

Sixth form Curriculum 2021/22



Curious
Skilled
Aware
Passionate
Creative
Pro-active
Resilient
Assured

The Giggleswick Learner

Our Learner Profile defines the character that we encourage in our students to give them the very best opportunities beyond school.

Joining the Sixth Form at Giggleswick

Entering the sixth form should be an exciting prospect for any student. For the first time you have some genuine choice over what you want to study. We want you to use this choice to explore your talents and to develop your intellectual curiosity. Taking on greater responsibility for your own performance can be daunting for some, but we don't throw you in at the deep end and we do provide you with the support you need throughout your sixth form journey.

We want you to be ambitious for your success, to develop a passion for what you are learning, and to build the skills that will serve you in life beyond the sixth form.

Being part of the sixth form at Giggleswick is both challenging and stimulating. We expect our sixth formers

to achieve academic success, to participate fully in the life of the school, and to set high standards in their work ethic and behaviours.

Mark Turnbull Headmaster



"At Giggleswick we place great emphasis on participation, ambition and respect, and we expect our sixth form students to contribute in a positive way to this ethos."

Preparing for life beyond school

Our sixth form curriculum prepares our students for a complex and rapidly changing world. We recognise that the skills required to take an active role in life beyond school are learned both in and beyond the classroom. To get the very best from the two years we therefore expect our students to embrace opportunities well beyond their chosen subjects.

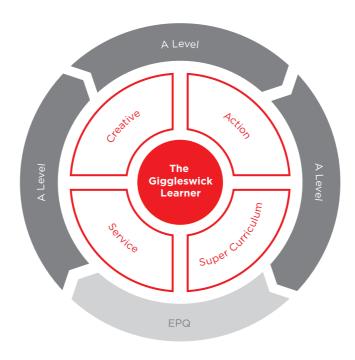
We provide a rich and engaging programme of co-curricular opportunities that has been developed from what universities and employers view as important qualities for achieving success. Into this we have also placed what parents and students have told us are important for them in developing assured, independently minded individuals who are ready to take on the exciting opportunities beyond school.

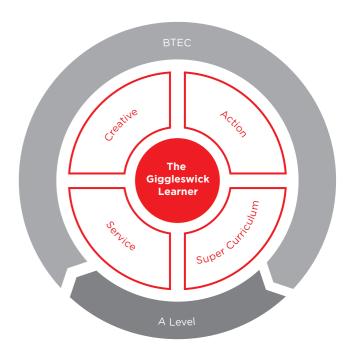
All sixth form students will therefore take part in the curriculum that breaks into four key areas. Together these make up what we have called the Giggleswick Baccalaureate:

- -Academic curriculum
- -EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)
- -CAS Programme
- -Super Curriculum



Giggleswick Sixth Form Programmes: A level and BTEC





The Academic Curriculum

A levels provide the core academic input for our sixth formers. We offer a range of subjects taught by subject specialists in small groups. A levels generally require a greater degree of independent learning than GCSEs and are more academically demanding. We expect the majority of those choosing A levels to achieve A*-C in their final examinations.

Students take three A levels and an EPQ* alongside our academic enrichment programme.

We also recognise that there are many routes to achieving your ultimate ambition and for some this might mean a BTEC course is better suited. This tends to be for people who prefer a more guided learning experience and ongoing assessment throughout the course.

If you are considering going on to university you will normally be advised to take a suitable A level alongside your BTEC.

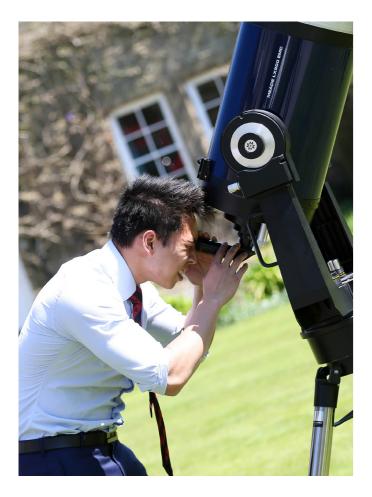
*It is possible to study a fourth A level (normally Further Mathematics) in place of an EPQ.

The EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)

The EPQ provides a great opportunity for students to develop some of their own independent research and enquiry skills. Such skills are important for study at university and many universities will see this as evidence of both your academic engagement and potential to adapt to learning in their environment. We therefore encourage all our A level students to take an EPQ. It doesn't have to be in written essay style but can be presented in a creative form such as an artefact, a film, or a composition.

CAS Programme

CAS stands for Creative, Active and Service. We believe that each of these is an important part of a person's wellbeing and help to build skills that can support them in later life. We expect every student to take part in opportunities to: Be active, through sports and outdoor pursuits; Be creative, through our creative and performing arts programme; Offer service, this could be through taking part in local community support programmes, or working on projects in support of the school. It can also include taking part in the CCF or the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.





Whatever the aspiration, our sixth form experience will ensure a springboard to success. Over half of university offers to our students are to Russell Group universities.

The Super-curriculum

Students are positively encouraged to take their interest and passion for their subject beyond the confines of the subject specification. There is a wealth of opportunities available both within school and outside school which demonstrate a student's commitment to their chosen subjects or the subject they wish to pursue at university.

Within school, students may wish to join academic clubs such as the Model United Nations, Young Enterprise, All Talk debating club or Astronomy Group. In these clubs, students will not only demonstrate their genuine interest in the subject, but they will also be able to develop some key transferable employability skills such as communication, team work, creativity and problemsolving.

MOOCs have been very popular with our students. MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are offered by universities for free and give insight into a huge number of courses ranging from the medical profession, psychology and forensics through to business fundamentals, languages, global awareness and programming skills. There is something for everyone,

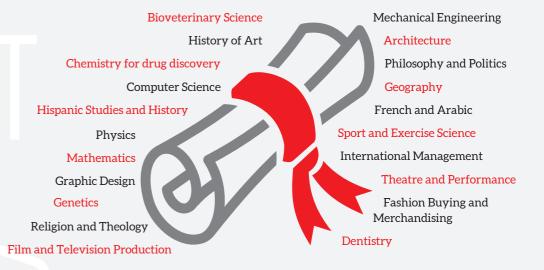
be it something brand new that you have never studied before or something that extends and develops your knowledge in a particular subject area. Here you can demonstrate that you are a proactive, resilient and curious student to both university admissions tutors and prospective employers. Courses can range from three to six weeks with one to three hours per week of commitment.

We also encourage students to take part in Headstart courses and any university taster courses that can be undertaken in holiday time that will emphasise their interest in a subject. Competitions are another way to engage with the Super-Curriculum and the Young Analyst Chemistry competition, UKMT Maths Challenge, the National Cipher Challenge, RSA Economics Essay Competition and the Write on Art Essay Competition, to name a few, are all examples of areas in which students have engaged. There are also subject specific trips that are offered in the sixth form which contribute to the Super-Curriculum. For English and Drama we run the London Theatre visit in term one, there are numerous visits to art galleries, and the Languages Department organises exchanges to France, Germany and Spain as well as cultural visits.





RANGE OF COURSES - RUSSELL GROUP



73%

of our
pupils in
2019 received
an offer from
a Russell
Group
University

MOST POPULAR RUSSELL GROUP DESTINATIONS

Edinburgh, Leeds, Newcastle, Warwick, York, Sheffield, Nottingham



EPQ

A SELECTION OF INTERESTING TOPICS

What factors influence people to support either opt in or opt out based approaches to Organ Donation in England?

To what extent do social and environmental factors influence consumers of fashion in today's society?

How did the Silk Road aid the spread of ideas between east and west?

What is the future of AI?

How accurate is the TV show 'Casualty' as a reflection of life in a modern Accident and Emergency Dept?

Engineering apprenticeship -Rolls-Royce

Constructing apprenticeship - Hanson Lead

Design apprenticeship - Rotalube

HR apprenticeship - Walker Morris

Chartered Surveyor apprenticeship Jones Lang LaSalle

Sales apprenticeship - Volvo

Car racing apprenticeship Northampton University





Higher Education & UCAS

All students are allocated a sixth form tutor who works alongside them to explore opportunities post-school, and to support successful applications for whatever route a student chooses to take. The range of options supported post 18 includes:

- All universities in the UK and many international choices
- Conservatoires
- Arts Foundation courses
- School Leaver Programme
- Apprenticeships across a full range of programmes from post 16 to degree level
- Gap years

Students undertake aptitude testing in February of their lower sixth year to help inform their potential course and university choices. Students also use the UCAS and unifrog search engines to refine their course searches. Students receive guidance on personal statement writing from external speakers, and personalised talks relating to specific phases of the application process.

Our support is also available post results when we recognise that preferences and decisions can often be further influenced by the experience of completing school.

Careers and Apprenticeships

We recognise that students today have an increasingly wide range of opportunities available to them post 18. This not only includes diverse choices of courses but also places to work and study. Our extensive programme of careers and higher education guidance aims to match the student to the right opportunity for their needs and abilities. This includes a lecture programme, tutorials, visits to and from universities and future employers, work placements, as well as opportunities to meet with recent Old Giggleswickians to talk about their experiences in the world of work and study.

For those students interested in taking an apprenticeship, we run an apprenticeship club for all upper sixth students in which we examine the initial application through to assessment centres, interview techniques and presentation skills. Our focus is on degree level apprenticeships but we have also helped to support students with higher level apprenticeships that often lead to degree qualifications.

Sixth form Lectures

All sixth form students take part in a weekly lecture programme to encourage a broad range of discussion and debate, covering topics such as Ecology and Conservation from Martin Schnauss, Working in Accountancy (degree route vs. apprenticeship route) from RSM, and Learning to Succeed by Amy McGowan (Northumbria University).

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

What is it?

The EPQ allows a student to research an area of interest away from their A level studies. This can be an area of personal or academic interest and may help them to research an area related to a future career. The topics studied are highly varied.

The EPQ is an independent project that is completed by the student with the active support of a teacher as a supervisor. At Giggleswick, the formal course runs from November in Year 12 to November in Year 13. The students will therefore be completing their EPQ away from any formal examination period and in time to make reference to it in their personal statement in a UCAS application.

How is it supported?

The students are taught key skills for completing their projects. These include research skills, academic writing, time management, planning an EPQ and refining a project.

The students use an online management programme called Project Q to manage their EPQ.

Each student is allocated a supervisor who will give them advice on their projects on a weekly basis. Typically each supervisor oversees four or five students. In addition, the school librarian is expert in helping students to research their projects from books, academic journals and from the internet.

Is it timetabled?

Yes, it is timetabled and currently it is compulsory for all Year 12 students unless they are completing a BTEC course or if they are studying Further Maths.

How is it assessed?

The project is assessed in a number of ways. Firstly, the students complete a production log as they complete the project – this includes advice from their supervisor. The students write up their research as an essay. Some students produce an artefact (such as a film, piece of artwork or computer programme) and they therefore write a shorter essay. Lastly, all students will give a presentation of their project.

Is it graded?

The EPQ is graded in a similar fashion to A2 exams with grades A to E being passes. These grades also convert to UCAS points. In the past, the EPQ has helped our students to gain entry to courses and has been a useful point for discussion at interview.

Some recent projects:

- Does sport now come second to politics in the Olympic Movement?
- Is it possible it catch a murderer/criminal through the use of criminal profiling?
- To write a syllabus for sailing instructors to teach beginners.
- How did Caravaggio influence 17th century religious paintings?
- Why can't computers operate under just one programming language?
- To what extent do the bloodlines of a Shetland pony affect their performance in the show ring?





Your journey through Sixth form

Entry Requirements

A levels

The standard entry requirement to Giggleswick Sixth form is a minimum Level 6 average at GCSE/iGCSE. Individual courses will stipulate a minimum requirement. This information is given under the subject heading. Where GCSE/IGCSE criteria are narrowly missed, we will consider individual cases on merit and may offer a degree of flexibility.

BTECs

If you do not meet or are not expected to meet the Level 6 grade average, we offer a combination of a BTEC Level 3 Diploma plus an A level. You will need a minimum of four Level 5 Grades at GCSE although, if you are considering doing a BTEC alongside an A level, you will need to meet the subject requirement for the A level course.

International students

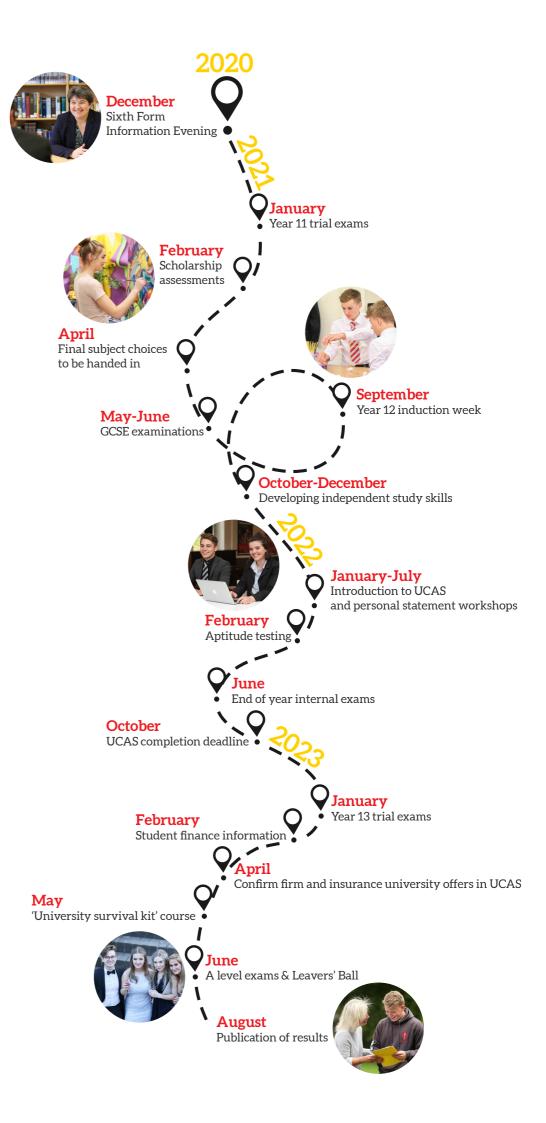
For international students, or those who have not taken GCSE/iGCSE, offers are made based on an interview in person or by Skype, on school reports and on English and Maths tests.

Academic Tutors

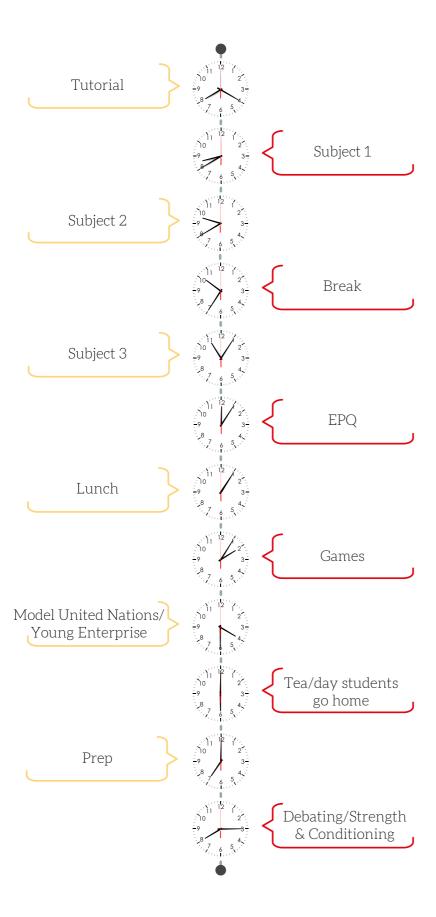
Head of Sixth Form, Anne Coward, leads an experienced tutor team which spans all subject areas and we try to match you with a tutor who teaches one of your chosen A level/BTEC courses. Your tutor will stay with you through your sixth form journey, meeting you every week and guiding you through the UCAS process. Your tutor will use your CoA test feedback to help you decide on your university/apprenticeship path. They will help you complete your UCAS form/apprenticeship application, your personal statement and will write your UCAS reference for the Head of Sixth form to sign off. If you do require specific help during your application, your tutor will arrange any meetings with the Head of Sixth form you may need and will accompany you so that they can continue to support you through the rest of the process.

The positive relationships our sixth form tutors have with their tutees is a real strength of the sixth form. It comes as no surprise that year on year the vast majority of Year 13 students achieve a place at their first or second choice university. This is due to the high levels of professionalism and knowledge in the sixth form team.





A typical day



Choosing your subjects

Choosing A level and BTEC subjects can create anxiety, so here are some tips on how to make your choices

- Think about your current GCSE subjects. Which ones do you enjoy the most? What is involved in the subjects you enjoy which skills are you using and are these your strong skills?
- Look at your CoA test report which skills were strengths for you and did you have weaker areas?
- Read the subject descriptions in the booklet very carefully and see if there is a match between your strong skill areas and the areas that will be tested in a potential subject.
- Speak to friends in the Sixth form about their experience of studying particular subjects and find out what it entails. Ask which bits of the course are much harder/easier than expected and what the assessment is like
- Don't be afraid to go and ask Subject Leads questions about the courses. They will be very happy to offer you useful advice.
- Research what the required A levels/BTECs are for any university courses in which you are definitely interested. If you are sure you want to study Medicine, for example, then Biology and Chemistry are a must if you want a competitive application, but you have a wide choice for

- your third A level. We have had successful applicants in the past who have combined Biology and Chemistry with History, a Language, Drama or English Literature to give them a good blend of subjects.
- If you really are unsure about what to do, consider a blend of subjects that will cover a wide range of skills to keep as many paths as possible open in the future. Literate, articulate people who can communicate well and have good logical reasoning are highly employable.
- Very few 16-year-olds know exactly what they want to do in the future, so you are not alone. Focus on transferable skills as these are invaluable. There are very few university courses/apprenticeships that are completely closed to you if you don't choose a particular combination of subjects. People of your age will have many different jobs in the future, so think about building employability skills which can be used in any sphere.
- Don't follow the crowd. It is very easy to be swayed by what others think. Remember that it is you who is going to do the course and the assessments, and ensure that it is your decision.



3D Design

Examination board: Edugas

Course Requirement: GCSE Design not essential Level 6 in a related GCSE is desirable

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

The components require learners to develop the skills to:

- Record experiences and observations in a variety of ways
 Explore relevant resources; analyse, discuss and evaluate
- Use knowledge and understanding of the work of others to develop and extend thinking and inform own work
- Generate and explore potential lines of enquiry using appropriate media and techniques
- Apply knowledge and understanding in making images and artefacts; review and modify work
- Plan and develop ideas in the light of their own and others' evaluations
- Organise and communicate ideas, solutions and responses and present them in a range of forms.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Coursework (60%)

'Personal Investigation', which consists of two integrated constituent parts:

- A major in-depth critical, practical and theoretical investigative project/portfolio
- An extended written element of 1000 words

Externally set assignment (40%)

- 'Preparatory Study Period'. The investigation will take the form of critical, practical and theoretical preparatory work
- A 15-hour period of sustained focus work (the resolution of the prepatory work)

Am I suited to the course?

Design offers an extensive opportunity to develop capability in both 2D and 3D across a varied range of project work, through written analysis, sketching and drawing, and the extensive use of ICT and digital media to enhance modelling and presentation. Candidates will explore a range of materials, practical workshop processes and media, to realise designed outcomes. Making activities take many forms, ranging from experimental models and prototypes, to a final marketable product.

Where will this course lead me?

The 3D Design course aims to develop creative and independent designers. The course enables students to critically explore the man-made world through designing and creating innovative products. If you wish to pursue a career in design or a related field, we would expect you to be offered a place at your first choice university. The course allows you to specialise in the second year and focus on a field of your choice, from engineering to architecture, as well as the spectrum of art, design and manufacturing based courses. Many of our students also embark on applied science and marketing degrees.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

We encourage you to be independent, ambitious and adventurous, all of which really help you to flourish at university and beyond. You will visit a local manufacturing and design business to further appreciate real world designing and making in an industrial context. Lower sixth students also take part in the department's annual trip to London for the Royal College of Art postgraduate show, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Design Museum. We regularly invite former students back to talk to sixth formers about their university study and careers.





Examination board: AQA

Course Requirement: Level 5 in GCSE Art

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Figure drawing Landscape drawing and painting Printmaking

- Lino and intaglio
- Collagraph
- Silk screening
- Silk screen mono printing
- Digital manipulation

Ceramics

3D sculpture

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Coursework (60%)

- A coursework component is submitted along with a 1000 to 1500 word essay on the artists and ideas which have influenced your project. Recording using sketch books and a portfolio of work is key to this development

Examination (40%)

- The exam unit sees students respond to a theme or title set by the exam board, over several weeks, in which they prepare for a final piece showing 15 hours of total work. This can be work encompassing printmaking, painting, sculpture, ceramics or for textiles any appropriate textile and embroidery methods

Am I suited to the course?

The course will suit anyone with a keen interest in creativity. If you enjoyed art at GCSE you will relish the A level course. It is a very flexible course and can be adapted to suit a student's individual strengths. Successful students are self-motivated and willing to explore and experiment with materials, ideas and processes.

Where will this course lead me?

The A level qualification is highly regarded by all universities, whether students are applying for Art College or any other academic degree. The qualification in Fine Art or Textiles forms the basis for an enormous range of career opportunities and university degree subjects, including: architecture, fashion, fine art, textiles, graphics, interior design, photography, film, product design, advertising, television, illustration, animation, furniture design, web design, gaming design, teaching, curating, jewellery, costume design, ceramics and many more.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

There are trips to galleries and visits from professional artists, crafts people, university staff and alumni who have pursued a range of courses and careers. The art school is open in the evenings for students to continue pursuing their studies and there is the opportunity to draw from the life model. Creativity requires students to question and analyse how an idea can develop and improve through practical experimentation and analytical refinement. This will certainly challenge your ability to be self-critical. The course requires self-discipline, motivation and energy.

Art students who achieve the top grades are highly independent learners, which is an invaluable skill for any university student and employment. We also relish taking part in Art History based research and competitions, and have entered and won prizes in the National 'Write On Art' competition; a new 'Spoke' House based competition. In addition to our weekly life drawing class, there is a weekly ceramics session run by our resident artist.





Examination board: AQA

Course Requirement: Level 5 in GCSE Biology or Additional Science

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Biological molecules

Cells

Organisms exchange substances with their environment

Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

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

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Examination (100%)

- Paper one (35%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper two (35%): written exam,
- Paper three: (30%): written exam, 2 hours

Am I suited to the course?

The course will build on concepts and skills that you have developed in your GCSE studies. If you are keen to increase your knowledge, develop your scientific skills and apply your understanding, then Biology is for you. Biology is fundamentally an experimental subject and the new specifications provide many opportunities to widen your practical skills. Challenging and rewarding, A level Biology will also hone your Mathematics and essay writing, promote both independence and team work, and will equip you with many transferable skills.

Where will this course lead me?

In recent years students have gone on to study Biology related degrees such as Veterinary Medicine, Medicine, Biological Sciences, Dentistry and Anthropology. Other students go on to study for different careers where the skills base and scientific approach developed in Biology are real assets. A level Biology is highly regarded for entry to university and its study will help develop the independence and resilience essential for your future success.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

You will certainly be stretched and challenged by the subject content and the practical and mathematical skills you will need to develop. If you are passionate about your Biology, then there will be opportunities to take your studies further, through field studies, work with PBA Ecology, direct contact and advice from a practising doctor, and support for EPQs and MOOCs.



Business Studies

Examination board: Edexcel

Course Requirement: Level 5 in GCSE English Level 5 in GCSE Mathematics

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Marketing and people

- Meeting customer needs
- The market
- Marketing strategy
- Managing people
- Entrepreneurship

Managing business activities

- Raising finance
- Financial planning
- Operations management
- External influences on business

Business decisions and strategy

- Objectives and strategy
- Competitive nature of business
- Managing change

Global business

- Globalisation
- Global marketing
- Global industry
- Industry investigation

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Examination (100%)

- Paper one (35%): written exam,
- 2 hours
- Paper two (35%): written exam,
- 2 hours
- Paper three: (30%): written exam,
- 2 hours

Am I suited to the course?

A level Business is suitable for students who want to gain an understanding of the functions of organisations both small and large. Students gain aholistic understanding of business through considering how a new idea is developed, understanding how an organisation is managed, how its performance is analysed, and how it competes nationally and internationally. A good Business student is able to analyse numerical and qualitative data to make judgement on the scenario.

Where will this course lead me?

Business provides you with a host of transferable skills including processing data, planning and how to account for a range of perspectives on a problem. This course combines well with a language, mathematics, or with other humanities A levels. It can lead to a wide range of university courses and business-related career pathways including professional options such as accountancy, marketing or events management.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

You can take part in the Young Enterprise Company Programme, which involves starting a business and launching your own product. Along with other members of the company, you have the opportunity to work with an outside business advisor and sell your product at trade fairs. You can undertake a Business EPQ exploring a controversial business idea or even create a business plan for a charity event.



Chemistry

Examination board: AQA

Course Requirement: Level 7 in GCSE Chemistry or Additional Science Level 7 in GCSE Mathematics

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Physical Chemistry

- Atomic structure, structure and bonding, energetics, kinetics and rate equations, amount of substance, equilibria, acids and bases, redox chemistry and thermodynamics

Inorganic Chemistry

- Periodicity, group 2 metals, group 7 (the Halogens), period 3 chemistry, transition metals and their ions

Organic Chemistry

- An introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols, organic analysis, optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins, DNA, organic synthesis and NMR spectroscopy

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Examination (100%)

- Paper one (35%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper two (35%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper three: (30%): written exam, 2 hours

Am I suited to the course?

You will need good mathematical skills and a secure grasp of the topics covered at GCSE. You will also have a desire to look more deeply into materials and their properties and will enjoy problem solving, numeracy, communication, creativity and data analysis, as well as undertaking practical experiments.

Where will this course lead me?

On a practical level, Chemistry is vital if you are considering studying Medicine or Veterinary Medicine, and is useful in most other scientific pursuits post A level. A qualification in Chemistry opens doors to a wide range of careers both inside and outside the lab, from scientific research to finance or public relations.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

We have links with several local universities, for example, the University of Bradford have brought their 'Spectroscopy in a Suitcase' so that students can see complex chemical analysis being performed at first hand. You will also visit, for example, the University of Manchester to attend talks by eminent Chemists and/or take part in practical activities such as synthesising paracetamol. Taking an EPQ in Chemistry offers a rewarding and challenging route for those wishing to investigate aspects of Chemistry further. You can participate in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge - an ideal way to demonstrate higher level knowledge.



Economics

Examination board: Edexcel

Course Requirement: Level 6 in GCSE English Level 6 in GCSE Mathematics

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Introduction to markets and market failure

- Nature of economics
- How markets work
- Market failure
- Government intervention

The UK economy - performance and policies

- Measures of economic performance
- Aggregate demand and supply
- National income
- Economic growth
- Macroeconomic objectives and policy

Business behaviour and the labour market

- Business growth and objectives
- Revenues, costs and profits
- Market structures
- Labour market
- Government intervention

A global perspective

- International economics
- Poverty and inequality
- Developing economies
- The financial sectorRole of the state

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Examination (100%)

- Paper one (35%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper two (35%): written exam,
- 2 hours
- Paper three: (30%): written exam,
- 2 hours

Am I suited to the course?

The course sits well alongside all A levels, particularly History and Politics. You should be interested in how the world economy works and what influences income, wealth and well-being. If you like to argue your case and compare theory with reality, then this is a good course for you.

Where will this course lead me?

Many topical global issues are analysed and discussed throughout the course, encouraging students to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills. A number of students go on to university to study economics or business courses and the A level provides an excellent platform for business, banking and accountancy. An Economics A level may even exempt you from some professional banking examinations.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

You can take part in the Young Enterprise Company Programme, which involves starting a business and launching your own product. This provides a practical opportunity to explore how markets work and to test economic theory in the real world. A wide range of reading material is available in the school library. You can also participate in the Young Economist essay competition or complete an EPQ. Both provide an excellent platform to research local, national and global issues such as climate catastrophe, the morals of taxation, and affordable housing.



English Literature

Examination board: OCR

Course Requirement:
Level 6 GCSE profile
Level 6 in GCSE English
Level 6 in GCSE English Literature

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

- One Shakespeare play and the close study of a poet
- Drama and Prose: the study of two 20th century texts
- Shakespeare: drama and poetry
- Two novels from a selected topic area, which include: American Literature 1880 - 1940, The Gothic, Women in Literature, Dystopia

Independent study

- Free choice which involves close reading of a section of text and a comparison of two texts

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Examination (80%)

- Paper one (40%): written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes
- Paper two (40%): written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes

Coursework (20%)

- Close reading or re-creative writing with commentary
- Comparative essay

Am I suited to the course?

If you enjoy reading books which challenge you, you like exploring texts and language, you are interested in crafting well-structured analytical written responses, and you are keen to participate in lively debate, then English Literature could be the right course for you.

Where will this course lead me?

The skills mastered through A level English are highly transferable and can lead to a wide range of higher education courses and future careers. For example, you will be able to read, analyse and evaluate texts, structure and present an argument, justify your ideas, and debate new concepts.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

You will be able to extend your understanding of the relationship between culture and society, through reading a range of literature from your own and other cultures. You will be expected to discuss the views of critics and other commentators, which will challenge your own views. You will visit theatres, join in backstage talks and participate in workshops as well as seeing productions as varied as Shakespeare at the Globe to West End musicals. You can join debating groups, the book group, and participate in poetry readings.



Geography

Examination board: AQA

Course Requirement: Level 6 GCSE profile Prior study of Geography is desirable

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Physical Geography

- Water and carbon cycles
- Cold environments
- Hazards

Human Geography

- Global systems and global governance
- Changing places
- Population and the environment

Geographical Investigation

 Individual investigation based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Examination (80%)

- Paper one (40%): written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes
- Paper two (40%): written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes

Coursework (20%)

- Fieldwork investigation, 4000 words

Am I suited to the course?

Contemporary Geography is a subject which explicitly engages with the relationship of human populations with each other over space and time and their relationship with their physical environment at a variety of scales from the local to the global. If you enjoy exploring interconnections between subjects and want to use this to investigate the background to many stories in today's news then Geography is a subject for you. You will also need to be able to use data, diagrams, maps and statistics to form objective decisions following a range of investigations.

Where will this course lead me?

Geographers are valued in many lines of work and experience some of the highest levels of graduate employment. Policy and government, physical environment, geographical information systems, built environment, travel and tourism, business, society and development are all areas where geographers can make good use of their training. Your ability to analyse data and synthesise information makes you highly employable even in non-related areas.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

The opportunity to investigate and shape your own opinions is an area that many students find challenging. Your design of robust research methods, application of reliable statistical techniques and building complex, synoptic essays which explore the interconnections between subjects and scales, allows learning at levels which stretch the most able students.



Government & Politics

Examination board: Edexcel

Course Requirement: Level 6 GCSE profile

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

UK politics and core political ideas

- Democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media
- Conservatism, liberalism, socialism

Government and optional political ideas

- The constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches
- One idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism

Global politics

- Sovereignty and globalisation, global governance, human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Examination (100%)

- Paper one (33.3%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper two (33.3%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper three: (33.3%): written exam, 2 hours

Am I suited to the course?

In the first year, the course explores the nature of politics in the UK and looks at the various ways people engage in the political process. Lessons are based around researching different political institutions in the UK, giving presentations, and evaluating election material to write essays. Students will need to be interested in current affairs, researching and watching political debates, but do not need any formal prior knowledge of the UK political system.

In the second year, the course looks at Global Politics. We live in a complex world with significant challenges which include global terrorism, poverty, economic instability, weapons proliferation, failing states and environmental degradation. These challenges require global cooperation if they are to be resolved and you will be given the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding of key political concepts, learn to analyse and evaluate areas of global politics and use key terminology to compare contemporary global issues.

Where will this course lead me?

Each year a number of our students continue to study Politics at university. They have the option to read UK Politics or International Politics, and some have chosen to combine Politics with other subjects such as Languages, Economics, RE, and Geography. A Politics degree can lead to careers in Parliament, BBC, Local Government, management consultancy, research and Civil Service.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

You will have the opportunity to develop an understanding of local, regional, international and global dimensions of political activity. It will give you the chance to explore political issues that affect all of us. You will gain an insight into abstract political concepts but ground them in contemporary real-world examples and case studies that will develop an international awareness and knowledge of multiple perspectives as the course encourages discussion and debate. You will have the opportunity to take part in Model United Nations forum so that you can debate key political issues alongside other students studying Politics. You will also have the opportunity to visit Westminster and, in an election year, organise hustings in school.



History

Examination board: AQA

Course Requirement: Level 6 GCSE profile Level 6 in GCSE History (if taken)

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Breadth study

- The Tudors: England, 1485-1603

Depth study

- Italy and Fascism, c1900-1945

Historical investigation

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Examination (80%)

- Paper one (40%): written exam 2 hours 30 minutes
- Paper two (40%): written exam 2 hours 30 minutes

Coursework (20%)

- Historical investigation, 4500 word essay

Am I suited to the course?

History is interesting, important and enjoyable. If you would like to learn how to read critically, evaluate evidence, and communicate your ideas persuasively through both discussion and writing, then you may be a suitable candidate for A level History.

Where will this course lead me?

History is a highly respected academic subject, well thought of by university admissions departments. It also creates an excellent foundation for careers in a wide variety of areas, such as business, management, law, journalism, teaching, the Armed Forces, the Civil Service, marketing, advertising, etc.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

You will develop multidisciplinary and transferable skills which will enhance both your studies and your wider life. As well as developing skills of research and analysis, you will be encouraged to use both your imagination and your judgement within the context of known facts and opinions. Balanced scepticism is the hallmark of a good historian. There are regular trips to hear eminent historians, such as David Starkey and attend lectures, and there are visiting historians who speak to our Cavendish Society.



Languages - French, German, Spanish

Examination board: AQA

Course Requirement: Level 7 in GCSE

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Social issues and trends
Political and artistic culture
Grammar

Literary texts and films

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Examination (70%)

- Listening, reading and writing (50%): written exam 2 hours 30 minutes
- Writing (20%): written exam 2 hours

Speaking (30%)

- Oral exam, 21-23 minutes

Am I suited to the course?

If you are interested in languages, communication and learning about other cultures through literature, film, history and current affairs, then this is the course for you. If you want to research articles in a foreign language, communicate online with a partner school, watch European films, go to foreign plays, or learn the art of translation, essay-writing and discussion in a foreign language, then you will enjoy this course.

Where will this course lead me?

You will obtain the necessary linguistic and cultural knowledge as well as crucial problem-solving and analytical skills to gain a place at a top ranked university to read Languages or a joint honours combination including a language. Many students opt to try a new language at university. It is worth remembering that employers value languages, and bilingual employees often attract larger salaries than their monolingual peers.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

You will have weekly lessons with our native speaker assistants which will provide you with a fantastic opportunity to develop high level conversation skills. Many students have benefited from doing work experience or extra study abroad through institutions such as UK-German Connection.



Mathematics

Examination board: Edexcel

Course Requirement: Level 8/9 in GCSE Mathematics

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Pure mathematics

Statistics

Mechanics

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Examination (100%)

- Paper one (33.3%): written exam 2 hours
- Paper two (33.3%): written exam 2 hours
- Paper three (33.3%): written exam 2 hours

Am I suited to the course?

If you enjoyed the challenges of the higher tier GCSE Mathematics topics and of solving problems, then you are ideally suited to the A level Mathematics course. This course will teach you a range of new skills and techniques and allow you to practise applying them to real life mathematical problems.

Where will the course take me?

A level Mathematics opens the door to further study in areas such as engineering, computing, business, economics and science based degrees, as well as providing a solid base for further study in Mathematics. An A level in Mathematics also demonstrates excellent analytical and problem solving skills to future employers, and is highly regarded by university tutors and employers alike.

How can I stretch myself through doing this course?

The nature of the A level means that you will always be learning new concepts and techniques. Every area of mathematics that is studied will contain content that builds upon what you have learned previously. This will give you a mastery of the material and will allow you to tackle increasingly challenging problems. Outside the classroom, we enter teams into the National Cipher Challenge, the UK Mathematics Challenge and the UK Maths Olympiad. We also offer a mentoring scheme in the department for any sixth form student who would like the opportunity to train the younger students for the Junior UK Mathematics Challenges.



Further Mathematics

Examination board: Edexcel

Course Requirement: Level 8/9 in GCSE Mathematics

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Advanced Pure Mathematics

Mechanics

Statistics

Discrete Mathematics

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Examination (100%)

- Paper one (25%): written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes
- Paper two (25%): written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes
- Paper three (25%): written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes
- Paper four (25%): written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes

Am I suited to the course?

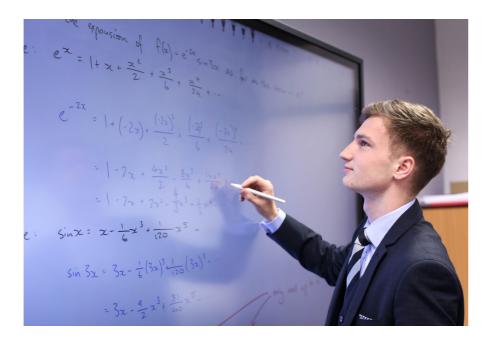
If you have a passion for mathematics and want the challenge of studying more sophisticated mathematical concepts, this course is ideal for you. There is no doubt that A level Further Mathematics will help you to stand out in your UCAS application and in the employment market.

Where will the course take me?

An A level Further Mathematics qualification is regarded very highly by universities as it demonstrates a deeper understanding of mathematics and is an excellent addition to an application for courses in economics or management, engineering and science, as well as mathematics based degrees.

How can I stretch myself through doing this course?

Unlike the A level in Mathematics you have a degree of choice with the A level in Further Mathematics when it comes to the applied mathematics. The advantage of this is that we can tailor the topics based on your interest or your choice of university course.



Music

Examination board: EDUQAS (WJEC)

Course Requirement: Study of a musical instrument (including voice) to Grade 5 or above Grade 5 Theory

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

The Western Classical Tradition (Development of the Symphony 1750-1900)

Musical Theatre

Into the Twentieth Century (Impressionism, Expressionism, Neo-Classicism)

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Performance (25-35%)

- Option A (35%): total duration of performances, 10-12 minutes
- Option B (25%): total duration of performances, 6-8 minutes

Composition (25-35%)

- Option A (35%): total duration of compositions, 8-10 minutes
- Option B (25%): total duration of compositions, 4-6 minutes

Appraising (40%)

- Written examination 2 hours 15 minutes

Am I suited to the course?

You must have a passion for music, and a willingness and curiosity to embrace all musical genres. If you love performing, composing, and listening to music, then A level Music is the course for you. Take the next exciting step in your musical journey and open up your mind and soul to new experiences.

Where will this course lead me?

There are endless opportunities for you to have an exciting career within the world of music including performing in an ensemble or as a session musician, production, journalism, arts management, festival organiser, recording, composing, conducting, artist management, teaching and lecturing.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

You will develop your listening and analytical skills, essay writing, keyboard technique and score reading. You will learn valuable performance skills which will help you gain confidence and take your playing/singing to the next level. You will explore a variety of approaches to musical composition and will discover how to use Sibelius to successfully realise your ideas. You will be given the support you need to establish and direct your own musical ensembles, and be encouraged to seek out opportunities to perform or compose on a national level.



Music Technology

Examination board: Edexcel

Course Requirement:
Keen interest in popular music and technology, without the emphasis on music theory or performance
Musical and science skills preferred but not essential

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes

Principles of sound and audio technology

The development of recording and production technology from 1920 to the present day

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Recording (20%)

- Capture, edit, process and mix a 3 minute audio recording

Technology-based composition (20%)

- Creating, editing, manipulating and structuring sounds to produce a technology-based composition

Listening and analysing (25%)

- Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes

Producing and analysing (35%)

- Written/practical examination 2 hours 15 minutes

Am I suited to the course?

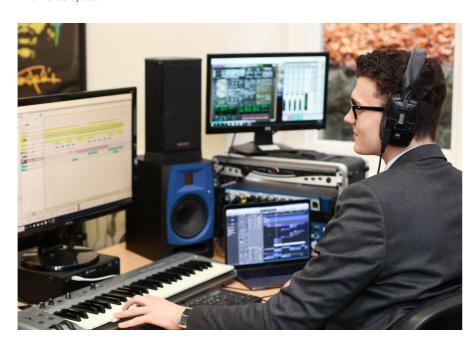
You must have a passion for music and using computer software programmes to create and manipulate music. You will need the ability to work independently and to a deadline.

Where will this course lead me?

There is a wide range of degree courses on offer in Higher Education with a range of specialisms in many career options in the music industry in production, studio engineering, live sound engineering, media sound design and production, music journalism, arts administration, recording and editing, composition and many more.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

As well as developing critical musical knowledge through listening and creative tasks, you will also study principles of physics in relation to sound in both musical and non-musical settings. You will gain IT skills as you progress through the course as these are essential and integral to success in this subject.



Philosophy

Examination board: AQA

Course Requirement: Level 6 GCSE profile

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Epistemology

- What is knowledge? Perception as a source of knowledge. Reason as a source of knowledge and the limits of knowledge

Moral philosophy

- Normative ethical theories such as Utilitarianism, Kantian Ethics and Aristotelian Virtue Ethics Applied ethics to areas such as stealing, simulated killing (within computer games, plays, films, etc), eating animals and truth. Finally the study of meta-ethics

The Metaphysics of God

- The concept and nature of 'God', arguments relating to the existence of God and religious language

Metaphysics of mind

 What do we mean by 'mind', dualist theories, physicalist theories and functionalism

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

100% examination

- Paper 1 (50%): written examination 3 hours
- Paper 2 (50%): written examination 3 hours

Am I suited to the course?

This course will appeal to you if you want to understand the world of ideas and problem solving. You will engage in critical analysis of philosophical theories and concepts. You will need to be interested in the ways in which ideas and knowledge inform personal choices. If you enjoy strong debate and are not afraid to engage with complex ideas and difficult questions, and you are open to discussing questions about truth, ethics and society with an open mind and without embarrassment, then this course is for you.

Where will this course lead me?

Philosophy is recognised as a 'hard subject' by the Russell Group and all top universities. We now live in the world of knowledge based economies, so whether you imagine a career in politics (looking to study PPE), the civil service, the armed forces, medicine, international business, the media, or almost any other sphere, a good grasp of critical thinking and analysis is a hugely valuable asset in the modern world. This course will give you an advantage when considering jobs where you need to be an innovator or entrepreneur; think big, think creatively.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

At Giggleswick we have a thriving department and so can offer access to our annual Paley Lecture, Debating Society, Model United Nations and other school activities that complement the curse. In addition, when possible, the PT department runs an annual trip to Europe, in January 2020 we went to Rome. You can support your learning by accessing our reading list but we also use podcasts, webinars, student conferences and guest speakers to add value where appropriate.



Physics

Examination board: AQA

Course Requirement: Level 7 in GCSE Physics or Additional Science Level 6 in GCSE Mathematics

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Measurements and their errors

Particles and radiation

Waves

Mechanics and materials

Electricity

Further mechanics and thermal physics

Fields and their consequences Nuclear physics

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

100% examination

- Paper 1 (34%): written examination 2 hours
- Paper 2 (34%): written examination 2 hours
- Paper 3 (32%): written examination 2 hours

Am I suited to the course?

Studying Physics will enable you to understand the principles that apply to the world around you. If you are inquisitive, observant and questioning, with strong mathematical skills, then you will enjoy A level Physics. The course will be a mixture of practical work and theory, developing models designed to explain and predict observed behaviours.

Where will this course lead me?

In addition to the traditional courses in sciences and engineering, you will find that an A level in Physics can open many doors. In recent years students have used Physics in studies as diverse as medicine, archaeology, finance, architecture, music and aviation. While it is a distinct advantage for many university courses, Physics will always help you stand out from the crowd

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

A level Physics can undoubtedly be challenging at times, but answering some of the biggest questions shouldn't be easy. Developing universal concepts, which apply to the smallest atoms and largest galaxies, has challenged some of the greatest minds in history. Going beyond the course, we will find opportunities for individual extension, for example, in electronics and robotics or astronomy.



Psychology

Examination board: AQA

Course Requirement: Average Grade 6 in GCSEs with strong Maths, English and Science

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Introductory topics in Psychology

- Social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathology

Psychology in context

 Approaches in psychology, biopsychology and research methods

Issues and options in Psychology

-Issues and debates in psychology, relationships, gender, cognition and development, schizophrenia, eating behaviour, stress, aggression, forensic psychology, addiction

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Examination (100%)

- Paper 1 (33.3%): written examination 2 hours
- Paper 2 (33.3%): written examination 2 hours
- Paper 3 (33.3%): written examination 2 hours

Am I suited to the course?

You don't need any prior knowledge of Psychology in order to start the A level course, but you do need a solid complement of GCSEs with mostly grade 6 as you may well find Psychology very demanding, especially the research methods component of the course. The requirement to write essays, in which you present argument for and against an issue, means that you should also have a good grasp of the English language. As Psychology is a science, a GCSE in Science (especially Biology) would be advisable, and you do need to be comfortable with numbers. Most important, though, is that you have a genuine curiosity about the way humans think and behave.

An A level Psychology course complements a range of other A levels, including the sciences (e.g. Biology) and the social sciences.

Where will this course lead me?

This qualification offers an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by universities and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking, and research.



Theatre Studies

Examination board: Edexcel

Course Requirement: Level 6 GCSE profile Drama GCSE desirable

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Devising

Theatre makers in practice

Text in performance

Theatre makers in practice

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Performance (40%)

- A devised piece and a portfolio about the process

Written exam (40%)

- 2 set texts Equus & Woyzeck plus a live review

Performance (20%)

- Group performance

Am I suited to the course?

The course demands practical, academic and artistic skills in almost equal measure. You will extend your ability to create drama and theatre, either in a performing or production role. You need to have a keen interest in the history of drama, key practitioners and theatrical conventions, all of which make theatre such a compelling and exciting subject. You must be able to analyse and critically deconstruct texts and performance. English Literature is often studied as a complementary subject as it enhances the critical evaluation required within the written work.

Where will this course lead me?

It will give you the ability to articulate thoughts, explore ideas, sharpen your communication skills and enhance your ability to work in group scenarios both practically and academically. These are fundamental life skills highly valued by universities and employers, and Theatre Studies can be used in an A level combination for entry to many different degree courses. You may go on to study drama at university or drama school, and progress to working in theatre, television, film and video.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

We can provide you with opportunities to experience dynamic new theatre, and work alongside theatre professionals. Thanks to the Richard Whiteley Theatre programme, you can watch shows on your doorstep, take part in post-show discussions and engage in practical workshops with directors and actors. You can be trained in sound and lighting, costume and set design as well as performance. You will also visit Leeds, Manchester and London to see the very best theatre on offer in the UK.



BTEC Level 3 Diploma Business

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel

Course Requirement: Minimum 4 GCSEs at Level 4 or above

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Compulsory units

- Exploring business
- Developing a marketing campaign*
- Personal and business finance**
- Managing an event
- International business
- Principles of management**

Optional units

- Customer service
- Creative promotion

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

- *This unit is assessed through an examination in Year 12
- **Both units assessed by completion of a business report based on an externally set task. This is completed under timed conditions

All other units are internally assessed through a variety of tasks such as presentations and reports.

Am I suited to the course?

You will have a keen interest in business and what makes organisations work. You will need to be well organised and keen to undertake independent learning. Most units of the BTEC course require research into different aspects of business which is then analysed and presented in professional reports. You will have to meet regular assignment deadlines and prepare for three external assessments.

Where will this course lead me?

You can combine your BTEC Level 3 Diploma with one A level subject and gain entry to a university course. You may choose to go straight into the world of work where employers value BTECs highly as the ongoing assessment creates a need to be well organised and develop good time management. The BTEC is certainly a good pathway to an apprenticeship as well as a foundation to many university courses related to business management.

BTEC Level 3 Business Diploma is equivalent to two A levels.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

You can take part in the Young Enterprise Company Programme, which involves starting a business and launching your own product. Along with other members of the company, you can work with an outside business advisor and sell your product at trade fairs and online. Many assignments are open ended and you can research and explore issues that you find interesting. You can even use your own work experience in a part-time job to help with assignment tasks.



BTEC Level 3 Diploma Sport

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel

Course Requirement: Minimum 4 GCSEs at Level 4 or above

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Compulsory units

- Principles of anatomy and physiology in sport
- The physiology of fitness
- Assessing risk in sport
- Fitness training and programming
- Sports coaching
- Sports development
- Fitness testing for sport and exercise
- Practical team sports or practical individual sports

In addition there are five other optional units

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Three externally assessed units and six internally assessed units

Am I suited to the course?

You should have a passion for all sports and the drive to improve your knowledge further. As the course is varied in terms of the theoretical side, you should also have an interest in science as well as all aspects of current sporting affairs. You need to be well-organised in terms of independent learning and able to meet deadlines.

Where will this course lead me?

You can progress to a Higher Education degree in Sports Science or Sports Studies, which in turn could lead to a PGCE in Teaching. Alternative courses are leisure/recreation management, sports coaching/development or specific vocational training in fitness. Employment within the leisure industry is another option.

BTEC Level 3 Sport is equivalent to two A levels.



Leavers' Destinations 2020

Accountancy Accounting and Finance

Actina

Acting for Stage and Screen Applied Drama in the Community Applied Sport and Exercise Science

Architecture

Bioveterinary Science (with placement)

Business (with placement)

Business with Economics

Business Law

Business Management

Business and Management Chemistry for Drug Discovery

Degree Apprenticeship with Rolls-Royce

Design and Crafts

Drama (Musical Theatre)

Economics and Finance Economics and Mathematics

Economics and Politics

English and Creative Writing

Environmental Geography

Fashion Buying and Merchandising

French and Arabic

Genetics

History

History History of Art

Interactive Media

International Management International Political Economy

Mathematics and Economics

Mechanical Engineering

Medicine, MBChB standard entry (5

Music and Philosophy

Physics

Politics and Modern Languages

Product Design

Religious Studies and Philosophy Social Sciences, Foundation Year

Spanish and English Literature Sport and Exercise Science

Sport and Exercise Science

Visual Arts and Film

University of Dundee Aberystwyth University University of Northampton Staffordshire University

Bishop Grosseteste University

Northumbria University University of Nottingham

Harper Adams University

University of Bath

Northumbria University

Nottingham Trent University

Lancaster University University of York

University of Bath

Degree Apprenticeship with Rolls-

School of Art and Design, Paris Bath Spa University

University of Sheffield

University College London

Newcastle University

University of Dundee University of York

University of the Arts, London

Pembroke, Oxford

University of York

University of Nottingham

Bath Spa University University of Leeds

University of York

University of Bath

City, University of London

Newcastle University

University of Sheffield

University of Bristol

Royal Holloway, University of London

University of Edinburgh

University of Exeter

Sheffield Hallam University

York St John University

Cardiff University

Northumbria University

University of Edinburgh

Newcastle University

University of Leeds Durham University



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