



SIMON BALLE  
ALL-THROUGH SCHOOL  
SIXTH FORM

COURSE GUIDE 2020-21



# CREATING TOMORROW'S CITIZENS TODAY

Simon Balle All-Through School has a reputation for academic excellence, extra-curricular achievements, service to the community, and the development of potential. Our Sixth Form students exemplify this.

We are proud of the young adults who act as excellent role models exercising high standards of self-discipline, personal behaviour and an insatiable willingness to learn.

We have, in recent years, worked hard to establish the importance of raising achievement as our guiding principle and believe this is now fully recognised. Students deserve the right to experience and demonstrate excellence in their chosen specialist areas of Post-16 education and our Sixth Form is proactive in supporting them in this. I am particularly proud of the range of courses on offer to students, enabling students to choose from the different combinations and study routes possible.

Sixth Form students have increased independence and accountability. We expect students to exercise good judgement within the bounds of their responsibility, with tutors and subject teachers providing guidance, help and individual support. We also expect a high level of commitment to academic work, extracurricular activities and community service. We remain much impressed as these expectations are realised on an annual basis, and consider the 21st Century to be in good hands, as 'we prepare tomorrow's citizens today'.

The Sixth Form Learning Centre enables students to use their time productively and develop their own individual work ethos, with supervision and guidance available.

Each tutor group has its own dedicated study room and individual students are able to use the bespoke Sixth Form library space, offering an excellent base for research. The Learning Centre also offers a place to mix socially at lunch and break times. Our Cafe 6 offers menus, snacks and coffee for Sixth Formers at extended periods throughout the day.

Success in education relies heavily on good working relationships between the school, students and parents at one level and between individual staff and students at another. Students are encouraged to take part in activities beyond their academic choices. In this way students grow as individuals as the Sixth Form prepares a future path towards even more specialist academic study, career-focused apprenticeships or entry to the world of work. I believe that Simon Balle All-Through School offers an extremely positive environment for learning with high quality resources and enthusiastic, well-qualified and dedicated staff. We believe strongly in the advantages of a 4-19 school where staff and students develop relationships that can support individuals as learners.

There is much to be gained for students and staff in having a well-established and successful Sixth Form and we invite you to become part of that vibrant future.





## Pastoral Care at Simon Balle All-through School

The Sixth Form offers an extension of the outstanding pastoral care given to students throughout Reception - Year 11. Each student has a Form Tutor with whom they register at least once daily and who acts as the initial point of contact for parents/carers and subject teachers. Form Tutors also monitor and support the academic progress of their tutees through regular progress checks and tutorials. Sixth Form Tutors are supported by a Sixth Form Learning Centre Manager and the Deputy Head of Sixth Form, all of whom focus on the day to day pastoral welfare of the students, in addition to supporting and monitoring academic progression. My role as Head of Sixth Form focuses solely on the success and progress of our students.

The Sixth Form has a longstanding tradition of extra-curricular and enrichment activities. Students are encouraged to get involved in and run a variety of events, from the myriad of musical groups, to sporting teams and volunteering and leadership roles. Such activities enable students to discover new ways of working and create enriching experiences for collaboration and developing life skills. SBAS Sixth Form has an excellent Careers and UCAS programme with a UCAS Coordinator and an Apprenticeships and Employment Coordinator supporting students through the challenging process of selecting and applying for University courses.

Students are given access to external speakers and specialists from a variety of career areas through assemblies, subject areas and workshops. Students have access to all the wonderful guidance from Unifrog, and attend the annual UCAS Conference in London, in addition to receiving support from subject teachers and individual reference writers in making their applications. A Scholars Programme is also devoted to the Oxbridge University application process, to ensure our students have the best opportunity of achieving a place at their desired institution.



Mr BR Morris  
Head of Sixth Form



# BIOLOGY



EXAM BOARD: AQA

CONTACT TEACHER: Mr J Davison

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Maths GCSE: 6  
English GCSE: 5  
Double Science GCSE: 7/7  
Triple Science: 6 in Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

## CONTENT

You will develop essential knowledge and understanding of biological concepts and further understand how these concepts are applied in the constantly adapting field of biology. You will also gain awareness of advances in biochemistry and the value and responsible use of biology in society.

“In Biology, a wide variety of fascinating and significant topics are covered; from how DNA is replicated in a cell to how the structure of different disaccharides are specific to their functions. You get a thorough understanding of how and why things work and it is nice to be able to apply this knowledge in the frequent practicals each week. The staff are always available if you need any support, whether it is further reading around a topic or not understanding something in a lesson.”

Jasmine - Year 12



“The step up in content from GCSE to A level biology has been made a lot easier by my biology teachers support. A topic I have thoroughly enjoyed learning is Epigenetics. The topic goes into complex biology regarding how certain characteristics are displayed and influenced by external factors, including the development and progression of cancerous cells which has always been an interest of mine.”

Josh - Year 13



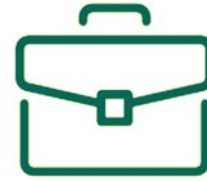
## ASSESSMENT

At the end of Year 13 there are 3 written examinations, each paper is 2 hours long. The final paper contains a 25 mark synoptic essay.





# BUSINESS (SINGLE OR DOUBLE)



EXAM BOARD: OCR  
Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate Level 3

CONTACT TEACHER: Mrs H Witty

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study this subject you will need a GCSE grade 4 in Maths and English

## CONTENT

This course encourages you to develop a wide range of Business knowledge and skills in a more vocational and practical context than traditional A-levels.

There is a mixture of internally and externally assessed units of work including Communications and Accountancy.

The internal coursework based units make up two-thirds of the work. Topics studied include Accountancy, Marketing and HR.

In addition to the content covered in the single Business Studies option, the double course of Business Studies studies marketing including research, strategy, campaigns and business projects in further detail.



“One of the main benefits of the course is that we sit exams throughout the 2 years, meaning unlike my other subjects I don’t sit a huge amount of exams at the end of Year 13. Furthermore, if you are someone that doesn’t like the stress of too many exams, the course involves pieces of coursework preparing you for life in the business world. The topics in this course enable you to enhance your knowledge of the subject and the teamwork involved, prepares you for work in the industry.”

Alex - Year 13

## ASSESSMENT

### Single

There are three exams and two pieces of coursework that needs to be completed over the 2 year course.

### Double

There are four exams and six pieces of coursework that needs completed over the 2 year course.

“I enjoy studying Business at Simon Balle School because we learn a lot of theory that is always related to real life examples. This gives us a greater understanding of what is going on in the business environment. I have found myself looking at the news nearly everyday to find frequent changes which makes the subject fascinating for me. We are currently studying a marketing topic, learning about different marketing tools which I believe are very important to the success of many businesses across the world.”

Sam - Year 13





# CHEMISTRY



EXAM BOARD: AQA

CONTACT TEACHER: Mr J Davison

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

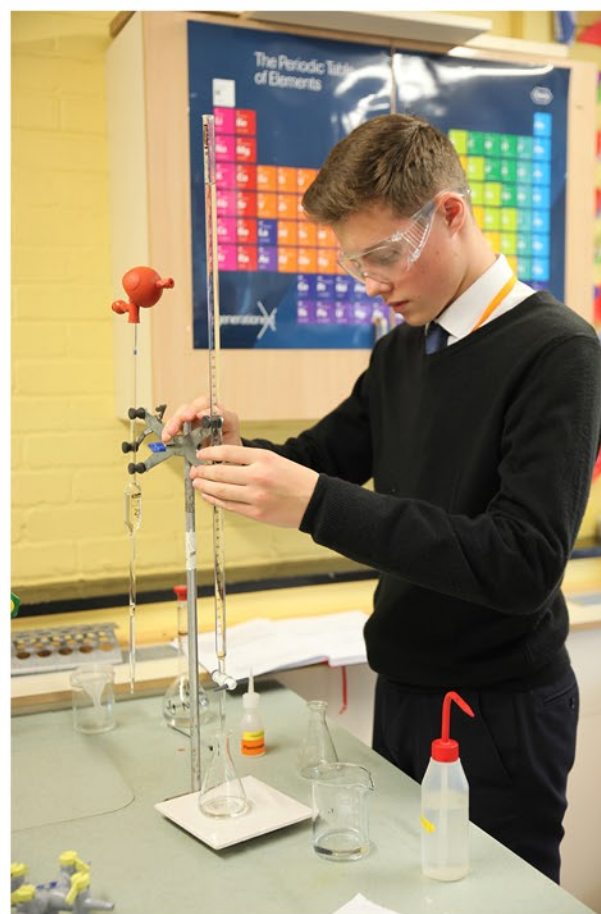
Maths GCSE: 6  
 English GCSE: 5  
 Double Science GCSE: 7/7  
 Triple Science: 6 in Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

## CONTENT

Through a highly practical course, you will study a wide range of topics ranging from fuels and atmosphere through to biochemical sciences and chemistry in industry. In the process you will gain essential knowledge and understanding of the concepts involved in chemistry, as well as refining and extending your practical and research skills. You will also develop a better understanding of the link between theory and experimentation.

“The Chemistry A level course helps to grow your research and analytical skills through practicals ranging from titrations to making aspirin. It also leads to many STEM careers and university courses from chemical engineering to medicine. The chemistry A level course develops the GCSE content and builds on it, making it simpler and comprehensible, this is supported by online resources and plastic molymod models of molecules.”

Alice - Year 13

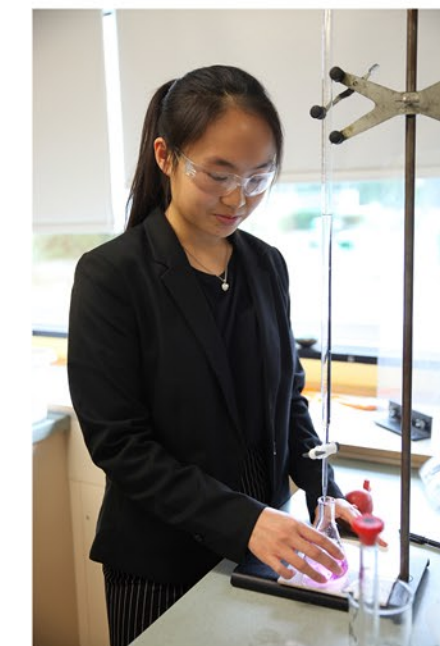


## ASSESSMENT

Linear A Level Written Exam Only  
 Paper 1, 2 hours (Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and relevant practical skills) 35% of A level, 105 marks of long and short answer questions.

Paper 2, 2 hours (Physical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and relevant practical skills) 35% of A level, 105 marks of long and short answer questions.

Paper 3, 2 hours (Any content and any practical skills) 30% of A level 90 marks (40 marks of questions on practical techniques and data, 20 marks of questions testing across the specification, 30 marks of multiple choice).



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Finlay - Year 12



# COMPUTER SCIENCE



EXAM BOARD: AQA

CONTACT TEACHER: Mr S McGovern

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 Computer Science GCSE or Maths GCSE: 7.

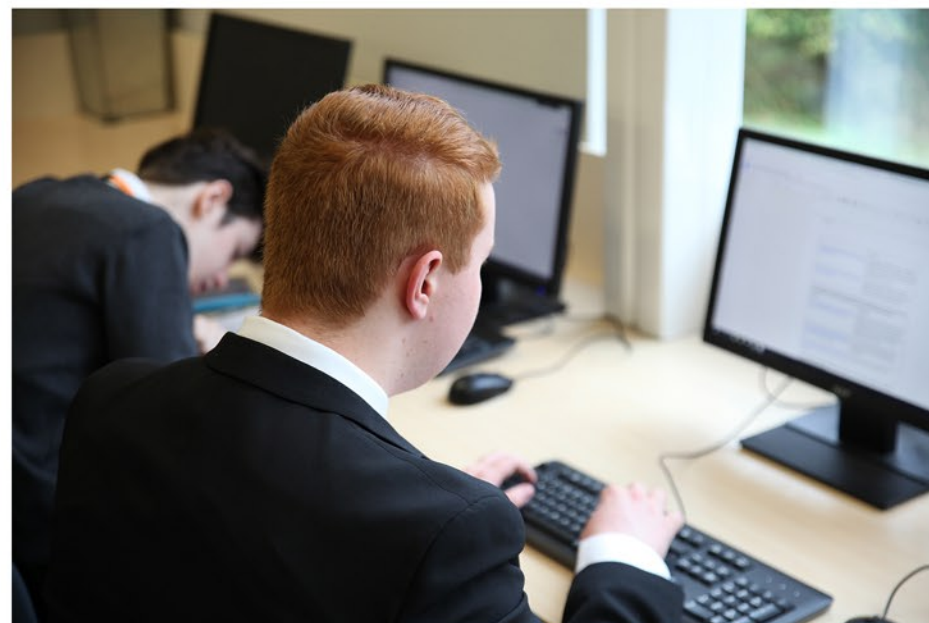
“Studying Computer Science at A-Level is a fantastic way to learn about a variety of really interesting technologies, and really dive into learning how they function. This year, we have looked in depth at topics such as learning how a Central Processing Unit works, and the typical architecture of a computer.”

Ernie - Year 13

## CONTENT

Lessons consist of theory work backed up by practical programming tasks using Python language.

Units include; fundamentals of programming, fundamentals of data structures, fundamentals of algorithms, theory of computation, fundamentals of data representation, computer systems, computer organisation and architecture, consequences of using computing, communication and networking, databases, big data, functional programming and systematic approach to problem solving.



## ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Practical programming. 2.5 hours on screen exam. (40% of overall grade)

Paper 2: Theoretical paper. 2.5 hours. (40% of overall grade)

Non-exam assessment: Coursework project where students choose their own task and complete in roughly 50 hrs. (20% of overall grade)

“Computer Science A Level helps develop key skills like problem solving and decision making which are transferable in all subjects. So far in this course we have learnt the fundamentals of the programming language python, communication, networking and data representation. Although it may not be clear what these topics are now, with the guidance of great staff you will be able to explain how our modern technology functions. This is essential knowledge for life, as the need for more computer scientists is growing exponentially.”

Casey - Year 12

“Furthermore, it is a great way to get prepared for the future, and will look great on any university applications, regardless if you are applying to a Computer Science course or not. Additionally, the teachers are extremely helpful and are always around to address any queries you may have about the subject, or the course in general.”

Lewis - Year 13



# DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

CONTACT TEACHER: Mrs A Palmer

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

English GCSE grade 4 and Drama GCSE grade 4 or a proven track record in performance.

## CONTENT

This course combines the activities of exploring plays, creating theatre, performing scripted plays, analysing theatre productions and critically evaluating all these elements of drama and theatre.

Students who complete the course will have a thorough understanding of drama and theatre, and will have developed their analytical, creative and team skills. Because of the course's performance nature, the course requires confidence, creativity and good communication skills.

"Studying drama at A-Level allows you to work on your artistic and creative abilities and can give you a better understanding of the world through different texts. It also helps in improving confidence and expression which can help for future interviews or speeches. This year as well as developing our devising piece of theatre inspired by 'Brecht', we are working on two texts 'Hedda Gabler and Colder than here'. Analysing these texts allows us to see the intentions of the writers and we are able to explore different drama techniques from different practitioners throughout the script."

Kallie - Year 13



"As the studio is a good size and is equipped with lights, mirrors, blocks and props to bring our performances to life. The teachers have a great sense of humour and we have fun with the creative freedom we are given. The relaxed lesson style allows us as actors to feel like we have time to make the most out of each lesson and the teachers are very encouraging in all aspects of the course. Drama feels like a relief from other lessons during the day due to the friendly atmosphere and the active exploration of our work!"

Trixie - Year 13

## ASSESSMENT

### Component 1

A study of a full length play and the ideas/themes within it. From this the students will devise and original piece of drama and will build a portfolio stemming from the ideas and process (internally assessed)

### Component 2

A practical performance of a monologue and duologue. A practical group performance.(externally assessed)

### Component 3

A written exam focusing on 2 set texts and a live theatre evaluation (externally assessed)





# ECONOMICS



EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

CONTACT TEACHER: Mrs H Witty

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of grade 6 in English and Mathematics at GCSE



## CONTENT

Economics is all about how the forces of demand and supply work in markets, and about how resources can be allocated effectively at an individual, business, national and international level.

On a macro level, economics considers the national and international economy including how the economy works, government policy to control the economy and major economic issues such as growth, inflation, unemployment and international trade.

The course aims to develop your understanding of economic theories and how to apply these in the real world, realising their value and limitations in explaining issues and phenomena. You will acquire a range of skills including the ability to make decisions having considered the appropriate information and you will analyse, explain and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy.

“Studying Economics is a great way of learning new things and gaining insight into the way the world works. Last year we learnt about the Economic problem and how we can help fix it. Furthermore this year we have been discussing the ethical issues that these MNCs cause. Overall Economics is a very interesting subject that stands out compared to other subjects.”

Archie - Year 13

## ASSESSMENT

Linear A-level. 3 written papers, each of 2 hours duration and worth 33.3% of A-level.

Paper 1: Markets and market failure.  
1 data response question from 2 and 1 essay question from 3.

Paper 2: National and international economy.  
1 data response question from 2 and 1 essay question from 3

Paper 3: Economic principles and issues.  
Section A; multiple choice questions  
Section B written paper based on a case study





# ENGLISH LITERATURE



EXAM BOARD: AQA

CONTACT TEACHER: Mrs L Cooke

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study this subject you will need a minimum of grade 5 and grade 6 (either permutation) in English Language and Literature at GCSE.

## CONTENT

This course aims to develop clear and effective responses to literature through looking at pre-1900 to modern day novels, drama from Shakespeare to contemporary and poetry from the middle ages to the late 20th century. It will extend your ability from GCSE to use critical concepts and terminology. You are encouraged to develop personal responses to the texts, and to explore the different connections through between different pieces of literature.

Literature at A level is an exciting and demanding course in which a love of reading and a willingness to undertake independent research is essential.



## ASSESSMENT

Linear A Level. 2 Exams. 2 Non Exam Assessment pieces. EXAM Paper 1: Literary genres Aspects of Tragedy. Written exam. 2.5 hours. Closed book. 75marks. 40% of A-Level Questions:

Section A: one passage-based question on Othello (25 marks) Section B: one essay question on Othello (25 marks)

Section C: one essay question linking two texts (25 marks)

EXAM Paper 2: Texts and genres Elements of crime writing. Written exam. 3 hours. Open book. 75 marks. 40% of A-level Questions .

Section A: one question on an unseen passage (25 marks) Section B: one essay question on one text (25marks)

Section C: one essay question which connects two texts (25marks)

NEA Theory and independence. Non exam assessment. Assessed by teachers. Moderated by AQA. 50 marks (25 for each). 20% of A-Level

Two essays: Poetry collection + critical theory. Prose text + critical theory (25 marks each).

“Studying English Literature gives you a varied insight on the crime genre and the history of crime. It also provides useful knowledge about past theories and the development of literature in society. This year we have learnt about elements of crime and authorial methods to build suspense or make the reader question the reliability of certain characters. We have also seen how crime is depicted through different forms, different critical perspectives and the ways in which crime writers construct their stories. It's been really fun!”

Roberto - Year 12

“English literature at A level is a great step up from GCSE, where the power/skill behind writing and words is properly realised and more keenly appreciated. The new depths at which a range of literary forms are explored is an immersive experience, one which allows much to be derived from the set texts with the brilliant guidance of the English teachers.”

Sorcha - Year 12





# ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



EXAM BOARD: AQA

CONTACT TEACHER: Mr J Davison

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a Grade 5-5/555 in GCSE Science, Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature or Language and 5 GCSE Maths. Grade 5 or above in GCSE Geography is desirable.

This course will suit students considering taking A-Level Geography or another A-Level Science subject as many key skills and processes will overlap in your learning.

## CAREER PATHWAYS

Interest in the environment and ethical issues could lead to a diverse world of career paths. Possible related sectors include ecology and wildlife conservation, environmental science, agriculture, geography, geology or climatology. Students wishing to study this subject at degree level may also consider: Zoology, Marine Biology, Biotechnology, Animal Science, Sustainable Civil Engineering, Journalism, Urban Landscape Design etc.

Environmental experts are needed in business, industry and government as well as estate management, land reclamation, countryside management and conservation. Useful websites to research careers and wider progression options could include The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), Institute of Environmental Management (IEMA), All About Careers and The Apprenticeship Guide.



**NEW  
COURSE  
OPTION**

## CONTENT

Environmental Science is the study of the effects of natural and unnatural processes, and of the interactions of the physical components of our planet on the environment. If you want to make a difference and change the future of the world in which we live for the better, and if you are inspired by the natural environment and its myriad of interconnections and feedbacks, then Environmental Science is the subject for you.

We will explore the key challenges facing our planet and how the environment supports us, how we threaten these support systems and strategies for a more sustainable lifestyle. Studying wildlife conservation, resource management, energy use, pollution and food production you will develop in-depth understanding of the problems... and the solutions. The new specification covers many aspects of the world around us, including conservation methods, land use conflict, global climate change, pollution, energy resources, sustainable biological resources, evolution, biotechnology and ecosystems and population dynamics.

## ASSESSMENT

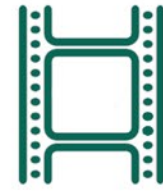
Two written examinations (3 hours) at the end of 2 years; each paper is 50% of the A Level. A combination of multiple choice and short answer questions, extended writing and essays.

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of the interconnections between topics.

10% of the overall assessment of A-Level Environmental Science will contain mathematical skills equivalent to Level 2 or above.

At least 15% of the overall assessment of A-level Environmental Science will assess knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to practical work. 4 days of fieldwork are necessary as part of the syllabus but coursework is not required.

# FILM STUDIES



EXAM BOARD: WJEC

CONTACT TEACHER: Mr D Harrold

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of English GCSE Level 4 is required.

## CONTENT

The Film Studies course is designed to encourage your understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film.

You will study cinema as a medium, as an art form and as a social and economic institution. The course will develop your analytical skills by encouraging your responses as how films communicate meaning.



## ASSESSMENT

Component 1:  
Varieties of film and filmmaking  
Written examination: 2½ hours

Component 2:  
Global filmmaking perspectives  
Written examination: 2½ hours

Component 3:  
Production of short film - Non-exam  
assessment



“From Casablanca to Pulp fiction, you will study a wide variety of films which you will thoroughly enjoy from start to finish, learning terms and techniques you never even knew existed. The teachers are experienced and enthusiastic, if you ever need assistance they are more than happy to help. You can never fully appreciate cinema until you have a deeper understanding of what goes on behind the scenes.”

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Leon - Year 12



# FINE ART



EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

CONTACT TEACHER: Miss C Stuart

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study this subject you will need a minimum of level 5 in Art and/ or Design at GCSE

“Fine Art A-level at Simon Balle has provided me with a great range of skills in all areas of art. It is a very self driven subject, which requires a great deal of dedication, however with the support of the staff in the department you are helped to blossom and develop your own individuality as an artist.”

Emmy - Year 13



## CONTENT

The Fine Art course will test and develop your creative imagination and improve your analytical response to art. You are able to choose your own direction whilst working on at least one of the following disciplines: painting, drawing, sculpture and printmaking.

During the first year you will participate in skill based workshops before developing a personal portfolio of work. In your second year you are assessed on a personal investigation and an externally set assignment.

“The Fine Art A Level course has been an eye-opening experience for me so far - we've been given the tools and guidance to experiment with all sorts of methods and media I didn't even know existed! We are a lot more free and exploratory than at GCSE, and the teachers have been extremely supportive and helpful. I've loved every lesson so far!”

Katie - Year 12



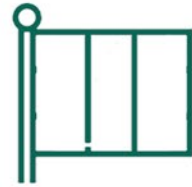
## ASSESSMENT

All work is internally assessed and moderated at the end of the two year course.

60% Personal Investigation; coursework projects independently driven by students

40% Externally set examination; preparatory studies followed by a 15 hour period in which to complete personal response

# FRENCH



EXAM BOARD: AQA

CONTACT TEACHER: Dr E Nwahba

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study this subject you will need a minimum of grade 5 in French at GCSE.

## CONTENT

This course will take your fluency in a foreign language to another level, allowing confident communication. This is achieved through studying a range of topics including human relationships, work and leisure and the environment. The components include speaking, listening, reading and writing.



“Studying French gives you a magnificent opportunity to not only learn a language but also dive into the fascinating culture and lifestyle. We have looked at how family life has evolved in France over the years, another subtopic I really enjoyed was French cinema and how important and unique it is.”

Rebecca - Year 13



“I would definitely recommend it to anyone passionate about languages or with a genuine curiosity related to French culture.”

Rebecca - Year 13

## ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing  
Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes  
100 marks  
50% of A-Level

Paper 2: Writing  
Written exam: 2 hours  
80 marks in total  
20% of A-Level

Paper 3: Speaking  
Oral exam: 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)  
60 marks in total  
30% of A-Level





# GEOGRAPHY



EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

CONTACT TEACHER: Mr D Ayres

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Geography GCSE: grade 6.  
Or if you did not take  
Geography GCSE, Science GCSE  
grade 6



“Studying Geography provides you with a unique view of the world. You learn how the world functions not only on a geological level during topics such as Tectonics, Coasts and Water Cycle but also on an economic and social stage during topics such as Globalisation, Superpowers and Migration. This deeper understanding of the way the world works is extremely beneficial not only to the career paths directly connected to geography but also in many other fields such as politics, economics and (to my own surprise as I complete both subject courses) even Sports Studies. On top of this insightful and useful curriculum the tutors within the geography department are all brilliant. Each specialise in their own area of geography and provide just as much fun as learning in their lessons.”

Sam - Year 13

## ASSESSMENT

Linear A Level  
Three Written Exams and Coursework

Paper 1, 2 hours 15mins (Physical Geography)  
Paper 2, 2 hours 15mins (Human Geography)  
Paper 3, 2 hours 15mins (Synoptic Investigation)

## CONTENT

The Geography course is designed to offer you an insight into the nature, characteristics and functioning of certain physical and human systems and environments. You will develop a wide range of geographical skills and techniques and will be able to appreciate different viewpoints and values.

There are two compulsory residential fields trips; one at the start of year 12 (Manchester) and one at the start of year 13 (Dorset). There is also an optional residential trip to Iceland that runs every two years. The field trips help students to develop a deeper understanding of both fieldwork skills and geographical processes.

“Geography at Simon Balle covers a wide range of topics that would satisfy any aspiring geographer. The course provides a 360 degree view of modern geography so whether you are more interested in the human side or physical side there is more than enough content to further what you find interesting.”

Callum - Year 12





# GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

CONTACT TEACHER: Mrs J McGovern

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

English Literature GCSE grade 5 is required.

## CONTENT

Politics is central to all aspects of the lives we live and the society we live in. This is a topical course which explores current political debates in Britain and around the world. It will develop your understanding of the political process, the people within it and the events that shape it. You will have the opportunity to participate in debate, examining and evaluating the nature of government and the rights and responsibilities of individuals.

In the first year you will focus on UK politics, assessing how healthy our democracy is and learning what the different political parties believe in. You'll also examine how our government and Parliament work. In the second year you will focus on politics in America, contrasting how it operates to the UK. You'll also learn about key ideologies such as conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

"Studying politics helps you to understand the world around you and how government policy can affect everyday life. This year we have learnt about a wide range of topics including the origins and history attached to key political ideologies. Also, we have delved into the interesting topic of how and why people cast their ballots in the way they do."

Ewan - Year 13

"Studying politics is not something I ever expected to do, but I am so glad that I did. It has widened my outlook on life and made me so much more astute about what is going on in my country and the world. Politics is a really great subject because there is never a time when you won't have an opinion about how our country is being run, but by studying the subject at a-level, you are in the position to have all the facts and an educated opinion. It's such a powerful position, and honestly the best subject that anybody could take."

Ruby - Year 13



## ASSESSMENT

Linear A Level  
Written Exam Only

Paper 1, 2 hours (Political Participation and Core Political Ideas)  
Paper 2, 2 hours (UK Government and Other Political Ideas)  
Paper 3, 2 hours (US Politics & Comparing US and UK Politics)





# HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE (SINGLE OR DOUBLE)



EXAM BOARD: BTEC Level 3

CONTACT TEACHER: Miss M Nelson

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five subjects at GCSE grade 4 including English and Science.



“Studying Health and Social Care in the Sixth Form really helps you to understand what is going on in the world around us, and what each different health care worker is put through on a daily basis that you normally wouldn't know about. It also leads to many jobs for the future and links to other subjects such as sociology and psychology.”

Ellie-May - Year 12

## CONTENT

This course is aimed at students seeking a career or an interest in the health and safety sector, social work, nursing, caring or probation service and provides access to higher education/university.

The content for the single A level is Unit 1: Human development through the years

Unit 2: Roles and responsibilities of people working in Health and Social Care

Unit 5: How to make access to Health and Social Care provision fair and productive for all users.

Unit 12: Working with people with additional needs.

“Studying Health and Social Care is extremely enlightening but also rewarding. It has really educated me on the multicultural society we live in and the complex needs to go with it. I enjoyed learning about human development and ethical dilemmas. It was interesting finding out that you are half your adult size by age 2. Ethical dilemmas are especially fun as you can decide what way to solve a problem and see how doctors would answer it. Overall, I recommend studying because not only is it rewarding and exciting, but I feel it made me a more well rounded individual and it has given me the drive to complete any task thrown my way.”

Bailie - Year 13

“Studying Health and Social Care is both fun and challenging. It requires you to be in someone else's shoes, whether that would be a vulnerable service user or healthcare professional. During my time studying the course, I've understood the kind of stress a healthcare professional must go through. Not only can you find out about the healthcare system itself, but you can also research conditions your interested in.”

Sapphire - Year 13

## ASSESSMENT

The BTEC course involves both examinations and coursework with the different types of assessment spread across the two years.

Examinations can be re-sat once to improve a grade.



# HISTORY



EXAM BOARD: OCR

CONTACT TEACHER: Mrs C Ayres

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study this subject you will need a minimum of grade 6 in History or a grade 6 in English Language GCSE



## CONTENT

This course will extend and develop your abilities to evaluate a theme through time in a study of the Tudor period. Analytical and explanatory skills are extended through an in depth study of Britain from 1783-1846. These skills are also developed in a study of the Cold War from 1941-1995.

A focus is placed upon being able to present a clean, concise and relevant answer, meaning skills are valuable in the broader sense.

In the second year the course refines these skills as well as developing students' independence through a 4000 word research paper.

“Studying History allows for a greater understanding of how things change and a better understanding of society as a whole. This cuts across all of the topics we study whether from as far back as the Tudors to as recent as the Cold War. We have discussed topics such as William Pitt’s ‘reign of terror’ to Stalin’s extension of power in eastern Europe, all while learning valuable analytical skills which will be useful throughout your life.”

Matthew - Year 13

“Studying history is interesting as it helps you understand the world's current situation and how it came to pass. This year we have studied the Cold War as well as the Pitt to Peel period. These topics have allowed us to gain greater knowledge on recent history (Cold War) and have helped me understand how Europe has drastically changed over the 20th century ;as well as educating us on the previous runnings of the UK and the effects of the French Revolution (Pitt to Peel).”

Josh - Year 12

## ASSESSMENT

Paper 1, 45 mins covering the essay section only.

Paper 2, 1 hour covering the full content of the course.

Paper 3, 1 hour 45 minutes covering both the interpretation and themes essay question however only the first two topic areas will be assessed.



# MATHS & FURTHER MATHS

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

CONTACT TEACHER: Mrs S Pope



“Mathematics is not only a fantastic A level to study at Simon Balle but also an incredible life skill. A passion for the subject is evident among the teaching staff. They provide continuous exercises in critical thinking and problem solving help to develop your mind as a general student and mathematician. I would seriously recommend mathematics as an addition to any combination of A level subjects.”

Tom - Year 13

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study Maths or Further Maths you will need a minimum of grade 7 in Mathematics at GCSE

## CONTENT

These courses give you the opportunity to extend your mathematical skills and develop your mathematical brain. You will be able to sample each of the areas of mathematics and the course will provide good preparation for a degree course not precisely in mathematics. In the new A Level maths course you will study pure maths alongside both statistics and mechanics.

## ASSESSMENT

Linear A Level  
Paper 1, 2 hours (Pure Maths)  
Paper 2, 2 hours (Pure Maths)

Topics include; Proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate geometry in the  $(x, y)$  plane Sequences and series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical methods, Vectors.

Paper 3, 2 hours (Statistics and Mechanics)

Topics include; Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions, Statistical hypothesis testing, Quantities and units in mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's laws, Moments



“The topics in A-Level Maths can be challenging, but the support, guidance and resources available to us students have helped us to gain an understanding of the course and have allowed us to succeed. Maths A-Level is an interesting course that widens and develops your skills learnt at GCSE. It provides you with new, useful skills for the future and can offer you opportunities in many different careers.”





# MUSIC



EXAM BOARD: Eduqas

CONTACT TEACHER: Mr M Taylor

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study this subject you will need a minimum of level 5 in Music at GCSE. Additionally, you should have an instrumental or vocal Grade 4.

**You will be required to commit to extra-curricular music, maintaining daily instrumental practice and to being senior musicians in the school.**



## CONTENT

Through a wide range of techniques, you will gain a wider understanding of both practical and academic music. You will study a broad range of topics including performance, composition, music history and aural perception.



“A-Level Music has brought my musical skills to a standard I never thought they could reach. The opportunities for more regular performances, workshops and more in depth study of your chosen instrument really help you to become the best musician you can, whilst also making you an ambassador for your instrument in the more general school ensembles. The facilities stagger me to this day and really help cement the ethic of the department; hard work gets results.”

Danny - Year 13

“With several practice rooms and composition software your musicality will sky rocket. Through taking music your confidence will soar and the quality of your skill will be ever improving through frequent performances. Whether you are a singer or play the trumpet the teachers will strive to give you every opportunity possible.”

Max - Year 12

## ASSESSMENT

### Component 1: Performing

Option A: Total duration of performances: 10-12 minutes  
35% of qualification  
Option B: Total duration of performances: 6-8 minutes  
25% of qualification  
Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by visiting examiner

### Component 2: Composing

Option A: Total duration of compositions: 4-6 minutes  
25% of qualification  
Option B: Total duration of compositions: 8-10 minutes  
35% of qualification  
Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by WJEC

### Component 3: Appraising

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes  
40% of qualification



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION



EXAM BOARD: OCR

CONTACT TEACHER: Mr D Brennan

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Maths GCSE: 4  
Science GCSE: 5  
English GCSE: 4

“Studying A Level PE not only gives you an insight into sports performance but also the how and why our bodies behave the way they do during physical activity. Throughout the course you will study a wide range of topics from an expansion of those studied at GCSE Sport Studies, such as The Cardiovascular and Respiratory systems but also venture into sports psychology and the influence of modern technology in sport, such as VAR.

This subject combines your own physical performance along with academic study and with the help of supportive and enthusiastic staff you are able to thrive both with your classwork but also your practical work due to a wide variety of extracurricular activities provided.”

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Emily - Year 13

## CONTENT

Studying A Level Physical Education will give you a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sports performance.

Not only will you have the chance to perform or coach a sport through non-exam assessment component, you will also develop a wide ranging knowledge into the how and why of physical activity and sport.

Modules on sports psychology, exercise physiology, biomechanics and socio-cultural issues in sport provide a chance for you to explore many of the issues, past and present, surrounding sport.

## ASSESSMENT

Linear A Level  
Written Exam - Paper 1, 2 & 3

Paper 1, 2 hours (Anatomy and Physiology ,  
Exercise Physiology & Biomechanics )  
Paper 2, 1 hour (Skill Acquisition and Sports  
Psychology )  
Paper 3, 1 hour (Sport, society and technological  
influences)

Practical/ Component 4 - Performance within  
Physical Education (Practical or coaching  
performance and Oral assessment)



“Starting PE A-Level course has been a rewarding and enjoyable step up from GCSE. With four teachers taking different subtopics, the course has been very varied and provided a broad base for understanding sport. We have studied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, and socio-cultural issues. The teachers’ support has helped me understand each subject in detail and allowed me to organise and focus my learning in each area, thereby enabling me to get the most out of A level PE.”

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Kathryn - Year 12



# PHYSICS

EXAM BOARD: AQA

CONTACT TEACHER: Mr J Davison

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

English GCSE: 5  
Double Science GCSE:7/7  
Triple Science: 6 in Physics, Chemistry and Biology.  
Additionally, students must be studying A Level Maths.

“Studying Physics at A level allows you to understand many of the wonders of our world and the universe, and to use theories to explain how they work. There is a range of fascinating topics to learn about including cosmology, kinematics and particle physics. You will carry out experiments to help you understand standing waves, resistance of wires, free-fall and many other phenomena. If you are lucky enough to go, the trip to the CERN centre in Geneva (home of the large hadron collider) is a great opportunity to see one of the largest and most advanced scientific research sites in the world.”

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Lorna - Year 13



## CONTENT

Physics at A Level is about bringing your analytical skills to bear on the world around you, with a strong emphasis on logical thought and the interpretation of evidence. You will also have the opportunity to verify the theory you learn through experimentation and practical experience.

Topics taught include Particle Physics, Mechanics, Astrophysics and more. This course is of particular interest to anybody who is wanting to demonstrate and develop their skills in critical analysis of evidence and scientific thought.

## ASSESSMENT

Linear A Level

Paper 1, 2 hours (Particles & Radiation, Waves, Electricity, Materials, Mechanics)

Paper 2, 2 hours (Thermal, Electromagnetic and Gravitational fields, Nuclear Physics)

Paper 3, 2 hours (Option Module and Measurements & Errors, Practical Skills)

“If you’re thinking of pursuing a career in science, I’d highly recommend taking physics. The topics are very interesting, for example, recently we’ve been learning about what protons and neutrons are made of, but soon we’ll be getting onto more exciting stuff.”

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James - Year 12



# PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION & ETHICS



EXAM BOARD: OCR

CONTACT TEACHER: Ms K Elliott

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study this subject you will need a minimum of grade 5 in PRE or a grade 5 English GCSE

“Philosophy, Religion and Ethics allows you to discuss and debate topics that are both controversial and challenging. Philosophy of religion is the study of fundamental questions of humanity such as whether a loving and powerful God would permit evil in the world. The ethics part of the course is an opportunity to debate social and ethical issues such as the morality of euthanasia and whether businesses have wider responsibilities than to simply make profit.”



## CONTENT

You do not need to be religious to undertake this course. You will contribute opinions as well as listening to the ideas of others. This course focuses on Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhism.

Buddhism studies the life of the Buddha and his teachings. Ethics covers how people make moral decisions. Philosophy asks ultimate questions about God and existence using ancient scholars.



“Finally, studying the beliefs and spiritual practices of Buddhism is an opportunity to explore a different culture. By the end of the course, you will be a critical thinker and be able to confidently argue your thoughts and ideas.”

Daisy - Year 13



## ASSESSMENT

Linear A Level  
Written Exam Only

Philosophy of religion (01), 120 marks, 2 hour written paper

Religion and ethics (02), 120 marks, 2 hour written paper

Developments in Buddhist thought (06), 120 marks, 2 hour written paper

“Studying PRE at A-level will enhance and develop your critical thinking skills and help you question the ethics of situations and problems that occur globally. PRE also links to subjects such as politics and sociology. The correlation between PRE and other subjects has personally given me a more in depth understanding of how philosophy and religion link to many world conflicts and peace achievements. The staff are supportive and challenge opinions providing helpful resources which leads to a better understanding of competing perspectives.”

Matthew - Year 12



# PSYCHOLOGY



EXAM BOARD: AQA

CONTACT TEACHER: Mr B Morris

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Maths GCSE: 5  
Science GCSE: 5  
English GCSE: 5



## CONTENT

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. At A Level we explore a wide range of topic areas, from the early Psychologists such as Sigmund Freud who revolutionised the field of treating mental illness to the most recent and exciting developments in the field of Neuroscience.

In Year 1 we introduce the subject by exploring the different approaches to studying Psychology through the years and then go into more depth. We ask how Social influence can make you do things people didn't believe were possible; how your memory works, how significant is parenting to your adulthood, and what mental illness is and how can it be treated? The Year 2 course explores more complex topic areas. Asking how your biology affects your behaviour, how your sex affects your gender and what is schizophrenia? Students are also given the choice between forensic, aggression or addiction topics

Psychology leads to a wide and diverse range of opportunities for next steps and careers. Transferable and subject specific skills developed include understanding and using research methods, discussion of issues and debates and the use of evidence to inform arguments.

"Studying Psychology has helped me have a better understanding of myself within the fact that we look into approaches to our personalities and how culture effects our behaviour, we then can then apply this to our own experiences and understandings. It also helps us with our communication skills since we learn about the skills of managing our emotions and behaviours which can help in any situations throughout our lives. The teachers also have a great understanding of the subject and are assertive to any queries since it's a completely new subject."

Jess - Year 12



## ASSESSMENT

Linear A Level Written Exam Only

Paper 1, 2 hours (Social Influence, Memory, Attachment & Psychopathology)

Paper 2, 2 hours (Research Methods, Approaches to Psychology, Biopsychology)

Paper 3, 2 hours (Gender, Schizophrenia, choice of Forensic/ Aggression or Addiction and Issues & Debates)

"The subject mixes science with case studies to allow you to explore both the concepts and what it means in the real world. So far this year we have looked at Biopsychology, which considers how biological processes affect our behaviour, as well as Schizophrenia and the psychology of gender. The subject features a diverse array of interesting topics and its unique nature will likely satisfy those who enjoy both Humanities and Sciences."

William - Year 13







# SOCIOLOGY



EXAM BOARD: OCR

CONTACT TEACHER: Mrs Y Adshead

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

English Literature GCSE  
grade 5

“Studying sociology is an interesting and thought-provoking subject which encourages reflection on why people act in the way they do. It is relevant to the world today as it deals with current issues such as social inequality and the role that the media plays in our everyday lives. The lessons are engaging and interactive. The teacher motivates us to ask and answer questions during the sessions. There are always new ideas to discuss in our ever-changing social world.”

William - Year 12



“Studying sociology deepens your understanding of the society we live in - as well as other societies - through learning interesting topics such as inequalities and globalisation. This year, we have studied crime and deviance which is really interesting, particularly in learning different theoretical perspectives as to why people commit crime and are deviant, as well as seeing how this differs to other cultures around the world.”

## CONTENT

Sociology provides students with an exciting opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them. It opens up the possibility for interesting discussions and debates on a range of social issues.

Students will develop a broad set of key desirable skills, including the ability to formulate clear, logical arguments and will learn to evaluate from a range of theoretical perspectives. Developing strong critical thinking skills and being able to consider issues with a global outlook will be of huge benefit to sociology students moving forward, whether this is into higher education, the workplace or society in general.

“Not only is sociology interesting to learn, but everything can be applied to your everyday life and cause you to see certain things in different ways, such as understanding why some people/groups act in a different way to others, as well as the structure of the society we live in.”

Victoria - Year 13

## ASSESSMENT

Linear A Level Written Exam Only

Paper 1:  
1 hour 30 minutes (Socialisation, Culture and Identity)

Paper 2:  
2 hours 15 minutes (Researching and Understanding Social Inequalities)

Paper 3:  
2 hours 15 minutes (Debates in Contemporary Society)



# SPANISH



EXAM BOARD: AQA

CONTACT TEACHER: Dr E Nwahba

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study this subject you will need a minimum of grade 5 in Spanish at GCSE.



“Studying A-level Spanish is a lot more than simply learning the language. You learn about the culture, gastronomy, history and politics. It’s fascinating to not only learning about them in Spain, but often other Spanish speaking countries too. I am finding the extended project particularly interesting. You choose a topic and it gives you an opportunity to learn much more about it. My topic is based around drug cartels in Mexico. It has given me the opportunity to understand more about something I had little knowledge on”

## CONTENT

This course will take your fluency in a foreign language to another level, allowing confident communication. This is achieved through studying a range of topics including social issues and trends, political and artistic culture and grammar.



## ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Listening, Reading, Writing  
2 hours 30 minutes  
50% of A-Level.

Paper 2: Writing  
2 hours  
20% of A-Level.

Paper 3: Speaking  
16-18 minutes  
30% of A-Level.

“As someone who has a love for languages, I love studying spanish at A Level. The specification we are studying has not only allowed me to further my understanding of the Spanish grammar and language but has also given me the opportunity to learn so much more about Spain's history and culture. This year we have discussed topics as diverse as the role of women in Spain during the Francoist dictatorship and how the traditional attitudes towards marriage and divorce have changed over the last 50 years. Whilst our lessons are constantly challenging, the support provided by the staff is great and they always give us plenty of guidance!”



# SPORT



EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL  
BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Sport

CONTACT TEACHER: Mr D Brennan

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Science GCSE: 4.  
English GCSE: 4.  
GCSE PE: 4

Double award, 2 A level equivalent may be available depending on uptake.



## CONTENT

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended certificate in Sport is intended to be an Applied General qualification for post-16 students who want to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately employment, possibly in the sport sector.

You will have the opportunity to study sports leadership and the range of careers available in the sports industry. You will also get the opportunity to experience life as a fitness instructor as well studying how the body moves and adapts to exercise.

“Studying Btec Sport continues your knowledge from GCSE about the body systems and how they work whilst taking part in physical activity, and also extends your knowledge further towards the sports industry and leadership. Another aspect that drew me into this course was the mixture of exams and coursework. The leadership unit of the course has given me the opportunity to work alongside teachers in the lower school in lessons and clubs, which has been extremely rewarding. It has been insightful to explore the many career pathways within the sports industry as part of my coursework.”

Niamh - Year 13

## ASSESSMENT

Unit 1: Anatomy & Physiology. Written examination set and marked by Pearson. 1.5 hours (90 marks) - June

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing. A task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions.

- In Part A, learners will be provided with a case study two weeks before a supervised assessment period in order to carry out research. (Dec and/or end of April)
- In Part B, the supervised assessment period is two hours over a period of two days timetabled by Pearson (Jan and/or Beginning of May)
- Written submission.

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry (Assignment based)

Unit 4: Sports Leadership or Practical Sport (Assignment based)

# THREE DIMENSIONAL DESIGN



EXAM BOARD: WJEC Eduqas

CONTACT TEACHER: Mr J Andrews

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 DT/ Art/ Textiles/ Graphics.  
Plus Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature.

“Studying 3D design allows you to study the digital side of producing products while also learning about the practical side and working with your hands. The staff are incredibly professional and supportive, giving up a lot of their free time to bring out students' best potential. The staff will also help you learn so many new design processes and how to work machinery from scratch. The course is also completely coursework orientated giving much less stress on students while also teaching many fundamental values in design.”

Tito - Year 13



## CONTENT

Three Dimensional Design is an A Level focused on the investigation and exploration of design ideas which culminates in a final 3D response. Students will analyse work of existing designers, artists, creatives and other starting points to inform the generation and recording of ideas. They will then refine ideas ready for manufacture. Students are empowered to explore both sketching and rendering while also a variety of physical modelling and CAD to show their 'design story' and their journey throughout each project.

A final practical outcome is essential and students must embrace the practical element of the course using workshops and machinery with safety and skill.

## ASSESSMENT

All work is internally assessed and moderated at the end of the two year course.

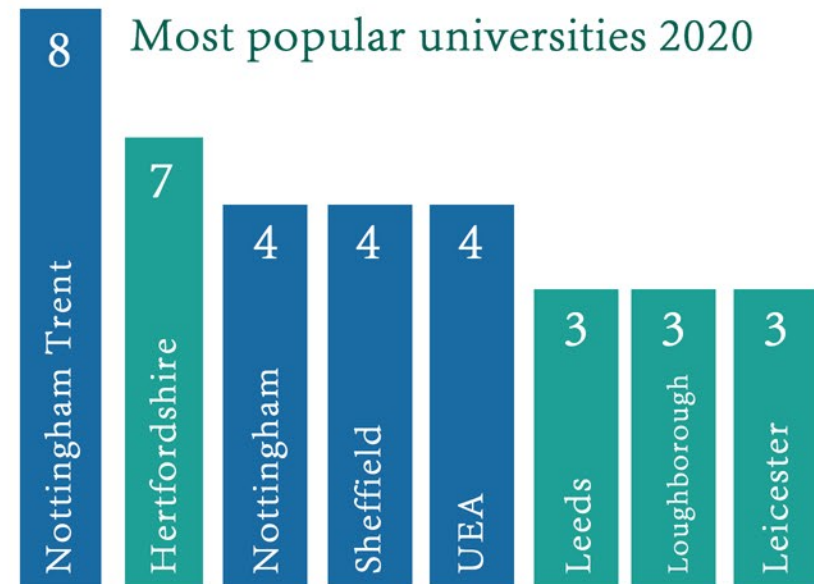
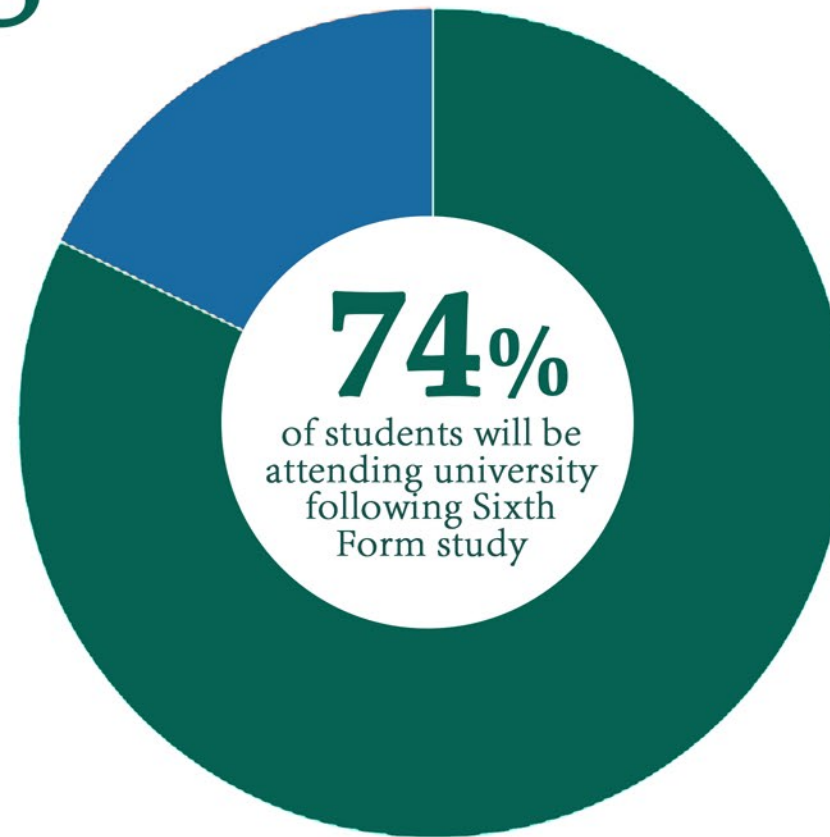
60% Personal Investigation; coursework projects independently driven by students

40% Externally set examination; preparatory studies followed by a 15 hour period in which to complete personal response.

# 2020 DESTINATIONS

## University courses include:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| American Studies and Politics                | Health and Social Care                            |
| Ancient History                              | History   |
| Animal Management and Zoology                | History and Politics                              |
| Archaeology                                  | HNC Sport and Exercise Science (Coaching Science) |
| BEd Primary Education                        | Human Resource Management & Business              |
| Biological Sciences                          | International History and Politics                |
| Biology                                      | Law   |
| Business Management and Marketing            | Law with Criminology                              |
| Civil Engineering                            | Law with Politics                                 |
| Communication, Media and Culture/Sociology   | Marine Biology                                    |
| Computer Science                             | Marketing   |
| Contemporary and Popular Music               | Marketing & Communication for Fashion             |
| Criminology                                  | Mathematics                                       |
| Criminology and Psychology                   | Mechanical Engineering with Spanish               |
| Criminology and Sociology                    | Medicine  |
| Design for Industry                          | Mental Health Nursing                             |
| Drama  | Motorsport Engineering                            |
| Economics                                    | Motorsport Technology                             |
| Economics and Accounting                     | Music   |
| Economics with a Professional Placement Year | Natural Sciences with International Study         |
| Economics with International Finance         | Pharmacy  |
| English                                      | Photography                                       |
| English and Creative Writing                 | Physiotherapy                                     |
| English Literature (with Foundation Year)    | Planning and Property Development                 |
| Events Management                            | Primary Education                                 |
| Fashion Management                           | Product and Furniture Design                      |
| Fashion Promotion and Imaging                | Psychology  |
| Film and Television (Production)             | Psychology with Criminology                       |
| Financial Mathematics                        | Psychology with Linguistics                       |
| Fine Art                                     | Sociology   |
| Football Coaching                            | Speech and Language Therapy                       |
| Geography and Planning                       | Sport Rehabilitation and Conditioning             |
| German and Japanese                          | Sport Science and Coaching                        |
| Graphic Design                               | Sports Journalism                                 |



**1** student studying History at the University of Cambridge.



**1** student studying Law at the University of Oxford.

**3** students reading Medicine.



**30%** of students attending university will join a Russell Group university.

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