They will be made aware of both traditional and new media.

Students will explore the use of drawing for different purposes, using a variety of methods and media on a variety of scales. Students may use sketchbooks/workbooks/journals to underpin their work where appropriate. Students will explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of art, craft and design, from the past and from recent times, including European and non-European examples. Student responses must be shown through practical and critical activities that demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

#### Assessment Method

There are 2 components completed in Year 1 and 2 completed in Year 2.

**60%** coursework and **40%** external component set by AQA.

#### Career Progression

This specification is an appropriate foundation for further study of art and design or related subjects in higher education.

Many students go on to a foundation course at college which is a pathway into higher education. Other students have gone on directly to study architecture, textiles, fashion, advertising and interior design at university.

*"This course has allowed me to study a very wide range of media and explore my own ideas, as a result I have created an amazing portfolio which has helped me get into university".*

*Year 13 Student*

## CORE MATHS

### Core Maths (AQA)

*Requires:* Level 6+ in GCSE Maths

Core Maths is a relatively new type of qualification. It's designed for students who have studied higher GCSE Mathematics and achieved a grade 6 or above, but who have not chosen to study AS or A level Mathematics.

This qualification is particularly valuable for any student planning a future that requires good quantitative skills, whether that be in higher education or employment. Degrees such as Biology, Geography and Business Studies all expect a high level of mathematical competency that can be supported by studying Core Maths.

Core Maths is usually studied over two years. It's equal in size to an AS level and is graded A-E. It has the same number of UCAS tariff points as an AS level.

The courses are designed to:

- consolidate and build mathematical understanding
- foster the ability to think mathematically and apply maths in unfamiliar situations
- support students' learning in other subjects requiring quantitative skills
- prepare students for the real-life mathematical demands of further study and employment

#### Assessment Method

**100%** exam based over 2 Papers

**Paper 1:** (60 marks)

**Paper 2:** There are 3 options, see below (60 marks) -

Paper 2A: Statistical techniques

Paper 2B: Critical path and risk analysis

Paper 2C: Graphical techniques

#### Career Progression

Studying Core Maths helps students develop skills that support the quantitative aspects of many level 3 courses. These include, but are not limited to:

- Business and Economics
- Sports Science and PE
- Geography
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Biology and Environmental Science
- Health and Social Care

*"Careers for men and women with good mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid, but they are also often interesting and rewarding. People who have studied mathematics are in the fortunate position of having an excellent choice of career".*

## EPQ

### Level 3 Extended Project Qualification (AQA)

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) allows students to extend their abilities beyond the A Level syllabus and prepare for university or their future career. It is worth half an A Level (28 UCAS points) so can be used to earn extra UCAS points. It is now recognised widely amongst universities as an accompaniment to the traditional choice of 3 subjects at A Level. It is graded from A\*-U and is based on a topic chosen by the student which can be completed in a variety of formats from the more traditional essay style project, through to those who wish to produce an artefact, event, piece of art, exhibition - this list is endless!

#### Assessment Method

**100%** coursework which is internally and externally assessed.

#### Career Progression

The EPQ allows students to embark on largely self-directed projects. By taking responsibility for the choice and design of an individual project (or an individual role in a group project) students:

- become more critical, reflective and independent learners
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- learn to apply new technologies confidently
- demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

All of these skills are widely recognised as transferable for both the completion of higher education and the world of work.

*"Nearly 1 in 5 successful applicants to Durham had completed the EPQ".*

*The Sunday Times, 16 Feb 2014*

*"Newcastle University values the skills of research and independent learning that the Extended Project is designed to develop and welcomes applications from students offering an Extended Project alongside other qualifications of an appropriate level".*

*(www.aqa.org.uk)*

## GEOGRAPHY

### A Level Geography (AQA)

*Requires:* Geography or English at Grade 5

Geography reflects our world today and encourages students to think critically about the world around us and our impact on the environment.

Studying Geography gives students the opportunity to travel the world via the classroom, learning about both natural and social sciences along the way. We are constantly exposed to geographical issues in everyday life, including: environmental concerns; natural disasters; world weather; local developments; urban and rural change; population movements; maps and travel. Students can develop an awareness and understanding of the patterns, processes and relationships that characterise human and physical environments.

Traditionally, Geography is seen as a bridge between the arts and sciences, enabling students to keep their options open.

#### Assessment Method

There will be two exams taken at the end of Year 13.

**Paper 1:** Physical geography

**Paper 2:** Human geography

Both exams are worth **40%** of the final qualification.

An independent fieldwork investigation (coursework) contributes the final **20%**.

#### Career Progression

Geography graduates have a range of analytical and research skills, making them suitable for a range of career opportunities.

Opportunities for geography graduates include:

- Cartographer
- Commercial/residential surveyor
- Environmental consultant
- Geographical information systems officer
- Planning and development surveyor
- Teacher
- Town planner.

*"Geography students hold the key to the world's problems".*

*Michael Palin*

*"It is inherently multidisciplinary in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills needed to work across the physical and social sciences"*

*Guardian, 2015*



## PSYCHOLOGY

### A Level Psychology (AQA)

*Requires:* Grade 6 in GCSE Maths and English Language

Psychology is the study of the human mind and behaviour. Some of the everyday phenomena which psychology has attempted to explain range from; how crowds act at a football match, why some people conform in a social situation and what causes psychological disorders such as depression and anorexia. The broad range of topics studied at A Level psychology means that there is something interesting for everyone to study, whether you are studying sciences, humanities or languages.

There are 3 papers in total with the following content;

**Paper 1:** Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology

**Paper 2:** Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods.

**Paper 3:** Issues and Debates in Psychology, Gender, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology.

### Assessment Method

Assessment will be **100%** through examinations in Year 13. Three exams each worth **33.3%** of the final A Level grade.

### Career Progression

A Level Psychology provides good preparation for higher education and is accepted by all universities as a full A Level. It is recognised as a science by universities and is a popular fourth subject alongside science and maths for those students wishing to study medicine or veterinary science. It can also be taken as a subject which is complimentary to English, Geography, Sociology and other humanities subjects as it requires a high level of extended writing.

Psychology A Level is useful for a wide range of careers including; teaching, care work, social work, the police force, business and human resources and youth work. Psychology is also useful for careers linked to science such as biomedicine, forensic science, pathology and criminology.

*"I think it's the only subject that gives you a deeper understanding of human behaviour and encourages critical thinking".*

*Year 13 Student*

## SOCIOLOGY

### A Level Sociology (AQA)

*Requires:* Grade 6 in GCSE English Language

A Level Sociology will help you to make sense of the society we live in and understand the cultural and identity issues which affect us all.

You will learn a number of skills including the use of evidence to support your arguments, how to investigate facts, and critical thinking. It is relevant to the society you live in so you are bound to enjoy learning about topics that are relevant to everyday life; plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

During the course we study the following modules:

### Families

Why has family structure changed?

Why do children seem to have more power in the household?

### Education

Why do some students achieve more than others?

What factors both within schools and in wider society influence achievement?

### Media

What role does the media play in shaping our society?

Can we trust everything we see?

### Crime and Deviance

Which members of society commit the most crime?

What causes people to commit crime?

### Research methods and theory

### Assessment Method

**100%** examination, 3 papers taken at the end of Year 13

### Career Progression

Studying sociology at university can give you a whole host of exciting career options, including:

- Social work
- Human resources
- Advertising
- Policing
- Marketing
- Journalism
- Law
- Teaching

*"My students often ask me, 'What is sociology?' And I tell them, 'It's the study of the way in which human beings are shaped by things that they don't see.'"*

*Sam Richards*

# Level 3 Vocational

As a rule you will need to have achieved either a distinction grade at a vocational subject at GCSE or a grade 4 in English Language and Maths for progression onto our vocational subjects.

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## BUSINESS (DOUBLE)

**BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Business**  
*Pearson 601/7157/1 (2 A-levels)*

Business opens up new doors into real-life situations. Not only does it prepare you for working life but it also gives you the tools to manage your personal finances. Employers have approved this qualification and have been involved in the process to ensure that if you study this course you will be gaining the skills and knowledge they look for when employing someone. The course is for students who are interested in learning about the business sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing on to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in business related subjects.

The topics taught are as follows:

- Exploring business
- Developing a Marketing Campaign
- Personal and Business Finance
- Recruitment and Selection Process
- Managing an event
- International Business
- Principles of Management
- Investigating Customer Service

### Assessment Method

There are five coursework units and three external assessment units, two of which are written tasks set by the exam board.

This means that you are assessed **55%** through coursework and **45%** through external assessment.

### Career Progression

Progression routes lead students into studying business studies or a similar degree programme at university. Career possibilities include; human resources, business management, marketing and promotion, accountancy and careers in the financial sector. There are also many opportunities for involvement in practical and organisational activities e.g. managing events.

*"Business is a great option to take because it doesn't just give you information about the business world, but you also learn valuable life skills you could use in the future. For example help with managing your personal finances, understanding the best bank accounts and car loans to get".*

*Year 12 Student*

**Sixth Form is a safe and welcoming environment that allows us to express ourselves.**

*Year 13 Student*



## CONSTRUCTION

**Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment (603/0862/X)**

4 mandatory units studied over 360 GLH /  
Equivalent in size to one A Level:

- 1 - Construction Principles 120 GLH -  
External Assessment / Exam.
- 2 - Construction Design 120 GLH -  
External Assessment / Synoptic Assignment.
- 4 - Construction Technology 60 GLH -  
Internal Assessment / Assignment.
- 5 - Health and Safety in Construction 60 GLH -  
Internal Assessment / Assignment.

### Assessment Method

The external units account for **66%** and all units are **100%** mandatory.

### Career Progression

The Extended Certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the construction sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in construction-related subjects. It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

This course is ideal for those who want to embark on a degree apprenticeship within the construction industry as it prepares you in the use of Computer Animated Drawing techniques (CAD), Construction Project Management, application of H&S laws and regulations and gives you a firm understanding how structures are set up and work.

Typical construction pathways where this course is beneficial via higher education routes are: Health and Safety Manager, Estimator, Quantity Surveyor, Innovative Home Designer, Architect, Civil Engineer and many more.

*"It is not the beauty of a building you should look at;  
it's the construction of the foundation that will stand  
the test of time".*

*David Allan Coe*

## CREATIVE MEDIA (SINGLE)

**BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media Production Edexcel 601/7467/5 (1 A Level)**

The content of the qualification relates directly to the skills and understanding needed for further study in creative digital media production and has been developed in consultation with higher education providers. Over three units of mandatory content, students gain a broad understanding of the subject and learn the skills to produce media artefacts. They develop their ability to analyse and deconstruct media images and representations. They learn the communication and planning skills needed to work in teams through vocational media projects. An optional introductory unit in film allows students to create engaging digital media content and platforms.

### Assessment Method

- 2 Internally set and assessed assignments – **50%**
- 1 Externally set exam – **25%**
- 1 Externally set task – **25%**

### Career Progression

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by Higher Education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses including Media Studies, Journalism, film & TV, Animation and other creative sectors.

*"Pick up a camera. Shoot something. No matter how small,  
no matter how cheesy, no matter whether your friends  
and your sister star in it. Put your name on it as director.  
Now you're a director..."*

*James Cameron*

I believe teachers have a high level of confidence in the ability of students to achieve their goals.

Year 13 Student



## ENGINEERING (SINGLE)

### Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Engineering OCR (1 A Level)

Students will develop professional and practical skills by applying their scientific and mathematical understanding to real-life problems. Students will learn how to identify and correct for errors, generate mathematical models with tangible applications, draw technical diagrams and identify suitable manufacturing methods and materials for production.

Every student will study four mandatory units which focus on the practical application of science and maths skills and the basic principles of engineering mechanical and electrical systems:

- Mathematics for Engineering
- Science for Engineering
- Principles of Mechanical Engineering
- Principles of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

There will also be two modules from the options block which will further develop practical engineering skills and the properties of engineering materials:

- Mechanical Design
- Materials Science

#### Assessment Method

Four external examinations in:-

- Mathematics for Engineering
- Science for Engineering
- Principles of Mechanical Engineering
- Principles of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Two internally assessed units:-

- Mechanical Design
- Materials Science

This qualification allows students to apply their skills, knowledge and understanding to tasks or activities that are relevant to how mechanical systems, electrical systems, materials science and design are used in businesses involved in research, design and manufacture. Having an appreciation of how these are used in work will also help to prepare students for continuing education in this sector.

*"Scientists investigate that which already is. Engineers create that which has never been".*

**Albert Einstein**

## ESPORTS

### Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Esports (603/5425/2)

Esports is defined as organised competitive gaming, which is human versus human, either as individuals or in teams. The Esports industry is a fast-growing global industry. The global Esports market is projected to reach U.S. \$1.79 billion in 2022; as such this qualification has been developed to meet this upcoming demand for skills in Esports.

#### Assessment Method

Learners taking this qualification will study four mandatory units, all of which are internally assessed:

- 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

#### Career Progression

The qualification is aimed at learners who want to progress to employment in the Esports industry, possibly via an apprenticeship, or who may aspire to enter higher education. The qualification is endorsed by the British Esports Association as being suitable for learners who want to work in the industry. This means that it will be recognised by employers and will support entry into the industry in a range of roles. This qualification also offers learners the opportunity to progress to a broad range of higher education programmes, including bachelor's degrees.

Jobs roles that are available within Esports include:

- Esports player
- team coach
- events organiser
- shoutcaster and presenter
- social media influencer
- video production editor
- photographer
- data analyst.



Sixth Form allows us to explore different careers and gain valuable skills.

*Year 13 Student*



## HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE (DOUBLE)

### **BTEC L3 Diploma in Health and Social Care**

*Edexcel 500/9465/8 (2 A Levels)*

This course encompasses a wide range of issues and topics linked to Health and Social Care. Students get the chance to explore areas of the subject they did not realise existed such as Nutrition, Health Promotion and Public Health. The course is designed to be adaptable to the requirements of the vocational sector as well as the students own interests and aspirations. We try to include as many practical elements as possible over the duration of the course. Students will not only complete their coursework but will get the opportunity to gain their First Aid Certificate and complete an extensive period of work experience interacting with a range of service users in different care settings. Guest speakers also feature during lessons so that students can see how their knowledge can be applied and built upon in a 'real world' context.

#### **Assessment Method**

Coursework assessment — **54%**

External assessment — **46%**

#### **Career Progression**

This BTEC qualification prepares students for both university and employment. The range of careers linked to Health and Social Care are extensive and include: Counselling, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Ambulance Technician, Social work and many more.

*"This is a great course with loads of different and interesting units to study. I had no idea about the huge range of careers that were linked to Health and Social Care".*

*Year 12 Student*

## HOSPITALITY

### **BTEC Level 3 in Hospitality (QCF) Subsidiary Diploma**

*Edexcel 500/8197/4 (1 A Level)*

The hospitality industry contributes billions of pounds each year to the UK economy. BTEC Level 3 Hospitality offers various career paths in a range of areas, including management, operations and self-employment. The hospitality sector is made up of a variety of different sub-sectors such as hotels, restaurants, event management and catering.

BTEC Level 3 qualifications in hospitality give learners the opportunity to make progress in the sector, whether their chosen route is employment, an apprenticeship or university. All qualifications for this sector introduce learners to essential understanding in the following areas of the hospitality industry:

- Scale and Diversity
- Classification systems
- Organisation and structure of businesses operating in this industry
- Purpose of support functions in hospitality such as finance and marketing.

#### **Assessment Method**

**100%** - Coursework Assessment

#### **Career Progression**

This BTEC qualification prepares students for both university and employment. Working in hotels, restaurants, event management and catering, contract catering, specialist catering and self-employment are just a few of the career paths.

*"The art of cooking - it's when you mix craftsmanship at the highest level with creativity".*

*Eric Ripert (Chef/Co-owner Le Bernardin)*

**Sixth Form is an important step between school and the world of work. It develops both your qualifications and personal skills.**

*Year 13 Student*



## ICT (DOUBLE)

### Level 3 Cambridge Technical Diploma in IT OCR 5842 (2 A Levels)

Cambridge Technical in IT will help you to achieve your potential and progress to the next stage of your lives, whether it be higher education, an apprenticeship, or employment.

This course has been designed to be refreshing with exciting content that is up to date, engaging, fit for purpose and suitable for the needs of young people. To do this, the course was designed with universities, employers and industry specialists to make sure you will gain the right combination of knowledge, understanding and skills required for the 21st century.

A wide range of centre-assessed units with practical and wider project-based assessment opportunities, as well as examined units on the Fundamentals of IT, Global Information, and Cyber Security, has resulted in focused qualifications. The Diploma has four vocational pathways within it; at least one pathway must be followed:

1. IT Infrastructure Technician
2. Emerging Digital Technology Practitioner
3. Application Developer
4. Data Analyst

#### Assessment Method

At least three externally examined units and a choice of eight further units, centre-assessed and moderated by OCR, which will make up a specialist endorsed pathway.

#### Career Progression

Level 3 Cambridge Technical provide a strong base for progression to university, apprenticeships or work and are recognised for UCAS tariff points. This qualification also supports pathways onto non-ICT related courses including; business, engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

*"I have had the chance to try out lots of new software that I had never used before".*

*Year 13 Student*

*"I am gaining loads of UCAS points from this course".*

## MUSIC (SINGLE)

### Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate in Music Edexcel (1 A Level)

This course is designed to offer some flexibility and personalisation of the course alongside mandatory units, all of which combine to provide a qualification that is widely recognised by universities and employers. Students will study mandatory units including; Ensemble Music Performance techniques, Practical Music Theory and Harmony, and Professional Practice in the Music Industry. One further unit is studied, selected from a range of options including Arranging Music, Composing Music, Solo Performance, Music Investigation, amongst others.

Students will develop their practical skills and musical understanding through a range of practical opportunities, each with a 'real-life' vocational context as well as learning about the wider music industry.

Further to this, students will continue to develop a range of transferable skills that are highly regarded by Higher Education and employers.

#### Assessment Method

##### Mandatory Units

- 1 – Task: set and marked by exam board.
- 2 – Assignment: set and marked internally
- 3 – Task: set and marked by exam board

##### Optional Unit

Assignment: set and marked internally

#### Career Progression

Beyond KS5 you may progress to study at degree level. Options include; Music, Music Promotion, Sound Engineering, Music Journalism and Music for Film Television and Games plus many more.

Careers within the music industry include performer, music therapist, music teacher, sound technician, arts administration and many more.

*"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent".*

*Victor Hugo*

## PERFORMING ARTS (SINGLE)

### Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate in Performing Arts Edexcel (1 A Level)

This course is designed to offer some flexibility and personalisation of the course alongside mandatory units, all of which combine to provide a qualification that is widely recognised by universities and employers. Students study mandatory units including; Investigating Practitioner's Work, Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance, and Group Performance Workshop. One further unit is studied, selected from a range of options including Writing For Performance, Acting Styles, Improvisation, Variety Performance and others.

Students will develop their practical skills and musical understanding through a range of practical opportunities, each with a 'real-life' vocational context as well as learning about the wider Performing Arts industry.

Further to this, students will continue to develop a range of transferable skills that are highly regarded by HE and employers.

#### Assessment Method

##### Mandatory Units

- 1 – Task: (Investigating Practitioner's Work) set and marked by exam board.
- 2 – Assignment: (Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance) set and marked internally
- 3 – Task: (Group Performance Workshop) set and marked by exam board

##### Optional Unit

Assignment: set and marked internally

#### Career Progression

Beyond KS5 you can study at Degree level, any Performing Arts / Acting / Dance related subjects - and there are many varied courses at Further and Higher Education institutions.

Careers within the Performing Arts industry include performer, actor, community arts worker, dancer, drama therapist, theatre director plus many more.

*"I regard the theatre as the greatest of all arts forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being".*

Oscar Wilde

## SCIENCE (DOUBLE)

### Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Applied Science OCR (2 A Levels)

Students will develop professional and practical skills through carrying out real experiments and research, working with local employers, allowing them to practice lab techniques required in an industrial setting as well as theoretical knowledge. Students will be made aware of safe working practices in a lab and the strict legal requirements they must adhere to. Students will also gain an understanding of the different types of scientific industries and settings plus how laboratory design can vary across organisations and sectors.

Every student will complete four mandatory units, which focus on the laboratory techniques and scientific principles:

- Science Fundamentals
- Laboratory Techniques
- Scientific Analysis and Reporting
- Control of Hazards in the Laboratory

#### Assessment Method

Three external examinations in:-

- Science Fundamentals
- Scientific Analysis and Reporting
- Laboratory Techniques

Four internally assessed units, including three optional units, depending on which of the three qualification pathways are chosen by the student. The three pathways are:-

- Human Sciences
- Environmental Science
- Food Science

Each pathway contains three tailored coursework-based modules that are designed to give a deeper understanding of the skills, knowledge science that is used within the workplace sector they are interested in. Students will explore the possible options and confirm their chosen pathway during the first year of the course. Students will gain an understanding of the different types of scientific industries and settings plus how laboratory design can vary across organisations and sectors. When it comes to progression or employment, students will understand the variety of opportunities available to them, and the roles and responsibilities of businesses and organisations within the sector.

*"Only the applied scientist sets out to find a "useful" pot of gold ... the applied scientist is a prospector. The pure scientist is an explorer."*

Jacques-Yves Cousteau



The teaching in sixth form is good because you develop a positive relationship with staff which makes learning more enjoyable.

*Year 13 Student*

## SCIENCE (SINGLE)

### Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Applied Science OCR (2 A Levels)

Students will develop professional and practical skills through carrying out real experiments and research, working with local employers, allowing them to practice lab techniques required in an industrial setting as well as theoretical knowledge. Students will be made aware of safe working practices in a lab and the strict legal requirements they must adhere to. Students will also gain an understanding of the different types of scientific industries and settings plus how laboratory design can vary across organisations and sectors.

Every student will study five mandatory units which focus on the laboratory techniques and scientific principles:

- Science Fundamentals
- Laboratory Techniques
- Scientific Analysis and Reporting
- Control of Hazards in the Laboratory

#### Assessment Method

Two external examinations in:-

- Science Fundamentals
- Laboratory Techniques

Three internally assessed units:-

- Control of Hazards in the Laboratory
- Product Testing Technique
- Microbiology

#### Career Progression

This qualification allows students to apply their skills, knowledge and understanding to tasks or activities that are relevant to how human sciences, environmental sciences and food science are used in the workplace. Having an appreciation of how these are used in work will also help to prepare students for continuing education in this sector.

*"The scientist is not a person who gives the right answers, he's one who asks the right questions".*

*Claude Levi-Strauss*



## SPORT (DOUBLE)

### Cambridge Technical Level 3 Sport and Physical Activity Diploma (OCR)

**Requires:** Grade 4 or above in GCSE English Language  
Grade 4 or above in GCSE Maths  
Grade 4 or above in GCSE PE or Level 2 BTEC Sport (Merit or Distinction)

The Cambridge Technical Sport and Physical Activity course is based around the theory of sport and science. This qualification is not just about being able to play sport or deal with elite athletes; employers need people who are able to develop sports skills for teams and individuals, work with clients and participants to improve their fitness and change their lifestyles and monitor progress and improvement over time.

Therefore, this qualification will develop learners' skills in preparation for employment in sports coaching or personal training either through an apprenticeship or directly into work. The students will study various units over two years some examples of the units to be covered include; Body systems and the effects of Physical Activity, organisation of sports events and sports injury and rehabilitation. The course is mainly classroom based but we try to link with practical sport to enhance the student's experience. We also have to evidence employer engagement and have links with J4K coaching, Active Northumberland and Ben Harmison Fitness. These partnerships are used over the two years to help deliver a realistic experience for our students.

#### Assessment Method

Unit 1 – Body Systems and the effects of Physical Activity (exam)

Unit 2 – Sports organisation and development (exam)

Unit 3 – Working safely in Sport, Exercise, Health and Leisure (exam)

A further eight units are assessed through coursework.

#### Career Progression

The apprenticeships that this qualification can lead to, include Advanced Level apprenticeships in Coaching and Personal Training.

Job roles that this course could help to prepare you for include Personal Trainer, Assistant Sports Coach or Sports Activity Coordinator.

*"PE and Sport are great subjects. We learn about the theory of sport and apply our practical knowledge. The teachers get all students to do their best and we set personal targets for our learning. The courses are challenging but we are in a supportive environment. I like the questioning and feedback to extend our understanding. I really enjoyed going to Newcastle Falcons and learning about sports massage".*

*Year 13 Student*

Having a part time job or work experience linked to your university choices helps you develop the key skills required on your course.

*Year 13 Student*

## TRAVEL & TOURISM

### Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism (601/9023/1)

The travel and tourism industry in the UK is of major importance to the economy. There are many influences on the industry, and they are changing all the time. Some of them are within the control of travel organisations, while others are beyond their control. You will look at different types of destinations and their importance. Investigate the features and appeal of global destinations. Explore how to develop a successful marketing plan for use by travel and tourism organisations to attract and engage with customers using research data. This qualification gives a broad introduction to the travel and tourism industry, with an emphasis on core knowledge and fundamental skills that are transferable across other sectors.

#### The topics taught are as follows:

- The World of Travel and Tourism
- Global Destinations
- Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism

#### Then one from these two options:

- Visitor Attractions
- Events, Conferences and Exhibitions

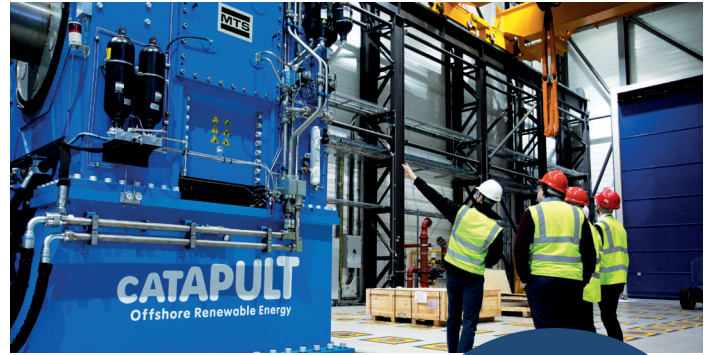
#### Assessment Method

There is a mix of internal and external assessment on this course. Two externally assessed units and two coursework units.

#### Career Progression

In addition to the travel and tourism sector-specific content, the requirements of the qualification will mean that students develop transferable skills, which are highly regarded by higher education providers and employers. The qualification will give student transferable knowledge, understanding and broad skills. Progression routes lead students into studying Travel and Tourism or a similar degree programme at university. Career possibilities include a wide range of opportunities for students to work within a Travel and Tourism Organisation such as an Airport Information Assistant, Cabin Crew, Heritage Officer, Hotel Manager, Hotel Receptionist, Resort Representative, Tourist Guide, Travel Agent, Tour Operator, plus many more.

# Your future beyond school



## What do employers say about young people and jobs?

The three most important factors employers weigh up when recruiting school and college leavers are:

1. Aptitude and readiness for work (84% of employers)
2. Numeracy & literacy (83% of employers)
3. Digital and IT Skills (79% of employers)

This does not mean qualifications are not important, just that everybody has them so you need to offer something else to employers.

Other 'essential capabilities' employers want young people to have are aptitude and readiness for work, work experience, digital and IT skills.

(CBI/ Pearson 2019)

**50%**

OF BUSINESSES ARE NOT CONFIDENT THERE WILL BE ENOUGH PEOPLE to fill jobs needing more than entry level qualifications

**86%**

OF BUSINESSES ARE INVOLVED IN APPRENTICESHIPS AND SEE THIS AS A VALUABLE CAREER ROUTE

**63%**

of businesses say they plan TO EXPAND THEIR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN THE FUTURE

**85%**

OF BUSINESSES SAY THEY PLAN TO INCREASE THEIR GRADUATE RECRUITMENT

**29%**

of businesses say they PREFER A MIXTURE OF ACADEMIC, VOCATIONAL OR TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS.

With only 7% saying they prefer purely academic qualifications

## How can I start preparing for the world of work?

- Consider how you can use curriculum and even holiday time to improve your employability skills e.g. through voluntary work, hobbies or a work experience placement.
- Check out a range of career videos on [unifrog.org](http://unifrog.org) to see careers come to life. You will also find information on university, further education and apprenticeships.
- Visit the Careers Corner in the library to look at careers books, university prospectuses and information about apprenticeships.

If you need some inspiration why not visit the [National Career Service](http://National Career Service) or [Plotr](http://Plotr) websites?

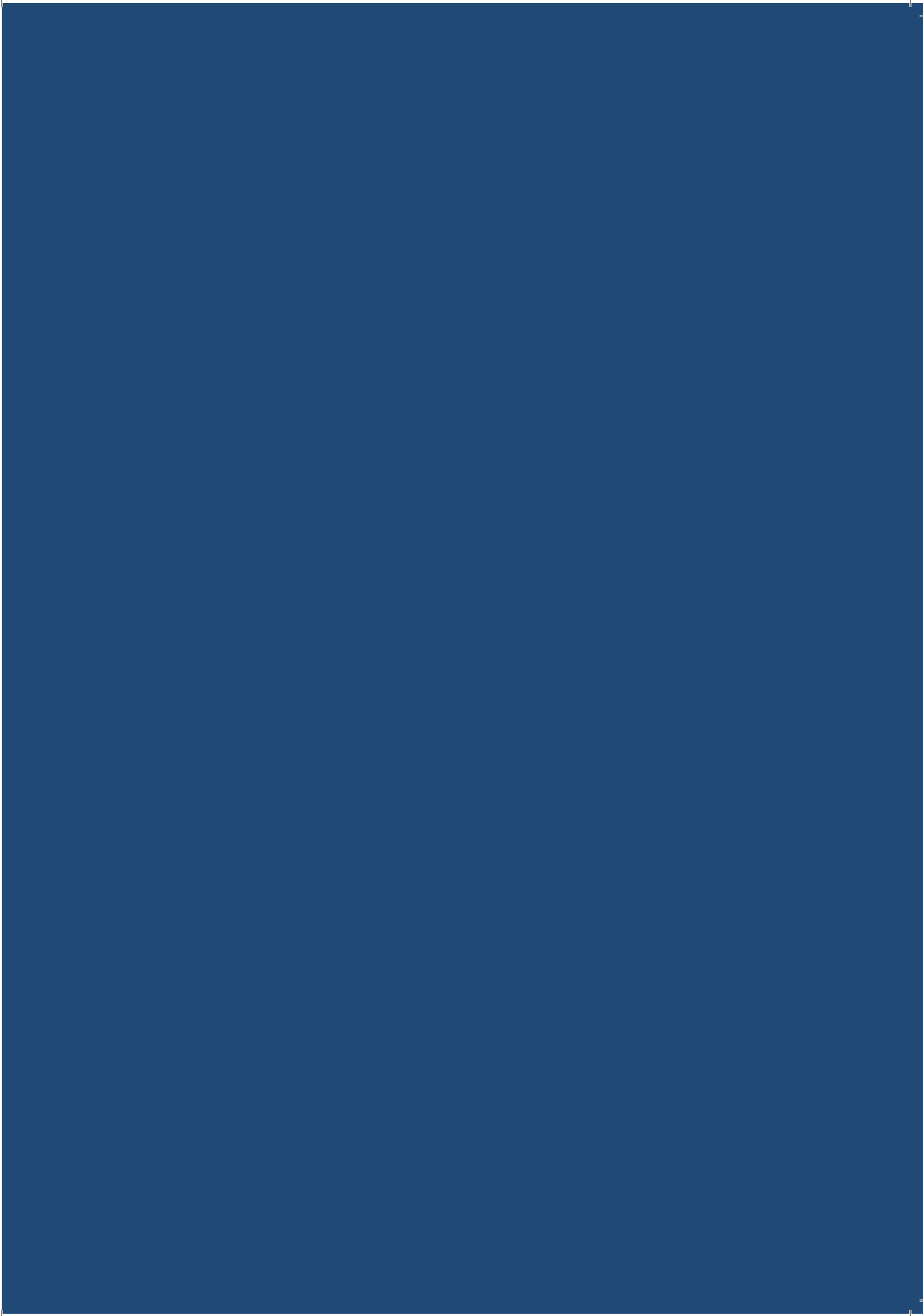
### HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME?

The world of work is changing rapidly with more part time jobs, short term contracts and people changing jobs far more often. This means people need 'career management skills' to ensure they make the right decisions along the way.

You must consider your options carefully at the end of Year 11 and follow the learning route that is right for you (not your friends!). You also need to think beyond your qualifications: how can you use your evenings, weekends and holiday time to develop the skills and experience that today's employers want from you?

### WHERE CAN I FIND SUPPORT TO PLAN MY FUTURE?

In addition to your teachers, tutors and head of year you are also able to see the school Careers Adviser, Miss Cain whenever you would like to discuss your potential career path or Mrs Towers, Head of Sixth Form and Careers for general advice. Parents and carers are welcome to attend the appointments.





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