

Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders



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ARABIC

COURSE: A level Arabic Language (9AA0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Gamal

DIRECTOR OF ARABIC AND ISLAMIC : Mrs Ramadan



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students will be accepted onto the course following discussions with the Head of Arabic

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

The new Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Arabic (listening, reading and writing) has been developed to inspire all students to have an appreciation of the language, literature, film and culture of the Arabic-speaking world. The course will enable students to develop advanced level knowledge and understanding of the Arabic language, the culture of the Arabic-speaking world, as well as practical and valuable language and transferable study skills. This course will help to prepare students for higher education and enhance their employability profile.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The course involves and encourages the enjoyment of texts which will be analysed and discussed and scrutinised. This study of writing will develop the analytical and evaluation skills of students whilst also helping their understanding of how to communicate their ideas with accuracy and precision.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Year 12: AS Level	Year 13: A2 Level
Externally marked examination: Translation into English, reading comprehension and writing (40%) Translation into Arabic and written response to works (30%) Listening, reading and writing in Arabic (30%)	Externally marked examination: Translation into English, reading comprehension and writing (40%) Translation into Arabic and written response to works (30%) Listening, reading and writing in Arabic (30%)

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

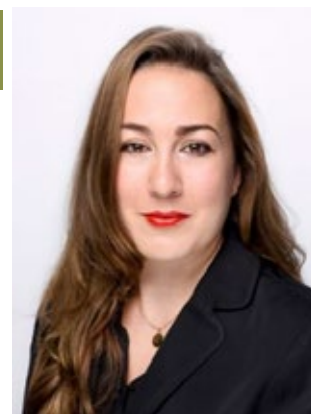
To meet people from different countries and find out more about them. More common career paths include jobs within the editorial work, international translation, research-based jobs, broadcasting, HR and recruitment. Furthermore, many students who study Arabic may later go on to study conversion courses allowing them to access careers as translators.

ART & DESIGN Art Craft and Design & Fine Art

COURSE: Art Craft and Design; A level Fine Art (9FA0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Ms C L Beggs



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Consultation with Head of Art, with a portfolio

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Art and Design is the right subject for you if you enjoy engagement with aesthetic and intellectual concepts using traditional and/or digital media, materials, techniques, and processes for the purpose of self-expression, free of external constraints. Fine art may be created to communicate ideas and messages about the observed world, the qualities of materials, perceptions, or preconceptions. It can also be used to explore personal and cultural identity, society and how we live, visual language, and technology. Fine Art allows us to consider and reflect on our place in the world, both as individuals and collectively.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Students will work within a wide variety of art disciplines and are encouraged to work within the medium which best reflects their skills. The main areas available to students are drawing and painting, printmaking (lino, silkscreen, monoprinting and batik), sculpture (ceramics, card, wood, plaster, and wire) and lens-based media. Students are encouraged to attend life drawing classes and other workshops offered by the Art department and outside agencies. Critical studies is an integral part of the course and students will be expected to investigate and analyse the work of other artists and use this to inform their own work. Trips to galleries and museums will be organised, including the possibility of a trip abroad. We also expect students to visit galleries in their own time.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Coursework is central to the course and is worth 60% of the final grade. Coursework is produced in lessons and for homework throughout the two years.

There are 2 components:

Component 1: Personal Investigation = 60%	Component 2 = Externally Set Assignment = 40%
Unit 1 Coursework 60% This component incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work and a personal study of a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose	Unit 2 Externally set assignment. Students will receive the exam paper on the 1st of February and will have several weeks to complete the preparatory work before they sit a 15-hour exam, which is held over the course of three days.

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Through the A level Fine Art course you will develop transferable skills, such as problem solving, communication and critical thinking skills, which will prepare you for further study or the world of work, regardless of the subject or career you wish to pursue.

If you want to pursue a career in the creative industries a A level in Fine Art could lead on to a foundation course which in turn would lead on to a degree course. There are many courses available in Art and Design leading to professional and rewarding careers; Computer Software Design, Ceramics, Industrial Design, Interior Design, Fashion Design, Textiles, Illustration, Graphic Designer 3D Design, Fine Art, Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking, Film Making, Photography, Animation, Theatre Design, Architecture, Art Historian, Medical Illustrator and Painting Restoration

BIOLOGY

COURSE: A level Biology (7402)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs B Roberts



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

7 or above in separate Biology, 8 or above in combined science

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A level Biology explores the theories and principles involved in living systems. You will gain an understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues, as well as some of the ways in which the scientific community contributes to the success of the economy and society. If you are interested in recent developments in genetic engineering or disease prevention, understanding how we evolved, tracking down natural resources, the true impacts of pollution on the natural world, or animal care and conservation programmes, to name a few, then this is your subject.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Topics you will learn about include: lifestyle, transport, genes and health, development, plants and the environment, the natural environment and species survival, energy, exercise and co-ordination, as well as practical biology and research skills. By the end of the course you will know about the principles of genetics, molecules, taxonomy, natural selection, evolutionary theory, global warming, bacteria and viruses, and more.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3
2 hour written exam, 91 marks, 35% of A level Biological molecules, Cells, Organisms exchange substances with their environment, Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms	2 hour written exam, 91 marks, 35% of A level Energy transfers in and between organisms, Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments, Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems, The control of gene expression	2 hour written exam, 78 marks, 30% of A level All content

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

With A level Biology, you can go on to study a range of related university courses including: audiology, biological sciences, biochemistry, biomedical sciences, dentistry, environmental sciences, evolutionary biology, forensics, healthcare, medicine, medical science, microbiology, neuroscience, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, pharmacology, physiotherapy, podiatry, psychology, radiotherapy, sports science, teaching, veterinary science and zoology. Many students have gone on to careers in medicine, care work, biomedical science, the emergency and uniformed services, healthcare, laboratories and medical administration.

BUSINESS

COURSE: International A level Business (YBS11)

EXAM BOARD: Pearson Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr E Heffernan



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Minimum of 6 in GCSE Business or Economics or a minimum of a 6 in GCSE English and Math if GCSE Business / Economics was not studied. .

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A level Business provides students with a broad understanding of business operations, strategies and concepts. This course covers a range of topics such as marketing, management, finance, economic influences on business, and human resources, providing students with an in-depth understanding of how businesses operate. This knowledge is essential for students who are interested in pursuing a career in business or entrepreneurship. Additionally, the course enhances critical thinking, analytical, and problem-solving skills, which are valuable in any career path.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

A level Business is split into 4 separate units. These units cover four broad categories of study: marketing & people; managing business activities; business decisions and strategy and finally, global business. Throughout these units, students will cover a variety of key topics such as the marketing mix, motivation theory and leadership, entrepreneurship, financial and business plans, production and quality management, competition, business growth and corporate culture. When studying business there is a requirement to work comfortably with graphs and math as well as a need for excellent written skills to evaluate business concepts and theories through essay writing.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3	Examination Paper 4
2 hour written exam, 80 marks, 25% of A level Unit 1: Marketing & People	2 hour written exam, 80 marks, 25% of A level Unit 2: Managing Business Activities	2 hour written exam, 80 marks, 25% of A level Unit 3: Business Decisions & Strategy	2 hour written exam, 80 marks, 25% of A level Unit 4: Global business

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Business A level is a highly respected course and provides students with the opportunity to develop a broad skillset and opens up many potential university and career pathways. Students who have completed the A level Business course are not only well versed for continuing to study business at university, but it equally gives students a solid knowledge base which can support them should they choose to study economics, finance or ICT at university. Some of the most common career paths for students of business include financial analyst, marketing manager, business development, accountant, data analyst, public relations officer and insurance broker/executive. Additionally, any career path chosen in the future would benefit from an understanding of business, as no matter what profession one chooses, they will be part of a business, e.g. if you wish to be a doctor, even a hospital operates as a business, seeking to generate revenue and cut costs. Understanding how businesses work can support career progression.

CHEMISTRY

COURSE: A Level Chemistry (7405)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs C Neylon



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

7 or above in separate Chemistry 8 or above in combined science

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A level Chemistry studies the material world, and through chemistry we can describe and explain questions such as: "what happens when sugar dissolves in tea?"; "why is mercury a liquid at room temperature?"; "how do we make plastics?"; "what can we do about global warming?"; "how and why will I be affected if oil runs out?".

Chemistry will continue to be at the forefront of responding to the needs of society; with chemists central to making advances in designing new materials, efficient energy use, drug development, and technology, to name but a few.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

A level Chemistry covers a wide variety of basic concepts such as the structure of the atom; the interaction of matter and energy; how to control reactions; patterns in the Periodic Table; understanding carbon-based molecules. In all these topics, you will need to learn facts and build a body of knowledge but also to understand and apply the ideas. Many topics include calculations and so you should feel comfortable rearranging equations and using numbers. Importantly, chemistry is a hands-on science and you will carry out experiments on a regular basis. This is to consolidate your theory work, but also to provide you with the opportunity to use new apparatus and build your skills and confidence to complete safe and accurate practical work.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3
2 hour written exam, 105 marks, 35% of A-level Physical and Inorganic chemistry and practical skills	2 hour written exam, 105 marks, 35% of A-level Physical and Organic chemistry and practical skills	2 hour written exam, 90 marks, 30% of A-level All content and practical skills

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Chemistry A level is a highly respected A level, with its broad variety of tested skills, and it is a good choice for many degrees and careers. Chemistry has been described as the 'central science' and is often combined with either physics or biology. It is a compulsory choice for anyone wishing to pursue medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, as well as chemistry-based degrees, such as pharmacy, pharmacology, and biochemistry. Other careers which value A level Chemistry are Chemical engineer, Forensic scientist, Nanotechnologist, Pharmacologist, Toxicologist, Civil service fast streamer, Environmental consultant, and Nuclear engineer.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

COURSE: A level Computer Science (7517)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr E Al-Rifai



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 in Mathematics and Computer Science

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Computers have become ubiquitous in 21st Century life. Every industry, both large and small, depends on the technology of yesteryear's science fiction to integrate effectively into modern economies. Computer Science continues to revolutionise global business and our personal lives at every level. Studying Computer Science will give students a fascinating and deeper insight into how technology works, whilst developing their analytical, logical thinking and problem-solving skills.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The course is intended to give students the opportunity to develop their interest in different aspects of Computer Science, including networking and communication, CPU architecture, algorithm efficiency, object-oriented programming, and computer game design. A key component will be the development of advanced programming methods and through this, students will develop their computational thinking skills and learn how to use a high-level programming language such as Python.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course comprises of 3 units: 2 examination papers and one non-examined assessment

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Problem Solving 40% of the final grade 2 hours and 30 minutes (On-screen examination)	Computer System Theory 40% of the final grade 2 hours and 30 minutes (Written paper)	Project 20% of the final grade Independent Programming Project

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Computer Science is a broad subject that encompasses many niche specialisms. It is also one of the most popular career paths, and, given its level of challenge, tends to be one of the best paid. Should a student decide to pursue the subject at university and beyond, they will have the opportunity to specialise in many areas. Some of the most popular career paths include: Software Engineer, Computer Programmer, Network Architect, Web Developer, Database Administrator, Health IT System Development, Hardware Engineer, Systems Analyst or Video Game Developer. However, computer science is a well-respected A level and can be combined with other subjects for entry to any general degree pathway and course, for example in the fields of research, mathematics, physics, design technology, art and other creative design areas.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY Product Design

COURSE: A level Product Design (9DT0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr P Miller



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 at GCSE Design & Technology

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

This course has been designed to encourage students to take a broad view of design and technology, to develop their capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing. The subject demands a creative, experimental and industrious approach. Innovation and creativity are central hallmarks of the course.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The course will give students the knowledge and skills to design in different ways, using different strategies and produce products in a variety of materials. Students will investigate areas related to the historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology. In Year 13 students have the opportunity to put their learning into practice by producing a product or prototype of their choice. They will also gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education institutions and employers.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

There are 2 components: one examination paper and one non-exam assessment

Examination Paper 1	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Principles of Design and Technology (50% of the qualification) 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper worth 120 marks	A substantial design and make project completed over a number of months. (50% of the qualification)

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

This course is a prime qualification for careers such as product design, industrial design, mechanical engineering, transportation design, architecture, interior design, design consultancy, marketing and advertising. There has been a rising trend of students taking A Level Design and Technology along with Mathematics and Physics for university degree courses in mechanical or similar types of engineering. A combination of Art with Design and Technology along with Mathematics also provides a good foundation for those aspiring to architecture and other design related careers. Aside from particular career choices, the course will also provide students with a range of problem-solving approaches that can be applied to many of life's day to day challenges.

DRAMA & THEATRE

COURSE: A level Drama and Theatre (9DR0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs L Ansell



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No prior Drama specific learning is required, however, entry to the course is dependent on a consultation with the Head of Department and a Grade 6 at GCSE English.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

You will pursue your interest in drama and theatre and develop your performance, production and directing skills. Creative thinking, critical evaluation, teamwork, research, analysis and presentation skills will all be extended. You will learn to evaluate objectively and develop a sound understanding of the influence of social, cultural and historical contexts on theatre.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Students are expected to explore play texts, devise unique performance pieces and experiment with genres and practitioners. You will become theatre makers and critics, with practical learning and live theatre at the heart of everything we do. The written coursework and examined elements of this course add academic rigour, whilst the coursework based practical allows students to have control and spread the assessed examination workload across the two years.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

There are 3 components; Devising, Text in Performance and Theatre Makers in Practice

Component 1	Component 2	Component 3
Devising (40% of the qualification) Students devise an original performance piece of theatre, from given stimuli	Theatre Text in Performance (20% of the qualification) This unit offers students the chance to demonstrate skills in a performance environment	Theatre Makers in Practice (40% of the qualification) Live theatre evaluation and a practical exploration and study of a complete text – assessed through a written examination at the end of the course

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Career path possibilities stemming from A level Drama and Theatre are broad and varied. Natural progression to theatre school, drama courses and university courses that relate directly to drama and theatre, the Arts and media related courses. However, successful drama students make ideal candidates for university courses that will benefit from the transferrable skills acquired. A wide range of courses and careers including law, human resources, sociology, media, English, teaching, business and politics all rely on the core elements of confidence, presentation, leadership, creativity and decision making that are intrinsic to the Drama and Theatre course.

ECONOMICS

COURSE: International A level Economics (YEC11)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr E Heffernan



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Minimum of 6 in GCSE Business and minimum of a 6 in GCSE English and Math

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A level Economics studies how the world uses its scarce resources. It enables students to develop a strong understanding of the theories and issues of the economic world. These factors influence our everyday lives in a multitude of ways. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of economics. This will help students to understand economic behaviour which can be studied to succeed in today's changing world.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

A level Economics is split into 4 separate units. These units cover four broad categories of economic study: microeconomic analysis of markets; macroeconomic performance and policy; economics of business behaviour and finally, developments in the global economy. Throughout these units students will cover a variety of key topics such as supply and demand, elasticity, inflation, GDP, fiscal and monetary policy, cost and revenue curves, government intervention and economic growth. When studying economics there is a requirement to work comfortably with graphs and mathematics as well as a need for excellent written skills to evaluate economic theories through essay writing.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3	Examination Paper 4
1 hour 45 minute written exam, 80 marks, 25% of A-Level Microeconomic analysis of markets	1 hour 45 minute written exam, 80 marks, 25% of A-Level Macroeconomic performance and policy	2 hour written exam, 80 marks, 25% of A-Level Business behaviour	2 hour written exam, 80 marks, 25% of A-Level Developements in the global economy

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Economics A level is a highly respected course and provides students with the opportunity to develop a broad skillset and opens up many potential university and career pathways. Economics has many cross-curricular areas with business and means that students who have completed the A-Level Economics course are not only well versed for continuing to study economics at university, but it equally gives students a solid knowledge base which can support them should they choose to study a business-related field at university. Some of the most common career paths for students of economics include economist, financial analyst, statistician, policy analyst, actuary, accountant and investment analyst. Additionally, as economics is a study of how our world economies work it can be combined with other subjects and give students a pathway into many other areas of study, for example a student of economics and biology may look to pursue a career in environmental policy such as protecting our ecosystems and combating climate change.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

COURSE: A level English Literature (9ET0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs M Naylor



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Minimum of 6 in English Language and Literature

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

The study of English Literature at A level is an exciting and immersive course which enables the development of a range of transferable skills whilst also feeding a love of Literature. The scope of study includes, but is not confined to, modern drama, social critiques and poetry. Through these studies, pupils will develop the ability to: analyse and offer perceptive interpretations of literature; to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; and finally, to engage with the ever-changing world around them through the accounts of wide and varied writers in history. The course will undoubtedly encourage discussion and passion whilst facilitating a variety of different career paths and opportunities for further education.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The course involves and encourages the enjoyment of texts from a range of time periods and cultures. Through the study, texts will be analysed, discussed and scrutinised in line with critical writing and articles surrounding the texts and its publication. Students will develop their analytical and evaluation skills whilst also understanding how to communicate their ideas with accuracy and precision. The course opens a range of pathways for further education and study, both in the field of English and other professions such as Law and the Media.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Year 12: AS Level	Year 13: A2 Level	
Externally marked examination: Poetry and Drama (60%) Prose (40%)	Externally marked examination: Shakespearean Drama (30%) Prose (20%) Poetry (30%)	Coursework essay: Comparative Study (20%)

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

The transferable skills developed when studying Literature means that there are very few careers that are off limits in the future. More common career paths include jobs within the journalism sector, teaching, editorial work, international translation, research-based jobs, broadcasting, HR and recruitment. Furthermore, many students who study English may later go on to study conversion courses allowing them to access careers in Law, Medicine or Dentistry.

FRENCH

COURSE: A level French (8658)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs A Blair



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 at GCSE or fluent and native speaker

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Languages enable you to enrich your global cultural knowledge, but they can also improve your comprehension and critical thinking skills. In languages, we focus on developing the 4 main skills, speaking, listening, reading and writing. Being able to speak a second language will enable you to communicate with native speakers on a conversational level. You will also be able to give presentations and speeches in a professional context. Studying a language will expose you to different speaking styles, accents, and dialects, and help you understand a second language when spoken at speed. Your comprehension skills will be improved through reading in different languages. Learning a language at A-Level will expand your vocabulary and improve your written style in your target language as well as your native language. You will develop the ability to write in many different formats.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

This course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or further study, including a modern languages degree.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Assessment is through examinations at the end of the 2-year course.

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
40% of the course Includes Listening, Reading and Translation	30% of the course Consists of 2 essays about the book and the film you will have studied in class	30% of the course Is the oral examination, an individual assessment of your ability to express yourself on the topics studied in class and the presentation of a research project

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

If you have a talent for learning languages, then you might want to consider studying French at A level. You will find that career prospects are enhanced by the possession of an additional language. Many degree courses can also be studied jointly with French. But more than that, French, as with any other language, provides a skill that you will take with you beyond A levels and university. It will provide you with an array of new opportunities and will develop your ability to engage with and understand other cultures.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

COURSE: A level Further Mathematics (9FM0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr J MacBlain



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 8 at GCSE

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Further Mathematics is a separate A level which can be particularly useful to students who wish to study mathematically based courses at higher education. Students wishing to take A level Further Mathematics must do so alongside A level Mathematics, thereby using two option blocks.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The course is comprised of 4 modules, 2 of which are in Core Pure Mathematics covering topics such as proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions and differential equations.

The remaining half is comprised of 2 other optional modules including Further Pure Mathematics 1 and 2, Further Statistics 1 and 2, Further Mechanics 1 and 2 and Decision Mathematics 1 and 2. A selection of combinations will be offered to cater for the cohort.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Students will sit 4 written examinations at the end of their second year of study, each of which are equally weighted, 1.5 hours long, calculator allowed and scored out of 75.

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3 and 4
Further Pure Mathematics 1 (9FM0/01)	Further Pure Mathematics 2 (9FM0/02)	2 offered options (9FM0/3A-D and 4A-G)

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

If you have a particular talent and enjoy mathematics then you should consider studying Further Mathematics. You will extend the knowledge you already have gained through studying the A level course and encounter new areas of mathematics. The mathematics covered will be helpful not just to students intending to study mathematics at degree level but to any potential physicists, engineers or computer scientists. Advanced GCE Mathematics is required by degree subjects as diverse as architecture and medicine. Many of the leading universities also specify that students should have studied Further Mathematics to at least some degree, in order to study a mathematics related course. Therefore, students should research the requirements for their preferred universities early to ensure entry requirements are met.

GEOGRAPHY

COURSE: A level Geography (9GEO)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs R Keeley



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 at GCSE Geography and Grade 6 in Combined Science and Mathematics

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Geography gives you the opportunity to further develop your understanding and interpretation of issues affecting people, places and environments, and change both spatially and temporally. A level Geography learners will develop an understanding of the principal processes operating within physical geography and human geography and an understanding of the causes and effects of change on natural and human environments. In addition, they will develop an awareness of how to use geographical analysis to understand and solve contemporary human and environmental problems and will be able to handle and evaluate different types and sources of information. The skills to think logically and to present an ordered and coherent argument in a variety of ways is integral to the course.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Geographical skills and practical work are embedded throughout the course. This approach provides opportunities for developing skill in using and interpreting geographical data but also increases the appeal of the course, and the enjoyment of the subject. Practical work helps you to acquire a secure understanding of the syllabus topics and to appreciate the interdependent nature of physical and human systems. Geography by its nature is a practical subject. You will develop your practical skills by carrying out fieldwork and geographical investigations throughout the course.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Students will sit 3 written examinations at the end of their second year of study and will also complete a fieldwork study as follows:

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3	Paper 4
Core Physical Geography 30% of overall A level grade	Core Human Geography 30% of overall A level grade	Synoptic Themes within the compulsory content area 20% of overall A Level grade	Non-examination assessment: Independent Investigation (minimum of four days fieldwork carried out in relation to processes in physical and human geography) 20% of overall A Level grade

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Geography is well known as a subject that links to all other subjects in the curriculum, so an A Level in Geography is a stepping stone to a whole range of future opportunities. A level Geography provides an excellent foundation for studies in further or higher education. Employment opportunities include Journalism, Media, Engineering, ICT, Travel and Tourism, Environmental Management, Geology, Marketing, Business Management and Teaching. Geographers are everywhere.

GERMAN

COURSE: A level German (7662)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs A Blair



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 minimum at GCSE

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

The academic benefits of learning a language at A level are just as important as the professional benefits. Languages enable you to enrich your global cultural knowledge, but they can also improve your comprehension and critical thinking skills. In languages, we focus on developing the 4 main skills, speaking, listening, reading and writing. Being able to speak a second language will enable you to communicate with native speakers on a conversational level. You'll also be able to give presentations and speeches in a professional context. Studying a language will expose you to different speaking styles, accents, and dialects, not to mention helping you understand a second language when spoken at speed. Your comprehension skills will be improved through reading in different languages. You'll be able to read new books and understand newspapers and online news sites in another language. Learning a language at A level will expand your vocabulary and improve your written style in your target language as well as your native language. You'll develop the ability to write in many different formats, for example, emails, texts, essays – and you'll be able to understand signs, alerts and public notices.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

This course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or further study, including a modern languages degree.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Assessment is through examinations at the end of the 2-year course.

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
40% of the course Includes Listening, Reading and Translation	30% of the course Consists of 2 essays about the book and the film you will have studied in class	30% of the course Is the oral examination, an individual assessment of your ability to express yourself on the topics studied in class and the presentation of a research project

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

If you have a talent for learning languages, then you might want to consider studying French at A level. You will find that career prospects are enhanced by the possession of an additional language. Many degree courses can also be studied jointly with French. But more than that, French, as with any other language, provides a skill that you will take with you beyond A-Levels and university. It will provide you with an array of new opportunities and will develop your ability to engage with and understand other cultures.

HISTORY

COURSE: A level History (7041, 7042)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr A Hatcher



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 at GCSE. If History has not been studied at GCSE, admission to the course is still possible for candidates who have a keen interest following a discussion with the Head of Department.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

The History A level course will appeal to students who have an interest in the past, enjoy investigation, discovery and debate and putting forward a well-argued case. Students should want to improve their analytical skills, want to study a subject which encourages the formulation of opinions and want to broaden their studies to include a humanities subject whilst keeping their options open for the future. The course also enables students to develop key skills in the areas of communication, research (particularly the plethora of online resources now available), problem solving, working with others and improving own learning and performance. The course is well supported by an extensive range of varied resources and the teaching strategies focus on student involvement and motivation.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The Tudors: England 1485-1603

Democracy and Nazism: Germany 1918-45

The Civil Rights Movement 1861-1965

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

There are 3 components: 2 examination papers and one non-exam assessment

Paper 1	Paper 2	Coursework
2 ½ hours externally marked examination 40% of total	2 ½ hours externally marked examination 40% of total	Internally assessed, externally moderated 20% of total

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Students who study History at this level will have access to a wide range of career and higher education opportunities. By the end of the course, students will have learned how to evaluate and analyse information, how to weigh up evidence and how to communicate complex ideas effectively. History continues to be a highly regarded subject and these skills are recognised and valued by employers, universities and colleges. History combines well with Mathematics and Science subjects to create an attractive portfolio of qualifications, as well as with English and Modern Foreign Languages. History provides an excellent foundation for a number of popular careers including journalism, law and business.

ISLAMIC



COURSE: Islamic Education subject is a compulsory until Year 13.

DIRECTOR OF ARABIC AND ISLAMIC: Mrs Ramadan

CURRICULUM: MOE

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Studying Islamic education as a student is invaluable for a myriad of reasons. It not only offers a deep cultural understanding of Islamic societies but also promotes religious literacy and a global perspective on international affairs. This knowledge encourages interfaith dialogue, fostering tolerance and respect among diverse communities. Additionally, Islamic education instills ethical values, contributing to the development of compassionate and socially responsible individuals. The insights gained from studying Islam can open doors to various career opportunities, particularly in fields requiring an understanding of different cultures and religions. Beyond professional prospects, it nurtures personal development by honing critical thinking skills and a respect for diversity.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

We follow the MOE curriculum and standards. We focus on the 6 strands of the curriculum and include a range of topics. Quran, Hadeeth and recitation are the key focus of understanding and memorization.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Based on the Ministry of Education Assessment Policy the scale of marks is as follows:

Exam skill	Mode of assessment	Weighting	Time	
Assessment	60 marks	60%	55 minutes	
Recitation	20 marks	20%	10-15 minutes	
Projects and skills	20 marks	20%	Course work	

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

In Islamic education, students will benefit in their studies in which they are equipped with the skills to enhance their research capabilities, enabling them to delve into the depth of Islamic teachings, traditions, and historical contexts. This educational approach emphasizes critical analysis and the application of knowledge, empowering students to apply Islamic principles in contemporary contexts and contribute meaningfully to their real life.

MEDIA STUDIES

COURSE: A level Media Studies (7572)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs M Naylor



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 at GCSE English

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Students will develop evaluative and analytical skills using a variety of media products. They will also develop practical skills spanning a range of media forms.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Media Studies covers contemporary, diverse topics that will help students navigate, question and explore the modern world. Students will also use their research and problem-solving skills throughout the two-year program. The subject also helps to refine debating skills through discussion of contemporary issues from a range of perspectives. Media Studies is a modern-day course that examines the way in which the media, in all forms play an important role in society and modern ideologies.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Students will sit two exams, Media 1 and Media 2. Media 1 will include a range of questions relating to an unseen source and Close Study Products. It will include two essay questions (20 marks), one of which an extended response question will be required. The Media 2 exam will focus on the in-depth media forms of television, magazines and online, social and participatory media/video games. This paper will include one medium length unseen analysis question, three essay questions (25 marks), an extended response synoptic question. The NEA section of the course will be completed both at home and school and will follow a set brief determined by AQA. The NEA project is worth 60 marks and will constitute 30% of the overall A Level grade.

COURSE: 3 UNITS

Media One	Media Two	NEA
35% - 2-hour exam (written)	35% - 2-hour exam (written)	30% - internally marked – externally set brief

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Media Studies provides students with skills that will be applicable in marketing, broadcast media, journalism, advertising and all areas of production. However, the transferrable skills that they will acquire reach far beyond the media industry. These transferrable skills include, critical thinking, collaborative working, cultural awareness, flexible and creative skills, the ability to work to a brief and deadline, all of which are valuable skills for further academic study or in any employment situation.

MATHEMATICS

COURSE: A level Mathematics (9MA0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr MacBlain



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 at GCSE

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Although traditionally seen as complementing the sciences, mathematics forms a compatible combination with many other subjects and is very popular with employers. The statistics element of the course may be particularly helpful with geography, economics, biology and psychology while the mechanics units are helpful for students who hope to study physics or engineering. The course will enable students to extend their range of mathematical skills and use them in more difficult, unstructured problems. They will also begin to recognise how real-world problems can be represented mathematically and how models can be applied and refined. Students will develop an awareness of the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study, to the world of work and to society in general.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The Advanced GCE course in Mathematics aims to build on students' knowledge from IGCSE Mathematics. The course further develops a student's understanding of Mathematics and mathematical processes, helping them to form logical arguments and construct mathematical proofs. Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics are studied. In Pure Mathematics the topics include proof, algebra and trigonometry together with differentiation and integration. The Statistics unit includes probability, handling of data, correlation, the Binomial and Normal distributions and hypothesis testing. The Mechanics unit covers kinematics, the application of Newton's Laws and moments.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Students will sit 3 written examinations at the end of their second year of study, each of which are equally weighted, 2 hours long, calculator allowed and scored out of 100.

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Pure Mathematics 1 (9MA0/01)	Pure Mathematics 2 (9MA0/02): Paper 1 is assumed knowledge for this	Statistics and Mechanics (9MA0/03)

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Mathematics is welcomed by Higher Education for admission to degrees in the sciences, geography, economics and business studies, as well as being an essential requirement for engineering degree courses.

MUSIC

COURSE: A level Music (9MU0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr G Ansell



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You need to have at least a 7 in GCSE Music or equivalent qualification. You will also need to be at least a Grade 5 level on at least one instrument .

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A level Music is a rigorous academic course which tests many different areas of a student's abilities and sets them up well for university. Several studies have shown that music benefits learning by activating all brain areas: auditory (sound processing); motor (rhythm processing) and limbic (emotions). Music also encourages and nurtures many transferable skills, such as independent learning, teamwork, performance and presentation skills, dedication, and time management to name a few. These skills will aid all students, no matter what their chosen career path. Students will also improve their listening and analysis skills, learning how to become both constructive and critical about both their own work and others.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The course is split into 3 sections, the performing is worth 30% of the overall grade, the composing worth 30% and the appraising worth 40%. The performing and composing are completed throughout the two years and then submitted for marking. The appraising takes the form of a 2-hour 10 minute exam where students are tested on their knowledge of the 18 set works that they have studied across the two-year course.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course comprises of 3 units: 2 examination papers and one non-exam assessment.

Component 1: Performing	Component 2: Composition	Component 3: Appraising
30% of qualification Non-Examined Assessment 8 minute recital of pieces learned throughout the course	30% of qualification Non-Examined Assessment 2 compositions totalling at least 6 minutes	40% of qualification 2-hour examination based around 6 areas of study

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Studying music teaches many important skills, and the dedication and concentration skills that music develops are transferable to any profession, however the creativity that is nurtured and encouraged through Music A level can aid and assist in many other areas. It is not uncommon to see music students go on to study Medicine or Law at university because of the core skills music has taught them over their formative years.

PHYSICS

COURSE: A Level Physics (7408)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs L Rogers



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in separate Physics or a grade 8 or above in combined science

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

This subject combines practical skills with theoretical ideas to develop descriptions of the physical universe. You will learn about everything from kinematics to cosmology and many recent developments in fascinating topics, such as particle physics. If you are interested in the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between this is the subject for you.

Physics is more than a subject – it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries. One day a physicist will discover something that will change the way in which we see the world today. Discoveries in physics have formed the foundation of countless technological advances, which are used throughout many scientific areas such as, quantum computing, medicine and nanotechnology. Physics will play a huge future role in solving many global problems such as, energy demands, global warming and public health.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

A level Physics will introduce new concepts such as cosmology, quarks and quantum physics. Topics covered include Mechanics, Waves, Fields, Electricity, Thermal and Nuclear Physics. Lots of these topics have been introduced in the GCSE course. At A level students will get a more in-depth knowledge of kinematics, dynamics and materials science, which will broaden the student's horizons into the diversity of physics careers.

A level Physics is a mixture of highly conceptual thinking and very practical applications. You need to be able to think about abstract ideas such as fields, but be able to apply those ideas to how, for instance, electric motors work. Getting accurate results from experiments requires practice and competence in the use of lab equipment. Physics students need a strong head for numbers. Calculations are an important part of A level Physics and you need to be comfortable with algebra and rearranging equations.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course comprises of 3 examination papers

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3
2 hour written exam, 85 marks, 34% of A-level Periodic motion	2 hour written exam, 85 marks, 34% of A-level Thermal Physics	2 hour written exam, 80 marks, 32% of A-level Practical skills and data analysis and one optional topic from Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Engineering Physics, Turning Points in Physics and Electronics

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

An A level Physics qualification is sought after with employers and is vital for many university courses and careers. A good grade in A level Physics demonstrates to an employer that you have analytical and mathematical skills that you can apply to real life situations. There are many possible career paths that it will create for you, for example: Engineering, Medicine, Forensic Science, Astronomy, Cosmology, Electronics, Power generation, Finance and many more.

PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE: A level Psychology (7182)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr M Rogers



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in two science subjects

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A level Psychology will appeal to a cross-section of students, regardless of whether they have studied the subject before. It builds on skills developed in the sciences and humanities, and enables progression into a wide range of other subjects.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Psychology enables students to look at the world through different eyes from different perspectives. It helps improve teamwork and interpersonal and communication skills. Students' ability to plan and conduct scientific investigations will also improve, as well as research skills. Throughout the course students will also find that their analytical skills are enhanced, and they will learn to interpret information in a more effective manner. Although not a facilitating subject, it has a core focus and overlaps with elements of Mathematics and Science.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

3 Terminal exam papers worth 33% each of final grade. At least 10% of the overall assessment of Psychology will contain mathematical skills equivalent to Level 2 or above. At least 25–30% of the overall assessment will assess skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to research methods.

UNITS OF STUDY:

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Introductory Topics in Psychology - x2 hour exam	Psychology in Context – x2 hour exam	Issues and Options in Psychology – x2 hour exam

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

A level Psychology links directly to the following fields and indirectly with many more: Childhood studies, Media Studies, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy, Sociology, Sports Science, Psychology. Studying A level Psychology can be beneficial to most careers, in particular careers as a psychologist, therapist and mental health worker. It is also very useful for careers in business, management and social work, as the course will help you to understand the mind-set of your clients, customers and employees.

SPANISH

COURSE: A Level Spanish (7692)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs A Blair



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 at GCSE or fluent and native speaker

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Languages enable you to enrich your global cultural knowledge, but they can also improve your comprehension and critical thinking skills. In languages, we focus on developing the 4 main skills, speaking, listening, reading and writing. Being able to speak a second language will enable you to communicate with native speakers on a conversational level. You will also be able to give presentations and speeches in a professional context. Studying a language will expose you to different speaking styles, accents, and dialects, and help you understand a second language when spoken at speed. Your comprehension skills will be improved through reading in different languages. Learning a language at A-Level will expand your vocabulary and improve your written style in your target language as well as your native language. You will develop the ability to write in many different formats.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

This course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or further study, including a modern languages degree.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Assessment is through examinations at the end of the 2-year course.

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Includes Listening, Reading and Translation	Consists of 2 essays about the book and the film you will have studied in class	Is the oral examination, an individual assessment of your ability to express yourself on the topics studied in class and the presentation of a research project

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

If you have a talent for learning languages, then you might want to consider studying Spanish at A level. You will find that career prospects are enhanced by the possession of an additional language. Many degree courses can also be studied jointly with Spanish. But more than that, Spanish, as with any other language, provides a skill that you will take with you beyond A levels and university. It will provide you with an array of new opportunities and will develop your ability to engage with and understand other cultures.

BUSINESS

COURSE: BTEC International Level 3 Diploma in Business (360GLH)

EXAM BOARD: Pearson

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr E Heffernan



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 in English and Business at GCSE if studied .

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

The Pearson BTEC International Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Business is a vocational qualification designed for any student who prefers a more practical-based learning. It is equivalent in size to one A Level and has been designed as a full two-year program. The qualification aims to provide a wide-ranging study of the Business sector and support students who wish to pursue a career in business, primarily via higher education. BTEC courses enable students to develop a broad range of skills through conducting primary and secondary research, report writing, referencing and presenting, among others. It also gives students the opportunity to develop their understanding in relation to a varied range of business topics.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Students will complete five units of study across two years, including business environment, finance, marketing, career paths, international business and management. This qualification gives learners experience of the breadth and depth of the sector that will prepare them for further study or training. Each unit includes at least two assignments to be completed. Assignments are primarily research based and require students to develop excellent research skills as well as the ability to collate this information and present their findings in a variety of formats.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

International BTECs are internally assessed, allowing for practical assignments that combine knowledge and career related skills. The assignments are provided by Pearson allowing for standardisation across the BTEC framework and two of the units are mandatory. Assignments are scenario based and designed to be work relevant, for example by researching and presenting information and demonstrating the skills needed for employment. Internally assessed assignments are then sampled by Pearson to ensure that rigorous standards are being applied and for students to achieve their certification.

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

The BTEC International is designed to give learners the opportunity to develop skills for university as well as employability skills. Students will develop problem-solving skills, use critical thinking, develop a range of communication skills, work collaboratively, learn how to self-manage and develop resilience. BTEC Business is a useful course for progression into a range of careers and University courses such as accountancy, marketing, human resources and economics. The BTEC qualification provides a more vocational and practical way of learning for students interested in Business.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

COURSE: BTEC International Level 3 Diploma in Sport

EXAM BOARD: Pearson

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr N Statham



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 in PE at GCSE or if not studied, upon discussion with the Head of Department

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

BTEC Sports Coaching and Development provides students with a solid foundation in the sports sector, enabling them to develop the essential skills required for gaining employment, securing career progression or, advancing towards further qualifications and training required to achieve their sporting ambitions. It is designed specifically to give students a hands-on approach in a variety of sporting fields, including several practical elements. Students will complete tasks set specifically geared to their needs and expertise.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The course is assessed over 720 guided learning hours, which is equivalent in size to two International A Levels. As part of the course, 5 mandatory units will be studied. These are: Health, Wellbeing and Sport, Careers in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry, Ethics, Behaviours and Values, Developing Coaching Skills and Inclusive Coaching. In addition, learners take optional units that support the progression route identified in the qualification title. Optional units may include some of the following: Sports Psychology; Fitness Testing; Nutrition for Physical Performance; Influence of Technology in Sport and Physical Activity; Sport Development; and, Sports Performance Analysis.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

International BTECs are internally assessed, allowing for practical assignments that combine knowledge and carer related skills. At least 25% of these assignments will be set by Pearson to provide additional external standardisation. Assignments are scenario based and designed to be work relevant, for example by researching and presenting information and demonstrating the skills needed for employment.

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

The BTEC qualification in Sports Coaching and Development provides an introduction to the sector for learners looking to build a career in sport, within one of its occupational areas. These areas include careers in exercise and fitness, coaching and leadership, and sports development. It also compliments several other subjects and supports entry to higher education courses in a very wide range of disciplines.



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