



Robert Barclay Academy  
Education for a changing world

# Course Information



## KS5 Courses on Offer - September 2020

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# A LEVEL FINE ART

## Where will this subject lead me?

The creative industries are growing faster than any other sector in the UK, they are currently worth £92 billion per year and employ over 2 million people. An A Level in Fine Art opens doors to this exciting, lucrative and wide ranging industry.

You will be able to take up opportunities in industries as varied as advertising, marketing, architecture, design, film, IT and publishing. Areas of Design open to Art students include game design, graphics, exhibition, industrial, interior, landscape, product, theatre and textiles.

## How will I be assessed?

### You will only sit the AS exam if you are leaving after one year.

At AS you will produce a portfolio of work for component 1 which counts for 60% of your total AS grade.

Component 2 is an externally set unit giving five possible starting points which count for 40% of your final AS grade.

At A Level for component 1 you will develop work for a personal investigation into an idea, concept, issue or theme supported by written material. This is 60% of the A Level.

Component 2 is externally set and gives eight possible starting points to a unit of work which counts for 40% of the final grade.

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

It is essential to have a GCSE in Art or Photography to a minimum of a grade 6 and at least a grade 5 in English.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

You will need to bring enthusiasm for creativity and the Arts. You will need to be willing to take risks and explore complex, original and personal ideas. You will need to be able to write coherently and in detail about all forms of art.

## What will I need to buy?

Sketch book and art supplies throughout the course.

## What will I learn?

We follow the AQA Specification. Students will be shown how to build a portfolio of work from a given starting point. Fine Art offers opportunities to use your creativity to express yourself. You will develop your understanding of creative processes, your ability to observe and to think, to solve problems and to communicate in a visual way. It will enable you to work independently and to make your own discoveries by exploring ideas, other artists' work and different materials and techniques. Fine Art gives you the skills and knowledge to create personal and imaginative work. If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, there is a career opportunity waiting for you. Students are encouraged to visit galleries locally, and in London, to support their work and extend their understanding of Art.

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR ART AND DESIGN

1. University of Oxford
2. University of Glasgow
3. University of Central St Martins
4. University of Loughborough
5. University of Edinburgh

# A LEVEL BIOLOGY

## Where will this subject lead me?

Studying A Level Biology at Sixth Form leads to a range of university degrees such as Microbiology, Marine Biology, Zoology and Medicine and gives you all sorts of exciting career options.

**Possible careers include:** Clinical Molecular Geneticist, Nature Conservation Officer, Pharmacologist, Doctor, Dentist, Zoologist, Research scientist, Secondary School Teacher, Soil Scientist, Lecturer, Vet.

## How will I be assessed?

### 3 Papers

- Written exam: 2 hours each

Papers 1 and 2:

- 75 marks: short and long answer questions
- 15 marks: extended response questions or comprehension questions

Paper 3

- 38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques
- 15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data
- 25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles.

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

You will need GCSE Science (Core and Additional, or Triple) at grade 5.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

You will need to bring an interest in Science and have an inquisitive mind.

## What will I need to buy?

Textbook

## What will I learn?

We follow the AQA Specification.

### AS and first year of A Level

Biological molecules

Cells

Organisms exchange substances with their environment

Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

### Second year 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

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

1. University of Cambridge
2. University of Oxford
3. Imperial College, London
4. University of York
5. University of Durham

# A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

## Where will this subject lead me?

Studying an A Level Chemistry related degree at university gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including: Analytical Chemist, Chemical Engineer, Clinical Biochemist, Pharmacologist, Doctor, Research Scientist (physical sciences), Toxicologist, Chartered Certified Accountant, Environmental Consultant, Higher Education Lecturer, Patent Attorney, Science Writer, Secondary School Teacher

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

You will need GCSE Science (Core and Additional, or Triple) at Grade 5 and a Maths GCSE at Grade 5.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

You will need to bring an interest in science and have an inquisitive mind.

**What will I need to buy?** Textbook

## How will I be assessed?

### 3 Papers

- Written exam: 2 hours each

Papers 1 and 2:

105 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions

Paper 3

- 40 marks: questions on practical techniques and data analysis
- 20 marks: testing across the specification
- 30 marks: multiple choice questions

## What will I learn?

### AS and first year of A Level

#### **Physical chemistry**

Including atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibrium, Le Chatelier's principle and  $K_c$ .

#### **Inorganic chemistry**

Including periodicity, Group 2 the alkaline earth metals, Group 7(17) the halogens.

#### **Organic chemistry**

Including introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols, organic analysis.

### Second year of A Level

#### **Physical chemistry**

Including thermodynamics, rate equations, equilibrium constant ( $K_p$ ) for homogeneous systems, electrode potentials and electrochemical cells.

#### **Inorganic chemistry**

Including properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides, transition metals, reactions of ions in aqueous solution.

#### **Organic chemistry**

Including optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and derivatives, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, NMR spectroscopy, chromatography.

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR CHEMISTRY

1. University of Cambridge
2. University of Durham
3. University of Oxford
4. Imperial College, London
5. University of Warwick

# A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

## Where will this subject lead me?

Drama and Theatre is a creative and academic study. It could therefore lead you in many directions. Taking A Level Drama does not guarantee you a part on a West End stage, but it will demonstrate that you can think critically, and engage in practical exploration of text. The skills developed are broad and will prepare you for many possible future pathways whether they be university or employment. Previous students have gone on to study at Liverpool Institute and The American Musical theatre Academy

## How will I be assessed?

Year 12:

Devising Original Drama (30%) Creating your own performances from a wide range of stimulus and exploring the techniques of various Theatre practitioners.

Year 13:

Practical Script work examination (30%) Performing Key extracts of scripts to a visiting examiner

3 Hour examination (40%) Studying the work of three playtexts, exploring character analysis and live theatre evaluations.

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

Previous experience of Drama, such as GCSE or even outside in extra-curricular groups, would be an advantage. A passion and enthusiasm for Drama and Theatre.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

You will need to bring an interest in Theatre to this course—even if you have not yet experienced that much live theatre—a willingness to watch a variety of theatrical performances and an interest in Theatre as a performer.

## What will I need to buy?

An RBA Polo at around £12

## What will I learn?

The Drama and Theatre Course allows you to work in the following ways: devising your own original Theatre, reviewing live Theatre that you go to see, being directed in a scripted performance, leading your own directing ideas in response to a text you study. The course allows you to see and read lots of new plays. You will study different types of theatre and review across history how theatre has developed into the art form it is today

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR DRAMA

1. LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE OF PERFORMING ARTS
2. MOUNTVIEW ACADEMY OF THEATER ARTS
3. CENTRAL SCHOOL OF SPEECH AND DRAMA
4. BRISTOL OLD VIC THEATRE SCHOOL

# A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

## Where will this subject lead me?

A widely recognised subject at universities, English can open many pathways for successful students.

Career pathways include: Journalism, Law, Linguistics, Politics, Broadcasting, Teaching, Lecturing, Copywriting.

## How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Love Through the Ages—Poetry, Prose text and Shakespeare. 3 hours—open book in Section C [Prose] only

40% of A Level

**Othello, The Great Gatsby, unseen poetry, pre-1900 poetry.**

Paper Two: Texts in Shared Contexts - 1945+. 2 hours 30 minutes - open book

40% of A Level

**The Handmaid's Tale, Unseen Prose, A Streetcar Named Desire, Feminine Gospels.**

Non examination assessment: A 2,500 critical essay. 20% of A level.

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

Grade 5 in English Literature &

Grade 5 in English Language.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

You will need enthusiasm and a love of reading. A voice to debate ideas and themes alongside your independent research of writer, genre and context.

## What will I need to buy?

There is the requirement to purchase some of the set texts and other revision materials. ISBNs will be given closer to the start of the course.

## What will I learn?

English Literature will encourage the development of your interest and enjoyment of reading widely and learning to critically analyse as you read. As you progress through the course you will hopefully become a confident reader of a range of texts and your skills of response and analyse will be improved, especially with expressing your responses in a successful way.

You will learn to use critical concepts and a wide range of new terminology and you will also be encouraged to work independently and deciding on your own interpretations of the texts that you read.

You will also be expected to help with accelerated reading in the lower years.

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR ENGLISH

1. University of Durham
2. University of St Andrews
3. University College, London
4. University of Cambridge
5. University of Oxford.

# A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

## Where will this subject lead me?

Geography combines well with both arts and science subjects. You may already be thinking ahead to potential university and career choices, so it is worth bearing in mind that geography is a broad based subject that really fits well for your future progression. For example, for careers in sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location, managing the effects of hazards and climate change, geography is an obvious choice.

## How will I be assessed?

**Paper 1**—Physical Geography— water and carbon cycles, Coastal systems, Hazards

**Paper 2**—Human Geography Global systems and governance, Changing places, Contemporary urban environments

**Coursework**—Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

Being able to write a researched, well-structured essay is absolutely essential for success in Geography. You must have studied Geography at GCSE and gained at least a grade 4 and a pass in both English Language and Mathematics.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

You will to bring a passion for the world around you come fully prepared with up-to-date geographical knowledge. You will need to watch the news and be aware of issues and challenges that face us on a global, national and local scale.

## What will I need to buy?

The course involves 4 days of field work (2 + days are residential and there will be a cost Involved)

## What will I learn?

Your GCSE Geography course gives you a strong foundation for understanding the two main themes of the subject: human geography and physical geography. Between them, they're what makes our planet tick. Human geography deals with how people and the environment interact and the way we co-exist. It also looks at how people and groups move and live in the world around us. For example, you'll learn about stuff you see in the papers and on the news everyday, including issues of sustainability. Physical geography, on the other hand, is all about the scientific aspects of our world, with an emphasis on how we can manage them.

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR GEOGRAPHY

1. University of Cambridge
2. London School of Economics
3. University of Durham
4. University of Bristol

# A LEVEL HISTORY

## Where will this subject lead me?

The skills you will develop by studying History can lead you in a variety of directions and can serve as a strong foundation for a wide range of careers or further study. This includes Law, Government, Education, Publishing, Research, Politics, Journalism and many others.

An A Level in History won't limit you to a career in History. Instead, it demonstrates that you can weigh up different points of view, debate, select information, organise your ideas, write an extended answer, construct an argument, think critically and consider the reliability of information.

## How will I be assessed?

**Paper 1: Britain, 1625-1701: Conflict, revolution and settlement** 30% of A Level - 2 hour 15 minute exam - 3 essay questions.

**Paper 2: Russia in revolution, 1894-1924** 20% of A Level  
1 hour 30 minute exam - 2 essay questions.

**Paper 3: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399-1509**  
30% of A Level - 2 hour 15 minute exam - 3 essay questions.

**Coursework: British Foreign Policy, 1937-39** 3-4,000 word essay - 20% of A Level - completed throughout Y13.

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

Being able to write coherent, well-structured and well argued essays under time pressure is essential for success in History. You will therefore need to have a 5 in GCSE History and ideally, 5's in both English exams too.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

You will need to bring an interest in History and a wish to ask questions to understand how it has shaped the world around us. You should be someone who watches history documentaries, reads relevant news articles and possibly historic fiction or non-fiction.

## What will I need to buy?

Two textbooks; one in year 12, one in year 13, both around £20-25 each.

Revisions guides are available for two of the three exam papers.

## What will I learn?

You will study the Edexcel route C syllabus. This involves studying two British and two non-British topics. There are three exams and one piece of coursework. You will study Britain, 1625-1701, arguably the most important century in British History, as well as the Russia in revolution, 1894-1924, which saw Russia become the first Communist dictatorship in the world. You will also study the turbulent and violent 15th century, when the English crown changed hands ten times, but only three times without violence. The final topic will be a piece of coursework on British Foreign Policy, 1937-39.

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR

1. University of Cambridge
2. University of Durham
3. University of Oxford
4. University of Exeter
5. University of St Andrews

# A LEVEL MATHEMATICS

## Where will this subject lead me?

Maths is one of the most popular A Level subjects at RBA, with several students progressing to study the subject or related subjects at university each year. Maths at A Level is highly challenging but interesting. It builds on work you will have met at GCSE but also involves new ideas that some of the greatest minds in history have produced.

A Level maths is particularly useful if you are thinking of pursuing further study or a career in Accountancy, Economics, Banking, Engineering, Architecture, Computing, Financial Management, Sciences, Medicine, Data Analysis etc. However, It serves as a very useful support to many other qualifications.

## How will I be assessed?

4 exams at the end of Year 13

Paper 1 and 2 Pure mathematics—2 hours worth 33 % each - 100 marks per paper

Paper 3 and 4 Stats and Mechanics—2 hours worth 33% - 50 marks per paper

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

Before taking this course you will be expected to have at least a grade 6 in your GCSE and to have studied at the Higher Tier throughout the two years. Please note that this course has been highly over-subscribed in the last two years, therefore it is advisable to achieve at least a grade 7 in your GCSE maths to guarantee a place.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

The successful Mathematics student is the one who enjoys solving puzzles and problems. Having a logical turn of mind and being able to present work well are both assets. The most important attribute, however, is always a preparedness to work hard.

## What will I need to buy?

2 textbooks in year 12 and 2 textbooks in year 13. Both around £25 each. Casio calculator at around £20.

## What will I learn?

All students will be assessed on their knowledge of Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics. The assessment objectives include a greater emphasis on modelling, problem-solving and reasoning,. This builds on the increase in problem-solving in GCSE so students will be better prepared. The examinations will be taken at the end of the course rather than in modules and it is expected that questions will link different aspects of the course.

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR MATHEMATICS

1. University of Cambridge
2. University of Oxford
3. Imperial College, London
4. University of St Andrews
5. University of Durham

# A LEVEL FURTHER MATHEMATICS

## Where will this subject lead me?

Further Mathematics at AS and A Level is a course worth studying in its own right. It is challenging but interesting. It builds on work you will have met at GCSE but also involves new ideas that some of the greatest minds in history have produced. It is one of the most demanding courses at A Level

## How will I be assessed?

2 Papers at the end of year 13

Paper 1 and 2— Compulsory Further Pure topics — time 1 hour 30 mins each

Paper 3 and/or 4 — Optional papers: Mechanics, Decision maths or Further Pure — time 1 hour 30 min

Students can have 3 or 4 papers dependent on options chosen

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

Before taking this course you will be expected to have at least a Grade 8 in your GCSE and to have studied at the Higher Tier throughout the two years.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

You will have to be studying A Level Mathematics and be an independent worker.

## What will I need to buy?

Two textbooks in year 13, both around £20 each.

## What will I learn?

For someone who enjoys mathematics, it provides a challenge and a chance to explore new and/or more sophisticated mathematical concepts.

As well as new learning new areas of pure mathematics you will study further applications of mathematics in mechanics, statistics and decision mathematics.

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR MATHEMATICS

1. University of Cambridge
2. University of Oxford
3. Imperial College, London
4. University of St Andrews
5. University of Durham

# A LEVEL MEDIA STUDIES

## Where will this subject lead me?

Media Studies plays a central role in contemporary culture, society and politics. It can shape our perceptions of the world through the representations, ideas and points of view they offer. By studying A Level Media, students will develop a thorough and in-depth understanding of these key issues.

Possible careers into the industry could include: Advertising Agency, Market Researcher, Director, Journalist, Broadcasting, Lighting Technician, Editor, Script Writer, Marketing & PR .

## How will I be assessed?

A Level Media Studies is a linear course and all exams will be taken at the end of Year 2.

**Component 1** - Media Products, Industries & Audiences.

Written exam - 35%

**Component 2** - Media Forms & Products in Depth.

Written exam - 35%

**Component 3** - Cross-Media Production.

Coursework - 30%

The coursework element will allow students to work towards a brief, designing and creating a final product worthy of industry standards. These can include: a new TV programme, a music video, campaign for a new film and magazine production.

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

It is not essential to have a GCSE in Media Studies as the first few weeks of the course will recap all the essential language and key skills needed.

A minimum of a 4 in English is needed and strong analytical skills for essay writing.

## What will I need to buy?

It is not essential but you may wish to purchase the Illuminate Eduqas Media Studies book by Christine Bell which is used in some lessons. There is a book for Year 1 & one for Year 2

## What will I learn?

The new Eduqas specification allows students to explore a range of media forms which consist of media language, representation, media industries and audiences. A variety of set texts from the exam board include: Straight Outta Compton, I Daniel Blake, WaterAid, Assassin's Creed III, Beyoncé, The Daily Mirror and many others.

Students will need to analyse the set texts using media language whilst considering how elements incorporate ideologies that can affect audiences. They will also look into the significance of ownership and funding of these set texts.

The coursework element will allow students to work towards selected briefs, designing and creating a final product worthy of industry standards. These can include: a new TV programme, a music video, campaign for a new film and magazine production.

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR MEDIA & FILM STUDIES

1. Loughborough University
2. University of Warwick
3. University of Kent
4. Queen Mary University of London
5. King's College London

# A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

## Where will this subject lead me?

Photography A Level is a two year course that builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding developed through study at GCSE and by the end of the A Level course you will have the skills, understanding needed for higher education. Possible degree options include: Animation, Art History, Commercial photography, Creative and editorial photography, Digital media, Fashion photography, Film and television, Film and visual culture, Forensic photography, Medi-

cal photography, Visual communication. Studying a photography-related degree at university will give you all sorts exciting career opportunities, including: Art Historian, Art Valuer, Auctioneer, Commercial photographer, Fashion Photographer, Filmmaker, Fine Art Photographer, Fine Art Photography Sales, Forensic Photographer, Graphic Designer, Industrial or Medical Photographer, Nature Photographer, Photographic Illustrator, Photographic Technician, Teacher, Photo-journalist, Picture Editor, Researcher, Social or Sports Photographer, Web Designer.

## How will I be assessed?

AQA syllabus. Year 12 is a learning year and you will develop your skills in practical photographic techniques, critical studies, both written and spoken, digital editing techniques. You will follow a plan and study a variety of genres within this art and design-based subject.

In Year 13, component 1 counts for 60% of your total A Level mark and you will develop work for a personal investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme supported by written material. Component 2 will also count for 40% of your total A Level mark and you will produce personal work in response to one of eight exam questions/starting points.

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

A good set of GCSEs will prove that you have the focus and ability to succeed. You should have studied Art, Photography or Technology previously and have achieved a grade 5 or above. Students who have not studied Art should see Mr Passarelli.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

You'll need to have an enthusiasm for creating images, an inquisitive mind and an interest in photographs and in what they represent. A willingness to express your opinions and write critically about photos and their place in history is important.

## What will I need to buy?

A new A3 school sketchbook per project. These are £3.50 from the school shop.

## What will I learn?

Photography is about looking, learning, thinking and communicating ideas. You will work creatively and practically, taking photos, editing and using a sketchbook to evidence your understanding. Photography is a subject where you can create imaginative personal work and is a great companion to all other subjects as creativity, imagination and problem solving skills can give you great ideas for your other subjects. You will study the work of other artists and photographers and you will visit galleries to see exhibitions of professional work. You will learn about digital photography and use digital SLR cameras and iMacs to produce your work. You will also have the opportunity to work with black and white film and to develop and print your own photos in the darkroom.

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR FILM PRODUCTION & PHOTOGRAPHY

1. University of Coventry
2. University of Kent
3. University of York
4. University of Nottingham
5. University of Huddersfield

# A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

## Where will this subject lead me?

Psychology is recognised by the University Application Service as a Science subject. Through the course you are assessed on skills of analysis, evaluation and statistics as well as covering complex scientific knowledge. Students of Psychology often become teachers, social workers, police or counsellors. Alternatively there are marketing and business aspects of the course which can be helpful in the world of advertising or human resources. Professional psychology is also an option and the areas of forensic psychology and clinical psychology are very popular routes.

## How will I be assessed?

This is a 2 year linear course which is 100% examination.

These consist of 3 papers, each 2 hours long.

Approximately 25-30% of each paper examines research methods.

The rest covers the topics using both short and long answer questions. You will prepare 16 mark essay style answers on each topic of study along the way to ensure you are ready for the examinations.

**The course is heavily reliant on understanding and use of statistics, therefore there will be regular assessments and statistic based tests throughout the two years.**

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

Psychology requires you to be able to write extended answers in a critical way, as well as analysing data and understanding complex scientific ideas. We therefore strongly recommend that you have achieved at least grade 5 in Science, English and Maths.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

Psychology is the science of mind and behaviour so it is important that you are curious about the motivations behind what people as individuals, and in groups, think and do. Because of the nature of the material, you will need to be able to deal with difficult issues. You will also need to be able to consider ideas in a critical way.

## What will I need to buy?

Two textbooks over the two years, both around £24 each. Revision guides and Apps available.

## What will I learn?

We study the AQA specification. In the first year we cover the basics of the approaches in psychology, and how they are used to explain mental illnesses. We also cover the basic workings of the brain from a biological perspective and the mind—including facets of memory. We look at the behaviour of the individual within the group and how early childhood is important.

In the second year we offer the choice to learn about addiction, aggression, stress, eating behaviours, schizophrenia, cognition & development, relationships, gender and forensic psychology.

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR PSYCHOLOGY

1. University of Oxford
2. University of Bath
3. University of Cambridge
4. St Andrews
5. University College London (UCL)

# A LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## Where will this subject lead me?

Religious Education is a very traditional and academic subject, that is thought very highly of by both universities and employers alike. It combines skills of debating, dealing with contentious issues, evaluating & reflecting upon personal preconceived ideas and shows empathy towards an every changing British Society.

An A Level in RE leads to vocations such as Law, Politics, Counselling, Journalism, Education, Government; and above all shows an employer the ability of students to work with or in a variety of cultures, contexts and deal with difficult dilemmas.

## How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed via 3 exams at the end of Year 13 all with equal weighting. As below:

	Weighting	Title	Length Of Exam	Question Type
Exam 1	Worth $\frac{1}{3}$ of the A Level	Philosophy of Religion	2 hours	4 Questions 1 Anthology Question
Exam 2	Worth $\frac{1}{3}$ of the A Level	Religion and Ethics		
Exam 2	Worth $\frac{1}{3}$ of the A Level	Study of Religion		

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

Grade 5 in GCSE RE. Grade 5 in English Language.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

An open mind is essential, to see an argument from both sides of the coin (even if you don't agree) and the ability to work with others to reach a reflective and informed conclusion.

## What will I need to buy?

Two textbooks over the two years, both around £24 each. Revision guides and Apps available.

## What will I learn?

This course builds on GCSE RE, looking in further depth at a variety of ethical debates/issues, focusing on just 1 religion in greater detail and adding in the fascinating thinking world of philosophy.

This A Level course seeks to reinforce what was done at GCSE RE and thrusts students even further into the debates and reflections upon medical ethics, beginning and end of life arguments, the problem of evil and suffering and the development of religions

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR PHILOSOPHY

1. University of Cambridge
2. University of Oxford
3. University of St. Andrews
4. University of Exeter
5. University of Birmingham

# EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

## How will I be assessed?

EPQ allows each student to embark on a largely self-directed and self-motivated project. Students must **choose a topic, plan, research and develop their idea** and decide on their finished product.

We encourage creativity and curiosity. A project topic may be directly related to a student's main study programme, but should look beyond the specification. A **finished product** may take the form of a:

- research based written report
- production\* (eg charity event, fashion show or sports event etc)
- an artefact\* (eg piece of art, a computer game or realised design).

\*A written report must accompany these options.

Students must also record their project process in their Production Log. The process of recording and completing a project is as important as the finished product. Both the Production Log and Product will be assessed.

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

5s in Maths and both English Language and English Literature.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

This is ALL you, you need to bring ideas, research, reading and enthusiasm.

## What will I need to buy?

You will need a library card, and potentially presentation materials.

## Where will this subject lead me?

Universities LOVE this qualification to prove independent thinking, and development of the skills below.

## What will I learn?

- **manage** – identify, design, plan, and complete a project (or task within a group project), applying organisational skills and strategies to meet their stated objectives
- **use resources/research** – obtain and select information from a range of sources, analyse data, apply it relevantly, and demonstrate understanding of any appropriate connections and complexities of their topic
- **develop and realise** – use a range of skills, including using new technologies, to solve problems, to take decisions critically, creatively and flexibly, and to achieve their aims
- **review** – evaluate the outcome, including their learning and performance.

## TOP UNIVERSITIES WHO MAY BASE AN OFFER ON A SUCCESSFUL EPQ

1. University of Durham
2. University of Birmingham
3. University of Southampton
4. University of Manchester
5. University of Liverpool

# LIBF LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA IN FINANCIAL STUDIES

## Where will this subject lead me?

Financial Studies develops knowledge and understanding of the financial services sector and enhances skills that are valued within that sector and many others. This can be done either immediately or through further study at University. The course is also excellent preparation for other careers that involve managing money or budgets such as retail and management and will help you to manage your own personal finances at university and beyond! There are many careers in the sector, such as Finance, Banking, Business, Economics.

## How will I be assessed?

Year 12— Units 1 & 2 are assessed in the same way:

45 minute exam comprising 35 multiple choice questions (35%)

1 hr 45 minute exam requiring essay responses to five questions relating to a pre-released case study (60% plus 5% SPAG)

Year 13 - Units 3 & 4 are assessed in the same way:

1 hr exam comprising 35 multiple choice questions (35%)

2 hr exam requiring essay responses to five questions relating to a pre-released case study (60% plus 5% SPAG)

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

A range from grade 4 and above.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

You will need to have an interest in the Financial World. You will need to listen to/read the news to keep up-to-date on all financial matters.

## What will I need to buy?

There is no requirement to buy equipment for this course.

## What will I learn?

Year 12: Financial Capability for the Immediate, Short, Medium and Long Term

This course looks at encouraging students to become more responsible borrowers, sensible savers, and to appreciate the need for financial planning throughout their life.

Year 13: Sustainability of an Individual's Finances and of the Financial Service System.

This course looks at enabling students to make informed and confident decisions by developing the knowledge and skills gained in Year 12.

**Students must pass the Certificate in Year 12 before being allowed to study for the Diploma in Year 13.**

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR FINANCE

1. University of Bath
2. University of Strathclyde
3. London School of Economics
4. University of Warwick
5. University of Lancaster

# BTEC LEVEL 3 IN BUSINESS

(NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE)

## Where will this subject lead me?

Students will leave with the confidence that they can apply their knowledge to succeed in the workplace and have the study skills to continue learning throughout their career.

The range of vocational assessments – both practical and written – mean students can showcase their learning and skills the best effect when they take their next step, whether that's supporting applications to higher education courses or to potential employers.

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

5x Grade 4 or above

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

You will need to bring an interest in business with you, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn.

The majority of the course is coursework, so you will need to be organised and able to work independently.

## How will I be assessed?

Year 12	Year 13
Unit 1: Exploring Businesses (written exam –25% weighting)	Unit 2: Developing A marketing Campaign (practical exam-25% weighting)
Unit 3: Personal Finance (coursework – 33% weighting)	Unit 8: Recruitment & Selection (coursework-17% weighting)

## What will I learn?

Students will generate authentic evidence, drawing on their knowledge and skills to complete a practical project over a period of time, working either individually or in a team.

Compulsory units cover: Exploring business; Developing a marketing Campaign; Personal business finance; Recruitment and selection.

BTEC Nationals have always required applied learning that brings together knowledge and understanding (the cognitive domain) with practical and technical skills (the psychomotor domain). This is achieved through learners performing vocational tasks that encourage the development of appropriate vocational behaviours (the affective domain) and transferable skills. Transferable skills are those such as communication, teamwork, research and analysis, which are valued in both higher education and the workplace.

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR BUSINESS

1. Durham University
2. Lancaster University
3. Leeds University
4. Loughborough University
5. University of Exeter

# BTEC LEVEL 3 IN ICT

(NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE)

## Where will this subject lead me?

The objective of this qualification is to give you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and skills in information technology systems, systems management, social media and website development. This will be excellent preparation for further study in the form of a degree, an apprenticeship or to pursue a job in the IT sector. Whilst ICT is taking over low skilled and semi skilled jobs, there is a growing demand for highly skilled jobs within the sector and ICT is one of the fastest and most dynamic growing sectors in the world and there are many highly paid jobs in the sector unfilled.

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

Levels 4, 5 or 6s

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

You will need to bring an interest in ICT with you, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn and explore how businesses are using ICT.

The majority of the course is coursework is practical and so you must be well organised and be able to manage your time, work independently and meet deadlines

## How will I be assessed?

Year 12	Year 13
Unit 1: Information Technology Systems (written exam -33% weighting)	Unit 2: Systems Management (practical exam-25% weighting)
Unit 3: Social Media in Business (coursework – 25% weighting)	Unit 6: Website Development (coursework-17% weighting)

## What will I learn?

This course is designed for students who are interested in exposure to a range of IT topics that will enhance their progression to higher education in the IT sector or a complementary sector and ultimately lead to employment.

Students will develop a common core of IT knowledge and study areas such as the relationship between hardware and software that form an IT system, managing and processing data to support business, using IT to communicate and share information and computational thinking skills and the principles of designing and developing computer programs. In this course, learners will acquire real skills for the real world

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR ICT

1. University of Oxford
2. University of Bath
3. University of Edinburgh
4. University of Durham
5. University of Leeds

# BTEC LEVEL 3 IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE

(NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE)

## Where will this subject lead me?

BTEC Music is a practical, creative and vocational subject— it could therefore lead you in many directions. The main aim of this course is to develop the skills that will equip and prepare you for working within the performing arts industry. It will however also develop key skills that all employers look for—no matter what career you are planning on entering. Having a music qualification allows future employers to see you are able to successfully work both independently and as a member of a group, have the confidence to perform in front of an audience and are able to act upon feedback given to assist you in improving.

## How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed over the two years and you will be marked upon your contribution, performances and critical evaluation of evidence collected.

You will be expected to meet strict deadlines and keep your evidence organised appropriately and neatly.

Over the two years you will complete two compulsory external assessments worth 33% and 25%, one compulsory internally assessed unit worth 25%, and one optional unit worth 17%.

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR MUSIC

1. University of Cambridge
2. King's College London
3. University of Nottingham
4. University of Oxford
5. University of Birmingham

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

Ideally you would have a 5 or above in Music GCSE. You also need to be able to play an instrument / sing to a good level. However, if you do not have Music GCSE, talk to your teacher about the course as this still might be an option.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

Your instrument, or music.

## What will I need to buy?

The course will include attending workshops with industry specialists, organising, running and marketing your own productions, visiting working theatres and music venues, as well as using our own music studio to create your own work, so some costs may be incurred where travel is needed.

## What will I learn?

### COMPULSORY UNITS

- Practical Music Theory and Harmony (internally assessed)
- Professional Practice in the Music Industry (externally assessed)
- Ensemble Music Performance (externally assessed)

### OPTIONAL UNITS

- Composing music
- Music Performance Session Styles
- Solo Performance
- Improvising Music

# BTEC LEVEL 3 IN DANCE

(NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE)

## Where will this subject lead me?

This qualification in Dance offers an engaging course to support learners who want to pursue a career in dance. It can prepare learners to access a range of higher education courses in the performing arts sector.

This course covers all aspects of dance training. It will develop your technical and performance skills in a wide variety of dance styles. You will have many opportunities to showcase your acquired skills throughout the year in a range of performance platforms. You will gain knowledge and understanding of choreographic principles as well as core industry related business skills, developing yourself as an individual artist. You will have the opportunity to combine theory and practice in an exciting and stimulating way. BTEC Dance will give you the skills you need to further your career in Dance or the Performing Arts industry.

## How will I be assessed?

A range of different units will be taught throughout the two years. You will take part in workshops in a range of different styles, you will learn leadership skills and be able to choreograph and perform in all different styles of Dance. You will be assessed throughout all these tasks. There is one examination, the rest is all coursework which is ongoing for each unit you complete. You will be marked on your ability in demonstrating different styles of Dance in a show as well as your choreography and evaluative skills.

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

You must have had experience in Dance if you want to take this as a subject. You will need to have studied GCSE or BTEC Dance at KS4 and achieved at least a MERIT qualification or 5 at GCSE. If you have not studied Dance at KS4 then you need to have studied Dance outside of school with a Dance school/company.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

You will need to bring your passion, dedication and be a hardworking individual. You must show that you are confident in Dance and show how creative and committed you are. You should be able to work collaboratively in groups when choreographing. You must be prepared to do extra rehearsals outside of lesson time to help build your technique to make you a versatile dancer. Finally you must be excited about Dance and demonstrate your passion for this subject.

## What will I need to buy?

A RBA Dance uniform—at about £12 for the polo.

## What will I learn?

We study the BTEC syllabus. With this course, you will be expected to learn and study a range of different dance styles. For example, we will study Street, Contemporary, and Jazz. You will understand the concept and art of choreographing and how to create dances for these different styles. You will also be asked to Lead lower school clubs and choreograph. Not only will you study these areas of dance practically, but you will focus on how to analyse your work by studying different practitioners and professionals works.

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR DANCE

1. University of Surrey
2. University of Royal Holloway, London
3. University of Coventry
4. University of Middlesex
5. Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

# BTEC LEVEL 3 IN SPORT

*(NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE)*

## Where will this subject lead me?

If you have a passion for playing sport, a desire to know and understand more about sports performance, and are considering a career in the sports industry, you may be suitable for the Level 3 BTEC Sport. You will learn about elite performance, organisation and development of sport; key principles of sports science, nutrition and psychology; and have plenty of opportunities to take part in practical sport and assess your own performance. You could go on to study a foundation degree or degree in a sport related subject. You could enter employment in sports centres and fitness studios, as a fitness instructor, coach or as part of the management team.

## How will I be assessed?

There are three main forms of assessment: external, internal and synoptic. Learners must achieve all external units at pass grade or above. The styles of external assessment used for qualifications in the Sport are examination. Learners are permitted to re-sit any external assessment only once during their programme.. Most units in the course are internally assessed. Learners are given opportunities to write up the findings of their own research, use case studies to explore complex or unfamiliar situations, carry out projects for which they have choice over the direction and outcomes and demonstrate practical and technical skills.

Synoptic assessment requires learners to demonstrate that they can identify and use effectively an appropriate selection of skills, techniques, concepts, theories and knowledge from across the whole sector as relevant to a key task.

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

BTEC Sport Level 2 at Merit or Distinction, English and Maths at 4 or above, and 3 other GCSEs at grade 4.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

Enthusiasm, an open mind and sports kit

## What will I need to buy?

RBA Sports Kit

## What will I learn?

You will achieve the equivalent of one A level at grade A\*-E.

You will study 3 mandatory units:

- Anatomy and physiology
- Fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being
- Professional development in the sports industry

You will also study 1 of the optional units, including:

- Sports leadership
- Application of Fitness Testing
- Sports Psychology
- Practical Sports Performance

Students are expected to coach and mentor younger students as part of their commitment to the programme.

There may also be the option to take the Level 3 Diploma in Sport, which covers 4 extra units and is equivalent to 2 A levels.

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR SPORT SCIENCE

1. University of Exeter
2. University of Glasgow
3. University of Birmingham
4. University of Bath
5. University of Loughborough

# BTEC IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

(NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE)

## Where will this subject lead me?

If you are looking for a career in nursing or childcare or any health care profession like an occupational therapist or speech and language therapist, then Health and Social Care is a good basis for you. Students who have previously taken this qualification have gone on to be health care assistants in a hospital or pharmacy, nursery nurses, teaching assistants, social workers, physiotherapists, midwives, paediatricians, carers, nutritionists, counsellors, anthropologists, and even radiographers.

## How will I be assessed?

This is a 2 year linear course made up of 50% examination and 50% coursework.

You will sit Units 1 & 5 at the end of your first year. This is equivalent to an AS and could be claimed as a BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Health and Social Care.

At the end of the two years you will have a BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate at either a Pass, Merit or Distinction level, which is equivalent to an A level.

## What GCSE qualifications will I need?

We strongly recommend that you show your skills needed to learn and remember information and can apply this information by having a good pass in a BTEC level 2 course or a 4 and above in GCSE Religious Education. A 4 or above in English is vital.

## What will I need to bring to lessons?

You need to be really organised with the coursework aspect, and are expected to keep electronic copies of work done in lessons. You will also have classroom based lessons which will require you to have a folder that you keep in chronological order. The textbook is a must to help you to revise and aid your coursework.

## What will I need to buy?

One textbook over the two years, at around £22. Revision guides and Apps available.

## What will I learn?

We study the BTEC Specification.

### Year 1

Unit 1: Exam - Human Lifespan Development  
Unit 5: Coursework - Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

### Year 2

Unit 2: Exam - Working in Health & Social Care  
Unit 11: Coursework - Psychological Perspectives

The units have been chosen to play to the strengths of your teachers, to ensure that you have the support that you need to be able to aim for the stars (the Distinction\* that is!)

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR SOCIAL WORK

1. University of Nottingham
2. University of Lancaster
3. University of Edinburgh
4. Bath University
5. Dundee University



**Headteacher Mr Ced de la Croix. BSc (hons), NPQH**

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