

Brine Leas Course Guide



Brine Leas Sixth Form
An Academy
Believe, Learn, Succeed



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Art

The Art Department is exciting and inspiring and uses a creative and imaginative space, ideal for the production of original and inventive artwork. This course will suit you if you want to develop your skills in drawing and painting in an individual way using both traditional and contemporary techniques; enjoy experimenting with a range of artistic techniques and processes such as printmaking, painting, collage, mixed media, CAD and photography and are interested in gaining an appreciation of the work of both traditional and contemporary artists and designers.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7202

If you are passionate about drawing and painting, intrigued by the various techniques used by artists and want to experiment with a range of artistic techniques and processes, you should consider studying Art as an option.

Our A Level course is diverse, offering the opportunity to investigate and explore and want to produce limitless artwork. The course offers an exciting way for you to consider, create and discuss art and design to enlighten your perspective on the changing face of art. You will develop skills in art and design through assignments that encourage you to work in a variety of ways such as: undertaking primary and secondary research, drawing and sketching, expanding ideas, reviewing and refining to create your own masterpieces. This process will enable you to express yourself and also develop your appreciation of the work of others. There are two components to your A level, a personal investigation and an externally set assignment. Sketch books are vital to each of the components as you will need to fully support the exciting and expressive work you produce. You will be expected to explore your drawing and design work on a variety of scales, using sketchbooks, journals and larger design boards. Whilst studying for your Art A level you will have the opportunity to go on a residential visit. We value experience and encourage students to take part in and seek inspiration from any sources, enriching and deepening knowledge and understanding.

Art and Design at Key Stage 5 offers endless possibilities. We encourage students to develop as individual artists, challenge boundaries and feel confident to work independently.

Within this A level you will produce an in-depth study within which you will investigate an idea, issue, concept or theme selected by you. This personal study will stem from an aspect of contemporary or past artists, photographers, designers or craftspeople. You will research and meaningfully develop your ideas from an initial starting point to the final finished pieces. This personal investigation is also supported by a written outcome.

In addition, you will complete an externally set assignment. This component will be made available to you during your second year from the 1st February. For the externally-set assignment you will create and develop ideas to a finished outcome in response to one of the eight exciting starting points you will be given. This will further develop your skills, acquired throughout the course, with individuality and independence.

Many of our students move on to further education, studying a range of degree level courses including fashion design, graphic design, fine art, photography and architecture. Please visit the online gallery on the Brine Leas website, to see examples of the artwork from a range of year groups.

Art

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Graphic Communications, Photography, Drama, Textiles, Mathematics, Physics

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Fine Artist, Museum/Gallery Curator, Art Therapist, Printmaker, Education, Designer

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade C/5 in subject if studied at GCSE

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% Coursework

Additional Support:

You are welcome to continue to work on your pieces within the Art teaching spaces at any time

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You are advised to purchase art materials to work on pieces at home and/or within your own time. Further costs stem from a residential visit to Tattenhall, approximately £90, and a visit to London Galleries, approximately £80.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Residential visit to Tattenhall and a visit to the London Galleries.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should attend one or more art galleries.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Art at BL6:

- Leeds College of Art : Fine Art
- University of Warwick : History of Art
- Newcastle College : Foundation Year Art
- University of Hertfordshire : Fine Art

Biology

This course will suit you if you enjoy science; are interested in learning about how living organisms function and interact with each other; enjoy practical work.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7402

Are you interested in finding out how organisms and animals work? Are you fascinated to know how we have evolved and the things that make us sick or improve our health? Do you have a thirst for understanding how your organs and organ systems work together to maintain a healthy lifestyle? If so, you should consider Biology as an option.

Biology A Level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Biology literally means the study of life, from recent epidemics such as ebola, to new treatments for cancer, to our changing views towards antibiotics. Being such a broad topic, you are bound to find a specific area of interest. Biology is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities that will develop your skills and confidence needed to investigate how living things behave and work. There is no coursework at Biology A Level; however, your practical activities will be assessed throughout the 2 years by your subject tutor, during a series of essential practical skills linked to theory.

The topics covered will give you the opportunity to use microscopy to study the cell structure of a variety of organisms. Biologically important molecules such as carbohydrates, proteins, water and nucleic acids are studied with respect to their structure and function. The structure and mode of action of enzymes in catalysing biochemical reactions is studied. The significance of surface area to volume ratio in determining the need for ventilation, gas exchange and transport systems in multicellular organisms is emphasised. You will also study the biodiversity of organisms, how they are classified and the ways in which biodiversity can be measured. Furthermore you will also gain an understanding of the variety of organisms that are pathogenic and the way in which plants and animals have evolved defences to deal with disease.

The topics studied in the second year include the role of genes in regulating and controlling cell function and development. Heredity and other mechanisms of evolution and speciation are also covered. Some of the practical techniques used to manipulate DNA such as sequencing and amplification are considered and their therapeutic medical use. The use of microorganisms in biotechnology is also covered. The biochemical pathways of photosynthesis and respiration are considered, with an emphasis on the formation and use of ATP. It is important that organisms, both plants and animals, are able to respond to stimuli. This is achieved by communication within the body, which may be chemical and/or electrical. Both systems are covered in detail in this module. Communication is also fundamental to homeostasis with control of temperature, blood sugar and blood water potential.

“Instead of being the biological centre of the Universe, I believe our planet is just an assembly station, but one with a major advantage over most other places. The constant presence of liquid water almost everywhere on the Earth is a huge advantage for life, especially for assembling life into complex forms by the process we call evolution”

Fred Hoyle

Biology

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Chemistry, Geography, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology, Physical Education

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary, Zoologist, Research Scientist, Nature Conservationist, Pharmacist,

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in subject if studied at GCSE or 56 in Science Trilogy

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% Examination

(Additionally, you are expected to produce evidence of practical competency in order to earn practical endorsement. This is divided into 12 required practicals to be completed over the two years)

Additional Support:

If your ambition is to study for a degree in Dentistry, Medicine or Veterinary Science, special sessions are available to you through our Oxbridge/Early Entry Co-ordinator to help you prepare for these extremely competitive courses. Activities include preparation for the UKCAT and BMAT external examinations, tailored enrichment opportunities, vital work experience and mock interviews to hone your crucial interview techniques. There will be careers talks and an opportunity to meet with admissions tutors from local universities.

Furthermore, you will have the opportunity to apply for the Nuffield Placement Scheme. Weekly drop in clinics and additional revision sessions will be available close to the examination period.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You are advised to purchase the text book AQA A Level Biology (approximately £38); there will be a small charge for study packs of examination questions that are produced in-house.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Visit to Keele University and visiting lecturers in BL6.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Biology at BL6:

- Cambridge University : Medicine
- Oxford University : Medicine
- Aston University : Biological Science
- University of Chester : Biomedical Science
- Keele University : Pharmacy
- Manchester University : Dentistry
- Queen Mary University of London : Medicine
- University of Nottingham : Zoology
- University of Central Lancashire : Nursing
- Staffordshire University : Animal Biology and Conservation
- Coventry University : Paramedic Science

Business Studies

This course will suit you if you want to understand how businesses work, what makes businesses profitable and have an interest in starting your own business or progressing in Business Management.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7132

Are you a budding entrepreneur? Do you want to know how to make your first million? Do you have a desire to understand how to get the best out of your team? Do you want to understand the type of leader you could be and how you can inspire people? If so, you should consider Business Studies as an option.

We will teach you the theories behind every successful business and explore companies such as Sky, Vodafone and Tesco. This course will interest budding entrepreneurs as you develop your knowledge of how businesses are organised, structured, financed and operated. You will examine real business situations, making use of a range of information sources and personal research. You will gain an in-depth understanding of marketing, finance, people in organisations and operations management. You will also have the chance to gain practical experience, helping to set up a real business and working to make a profit for charity.

In the first year you will study the various aspects of successful businesses. You will gain a critical understanding of the roles of managers and leaders and study how decisions are made to improve the performance of businesses in the areas of marketing, operation, finance and human resources.

In the second year you will gain a critical understanding of four more complex units: analysing the strategic position of a business, objectives and strategy; choosing strategic direction; factors influencing which markets to compete in and which products to offer; strategic methods and managing change.

“The things we fear most in organisations - fluctuations, disturbances, imbalances - are the primary sources of creativity”
Margaret Wheatley

Business Studies

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Economics, Law, Geography, Computer Science.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Business, Accountancy, Management, Marketing

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade C/5 in subject if studied at GCSE

Course Duration:

2 Years

Assessment Method:

100% Examination

Additional Support:

Weekly subject clinics will be held. You will be provided with information on revision and subject clinics closer to the external examinations.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

There may be three or four opportunities to attend off site visits during the course and in both years, attendance at a specialist revision workshop is highly recommended; each visit is estimated to cost £35. There is a core text book for each year of the course, costing approx. £25 per book. Revision guides, produced in house, are available to purchase at approx. £10 each.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

BITE Business Competition at the end of Year 12. You can assist with Key Stage 4 lessons and enterprise activities.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

It is highly recommended that you start reading and immersing yourself in business news and current affairs, by watching the news.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Business Studies at BL6:

- Sheffield Hallam University : International Business
- Nottingham University : Management
- Nottingham Trent University : Business Management and Human Resources; Business Management and Marketing

Chemistry

This course will suit you if you enjoy science and like to keep abreast of developments; are interested in how substances can change; enjoy carrying out experiments and analysing results.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7405

Are you fascinated by how a substance can change into another? Are you interested in finding out how new wonder drugs are made, or more simply, how a new shampoo makes your hair shiny? Do you want to learn why the things around us behave as they do? If so, you should consider Chemistry as an option.

Chemistry helps you to understand the world around you. It is in the food you eat, the clothes you wear, the water you drink, the medicines you take - the list is endless. Learning Chemistry means learning how to be objective and how to reason and solve problems. Chemistry A Level can help you understand current events surrounding the environment and technological advances; it can help you to read product labels with more insight, be a better cook and even show you how to synthesise paracetamol. Chemistry is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities that will develop your skills and confidence needed to investigate chemical properties and reactions. There is no coursework at Chemistry A Level, however, your practical skills will be assessed throughout the 2 years by your subject tutor during a series of required practicals linked to theory.

In the first year, you will study physical chemistry, including atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria and Le Chatelier's principle, inorganic chemistry including periodicity, Group 2 the alkaline earth metals and Group 7 the halogens. You will also be introduced to organic chemistry through studying alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols and organic analysis.

In the second year, you will study thermodynamics, rate equations, the equilibrium constant K_p , electrode potentials and electrochemical cells as part of physical chemistry. For inorganic chemistry you will find out about the properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides, transition metals, reactions of ions in aqueous solution. You will study optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and derivatives, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, NMR spectroscopy, chromatography within organic chemistry.

"I am going to do something fantastic that no one else could have imagined"
Sir Harry Kroto 1939-2016 (Noble Prize for Chemistry, 1996)

Chemistry

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Biology, Physics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Chemical Engineer, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Forensic Science, Physiotherapy, Research Scientist, Dentistry, Pharmacy.

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in subject if studied at GCSE or 56 in Science Trilogy

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% Examination

(Additionally, you are expected to produce evidence of practical competency in order to earn practical endorsement. This is divided into 12 required practicals to be completed over the two years).

Additional Support:

If your ambition is to study for a degree in Dentistry, Medicine or Veterinary Science, special sessions are available to you through our Oxbridge/Early Entry Co-ordinator to help you prepare for these extremely competitive courses. Activities include preparation for the UKCAT and BMAT external examinations, tailored enrichment opportunities, vital work experience and mock interviews to hone your crucial interview techniques. There will be careers talks and an opportunity to meet with admissions tutors from local universities. You will also have the opportunity to apply for the Nuffield Placement Scheme and be able to attend weekly Chemistry clinics.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You are advised to purchase the text book AQA, A Level Chemistry (approximately £38). You will also be required to purchase a lab coat, a scientific calculator and study packs which are produced in house; there will also be a visit to a university (total costs approximately £50)

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Cambridge Lower Sixth Challenge, Chemistry Olympiad, Keele University Analytical Techniques Workshop

Destinations of Students Who Studied Chemistry at BL6:

- Glasgow University : Biochemistry
- Oxford University : Medicine
- Cambridge University : Medicine
- University of York : Chemistry
- Cardiff University : Biomedical Science; Chemistry; Medicine
- Bristol University : Chemistry (with study in continental Europe); Civil Engineering
- Keele University : Forensic Science; Pharmacy
- Manchester University : Dentistry
- University of Chester : Mechanical Engineering
- University of Aberdeen : Chemical Engineering

Computer Science

This course will suit you if you are interested in the fast moving world of technology; are genuinely excited about prospects for the future in an ever expanding diverse sector; are interested in how computer systems work and the underlying principles behind software development; have an attention for detail, are motivated, disciplined and enjoy problem solving.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7517

Do you want to know how the software you use is constructed? If so, you should consider Computer Science as an option.

In a digital world, having a grasp of the concepts that drive it can help you, no matter what else you plan to study. More people are beginning to realise that learning to think like a computer scientist is a good thing. Thinking logically, reasoning, breaking complicated things down and being able to give instructions so precisely that even a dumb computer can understand you, are valuable attributes. There are significant differences between ICT and Computer Science courses. Imagine computers are like cars; if you just want to become a better car driver, you should study ICT, if you're more curious and want to lift your car's bonnet to probe how it all works, you should study Computer Science. In fact, the subject has totally changed in recent years, which is why we're looking to a new generation of students who realise that understanding how IT works, and how you can make it work, is an important skill for the modern world and many university courses. The students who study Computing want to dig below the surface and find out, for example, how the Internet really works, or find out how to use Python, the particular language we use to learn how to program; or get to know how music can be compressed so it fits on their iPod.

We take a gradual approach; you don't develop such advanced skills overnight, so we give you good resources and time to practise. The lessons are split roughly in half. Practical lessons are focused on getting your programming skills up to speed, so there are lots of short problems to solve. These are designed to familiarise you with the language and the techniques used to write complicated programs. It's not easy, and we'll expect you to be doing a lot of programming in your own time. There is nothing that matches the excitement of getting your code to work, particularly if you've been grappling with it for ages! Lessons that introduce theoretical concepts are very varied. Again, there are lots of practical exercises, but these are often used to illustrate some of the key concepts you need to be familiar with. On the theory side we take things to a greater depth and ask some key questions about the way the digital world is heading, so we delve into the world of Big Data and gigantic systems, which drives much of the scientific research being carried out today. We also look in more detail at some of the key theoretical ideas that underpin computing; we ask what a computer is, what it can and can't do, look at different ways to approach program design, imaginative ways to search, sort and store data and the best ways to measure. This is real theory, the key ideas behind what is, and isn't computable. Finally, a Computing Practical Project takes programming to greater depths. You will undertake a major practical programming project. You will find a client, find out what they want and then you will code the solution. This is just how Bill Gates and Steve Jobs started out, writing their own applications. Beyond that, there are various Computer Science degrees available, but many other degree subjects now benefit from a knowledge of computing. If you already know you want to study this further, it's worth thinking about doing Mathematics A level as well, as some universities require this to study at a higher level.

"It should be mandatory that you understand computer science"

Will.i.am

Computer Science

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans. Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Physics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Electronics

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Database Administrator, Games Developer, Information Systems Manager, Multimedia Programmer, IT Consultant, Systems Analyst, Systems Developer, Web Designer, Web Developer

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in subject if studied at GCSE or Grade 6 in Mathematics

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

40% Examination
40% On-screen Examination
20% Coursework

Additional Support:

You will be provided with information on revision and subject clinics closer to the external examinations

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You are advised to purchase the core text book, approx. £33 and a revision guide, approximately £17. There is also an additional Mathematics guide available for the course, approximately £10.

Organised enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

You can assist with Key Stage 3 code clubs and also with Key Stage 4 lessons.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should take an active interest in the changing world of technology and programming. You should also complete the new Python course from Code Academy (codeacademy.com) which should be available by August 2017. The Java course may also be useful but is not compulsory.

Drama & Theatre

This course will suit you if you are creative, committed, hard working; enjoy performing in front of an audience as part of an ensemble and individually; enjoy reading; enjoy taking part in discussions and are not afraid to ask questions. This course will also suit you if you are interested in theatre design.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE Edexcel 8DR01

Do you want to push your confidence and creativity? Do you like anticipation and a sense of risk? Do you enjoy watching, talking about and making live theatre? Are you interested in designing or directing for the theatre? If so, you should consider studying Drama and Theatre as an option.

This is a course that asks a lot of you. At times you will feel out of control and terrified; you'll experience frustration and intense fulfilment in equal doses, but we know that you'll look back and feel that you've really achieved something worthwhile and valuable. You will become more aware of who you are and what you're capable of and have the freedom of experiment whilst working as part of a team with like-minded people. As a Drama & Theatre student you'll study a range of texts from various playwrights and in various styles. You'll work on these practically and theoretically and develop your skills as a performer and a designer, through both individual and ensemble work.

In the first year you will study two components: Component 1: Devising - within this you will create an original performance piece and you will use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli (performer or designer routes available); Component 2: Text in Performance - within this you will take part in a group performance (or design realisation) of one key extract from a performance text and informed by the methodology of one influential practitioner. You will also perform a monologue or duologue performance (design realisation route available) from one key extract from a different performance text.

Within the second year you will work towards the final component, Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice. This is a written exam which asks you to write about a play that you have been to see along with two different play texts. For Components 1 and 2, your teachers will choose the texts that will be used for performance. In Component 3, both performance texts must be chosen from the following list:

List A: Accidental Death Of An Anarchist, Dario Fo; Colder Than Here, Laura Wade; Equus, Peter Shaffer; Fences, August Wilson; Machinal, Sophie Treadwell; That Face, Polly Stenham.

List B: Antigone, Sophocles; Doctor Faustus, Christopher Marlowe; Hedda Gabler, Henrik Ibsen; Lysistrata, Aristophanes; The Maids, Jean Genet; The School For Scandal, Richard Brinsley Sheridan; The Tempest, William Shakespeare; Waiting For Godot, Samuel Beckett; Woyzeck, Georg Büchner.

"What is drama but life with the dull bits cut out"
Alfred Hitchcock

Drama & Theatre

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Art, English Language, English Literature, Media Studies, PE, Psychology, Sociology, History, Law.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

There are lots of opportunities for employment, not just in the world of theatre, film and television, but in many recreational areas, managerial posts, social services, teaching and HR; in fact, in any employment when the skills of communication and the ability to work closely with other people are important.

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade C/5 in Drama if studied at GCSE. It is important that you are interested in Drama and how theatre and plays work and are keen to be involved in performance work.

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

60% Examination
(20% practical examination, 40% written examination)

40% Coursework
(assessed through practical and portfolio)

Additional Support:

Lunchtime and after school revision sessions, as well as rehearsals, are provided in the run up to examinations. Revision sessions are run in the half-term and term breaks too. If your ambition is to become a performer, we would encourage you to get involved in as many extra curricular activities with the arts as possible. Performance opportunities are available throughout the year and you can audition for the annual school show.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You are not required to buy any resources. However, trips to the theatre are an essential part of the course. We will encourage you to watch as much live theatre as possible to enhance your studies.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Visiting theatre companies, external theatre visits, performance opportunities.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should familiarise yourself with the set texts and read a range of play texts and see live theatre where possible.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Drama & Theatre at BL6:

- St Mary's University : Drama and Applied Theatre
- University of Salford : Media and Performance
- Newcastle College : BTEC Performing Arts

Economics

This course will suit you if you have an interest in current affairs and economic events and want to learn the skills to be able to make sense of them; want to know how government policies may affect your life, your town and the UK as a whole; want to be able to understand the UK's place in the world in terms of trade and economic development; you have a mature approach to your studies and are eager to learn.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification: Advanced Level GCE Edexcel 9ECO

Do you keep your finger on the pulse of current economic events? Are you keen to develop your understanding of how the government deals with issues such as unemployment, inflation and markets? Do you want to understand how firms make their production decisions - what to produce and for whom? Do you want to make sense of Global economic events? If so, you should consider studying Economics as an option.

Economics is classified as a social science which encompasses the study of scarcity and choice. In the face of unlimited human wants and needs, how do we as individuals decide what to consume? How do firms and companies decide what to produce?

The Economics A-Level considers both micro and macroeconomic concepts. For micro economics in the first year you will study Theme 1 (the introduction to markets and market failure). You will become an expert in being able to analyse consumer and producer patterns of behaviour within a market for a given good or service. Skills to be able to apply and interpret charts and data will be developed in order to make predictions and explain how the pricing mechanism can affect consumption and production. In Theme 2 (the UK economy – performance and policies), you will become familiar with macroeconomic concepts. Familiar terms from everyday news and current affairs such as unemployment, GDP, inflation and interest rates are applied to economic theory to give you an understanding of the government's decision making process. How can taxation and interest rates be used to manipulate an economy and achieve the desired macroeconomic objectives?

During the second year, Themes 3 and 4 extend the foundations of your knowledge to consider in more detail business behaviour and the labour markets (micro) and the global perspective (macro). Economics has never been more critical to the news agenda than now, in the aftermath of the EU Referendum. You will gain insight and skills in being able to understand the underlying mechanisms behind markets, international trade, business choices and government policies. Transferable skills are embedded in this course including being able to interpret data and produce charts and graphs in order to illustrate economic theories. You will develop your critical analysis to be able to synthesise information from different units and evaluate the effects of economic decision making.

“Economics is all about consumption. People either spend money now or they use financial instruments - like bonds, stocks and savings accounts - so they can spend more later”
Adam Davidson

Economics

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Sociology, Mathematics, Law, Government and Politics, Geography

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Financial Risk Analyst, Investment Analyst, Statistician, Chartered Accountant, Policy Advisor, Economist, Portfolio Manager, Government, Banking, Management, Actuary

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade B/6 in subject if studied at GCSE or Grade 6 in Mathematics and English

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% Examination

Additional Support:

There will be regular drop in sessions available at the conclusion of each topic area. In addition, examination preparation will include regular out-of-lesson revision sessions in the final term of each year. One to one subject progress meetings will be held termly.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

There may be three or four opportunities to attend off site visits during the course and in both years, attendance at a specialist revision workshop is highly recommended; each visit is estimated to cost £35. There is a core text book for each year of the course, costing approx. £25 per book. Revision guides, are available to purchase at approx. £10 each; workbooks for each unit (4 in total) are also available to purchase at approx. £5 each. It is recommended that all of the above are purchased during the course.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should take an active involvement in the news; read articles from multiple sources and perspectives and engage in current economic stories.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Economics at BL6:

- University of Sheffield : Economics
- University of Loughborough : Economics
- Liverpool John Moores University : Accounting and Finance
- Nottingham Trent University : Business Management and Economics

Electronics

This course will suit you if you are a numerate student who is able to approach problem solving in a clear and logical manner; are a 'hands on' person who enjoys constructing and testing circuits; are interested in learning about electronic components and how they can be used in practical circuits; have a creative mind and enjoy designing your own products.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level Electronics WJEC Eduqas 603/0777/8

Studying Electronics will enable you to:

- develop essential scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding of the behaviour of electrical/electronic circuits
- develop and demonstrate a deep understanding of the nature, processes and methods of electronics as an engineering discipline
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills
- develop and learn how to apply observational, practical and problem-solving skills in the identification of needs in the world around them and the testing of proposed electronic solutions
- develop and learn how to apply creative and evaluative skills in the development and assessment of electronic systems to solve problems
- develop an interest in electronics, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with electronics

During the course you will undertake two tasks:

Task 1 - a design and program task to create a microcontroller system programmed in assembler language to solve an identified problem, need or opportunity

Task 2 - a substantial integrated design and realisation task to create an electronic system to solve an identified problem, need or opportunity

"Consumer electronics is a challenging one"
Kevin Rollins, (Former President and CEO of Dell Inc.)

Electronics

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Mathematics, Chemistry, Law, Computer Science, Media Studies

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Engineering, Avionics, Computing, Medical Physics, Robotics, Information Technology, Communications, Education Research, Scientist, Inventor

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade B/6 in subject if studied at GCSE and Grade B/6 in GCSE Mathematics.

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

80% Examination
20% Coursework

Additional Support:

Catch up sessions at lunchtime and/or after school

Destinations of Students Who Studied Electronics at BL6:

- University of Manchester : Software Engineering; Anatomical Sciences with Industrial/Professional Experience (4 years)
- University of Salford : Aeronautical Engineering with Foundation Year
- University of Liverpool : Engineering
- Manchester Metropolitan University : Electrical and Electronic Engineering

English Language

This course will suit you if you are creative in developing your writing skills; enjoy exploring texts closely and analysing significant features; are interested in discussing and debating issues and theories about language; are interested in the sociological elements of language.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7702

Have you ever wondered why people from different regions speak with different accents or dialects? Are you passionate about words and wish to explore more about how texts achieve their purpose and how they work for their audience? Are you interested in how language has evolved and adapted? If so, you should consider English Language as an option.

The study of English Language requires the individual to have a strong interest in the way in which English is used in society, be it to empower, to represent, to exclude, or to oppress. Lessons will involve much debate and discussion of linguistic issues such as attitudes to regional accents, the representation of gender, the changing language and the influence of new technologies. In addition, you will gain knowledge and understanding of the core areas of linguistic study: semantics, lexis, grammar, pragmatics, syntax and phonology. You will acquire a new nuanced vocabulary with which to analyse texts and be expected to apply this terminology to texts that are both contemporary and archaic.

In the first year, you will be expected to acquire the skills and terminology to analyse relatively short texts (both written and spoken) whilst considering the impact of context and attitudes to language. These texts will cover a variety of genres such as blogs, newspaper articles, websites, speeches, letters, scripts and literary texts. You will become familiar with relevant linguistic theory, research and academics, developing your ability to debate and reason.

During the second year, you will continue to develop your knowledge of linguistic terminology and linguistic theory. You will extend your understanding of what is meant by diversity and how language can be affected, considering the contextual factors that influence it. Through evaluative essays, you will also analyse texts from 1600 to the present day. You will study how language is obtained by children and analyse what helps them learn and how they grasp language in the early years. Finally, you have the opportunity to submit coursework which accounts for 20% of your marks. This involves a piece of original writing and an accompanying commentary where you evaluate the effectiveness and impact of your piece. A language investigation is also expected where you will complete an independent linguistic research project. The subject and focus are your choice.

“Viewed freely the English language is the accretion and growth of every dialect, race, range of time and is both the free and compacted composition of all”

Walt Whitman

English Language

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: English Literature, Geography, History, Law, Sociology, Government & Politics, Biology, Drama & Theatre, Media Studies.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

English is a flexible and adaptable subject that opens up a wide range of career choices including Speech and Language Therapy, Law, Marketing, Writing, Education, Television & Media, Journalism, Management, Research and Consultancy, Politics.

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE English Language

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

80% Examination

20% Coursework

Additional Support:

You will be able to borrow key texts to read and explore around your topics from the BL6 Library and the English lending library. Lecture days may be available. Lunch and after-school subject clinics are provided for all students in the run up to the examinations. Revision sessions are run in half term and term breaks.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You may wish to purchase a variety of texts to support your reading, although some are available to loan via the department. Text books (costing approximately £20) can also support your studies. Lecture days may cost up to £20 per visit

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Previous enrichment has included visits to: museums in Manchester, local primary schools and The British Library in London.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You may wish to read articles and works by Bill Bryson, David Crystal and Bridget Christie as an introduction to themes and ideas of the course.

Destinations of Students Who Studied English Language at BL6:

- Manchester Metropolitan University: English
- University of Roehampton: English Language & Linguistics
- Aberystwyth : English & Creative Writing

English Language & Literature

This course will suit you if you enjoy reading a wide range of texts including novels, plays and non-fiction such as journalism and travel writing; are interested in finding out more about the language of speech and how it might be represented in plays and novels; are comfortable with writing essays and enjoy writing creatively.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7707

Do you enjoy writing stories and poems? Are you interested in following a career in writing? Does the thought of digging into a new novel, play or poem in a different way fill you with enthusiasm? If so, you should consider English Language & Literature as an option, as this course combines elements of literary analysis and debate with creative writing.

If you enjoyed both English Language and English Literature at GCSE then you don't have to choose between them. In this combined literary and linguistic approach you will explore all aspects of English, from non-fiction and non-literary writings to renowned plays and classic novels. You will enjoy exploring the interplay between linguistic and literary methods and deepening your understanding of both language and literature. You will explore a variety of text types, from genres of poetry, prose and drama, to non-literary forms like autobiography and travel writing. You will also have the opportunity to develop your skills as a writer through a variety of creative and analytical tasks.

In the first year, you will explore the 'imagined world' of 'The Handmaid's Tale' by Margaret Atwood, focusing on its unusual narrative, characterisation and events. You will then study selected poems from Duffy's 'Mean Time' anthology. This aspect of the course explores the nature of 'poetic voice' in the telling of events and the presentation of people. You will end the year by exploring speech and other genres, with a particular focus on linguistic features and viewpoints from a range of time periods.

For A Level, you will be examined on five texts in total. Paper 1 focuses on narrative and the texts taught in Year 12; however, it is open book. You will also study two new texts exploring 'conflict' - 'Othello' by Shakespeare and 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald. In Paper 2, you will answer one question for each text (both are open book). The tasks are a mixture of creative, original writing pieces and conventional essay questions. The final unit (20% of your A Level) is a Non-Examined Assessment which requires you to make active and insightful connections between a literary text (one not already studied) and non-literary material.

"The purpose of a storyteller is not to tell you how to think, but to give you questions to think upon" Brandon Sanderson

English Language & Literature

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Sociology, Art, Textiles, Law, History, Government & Politics, Drama & Theatre, Media Studies

Subject Related Career Destinations:

English is a flexible and adaptable subject that opens up a plethora of career choices. This course develops both analytical and creative skills that would be suitable for careers in: Editing and Publishing, Script & Novel Writing, Journalism, Marketing, Education, PR and other media professions, Art and Illustration, Linguistics.

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in both GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

80% Examination
20% Coursework

Additional Support:

BL6 Library - you will be able to borrow key theory guides, textbooks and critical works to support your studies. Lectures and visits based on the set texts are also offered to provide additional opportunities for debate and interpretation. Lunchtime and after school subject clinics are provided for all students in the run up to the examinations.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

Each set text costs between £5 and £10 each. You may also wish to purchase additional theory guides and textbooks but these can be borrowed from the BL6 Library. Theatre tickets cost approximately £20, lectures approximately £10.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Lecture Days in Manchester on 'The Handmaid's Tale'. Poetry Alive sessions to develop understanding of 'Poetic Voice'. Study Support Programme for lower school classes - become a Reading Buddy or a helper at the Creative Writing Club, organising competitions and sessions with budding writers.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should aim to read 'The Handmaid's Tale' prior to beginning the course in September. Any other wider reading with interesting or experimental narratives is also recommended - ask the English department for a reading list.

Destinations of Students Who Studied English Language & Literature at BL6:

- University of Surrey : Drama
- University of Gloucester : Language & Literature
- Birmingham University : English & Education
- Cumbria University : Illustration & Creative Writing

English Literature

This course will suit you if you: enjoy reading novels, poetry and plays at home for pleasure; enjoy studying issues affecting our lives today - issues of love, war, religion, politics and anything else that shapes who we are; enjoy discussion and debate.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7717

Do you want to be a well-rounded, well-read student who possesses good writing, communication and analysis skills? Do you love reading and going to the theatre? Does the thought of digging into a new novel, play or poem fill you with enthusiasm and curiosity? If so, you should consider English Literature as an option.

The study of Literature is a personal and creative activity. It leads to greater insight into personality, motives, relationships, cultural issues and, indeed, every aspect of human experience. It develops flexible and adaptable skills and offers opportunities to debate issues in stimulating ways. Though the set texts serve as a staple of the course, a great deal of the background reading of original literary works, extracts and works of criticism are essential to success. Only if you enjoy reading extensively should you embark on this course. You will develop your ability to respond to literary material of all kinds and acquire a vocabulary and style appropriate to the mature discussion of ideas and fluent writing of essays.

In the first year, you will study texts through the lens of Tragedy. The texts are: 'Othello' by Shakespeare and 'Death of a Salesman' by Arthur Miller for the Drama unit, plus Thomas Hardy's 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' (prose). You will also study a range of critical theories and texts to prepare for your N.E.A.

At the end of the second year, you will be examined on six texts in total. Paper 1 focuses on Tragedy and the texts taught in Year 12; it is closed book with questions on 'Othello' and the genre of Tragedy. In Year 13, you will also study three texts on Political and Social Protest writing: 'The Kite Runner', a collection of Tony Harrison's poetry and 'A Doll's House' by Henrik Ibsen. In Paper 2, you will be questioned on a combination of these texts, plus a related unseen passage.

The final unit is a Non-examined Assessment which consists of two independent coursework essays written on two texts (one poetry, one prose, examined through the lens of critical theory).

"Literature is where I go to explore the highest and lowest places in human society and in the human spirit, where I hope to find not absolute truth but the truth of the tale, of the imagination"

English Literature

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subject is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: English Language, Law, History, Government & Politics, Drama & Theatre, Sociology, Art.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

English Literature is a flexible and adaptable subject that opens up a plethora of career choices including: Journalism, Law, Script & Novel Writing, PR and other media professions, TV Production, Marketing, Education, Politics, Market Research and Consultancy

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

80% Examination
20% Coursework

Additional Support:

English Lending Library - you will be able to borrow key theory guides, textbooks and critical works to support your studies. Lectures and visits based on the set texts are also offered to provide additional opportunities for debate and interpretation.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

Each set text costs between £5 and £10 each. You may also wish to purchase additional theory guides and textbooks but these can be borrowed from the BL6 Library and the English lending library. Theatre tickets cost approx. £20, lectures approx. £10.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Lecture days in Manchester and at Cambridge University (December and February on 'Othello' and 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles'). Visits to see the drama texts in performance, including 'Othello', 'Death of a Salesman' and 'A Doll's House'. Additional trips to see other suitable plays where possible. Support Programme for lower school classes - become a Reading Buddy or Mentor for lower school readers.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should aim to read 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' prior to beginning the course in September. Any other wider reading in the Tragedy genre is also recommended - ask the English department for a reading list.

Destinations of Students Who Studied English Literature at BL6:

- Birmingham University : Literature
- Durham University : Literature
- Lancaster University : Illustration and Creative Writing
- Goldsmiths College : Literature
- Cardiff University : English
- Leeds University : English
- Oxford University : Literature
- Cambridge : Literature
- York : Law

Environmental Science

This course will suit you if you enjoy a multi disciplinary approach and have a keen interest in the sustainability of our planet.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7447

The natural world is complex and human activity can have unexpected consequences that are hard to reverse. Are you interested in finding out how physical and biological processes maintain life, and how humans affect nature? This requires a broad interdisciplinary perspective. Environmental problems and their associated solutions typically involve social, political and economic aspects which scientists must be aware of - would you like to be part of this solution? If so, you should consider Environmental Science as an engaging and thought provoking option.

The subject is unique among awarding bodies, providing a highly relevant interdisciplinary fourth science option. It's ideal for anyone interested in contemporary environmental issues, systems thinking and sustainability. The world is becoming more crowded, more consuming, and more connected. Growing populations and higher standards of living put increasing pressure on our environment. Environmental problems are more real, more controversial, and more in need of intelligent solutions than they were over 50 years ago. This is why the dedicated study of Environmental Science is so important. It is only by understanding how the world works that we can begin to tackle some of our pressing problems.

Environmental Science is a broad discipline. You will acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to appreciate the socio-economic issues related to environmental concerns. You will also develop specialist scientific knowledge on geological, biological and chemical processes. Over the two years, you will study aspects of climate change, biodiversity and environmental management, pollution and control, population dynamics, ecosystems and urbanisation. You will also acquire laboratory and practical analytical skills and have frequent opportunities to practice and apply what you learn on field trips locally and nationally. The topics studied include: the living environment, physical environment, energy resources, pollution, biological resources, sustainability, research methods.

“Our population and our use of the finite resources of planet Earth are growing exponentially, along with our technical ability to change the environment for good or ill”
Stephen Hawking

Environmental Science

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Biology, Chemistry, Business Studies, Economics, Geography, Physics, Mathematics, Government & Politics

Subject Related Career Destinations:

STEM industries of Engineering, Food, Energy, Conservation and Health, as well as non-STEM opportunities in Media, Leisure or Planning. Jobs directly related include: Environmental Consultant, Environment Education Officer, Environmental Manager, Nature Conservation Officer, Recycling Officer, Waste Management Officer, Water Quality Scientist, Architect, Environmental Health Practitioner, Landscape Architect, Town Planner, Toxicologist, Transport Planner.

Specific Entry Requirements:

55 in Science Trilogy GCSE or Grade 5 in at least 2 GCSE Science subjects for Triple Science

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% Examination

Additional Support:

Weekly drop in sessions and revision sessions will be available closer to the examination period

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

Approximately £40 for text books; cost of a field trip to be confirmed as this depends on whether it is a day trip or a residential.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

It is highly recommended that you start reading and immersing yourself in current and future environmental issues, by watching the news on a regular basis.

Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition

This course will suit you if you have an interest in Food and Nutrition and enjoy learning in a practical manner. The course will teach a number of practical skills ranging from pastry making through to desserts and main meals alongside an in depth look at nutrition and food production.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition

Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition allows you to gain a wealth of knowledge about the food and nutrition industry. You will have the opportunity to learn about the relationship between the human body and food, as well as practical skills for cooking and preparing food.

This course will develop both practical and academic skills through applied learning and will enable you to specialise in individual areas of interest through allowing flexibility. You will be assessed through a combination of written examination, projects and case studies, which will cater for different learning styles.

Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition comprises of three units.

The first core unit will enable you to demonstrate an understanding of the science of food safety, nutrition and nutritional needs in a wide range of contexts, and through on-going practical sessions, you will gain practical skills to produce quality food items to meet the needs of individuals.

The second core unit will allow you to develop your understanding of the science of food safety and hygiene, which is essential knowledge for anyone involved in food production in the home, or wishing to work in the food industry. Again practical sessions will support the gaining of theoretical knowledge and ensure learning is a tactile experience.

For your final unit, you will choose to study ‘Experimenting to Solve Food Production’ or ‘Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition’. This will give you the opportunity to study subjects of particular interest or relevance to you, building upon previous learning and experience.

“The food you eat can be either the safest and most powerful form of medicine or the slowest form of poison.”
Ann Wigmore

Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Biology, Chemistry, Product Design, Textiles, Health and Social Care.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

An understanding of food science and nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Care Providers and Nutritionists in hospitals use this knowledge, as do Sports Coaches and Fitness Instructors. Hotels, restaurants, food manufacturers and government agencies also use this understanding to develop menus, food products and policies that support healthy eating initiatives. Many employment opportunities within the field of food science and nutrition are available to graduates.

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade C/5 in GCSE Food Preparation/ Nutrition or Grade C/5 in a Science subject or Technology subject at GCSE

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

3 Units

Unit 1 and 2 mandatory and then optional between 3 and 4.

Unit 1: Mandatory - Internal and external

Unit 2: Mandatory - External

Unit 3: Optional - Internal

Unit 4: Optional - Internal

Additional Support:

Catch up and enrichment clubs will be available. Revision sessions leading up to exams.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

Students will be required to bring ingredients to practical lessons once a week. Recipes can be reduced in quantity to keep costs to a minimum.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Supporting Key Stage 3 & 4 Clubs; Supporting Inter-house Bake off; Catering for the Brine Leas Careers Convention; Visit to the BBC Good Food Show; Visit to Nantwich Food Festival.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

Opportunity to work with KS3 students

French

This course will suit you if you enjoy communicating in French and you want to develop your existing skills to a higher degree of fluency, have a strong interest in French culture, history and politics and want to discover how past events have shaped contemporary society.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7652

Do you want a distinct advantage in our multilingual, global society? Do you want to earn up to 20% extra in your salary? Do you want to be able to meet and converse with people from all over the world? Do you want to learn more about international politics, history and economics? If so, you should consider French as an option.

French is one of the most widely-spoken languages in the world - spoken in over 40 countries - and one of the official languages of international institutions such as the UN and the Olympics. As such, it is a key language in international relations and trade. Our aim is to develop your French listening, reading, speaking and writing skills for particular use in future employment, and to enable you to achieve the necessary fluency techniques and grammatical knowledge to succeed. In order to achieve high standards, incorporates a mixture of authentic materials including broadcasts, newspapers, books and magazines in French. We see grammar as an integral part of language learning and expect you to have a sound working knowledge of basic constructions such as the main tenses and adjectival agreements in French, although some time will be developed to revising the fundamentals before further extending your knowledge.

In the first year, you will study two key areas. The first theme focuses on social issues and trends as a young person in a French speaking society. Within this topic you will communicate in greater depth on familiar topics such as family structures, traditional and modern values, friendships/relationships, youth trends and technology. The second theme centres on political, intellectual and artistic culture. This is when you will study regional culture and heritage in French speaking countries and communities, literature, art, film and music.

The same areas will be studied in your second year. However, you will begin to examine the themes in more detail, studying topics such as wealth and poverty, crime, justice and punishment and discrimination and diversity. You will also undertake an individual research project on a subject or a key question which is of interest to you and which relates to a country or countries where French is spoken. You are required to select relevant information in French from a range of sources, analyse and summarise your findings and ultimately present and discuss these in the speaking exam.

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, it goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart”
Nelson Mandela

French

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: German, Spanish, English, Law, History, Business Studies, Government & Politics, Economics

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Translation and Interpreting, International Relations, Diplomatic Services, Foreign Intelligence Service, Leisure and Tourism, Import and Export, Automotive Industry, Engineering, Multilingual Administration

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE French

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% Examination

Additional Support:

Extra speaking revision with teachers near the external speaking examination and grammar clinics as required.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

Textbooks costing £35 approximately. All additional resources will be provided.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

You will have the opportunity to complete work experience abroad, take part in university essay writing workshops, and help in main school languages lessons.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should revise the three main tenses (past, present and future) before starting Year 12. You should also read and listen to a variety of authentic material in French during the summer.

Destinations of Students Who Studied French at BL6:

Students have gone on to study languages in a variety of places, including Edinburgh, Paris and London. Students often combine foreign languages with other subjects such as Law, Linguistics or English.

Further Mathematics

This course will suit you if you really find Mathematics an interesting subject and you enjoy solving problems, have a desire to be challenged and stretched by studying more difficult topics and have a logical mind and want to develop your reasoning abilities.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE Edexcel 9FM0

Further Mathematics provides students with the opportunity to study mathematical topics outside of the A Level Mathematics syllabus. The course allows you to develop your repertoire of problem solving skills, ability to model real life situations mathematically and to construct logical, reasoned arguments. The content from A Level Mathematics is a prerequisite skill for studying A Level Further Mathematics and, consequently, Further Mathematics must be studied alongside A Level Mathematics: it is not possible to study Further Mathematics if you have not chosen to study Mathematics.

Further Pure Mathematics - it is advisable for students studying Further Mathematics to follow a 4 subject pathway as some higher education institutions do not recognise Further Mathematics and Mathematics as separate A levels; other institutions require both A levels to pursue a mathematics degree. This strand of the course covers different pure mathematical content from A Level Mathematics, many of which are vital to understanding areas in engineering, computer science and physics at higher level. Further Pure makes up half of the overall A Level and is taught in both Years 12 and 13. Nine topics are covered in total in this area: Proof by Induction, Complex Numbers, Matrices, Further Algebra and Functions, Further Calculus, Further Vectors, Polar Coordinates, Hyperbolic Functions, Differential Equations.

Further Statistics - in Year 12 you will complete a module in Further Statistics. This module builds on the Statistics content from A Level Mathematics but areas are covered in much greater depth allowing students to develop a larger repertoire of techniques to critically analyse information. Eight topics are covered in total in this area: Discrete Probability Distributions, Poisson and Normal Distributions, Geometric and Negative Distributions, Hypothesis Testing, Central Limit Theorem, Chi Squared Tests, Probability Generating Functions, Quality of Tests.

In Year 13 you will complete one of Further Mechanics or Decision Mathematics alongside Further Pure Mathematics.

Further Mechanics - studying Further Mechanics allows you more opportunity to complement work you may have completed in A Level Physics as a lot of the same concepts are covered but from a mathematical viewpoint. The nature of this subject means you will be heightening your problem solving skills throughout the module. Studying Further Mechanics is excellent preparation for studying a mathematical or science-based degree. Five topics are covered in total in this area: Momentum and Impulse, Work, Energy and Power, Elastic Strings and Springs and Elastic Energy, Elastic Collisions in One Dimension, Elastic Collisions in Two Dimensions.

Decision Mathematics - decision Mathematics will give you the chance to study an entirely different branch of mathematics covered previously. This area of mathematics leads into areas such as operational research and logistics. A large emphasis is put onto the understanding of algorithms which can give you an insight into computer programming. Five topics are covered in total in this area: Algorithms and Graph Theory, Algorithms on Graphs, Algorithms on Graphs II, Critical Path Analysis, Linear Programming.

Further Mathematics

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geography, Economics.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Academia, Actuary, Engineer, Statistician, Software Development, Meteorologist, Accountant

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% Examination

All subject content is assessed by external examination; you will sit 4 papers:

- Further Pure Mathematics 1
- Further Pure Mathematics 2
- Further Statistics 1
- One of Further Mechanics 1 or Decision Mathematics

Each of the 4 papers are equally weighted.

Additional Support:

If your ambition is to study for a degree in Dentistry, Medicine or Veterinary Science, special sessions are available to you through our Oxbridge/Early Entry Co-ordinator to help you prepare for these extremely competitive courses. Activities include preparation for the UKCAT and BMAT external examination, tailored enrichment opportunities and mock interviews to hone your crucial interview techniques. There will be careers talks and an opportunity to meet with admissions tutors from local universities. You will be given the opportunity to gain vital work experience. Subject clinics are provided for all students during the lunch break

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You will be required to purchase the relevant textbooks for the course; at time of writing these books have yet to be published. You will need to have a scientific calculator that has access to Normal and Binomial distribution tables. We recommend Casio FX-991EX Classwiz, which can be purchased for approx. £20.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should complete the Bridging Course on MyMaths to give you a good set of algebra skills on which to learn the A Level content. The Bridging Course comprises the following topics: factorising quadratics, solving quadratics, the quadratic formula, completing the square, indices and surds. You may also choose to complete the tasks on Sine and Cosine as preparation for the course.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Further Mathematics at BL6:

- Huddersfield University : Energy Engineering
- Durham University : Mathematics
- University of Chester : Mechanical Engineering

Geography

This course will suit you if you enjoy learning about current and future issues affecting society, the economy and the natural world, you are interested in the interaction between people and the environment and its resources, you like to keep up to date with current affairs on a local, national and global scale by watching and reading the news.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification: Advanced Level GCE AQA 7037

Do you enjoy learning about the environment and other issues that affect our lives, now and in the future? Are you interested in finding out more about the world around you? What kind of geographer are you? Do you want to study sciences and/or the arts? If so, you should consider Geography as an option.

It's a fairly safe bet that most of us have, at some time or another, gazed at a stunning view of jagged mountains, or sea cliffs pounded by an angry sea, or got caught in a torrential downpour, or gazed in awe at skyscrapers only to turn a corner to find a run-down area of crumbling houses. But have you ever considered why such landscapes are like this? Geography seeks to explain why, how, and where such features have formed. It's topical, and barely a day goes by without an aspect of the subject gaining media coverage, whether it is the development of fracking, or the varied consequences of storms. If you're curious by nature, and most of us are, and have a desire to find out more about the world and what makes it tick then Geography is the subject for you, and a qualification that you'll almost certainly enjoy studying. Studying Geography at A Level will enable you to capitalise upon your curiosity and make sense of the complex and dynamically changing world. This course has a distinct focus on the interactions of people with their physical environment and human environment. Within these components you will be able to apply your experiences to current issues and real-life examples from a variety of scales. Fieldwork is an integral part of the course and you will take part in fieldwork to embed your learning from the classroom in the real world.

Within the first year, you will investigate two physical geography units, 'Glacial systems and landscapes' and 'Hazards'. You will be informed and gain an appreciation of the beauty and diversity of glaciers, along with the geographical processes responsible for the spectacular scenery we see around our landscapes. Furthermore you will explore the origin and nature of hazards and the various ways in which people respond to them. In addition, you will investigate one human geography unit. 'Changing places', within which you will learn how individuals and groups relate to place on a range of different scales, whilst completing in depth studies on a near and far 'place'. Finally, you will develop a range of geographical skills, including ICT and statistical analysis, through your studies of physical and human geography and whilst undertaking a fieldwork investigation; this individual investigation will be based on a question or issue related to the specification content and will involve data collected in the field.

During your second year you will broaden and deepen your geographical understanding through the investigation of three themes, divided between physical and human geography. The former will focus on 'Water and carbon cycles', whilst the latter enables the study of 'Global Systems and Governance' and 'Contemporary Urban Environments'. Furthermore, you will undertake an individual geographical investigation; again, this will be based on a question or issue related to the specification content and involve data collected in the field.

"Geography is a subject which holds the key to our future"

Michael Palin

Geography

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Biology, English Language, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, History, Economics, Physics Government & Politics

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Geography can be coupled with a wide range of subjects that makes it a versatile subject leading to a plethora of careers including Resource Exploration, Cartography, Law, Seismology, Town and Transport Planning, Advertising, Environmental Management, Business and Teaching

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE Geography

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

80% Examination

20% Coursework

Additional Support:

Students will be provided with information on revision and subject clinics closer to the external examinations

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You are advised to purchase a number of text books, costing approximately £45 in total.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

You are required to take part in a four day fieldwork expedition which is a compulsory part of the A Level qualification; the cost will be confirmed upon enrolment.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

Visit mountainous areas, watch the news and documentaries on the natural world, read National Geographic magazines, visit urban areas where evidence of regeneration can be seen, read information on council websites that give details on how to manage urban spaces, read 'Planet Geography' by Stephen Coddington, visit the Natural History Museum.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Geography at BL6:

- Bristol University : Civil Engineering
- University of Edinburgh : Geology and Physical Geography
- Swansea University : Geography
- Durham University : Geography

German

This course will suit you if you enjoy communicating in German and you want to develop your existing skills to a higher degree of fluency, have a strong interest in German culture, history and politics and want to discover how past events have shaped contemporary society.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7662

Do you want a distinct advantage in our multilingual, global society? Do you want to earn up to 20% extra in your salary? Do you want to be able to meet and converse with people from all over the world? Do you want to learn more about international politics, history and economics? If so, you should consider German as an option.

German is the most widely spoken language in Europe, and over 200 million people worldwide speak it. Germany itself is the fourth largest economy in the world as well as being the second largest exporter in the world. It is always at the forefront of innovation and will be a key player in the world economy of the 21st century. Our vision is to develop your German listening, reading, speaking and writing skills for particular use in future employment and to enable you to achieve the necessary fluency and grammatical knowledge to succeed. In order to achieve high standards, learning incorporates a mixture of authentic materials including broadcasts, newspapers, books and magazines. We see grammar as an integral part of language learning and expect you to have a sound working knowledge of basic constructions such as the main tenses and concept of word order in German, although some time will be devoted to revising the fundamentals before further extending your knowledge.

In the first year, you will study two key areas. The first theme focuses on social issues and trends as a young person in a German speaking society. Within this topic you will communicate in greater depth on familiar topics such as family structures, traditional and modern values, friendships/relationships, youth trends and technology. The second theme centres on political, intellectual and artistic culture. This is when you will study regional culture and heritage in German speaking countries and communities, literature, art, film and music.

The same areas will be studied in your second year. However, you will begin to examine the themes in more detail, studying topics such as wealth and poverty, crime, immigration, racism, economics and politics. You will also undertake an individual research project on a subject or a key question which is of interest to you and which relates to a country or countries where German is spoken. You are required to select relevant information in German from a range of sources, analyse and summarise your findings and ultimately present and discuss these in the speaking exam.

*“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way”
Frank Smith*

German

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: French, Spanish, English, History, Law, Business Studies, Government & Politics, Economics

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Translation and Interpreting, International Relations, Diplomatic Services, Foreign Intelligence Service, Leisure and Tourism, Import and Export, Automotive Industry, Engineering, Multilingual Administration

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE German

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% examination

Additional Support:

Extra speaking revision with teachers near the external speaking examination and grammar clinics as required.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

Textbooks costing £35 approximately. All additional resources will be provided.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

You will have the opportunity to complete work experience abroad, take part in a university essay writing workshops, and help in the main school languages lessons.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should revise the three main tenses (past, present and future) before starting Year 12. You should also read and listen to a variety of authentic material in German during the summer.

Destinations of Students Who Studied German at BL6:

Students have gone on to study languages in a variety of places, including Edinburgh, Bristol and London. Students often combine foreign languages with other subjects such as Law, Linguistics or English

Government & Politics

This course will suit you if you like to challenge other people's opinions, are interested in the world around you, want to know and understand more about the society in which we all live and have a desire to achieve positive change.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7152

Do you have a natural curiosity about the political system which governs our lives? Do you enjoy learning about current affairs locally, nationally and internationally in the news? If so, you should consider Government & Politics as an option.

How do we all get what we want when resources are finite? This is a question fundamental to the study of politics and reveals the subject's continuing relevance. We don't always like politicians and the things that governments do, but the business of politics touches every aspect of our lives. Whilst we might criticise governments for some of their policies, it has to be better than having no government at all. Society just wouldn't function without an elected body to decide, for example, what taxes will be levied, how those taxes will be spent on things like health and education or how the country will be defended. But no matter whether government makes you feel angry or reassured, it's worth having knowledge of how the whole process of an elected government works.

In studying the government of the UK, you will learn about the essential structures and institutions that provide the framework of the UK political system. This will include the nature and sources of the British Constitution, the structure and role of Parliament and the work of the Prime Minister and his/her Cabinet. The impact of the judiciary and the UK's devolved institutions will also be explored. The politics of the UK component analyses the nature of democracy. More specifically, you will study the characteristics of elections and referendums, assessing the role of political parties and pressure groups in seeking to influence opinion. There will also be the opportunity to study the UK's relationship with the European Union, highlighting the ever evolving nature of the subject.

In addition to studying the government and politics of the UK, you will gain an understanding of the government and politics of the USA. This duly provides a fascinating comparison for you, allowing you to gain an appreciation of the political culture in the United States and the American psyche. Finally, you will consider the core ideologies that underpin political theory, particularly focusing on liberalism, conservatism and socialism. In this respect, you will achieve a broad political education, one that prepares you well for further study.

There are 3 broad areas of study:

- The government and politics of the UK
- The government and politics of the USA
- Political ideas

"Politics is the art of the possible"
Otto von Bismarck

Government & Politics

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans. Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: History, Sociology, Geography, Law, English Literature.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Education, Journalism, Think Tanks, Member of Parliament, Local Government, Police, Law, Business and Finance Sector, Charity Work, Researcher

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Grade 6 in History if studied at GCSE. You must also be willing to read widely, have an interest in current affairs and be willing to engage in reasoned debate and argument.

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% Examination

Additional Support:

You will be provided with information on revision and subject clinics closer to the external examinations.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

£50 for additional reading material.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Visit to Parliament and use of key speakers.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should engage with current affairs, particularly through reputable national and local media sources.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Government & Politics at BL6:

- University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies : International Relations
- University of London : Politics
- University of Leeds : International History and Politics
- University of Oxford : History and Politics

Graphic Communications

This course will suit you if: you have an interest in illustration, typography, advertising, digital/traditional media, you want to develop your understanding of communication skills and 2D design as well as the making processes, enjoy experimenting with artistic techniques and processes in a very practical way, are interested in gaining an appreciation of the work of existing artists and designers.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification: Advanced Level GCE AQA 7203

Are you passionate about design and layout? Do you enjoy creating artwork for illustrative purposes? Are you fascinated by advertising? Are you intrigued by the different techniques used by designers and how they are used for expression? If so, you should consider Graphic Communications as an option.

The Graphic Communications course will introduce you to the exciting, stimulating, constantly changing world of visual communication. Studying the work and influence of both contemporary and past creators in the design world, you will be introduced to a wide range of techniques, media and genres to equip and enable you to effectively express your ideas within a particular area of interest under the guidance of experienced specialists. These will then be developed through experimentation and in the production of graphic outcomes, including poster design, packaging, advertising, branding, magazine layout and illustration. There are two components to your A level, a personal investigation and an externally set assignment. Sketch books are vital to each of the components as you will need to fully support the exciting and expressive work you produce.

You will produce an in-depth project within which you will investigate a given theme by working through a design process. This involves researching designers, exploring ideas and graphic techniques and developing your ideas to produce a series of finished pieces. This personal study is also supported by a written outcome. In addition you will complete an externally set assignment in your first and second year, a range of questions are provided by the Examination Board from the 1st February.

For the externally-set assignment you will create and develop ideas to a finished outcome in response to one of the eight exciting starting points you will be given. This project further develops the skills you will have acquired throughout the course with individuality and independence. The final pieces are produced in ten hours during Year 1 and fifteen hours in Year 2 of supervised time.

"I look at graphic design as communication, meaning that the work has to have a vibe to connect to the viewer or perceiver"

John Van Hamersveld

Graphic Communications

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Art, Media Studies, Photography, Textiles

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Graphic Designer, Advertising Creative, Illustrator, Packaging Designer, Magazine Art Director, CAD Designer, Architect

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade C/5 in GCSE Graphics or Grade C/5 in a suitable Art & Design or Design & Technology subject

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

60% Coursework
40% Examination

Additional Support:

Lesson based support, involving skills development of software and traditional graphics skills.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You will be required to purchase sketchbooks and other materials, which will cost approximately £30-£40

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You need to practise graphic techniques, such as Photoshop and Illustrator tutorials in preparation for the course. You should seek to extend your repertoire of creative skills comprehensively.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Graphic Communications at BL6:

- Leeds College of Art and Design
- Loughborough University
- Salford University

Health & Social Care

This course will suit you if you enjoy learning about the needs of others and wish to pursue a career in any of the allied medical professions, such as nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work and midwifery (for example). You should have a keen interest in human biology, as well as health and wellbeing.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification: Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate (one A Level equivalent); Cambridge Assessment; Qualification 601/7060/8

Are you interested in the health and wellbeing of others? Do you wish to pursue a profession in the health or social care sectors? Do you want to know how to support those with physical or mental health issues? Health and Social Care is offered as a one or two year programme and is a technical certificate that is specifically targeted at those looking at careers in the allied health professions and social care services. It provides the underpinning content for degree programmes in nursing, midwifery, and social care, along with medical therapy programmes (such as physical, occupational, sports therapies). The full two year course has three external examinations and three coursework assessments.

The topics in the first year include:

- Positive relationships (coursework): where the importance of professionalism and client relationships is studied, along with the processes of multi-agency working, individual needs, advocacy and employer team relationships.
- Equality, diversity and rights (examination): the promotion of equality and rights is essential in all professions where clients are vulnerable or in need. The implications of diversity for care sectors is addressed, along with the appropriate legislations and policy/practice requirements of the service providers to ensure fair and equal care services.
- Health and safety (examination); you will learn about the processes and procedures in this field, such as disposal of sharps, hazardous substances, bio hazardous materials, physical and psychological health, safeguarding, fire risk, first aid, and risk assessments, along with the outcome of not meeting health and safety legislation.

The topics in the second year include:

- Anatomy and physiology for health (examination); where you will learn about the structure, functions and malfunctions of the following: the cardiovascular system, blood systems, respiratory system, cellular respiration, the digestive system, musculoskeletal systems, endocrine system, brains structure and neurotransmission, the major organs (kidney, liver, pancreas), central nervous system, and system and the ear.
- Mental health (coursework); you will learn about the main types of mental health issues, such as affective disorders, schizophrenia, phobias, body dysmorphia, psychosis (for example) and the causes, signs and symptoms of each. You will also understand how to treat and support individuals with mental health issues at an individual, local or national level.
- Public health (coursework); this is concerned with protecting and improving the health of the population through initiatives and campaigns, legislative and social policy changes, and organisational objectives (such as World Health Organisation, NHS). You will learn about current health targets, such as childhood obesity, cancer survival, and the screening and health promotion processes in place to target these public health issues.

“The greatest mistake in the treatment of diseases is that there are physicians for the body and physicians for the soul, although the two cannot be separated.”

Plato

Health & Social Care

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Chemistry, Physical Education, Mathematics, Law, Government & Politics

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Nursing, Midwifery, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Radiology, Psychology, Therapist, Counselling, Mental Health Services, Prison Service, Youth Offending Teams

Specific Entry Requirements:

66 in Science Trilogy or Grade 6 in two sciences if studied separately at GCSE

Course Duration:

1 year or 2 years

Assessment Method:

First Year:

66% Examination

34% Coursework in the first year

Second Year:

50% Examination

50% Coursework

Additional Support:

Careers talks and opportunity to meet with admissions tutors. You will be given the opportunity to gain vital work experience and to practise for crucial interview techniques. There will be sessions with your tutor and the opportunity to meet with representatives from local universities.

Keeping up to date:

<http://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk>

The Nuffield Trust has a free email subscription to keep you up to date on current health and social care issues.

History

Do you enjoy learning about the past? Do you enjoy working with historical sources? Do you thrive when discussing different historical ideas and debates? If so, you should consider History as an option. History isn't a subject that's stuck in the past, far from it. It is about the events that have shaped society and the world in which we live today.

This course looks at a turbulent and exciting period of history in both Britain and the USA. You will be trained to look for bias and prejudice in all the evidence you study to sift out what is useful and reliable in order for you to make decisions. To be successful in this course, you will need to be able to write extended pieces of work and find reading an enjoyable pastime.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7042

One of the modules you will study is the development of the Tudors, including the challenges facing the consolidation and maintaining of the dynasty from both within and outside England. This requires the study of an extended period of time and will enable you to develop understanding of the process of change and continuity across the Tudor period, 1485-1603. This will involve the studying of: the consolidation of power by the usurper Henry VII, the religious changes introduced to England by Henry VIII, the 'mid-Tudor crisis' of Edward VI and Mary I, before finally studying the successes and failures of the Virgin Queen, Elizabeth I.

The second module you will study is America, 1945-1980 in which you will develop a detailed knowledge and understanding of the exciting developments in foreign and domestic policy and the roles of individuals within the USA. This module provides for a study in depth of the challenges faced by the USA at home and abroad as it emerged from the Second World War as a Superpower. For many Americans, post-war prosperity realised the 'American dream' but the prosperity was not shared by all and significant problems at home and abroad challenged the extent to which the 'American dream' was a reality. It explores concepts and ideas such as American identity at home and abroad, social equality, anti-communism, the Cold War, civil rights and federal versus state rights. It also encourages you to reflect on the nature of democracy in a pluralistic society, political protest and the power of the media.

Furthermore, you will complete a non-examined assessment. This third module provides you with the opportunity to study an area of the British Empire in which you have a particular interest and you will research and produce a 3,000-3,500 word essay on a question of your choice.

"If you would understand anything, observe its beginning and its development"
Aristotle

History

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Law, English Language, English Literature, Government & Politics, Religious Studies, Geography.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Banking, Law, Teaching, Journalism, Civil Service, Voluntary Sector, Curator, Local Government, Archivist, Finance, Business.

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in subject if studied at GCSE

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

80% Examination
20% Coursework

Additional Support:

You will be provided with information on revision and subject clinics closer to the external examinations.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You are asked to purchase textbooks that cost approximately £40 in total

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

- Visits to: Hampton Court, Westminster Abbey, Tower of London, Hever Castle, Moreton Hall, Speke Hall, Hardwick Hall.
- Reading: books by John Guy, G R Elton or David Starkey

Destinations of Students Who Studied History at BL6:

- Oxford University : History & Politics
- Durham University : Classics
- Northumbria University : History
- Manchester Metropolitan University : History and International Politics
- Staffordshire University : Education
- Swansea University : Egyptology and Ancient History

Law

This course will suit you if you are interested in developing an understanding of how the law is made, its operation and effect on our everyday lives, and feel strongly about concepts like justice and equality. If you see yourself as a barrister, solicitor, legal executive, para-legal or legal secretary, then Law is the ideal subject that will help you develop transferable skills such as analysis, evaluation and problem solving.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7162

The coherent operation of a country's legal system is fundamental to its success. Where a society has ceased to function, this is often connected to a lack of respect for the rule of law and broken legal institutions. It therefore follows that by having a firm grasp of the law, not just in terms of what it is but also how it is made, one can begin to realise how a society can be strengthened and the important role an individual can play in this collective endeavour. By studying Law, you will develop a good grounding in the main principles of English law and their continued development. This will enable you to acquire knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of the structure, personnel and functions of the English legal system. A heavy emphasis will be placed on current affairs in order to give a real sense of how the law works in everyday society.

In the first year, the topics include:

- The nature of law and the English legal system
- Criminal Law
- Tort Law

You will develop competence in using legal skills during the study of the nature of law, legal issues and the English legal system. This will allow you to understand what the law is based on and where it comes from. It will also enable you to understand the workings of key legal institutions and personnel, including the procedures and processes which are fundamental to the operation of the English legal system. The Criminal Law and Tort Law elements focus on the concept of liability, emphasising how liability is determined, often by analysing legal cases and hypothetical scenarios.

In the second year topics include:

- The nature of law and the English legal system
- Criminal Law
- Tort Law
- Law of Contract
- Human Rights

Building on the material taught at AS level, and indeed covering the AS topics in greater depth, are the Law of Contract and Human Rights topics. In studying Contract Law, you will be able to recognise the essential requirements of a contract and the theory and rules which underpin Contract Law. The Human Rights element of the course is a welcome addition to the Law specification and allows you to explore how human rights are recognised in both theory and practice.

"The power of the lawyer is in the uncertainty of the law"

Law

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Government & Politics, Sociology, English Language, History, Economics.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Barrister, Chartered Legal Executive, Solicitor, Chartered Accountant, Patent Attorney, the Police Force

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE History. You must also be willing to read widely, have an interest in current affairs and be willing to engage in reasoned debate and argument.

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% Examination

Additional Support:

You will be provided with information on revision and subject clinics closer to the external examinations.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

£50 for additional reading material.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Court visits and use of key speakers.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should engage with current affairs, particularly through reputable national and local media sources.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Law at BL6:

- Northumbria University : Law with Business
- University of Leeds : Law

Mathematics

This course will suit you if you really find Mathematics an interesting subject and you enjoy solving problems, want to be challenged and stretched by studying more difficult topics and have a logical mind and want to develop your reasoning abilities.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE Edexcel 9MA0

Do you find Mathematics is an interesting subject? Do you enjoy solving problems? Do you want to be challenged and stretched by investigating some of the topics that you met at GCSE at a higher level? Do you have a logical mind and want to develop your reasoning abilities? If so, you should consider Mathematics as an option.

The ability to think mathematically and to use mathematical techniques to solve problems is one of the key skills that underlie much of modern life. Very few people (if any), are literate in all the world's languages but the shared language of mathematics connects us with people across continents and through time. A Level Mathematics builds on and extends the skills and content from GCSE Mathematics. The emphasis on problem solving from GCSE is developed further and you will gain more confidence in constructing mathematical arguments. You will also learn how increasingly complex real-life scenarios can be modelled mathematically.

The course comprises three elements: pure mathematics, mechanics and statistics and these three elements are covered in both Years 12 and 13.

Pure Mathematics

In this strand of the course, you will gain proficiency in more advanced algebraic techniques to build on the work at GCSE as well as introduce some new topics such as calculus and logarithms. Ten topics in total are covered in this area: Proof, Algebra and Functions, Coordinate Geometry in the (x, y) Plane, Sequences and Series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and Logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical Methods, Vectors.

Statistics

As with mechanics, in statistics you are applying your skills to a different context. You will be gaining an understanding of more sophisticated ways of analysing data than those seen at GCSE. In this particular strand, you will work with a large data set on the subject of weather. Five topics are covered in this area: Statistical Sampling, Data Presentation and Interpretation, Probability, Statistical Distributions, Hypothesis Testing.

Mechanics

This part of the course allows you to utilise your mathematical skill to solve similar problems to those they may encounter in Physics. For instance, using skills from trigonometry to deal with forces acting on a slope or to use calculus to find an object's acceleration. Four topics are covered in this area: Quantities and Units in Mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's Law, Moments.

"Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas"
Albert Einstein

Mathematics

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: : Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Economics, Geography, IT. Students with aspirations to study Mathematics, Physics or Engineering at university are advised that they may also need to study A Level Further Mathematics.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Actuary, Education, Research Technician, Engineer, Chartered Accountant

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% Examination

All subject content is assessed by external examination; you will sit 3 papers:

- Pure Mathematics 1
- Pure Mathematics 2
- Statistics and Mechanics

Each of the 3 papers are equally weighted.

Additional Support:

If your ambition is to study for a degree in Dentistry, Medicine or Veterinary Science, special sessions are available to you through our Oxbridge/Early Entry Co-ordinator to help you prepare for these extremely competitive courses. Activities include preparation for the UKCAT and BMAT external examination, tailored enrichment opportunities and mock interviews to hone your crucial interview techniques. There will be careers talks and an opportunity to meet with admissions tutors from local universities. You will be given the opportunity to gain vital work experience. Subject clinics are run during the lunch break.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You will be required to purchase the relevant textbooks for the course; at time of writing these books have yet to be published. You will need to have a scientific calculator that has access to Normal and Binomial distribution tables. We recommend Casio FX-991EX Classwiz, which can be purchased for approx. £20.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should complete the Bridging Course on MyMaths to give them a good set of algebra skills on which to learn the A Level content. The Bridging Course comprises the following topics: factorising quadratics, solving quadratics, the quadratic formula, completing the square, indices and surds. You may also choose to complete the tasks on Sine and Cosine as preparation for the course.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Further Mathematics at BL6:

- Manchester University : Mathematics
- The University of Birmingham : Accounting and Finance
- University of Warwick : Engineering; Mathematics
- Sheffield Hallam University : Mathematics
- University of Salford : Mathematics
- Apprenticeship : Rolls Royce

Media Studies

This course will suit you if you have a keen interest in all aspects of media, are organised and have the ability to investigate media theories and concepts via reading and research, are interested in analysis and debates around how media texts are constructed and attract audiences, are enthusiastic to learn and apply skills in a range of media technologies and you have strong practical and creative skills.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE WJEC

Are you interested in the media around you and how it shapes our lives? Are you analytical, imaginative, creative and keen to involve yourself in real media production? Would you like to acquire a broad range of analytical and technological skills that you can employ across many different subject areas? If so, you should consider studying Media Studies as an option.

Within the Media course, you will examine the development of media institutions and analyse and explore a wide variety of media including: advertising and marketing, the music industry, newspapers, the film industry, radio, video game industry, TV in the global age and online media. This will be achieved by exploring the fundamental concepts of media: genre, narrative, industries, audiences and representations.

In year one, you will focus on the study of specified media texts with a focus on: media language, media representatives, audiences and media industries. You will also complete a 'cross media production' from a brief set by WJEC, the examination board. This will involve creating a piece of media based on one of the following media platforms: TV, magazines, film marketing or music marketing. This will be internally assessed.

Year two will develop the study and knowledge acquired in year one. You will further your study of the media with a broader focus on historical, contemporary and international media.

"Media study does not replace text. It broadens and deepens our understanding of texts"
Philip M Anderson

Media Studies

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Art and Design, Graphic Communications, English Literature, Sociology, English Language, History

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Public Relations, Advertising and Marketing, Broadcasting, Journalism, Animation, TV and Film Industries, Photography

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade C/5 in subject if studied at GCSE. An enthusiasm for all aspects of the media and an interest in the huge impact that the media has on society is a must.

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

70% Examination
30% NEA – Cross Media Study

Additional Support:

Revision sessions will be available closer to the examination period

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

Approx. £60 for various visits

Destinations of Students Who Studied Media at BL6:

- University of Central Lancashire : Film Studies
- University of Lincoln : Media Production
- University for the Creative Arts : Film Production
- University of Derby : Media Studies and English
- University of Kent : Media

Music

This course will suit you if you are a musician who enjoys performing, composition and developing your listening and analysing skills.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7272

Do you enjoy exploring the intention of composers and delving into the reasons they chose to compose for a particular instrumental timbre? Do you enjoy exploring the development of music? Do you enjoy developing your performance skills? Are you interested in composition? If so, you should consider Music A Level as an option.

The Music A Level course is designed to develop your skills to a level appropriate for entry to a music-related course at university or specialist music college. More fundamentally, however, it provides an informed basis for a life-long appreciation and enjoyment of music. This is a challenging course that draws on and develops a very wide range of academic and practical musical skills, yet it also offers opportunities to gain excellent general academic skills in historical research, writing and presentation.

This course explores music through a close combination of performing, composition, listening and analysing. Studies focus on Western Classical Music (The Operas of Mozart and the Piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg) as well as exploring Music for Media and Music for Theatre.

Opportunities exist to develop creative skills using music technology, as well as through more traditional harmony, composition and instrumental activities. You will develop the skills necessary to research, analyse and reflect critically upon music through a wide range of practical, written and listening-based tasks. You will prepare detailed written essays on the music you have studied and undertake a practical performance exam.

“Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent”
Victor Hugo

Music

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

A Level Music is a challenging and varied subject. You will use a range of skills studying performance, composition and theoretical analysis. You will also study a wide range of music from opera to jazz. If you have a passion for music, enjoy a challenge and want a varied subject then Music A Level is the course for you.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Drama & Theatre, Performing Arts and English Language. However, the Music A Level complements many subjects due to the variety of skills required.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Instrumental Tutor, Research, Composer, Session Musician, Professional Musician, Secondary School Music Teacher, Music Therapist.

Specific Entry Requirements:

GCSE Music Grade 5 or an equivalent level of musical experience. You must also be able to read music notation and be around Grade 5 standard on your principle instrument. Basic keyboard skills are also extremely useful.

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

40% Listening Examination
35% Solo Performance Examination
(externally assessed)
25% Composition
(externally assessed)

Additional Support:

Instrumental lessons

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

Instrumental lessons (cost dependent on instrument and teacher); optional visits.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Presentation evenings, various extra curricular groups and school concerts.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You are encouraged to listen to Mozart Operas and a variety of musical theatre. You are also advised to revise Grade 5 music theory.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Music at BL6:

- Leeds University : Film Composition
- Leeds College of Music : Music

Photography

This course will suit you if you have a creative eye, are interested in experimenting and exploring new techniques in photography, are interested in learning a variety of photography techniques using a Digital SLR to create innovative photographs.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7206

Are you passionate about photography? Are you intrigued by the different techniques used by photographers and how they are used for expression? Do you want to further explore photography as a hobby or personal interest? If so, you should consider A Level Photography as an option.

A Level Photography explores the creative, technical and theoretical elements of Photography. You will be supported on a range of traditional and digital routes, gaining an understanding of both traditional and contemporary practice and what makes photography successful in visual terms. You will be given the opportunity to appreciate the work of other artists, photographers and designers and get involved with photographic styling and learn to manipulate images using computers within project work. There are photo shoot opportunities, including visits to a foreign country, such as Iceland.

In addition to developing technical and creative elements you will have the opportunity to step back in time and learn about darkroom photography. You will have the opportunity to not only produce your own film and photogram's, but learn how to develop your photographs using the developer, stop and fixer in the darkroom.

Traditional wet-based photographic darkroom practice continues to be used in some areas of professional photography. Although digital processing is now more common, traditional wet-based darkroom practice is particularly used for black and white exhibition printing and fine art photography.

"I began to realise that the camera sees the world differently than the human eye and that sometimes those differences can make a photograph more powerful than what you actually observed"
Glen Rowell

Photography

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Art, Textiles, Media Studies, Graphic Communications

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Photographer, Press Photographer, Digital Editor, Television/Film/Video Producer, Photographic Stylist, Photojournalist

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in Art if studied at GCSE, or Grade 5 in a Technology subject if studied at GCSE

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

60% Coursework : Component 1
40% Examination : Component 2

Additional Support:

Personal Support Plans; lunchtime and after school sessions

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

£50 for materials

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Visits from external speakers and various residential and day trips

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should select a famous photographer and take photographs in their style of work

Physical Education

This course will suit you if you have a passion for sport and are interested in the science, psychology, current and historical issues associated with sport.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification: Advanced Level GCE AQA 7582

Are you an active and competitive sportsperson? Do you have an interest in how the human body and mind works? If so, you should consider Physical Education as an option. This course can only be studied over a 2 year period.

As a talented sportsperson your skill, ability, motivation and, not to mention, brainpower can be rewarded. A Level Physical Education is a multidisciplinary course; as well as developing the academic skills of a scientist you will also become a psychologist, physiologist, sociologist and even a philosopher.

Physical Education is fascinating, varied and challenging with an interesting range of topics: the science of the human body, the psychology of the performers' mind, the analysis and improvement of performance and the current and historical issues associated with sport. Much of the knowledge and understanding gained on the course can be applied to you as a sportsperson and used to improve your personal performance.

In the first year you will develop knowledge and skills to help understand the opportunities for and effects of leading a healthy and active lifestyle. You will also develop knowledge in the following areas: sport psychology, exercise physiology, sport and society, showing application to sporting contexts.

In the second year, you will further develop your understanding of physiological, psychological and biomechanical aspects that optimise performance. You will be given the opportunity to utilise your own knowledge and understanding developed during the course to analyse your own personal performance.

"You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great"
Zig Ziglar

Physical Education

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Biology, Psychology, Physics

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Exercise, Coach/teacher, Physiotherapist, Sports Development Officer, Sports Therapist, Sport and Exercise, Psychologist, Sports Scientist

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE PE and are competing in sport to a high standard outside of school.

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

70% Examination
30% Practical

Additional Support:

Students will be provided with information on revision and subject clinics closer to the external examinations.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You are asked to purchase 2 text books that costs approx. £25 each.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Parents' meeting in first term

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should compete in at least one competitive sporting event

Physics

This course will suit you if you enjoy carrying out experiments and looking for patterns in the results, are interested in questioning everything around you in order to find out how the physical world works and like to keep up to date with current developments in the world of science.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7408

Do you want a challenge? Are you interested in knowing what makes everything happen? Do you enjoy practical work and have a desire to put your mathematical skills to use? If so, you should choose Physics as an option.

Physics is a challenging but rewarding subject covering everything from the birth of the Universe to the death of the stars, from the tiniest sub-atomic particle to the entire Cosmos. Physics at this level is a subject for a thinking person. The course is structured to foster the knowledge and understanding of concepts rather than simply the ability to remember facts. This clearly should be to your liking if you enjoy developing basic ideas and applying them to new situations. Physics is about making predictions, testing them through observations and measurements and devising theories and laws to make more predictions. It is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities that will develop your skills and confidence needed to investigate how living things behave and work. There is no coursework at Physics A Level; however, your skills will be assessed throughout the 2 years by your subject tutor during a series of essential required practicals, which are linked to theory.

In the first year you will develop the practical skills that will be assessed within your written examinations and foundations of physics, including physical quantities and units, making measurements and analysing data, nature of quantities, forces and motion, forces in action, work, energy and power, materials, Newton's laws of motion and momentum. You will study electrons, waves and photons that includes charge and current, energy, power and resistance, electrical circuits, waves and quantum physics.

In the second year you will study circular motion, SHM, resonance, thermal energy transfer, ideal gases, kinetic theory, gravitational fields, electrical fields, magnetic fields, capacitance, electromagnetic induction including alternating currents and transformers, nuclear radiation, fission and fusion. There is also a compulsory optional unit which could be Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Engineering Physics, Turning Points or Electronics.

"Physics is about questioning, studying, probing nature. You probe, and if you are lucky, you get strange clues"

Lene Hau

Physics

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Chemistry, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Biology, Electronics and Economics

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Astrophysics, Forensics, Health Physics, Architecture, Computing, Engineering (Mechanical, Civil, Electrical, Automotive, Aeronautical)

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in subject if studied at GCSE or 56 in Science Trilogy

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% Examination

Additional Support:

If your ambition is to study for a degree in Dentistry, Medicine or Veterinary Science, special sessions are available to you through our Oxbridge/Early Entry Co-ordinator to help you prepare for these extremely competitive courses. Activities include preparation for the UKCAT and BMAT external examinations, tailored enrichment opportunities, vital work experience and mock interviews to hone your crucial interview techniques. There will be careers talks and an opportunity to meet with admissions tutors from local universities. You will also have the opportunity to apply for the Nuffield Placement Scheme. You will also be able to attend regular lunchtime drop in and revision sessions, which are run twice weekly. There are also additional Mathematics lessons to support you and teaching staff are available

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You are advised to purchase: the text book AQA A Level Physics (approx. £36); a calculator (approx. £6); revision guides which are produced in-house are also available (approx. £10)

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Physics Olympiad, Senior Physics Challenge, Visits to Keele Observatory, Physics lectures at Keele University

Destinations of Students Who Studied Physics at BL6:

- Apprenticeship with Rolls Royce
- Warwick University : Engineering
- University of Manchester : Dentistry
- Lancaster University : Physics
- Durham University : Mathematics
- UCLAN : Photography

Product Design

This course will suit you if: you are a 'hands on' person who enjoys designing and making, have a creative mind and enjoy designing your own projects and you approach problem solving in a clear and logical manner.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7552

Are you a hands-on person? Do you enjoy being creative and like the idea of experimenting with techniques using 3D media, materials and processes? Do you love innovation? If so, you should consider Product Design as an option.

Practically everything you use, see and touch in a day is designed by someone. Design is key to everything out there, be it architecture, furniture design, electrical products, toys, fashion, packaging, graphics, jewellery etc. Designers hold a pivotal position in society as they determine the success or failure of every product and how it impacts on the consumers who use them.

You will develop your skills in 3D design by using a range of media, materials and processes , including woods, metals, plastics, wire, paper, card, clay, modroc, recycled materials and mixed media. You will complete projects that encourage you to work through the 3D design process in a thorough and experimental manner. This will develop your skills in research, designing on paper, exploring ideas through making 3D models and creating final outcomes. You will also investigate the work of artists and designers to further inform and inspire you in your work. As the course progresses, you will be able to work in a style very much suited to your own interests, skills and progression intentions.

"A designer dreams of things that never were, and says, 'why not?'"

Dick Powell

Product Design

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Fine Art, Textiles, Graphic Communications, Photography, Mathematics, Physics, Engineering

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Architecture, Education, Theatre Design, Product Design, Automotive & Transport Design, Manufacturing, Advertising, Engineering, Sculpture, Interior Design.

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade C/5 in subject at GCSE

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

50% Examination
50% Coursework

Additional Support:

You are welcome to work on your pieces at any time. There are lunchtime and after school catch up sessions and additional sessions to develop technical expertise on software, machinery, tools and equipment.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

Approx. £100-£200, for the cost of materials and text book. Visits to London and Ikea.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Vex Robotics Competition, in class support, guest speakers and a visit to IKEA design department.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

DIY practical skills would be beneficial.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Product Design at BL6:

- Loughborough University : Product Design and Technology; Industrial Design
- University of Herfordshire : Product Design
- University of Lincoln : Product Design

Psychology

This course will suit you if you have an interest in human behaviour and the motives behind our behaviour, are literate and articulate and are prepared to ask questions and contribute to discussions. You need to have a critical, enquiring mind, accept that human behaviour can be studied scientifically and believe that an understanding of human psychology can be put into practise to help improve the lives of individuals and groups in society.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE Edexcel 9PS0

Are you interested in finding out the way we think and feel? Are you intrigued with why people behave the way they do? Do you want to know what makes humans 'tick'? If so, you should consider Psychology as an option.

The word 'Psychology' has three Greek roots; 'Psyche' meaning 'mind and soul' and 'Logos' meaning 'the study of'. Literally speaking, Psychology is the study of the mind. There are a number of different fields within Psychology, some of which will be covered in Year 12 and others in Year 13. Clinical Psychology is concerned with diagnosing and treating disorders of the brain, emotional disturbances and behaviour problems. Child Psychology is the study of the mental and emotional development of children including contemporary issues such as Autism.

Cognitive Psychology deals with how the human mind receives and interprets information and can aid our understanding of issues within criminology. By studying a diverse array of perspectives, you will begin to become more aware of what interests you within Psychology and areas you may wish to study at university or develop skills towards employment.

In the first year, you will study four approaches (Social, Cognitive, Biological and Learning) to gain a foundation in psychology. During the second year, you will be able to develop your understanding through selection of a choice of applications including Child and Clinical Psychology.

You need to develop a holistic understanding of Psychology, from considering conflicting and complementary explanations of clinical issues, major debates, scientific elements and genetics to research materials and statistics. This will form the foundations for Paper 3 (A Level), which focuses on issues, debates and skills in Psychology.

"Within psychology and neuroscience, some new and rigorous experimental paradigms for studying consciousness have helped it begin to overcome the stigma that has been attached to the top for most of this century."

David Chalmers

Psychology

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Mathematics, Sociology, Biology, English Literature, English Language, Law.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Social Work, Education, Medicine, Clinical Psychology, Journalism, Health, Law, Social Work, the Police Force, Psychiatry, Business

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature, and Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics or Grade 6 in at least one GCSE Science subject.

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% Examination

Additional Support:

You will be provided with information on revision and subject clinics closer to the external examinations.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You are advised to purchase the core textbook (approx. £25). There will also be a small cost for student workbooks that are printed in-house.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Learning log assignments will involve a variety of tasks designed to extend your learning of psychology. Key speakers will visit BL6. There will be extended application activities to enhance learning of unseen stimulus.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You need to read around the topic areas specified in the Edexcel Psychology specification, for example, biological psychology. Read online articles concerning psychological issues and debates. Attend taster sessions. Attend open evenings and talk to subject specialists. You should read the prospectus and make sure the course is right for you.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Psychology at BL6:

- Durham University : Psychology
- Edinburgh University : Psychology and Philosophy
- Keele University : Criminology and Education; Psychology with Social Science
- Bangor University : Psychology

Religious Studies

This course will suit you if you enjoy examining issues from a variety of perspectives, are willing to explore the views of others as well as examining your own opinions and enjoy expressing your opinions verbally and in essays.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE 7062

What should I do? How should I act? What is valuable about life? What is right? What exists? Religious Studies will help you to explore these essential questions from various religious and non-religious perspectives.

Religious Studies will enable you to answer some of life's most fascinating questions, whilst delving into thought provoking topics and philosophical ideas that make up and shape the religious traditions in British society. Religious Studies is an inclusive subject, designed for people of any faith and people who have no faith. This course will encourage you to develop your interest in a study of religion and its relation to the wider world, adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of ethics and reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes.

In the first year you will study three units. In the first unit you will study a religious faith, developing understanding of their god/gods and ultimate reality, attitudes to life after death, their sources of religion and authority, the religions key moral principles and religious identity. Then, within the Philosophy unit you will study arguments for and against the existence of God, life after death and religious experience. Through the final unit, Ethics, you will debate ethical theories, issues of human life and death and issues of animal life and death.

The second year of Religious Studies enables you to study in greater depth the religious faith studied in year 12, including the challenge from science, the nature and role of religion, key moral principles, religious identity, religion and sexual identity and religious pluralism within the religious faith. Within the Philosophy unit you will add to the understanding gained in Year 12 by studying religious language, miracles, self and life after death plus the nature and function of religion. The topics studied within the Ethics unit will include an introduction to meta ethics, free will and moral responsibility, the conscience and the moral philosophies of both Utilitarianism and Kantian Deontology.

*"In law a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so."
Immanuel Kant*

Religious Studies

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Government & Politics, Law, History, English, Sociology, Psychology, Sciences

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Government, Teaching, Human Rights, Business, Nursing/Midwifery, Social Care

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in subject if studied at GCSE. It is preferable, but not essential to have studied Religious Studies in Key Stage 4.

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% Examination

Additional Support:

Staff will be available for out of lesson times - timetable dependent. Additional out of lesson revision sessions may be run in the lead up to the examinations.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

Two text books (optional) costing approx. £50
There will possibly be attendance to conferences in Chester

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

You will have the opportunity to attend study days run by Chester Cathedral and Ashton 6th Form. You will also have the opportunity to work with students in Year 7 RE lessons.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should spend time researching the concepts of Ethics and Philosophy, including the differences between them.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Religious Studies at BL6:

- Sheffield Hallam University : Applied Nursing and Social Care
- Keele University : Philosophy

Sociology

This course will suit you if you are open minded and willing to look at familiar things in different ways and have an interest in current affairs and the society around you. You should enjoy discussions and debates, have an enquiring mind and are a good communicator who enjoys essay writing.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7192

Do you want to know how society works? Do you question why there are winners and losers in society? Are you interested in the solutions to the challenges faced by our communities today? If so, you should consider Sociology as an option.

Sociology is about the study of human social behaviour within society. It looks specifically at how components of society work and how its different parts influence each other on a global scale. It also looks at how people's ideas and social behaviour are influenced by the society in which they live and how, at the same time, people can influence and change society. Sociology is a subject that takes away the blinkers that many people have throughout life. It will provide you with explanations and justifications, often biased, as to why people act and behave within society in the way they do.

There are three integral parts to the study of each topic area:

- Sociological theories, perspectives and methods
- The design of the research used to obtain the data under consideration, including its strengths and weaknesses
- Attention must be given to drawing out the links studied

Key areas of study include: Education, Families and Households, Beliefs in Society, Crime and Deviance, Theory and Methods, including methods in context. There are two core these you will study within the course:

- Socialisation, culture and identity
- Social differentiation, power and stratification

The themes should be understood and applied to particular substantive areas of sociology. However, these themes are to be interpreted broadly as threads running through many areas of social life and should not therefore be regarded as discrete topics. In addition, you must understand the significance of conflict and consensus, social structure and social actions and the role of value.

"The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind"

William James (1842-1910)

Sociology

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Law, Psychology, Government & Politics, Religious Studies, Biology, English Literature.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Occupational Health, Counsellor, Nursing, Educational Psychologist, Teaching, Personnel, Civil Service, Politics, Business, the Police Force

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature. Good reading, writing and comprehension skills are required, along with a genuine interest in the subject, a real motivation to work hard.

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% Examination

Additional Support:

You will be provided with information on revision and subject clinics will be held prior to the external examinations.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You are advised to purchase the core text books £50.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Learning log assignments. These will involve a variety of tasks designed to extend your learning of sociology. Extended application activities to enhance learning of unseen stimulus. Key speakers will visit BL6.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You need to read around the topic areas specified in the AQA Sociology specification for example, crime and deviance. Read online articles concerning Sociological issues and debates. Attend taster sessions. Attend open evenings and talk to subject specialists. Read prospectus and ensure the course is right for you.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Sociology at BL6:

- Bangor University : Psychology; Psychology with Clinical and Health Psychology
- London South Bank University : Children's Nursing
- Keele University : Criminology and Education; Psychology with Social Science
- Sheffield Hallam University : Marketing Communications and Advertising
- Birmingham City University : Criminology
- University of Derby : Occupational Therapy

Spanish

This course will suit you if you enjoy communicating in Spanish and you want to develop your existing skills to a higher degree of fluency, have a strong interest in Spanish culture, history and politics and want to discover how past events have shaped contemporary society.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7692

Do you want a distinct advantage in our multilingual, global society? Do you want to earn up to 20% extra in your salary? Do you want to be able to meet and converse with people from all over the world? Do you want to learn more about international politics, history and economics? If so, you should consider Spanish as an option.

Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world and more people speak Spanish as their first language than speak English. It is spoken in over 40 countries worldwide and in the USA nearly 15% of the population speak Spanish as their first language. Our vision is to develop your Spanish listening, reading, speaking and writing skills for particular use in future employment and to enable you to achieve the necessary fluency and grammatical knowledge to succeed. In order to achieve high standards, learning incorporates a mixture of authentic materials including broadcasts, newspapers, books and magazines. We see grammar as an integral part of language learning and expect you to have a sound working knowledge of basic constructions such as the main tenses and adjectival agreements in Spanish, although some time will be devoted to revising the fundamentals before further extending your knowledge.

In the first year, you will study two key areas. The first theme focuses on social issues and trends as a young person in a Spanish speaking society. Within this topic you will communicate in greater depth on familiar topics such as family structures, traditional and modern values, friendships/relationships, youth trends and technology. The second theme centres on political, intellectual and artistic culture. This is when you will study regional culture and heritage in Spanish speaking countries and communities, literature, art, film and music.

The same areas will be studied in your second year. However, you will begin to examine the themes in more detail, studying topics such as education, immigration, racism and religious diversity. You will also undertake an individual research project on a subject or a key question which is of interest to you and which relates to a country or countries where Spanish is spoken. You are required to select relevant information in Spanish from a range of sources, analyse and summarise your findings and ultimately present and discuss these in the speaking exam.

"No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive"

Ghandi

Spanish

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: German, French, English, History, Law, Business Studies, Government & Politics, Economics

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Translation and Interpreting, International Relations, Diplomatic Services, Foreign Intelligence Service, Leisure and Tourism, Import and Export, Automotive Industry, Engineering, Multilingual Administration

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% examination

Additional Support:

Extra speaking revision with teachers near the external speaking examination and grammar clinics as required.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

Textbooks costing £35 approximately. All additional resources will be provided.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

You will have the opportunity to complete work experience abroad, take part in university essay writing workshops, and help in the main school languages lessons.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should revise the three main tenses (past, present and future) before starting Year 12. You should also read and listen to a variety of authentic material in Spanish during the summer.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Spanish at BL6:

Students have gone on to study languages in a variety of places, including Edinburgh, Oxford and London. Students often combine foreign languages with other subjects such as Law, Linguistics or English.

Textiles

This course will suit you if you have an interest in textiles and fashion and want to explore decorative and wearable design, want to develop your understanding of design skills and making processes, enjoy experimenting with artistic techniques and processes in a very practical way and are interested in gaining an appreciation of the work of existing artists and designers.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification : Advanced Level GCE AQA 7204

Are you excited by fashion and textiles as a tangible art form? Do you love the various qualities which different fabrics and stitches possess and how they can be used for expression? Do you like experimenting with artistic techniques and processes in a very practical way? Are you interested in gaining an appreciation of the work of existing artists and designers? If so, you should consider Textiles as an option.

Textiles will nurture your creativity through focusing on the development of your design and craft skills. You will work with a range of materials and you will have the opportunity to explore decorative and wearable items. The course is for those who want to learn how to work through a process of research, design and production which will result in individual and original pieces of work. Whilst you study, you will examine a variety of artist and designer work to inspire your own pieces. Using these methods you will build up a portfolio of practical work that is exciting, inventive and individual. There are two components to your A level, a personal investigation and an externally set assignment. Sketch books are vital to each of the components as you will need to fully support the exciting and expressive work you produce.

Within this A level you will produce an in-depth project within which you will investigate an idea, concept or theme by working through a design process. This involves researching designers, exploring ideas and textile techniques and producing a series of finished pieces. This personal study is also supported by a written outcome in Year 13.

In addition you will complete an externally set assignment. In your second year a range of questions are provided by the examination board and students choose one question to work through, further developing the skills acquired throughout the course in a more individual and independent manner. The final responses are produced in fifteen hours of supervised time.

“Fashion is a language that creates itself in clothes to interpret reality”
Karl Lagerfeld

Textiles

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Fine Art, Drama and Theatre Studies, Photography, Graphic Communications,

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Fashion Print Designer, Interior Designer, Knitwear Designer, Home Furnishing Designer, Merchandising

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade C/5 if studied at GCSE or Grade C/5 in a suitable GCSE Art & Design or Design & Technology subject.

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

60% Coursework : Component 1
40% External Examination : Component 2

Additional Support:

You will be provided with information on revision and subject clinics closer to the external examinations.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You will need to purchase 2 sketchbooks and some fabrics, approx. £20. A visit to the Clothes show Live, approx. £15

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

You will have the opportunity to work with Key Stage 4 and to visit the Clothes Show Live

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should attend lower school support lessons, offer primary support and complete work that will be set during the BL6 Taster Sessions

Destinations of Students Who Studied Textiles at BL6:

- Loughborough University
- Liverpool John Moores University
- Manchester University
- Bath Spa University
- Leeds College of Art
- Staffordshire University
- London College of Fashion

BTEC Engineering Extended Certificate

This course will suit you if you want to work in engineering in the future and want to develop your practical skills while studying the theory behind engineering.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification: BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate (1 A Level equivalent), Pearson

Are you interested in designing, building and testing new technologies and products? Are you creative? Do you enjoy solving problems? If so, you should consider Engineering BTEC as an option.

BTEC Engineering Level 3 Extended Certificate provides a specialist, work-regulated programme of study that covers the knowledge and practical skills required in the vocational sector. There are a wide variety of units which will be delivered in other subjects, such as Fabrication, Electronics and CAD.

The qualification offers an engaging programme for those who are clear about the area of further education or employment they wish to pursue.

You will be required to complete tasks and assignments in lessons throughout the course and will achieve a pass, merit or distinction for each unit, depending upon the quality of their learning and work produced.

You will experience a variety of learning experiences that will include both theoretical and practical assessment. The majority of lessons will be computer-suite based. You will develop many of the key skills required for employment or university.

“What we usually consider as impossible are quite simply engineering problems.... there’s no law of physics preventing them”
Michio Kaku

BTEC Engineering

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Mathematics, Physics, Business Studies

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering and Design, Manufacturing Engineering, Industrial Engineering

Specific Entry Requirements:

BTEC Merit Award in Engineering if studied at Key Stage 4

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

4 units, of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external

83% Mandatory Content

67% External Assessment

Additional Support:

Support sessions at lunchtime and after school

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

Approx. £50 for materials and a visit to Liverpool John Moores University Engineering Department

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Vex Robotics Competition and guest speakers

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You should conduct wider reading to get to know the engineering sectors and related occupations

Destinations of Students Who Studied Engineering BTEC at BL6:

- Liverpool John Moores University : Fashion

BTEC Music

This course will suit you if you are creative, committed, hard working and enjoy performing, composing and exploring music genres.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification: BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Performance, Pearson

Do you enjoy performing music? Would you like to explore the world of composition? Are you interested in different genres of music? Do you want to find out more about how the music industry works? If so, you should consider BTEC Music as an option.

This course is intended for students working in any musical discipline who wish to develop a progressional approach to music performance. The focus is on modern popular music but students are required to work a very wide range of familiar and unfamiliar styles within this general area.

The course features units on music performance techniques, working and developing as a musical ensemble, music performance session styles and listening skills. The course is continually assessed through assignments that lead, for example, to solo and ensemble performances; written work based on listening and personal research; reflective journals, presentations, musical transcriptions; assessed discussions and individual assessments.

Although some activities will require you to work as individuals, most learning takes place in group and workshop situations. You will often be taught specific practical techniques and theory during lessons and expected to work on these independently through personal practice and group rehearsals outside lesson time. You will be given regular individual and group feedback on your progress and will work to meet targets set by yourself or by other members of the course.

*“Music gives us a language that occurs across the disciplines, helps us to see connections and brings a more coherent meaning to our world”
Ernest Boyer, President, Carnegie Foundation*

BTEC Music

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: BTEC Performing Arts, Music A Level, Drama and Theatre

Subject Related Career Destinations:

Music Performance, commercial music, musical technology, music management, composition and music production

Specific Entry Requirements:

BTEC Merit Award in Music if studied at Key Stage 4 or Grade 5 in GCSE Music

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

100% Coursework

Additional Support:

Instrumental lessons

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

Instrumental lessons (cost dependent on instrument and teacher)

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

You can participate in the school show, perform at presentation evenings and various extra curricular groups

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You are encouraged to listen to a wide variety of music through the decades and set personal performance targets to assess your current level of ability.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Music BTEC at BL6:

- St. Mary's University : Drama & Applied Theatre
- University of Salford : Media and Performance
- Newcastle College : BTEC Performing Arts

BTEC Performing Arts Extended Diploma

This course will suit you if you enjoy acting, singing, dancing or all three, enjoy performing in front of an audience both as part of an ensemble and individually, enjoy applying performance skills to real life settings and would like a career in the performing arts or entertainment business.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (Full Time, 3 A Levels equivalent), Pearson

Do you love to perform? Are you creative? Do you like to express yourself? Do you like to be challenged and taken out of your comfort zone? Are you interested in drama and dance schools or university? If so, you should consider BTEC Performing Arts Extended Diploma as an option. This full time demanding vocational course provides the opportunity to study Acting and Performing Arts at National Diploma level. You can choose a general route or a pathway which focusses on acting, dance and musical theatre.

This course will give you experience of different acting, dance and singing styles and techniques which will be covered using a range of teaching methods such as discussion, presentation, group work, demonstration and practical work.

Assessment is specifically designed to fit the purpose and objective of the qualification. It includes a range of assessment types and styles suited to vocational qualifications in the sector. There are three main forms of assessment that you need to be made aware of: external, internal and synoptic.

You will study a series of 13 units over the 2 years, of which 7 are mandatory and 4 are external. Mandatory content (67%), External assessment (33%).

Examples of Mandatory Units: Investigating Practitioners' Work; Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance; Group Performance.

Examples of Optional Units: Interpreting Classical Text for Performance; Acting Styles; Screen Acting; Musical Theatre Techniques; Contemporary Dance Technique; Singing Techniques for Performers.

"The world is a complicated place, and there's a lot of division between people. The performing arts tends to unify people in a way nothing else does".

David Rubenstein

BTEC Performing Arts

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content, and options that will support your future career plans. This is a full time vocational course, designed to prepare, improve and develop your performing arts skills across a range of disciplines, linking to work based placement.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

BTEC Level 3 National Performing Arts suite is designed to provide creative and innovative vocational opportunities for learners wanting to progress to higher education, an apprenticeship or employment.

Specific Entry Requirements:

BTEC Merit Award in Performing Arts if studied at Key Stage 4 or Grade C/5 in GCSE Drama, Music or Dance.

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

42% Coursework

58% Externally Assessed

Additional Support:

Lunch and after-school revision sessions as well as rehearsals are provided for all students in the run up to assessments. Revision sessions are run in the half-term and term breaks too. If your ambition is to become a performer, we encourage you to get involved in as many extra curricular activities within the arts as possible. Performance opportunities are available throughout the year and you can audition for the annual school show.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You are not required to buy any resources. Visits to the theatre are an essential part of the course, however, we can subsidise some or part of these visits if needed. We encourage students to watch as much live theatre as possible to enhance their studies.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Visiting theatre/performing arts companies, external theatre/dance visits, performance opportunities.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You are encouraged to read a range of play texts and see live theatre, dance and music where possible.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Performing Arts BTEC at BL6:

- St. Mary's University : Drama & Applied Theatre
- University of Salford : Media and Performance
- Newcastle College : BTEC Performing Arts

BTEC Performing Arts Extended Certificate

This course will suit you if you enjoy acting, singing, dancing or all three, enjoy performing in front of an audience both as part of an ensemble and individually, enjoy applying performance skills to real life settings and would like a career in the performing arts or entertainment business.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification: BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (1 A Level equivalent), Pearson

Are you creative? Do you like to express yourself? Do you like to be challenged and taken out of your comfort zone? Are you interested in designing or directing for the theatre? If so, you should consider BTEC Performing Arts Extended Certificate as an option.

This demanding vocational course provides the opportunity to study Acting and Performing Arts at National Diploma level. This course will give you experience of different acting styles and techniques which will be covered using a range of teaching methods such as discussion, presentation, group work, demonstration and practical work. There is an option to include dance and musical theatre skills within this course. Assessment is specifically designed to fit the purpose and objective of the qualification. It includes a range of assessment types and styles suited to vocational qualifications in the sector.

There are three main forms of assessment that you need to be aware of: external, internal and synoptic. You will study a series 4 units, of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external: Mandatory content (83%), External assessment (58%).

The mandatory units are: Investigating Practitioners' Work, Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance, Group Performance. Examples of optional units are: Interpreting Classical Text for Performance, Acting Styles, Developing the Voice for Performance Improvisation, Movement in Performance and Musical Theatre Techniques.

"The world is a complicated place, and there's a lot of division between people. The performing arts tends to unify people in a way nothing else does".

David Rubenstein

BTEC Performing Arts

At BL6 you can choose to study subjects from a wide range of courses across various curriculum areas. Choosing the right subjects is important. You should consider subjects you enjoy studying, their course content, and options that will support your future career plans.

Popular combinations of subjects that work well with this subject area are: Drama and Theatre, Music, Art, Media Studies, Psychology, History, Design Technology, English, RE, BTEC Music, Sport.

Subject Related Career Destinations:

BTEC Level 3 National Performing Arts is designed to provide creative and innovative vocational opportunities for learners wanting to progress to higher education, an apprenticeship or employment.

Specific Entry Requirements:

BTEC Merit Award in Performing Arts if studied at Key Stage 4 or Grade C/5 in GCSE Drama.

Course Duration:

2 years

Assessment Method:

42% Coursework

58% Externally Assessed

Additional Support:

Lunch and after-school revision sessions as well as rehearsals are provided for all students in the run up to assessments. Revision sessions are run in the half-term and term breaks too. If your ambition is to become a performer, we encourage you to get involved in as many extra curricular activities within the arts as possible. Performance opportunities are available throughout the year and you can audition for the annual school show.

Provisional cost of studying the subject, including trips and resources:

You are not required to buy any resources. Visits to the theatre are an essential part of the course, however, we can subsidise some or part of these visits if needed. We encourage students to watch as much live theatre as possible to enhance their studies.

Organised Enrichment during Year 12 and Year 13:

Visiting theatre/performing arts companies, external theatre/dance visits, performance opportunities.

Enrichment Prior to Beginning Year 12:

You are encouraged to read a range of play texts and see live theatre, dance and music where possible.

Destinations of Students Who Studied Performing Arts BTEC at BL6:

- St. Mary's University : Drama & Applied Theatre
- University of Salford : Media and Performance
- Newcastle College : BTEC Performing Arts

Core Maths: Maths in Context

Maths in Context is a relatively new course which is being run for the first time at Brine Leas in September 2018. It is a level 3 qualification, similar to an AS, and is offered as an alternative to the Extended Project Qualification. It is designed to complement A Level courses with a high Maths content, such as Science, Geography, Business Studies, Engineering, Economics and Social Sciences, particularly Psychology, as well as furnishing our students with the Mathematical skills needed to make informed financial decisions.

Qualification, Examination Board & Specification: Edexcel Level 3 Certificate in Mathematics in Context (7MCO)

The course covers four strands of Mathematics:

- Applications of Statistics
- Probability
- Linear Programming
- Sequences and Growth

The course is delivered entirely by Maths specialists and involves the teaching of core skills which are then applied to context based tasks on contemporary themes, such as social networking, society, finance, health, the economy, environmental issues and natural disasters.

Demands of the course

You will have four one hour lessons per fortnight, but there is no expectation of extra study outside of these sessions except when preparing for assessments or revising for your exams.

Assessment

Maths in Context is formally assessed by external examination. There is no coursework element.

- Paper 1: Comprehension (40%) 60 Marks 1 hour and 40 minutes
- Paper 2: Application (60%) 80 Marks 1 hour and 40 minutes

Paper 1 uses material from a source booklet which is available to work with approximately 6 weeks before the examination.

Duration of the course

2 years

University recognition and UCAS points

Universities recognise the value of Maths in Context as a preparation for the mathematical aspects of a number of degree courses. It earns UCAS points as follows:

A	20
B	16
C	12
D	10
E	6

Extended Project Qualification

The EPQ is facilitated by BL6 as an enrichment qualification.

Examination Board: AQA

Do you want to challenge yourself beyond your A levels? Do you want to capitalise upon an interest to prepare yourself for University and the world of work? Do you want to earn extra UCAS points?

The EPQ is a unique programme of study. It is intended to give you the opportunity to gain a qualification based on an outside interest, club or hobby that can be related to something you study, but might also be something completely different. In this way, a student studying Biology might want to do a project on stem cell research, but may want to do a project on Irish music; both would be equally valid. You formulate your project yourself, and you will be helped and guided by a Supervisor in school. You will then meet regularly with your Supervisor through the project management phase, and eventually deliver a 'product' of A level standard. Therefore, if you want to make a cuddly toy that speaks Mandarin, write a report investigating the effects of volcanic activity, or create an audio book (plus of course a whole host of other things) the EPQ could be for you.

The EPQ enables you to embark on largely self-directed projects. By taking responsibility for the choice and design of an individual project (or an individual role in a group project), you will become a more critical, reflective and independent learner; you will develop and apply decision making and problem solving skills; you will hone your planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills; you will learn to confidently apply new technologies and demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

Undertaking an EPQ can also deliver other benefits. For instance, it can increase your motivation by studying a topic of personal interest, enable you to apply your new skills to other areas of study and transfer the new skills you have developed into other areas of study.

Step Mathematics

This course will suit you if you are applying to study Mathematics on the most prestigious courses and you love Mathematics.

Examination Board : [Cambridge University](#)

Do you want to challenge yourself beyond A Level Mathematics? Are you driven to apply to the most prestigious universities to study Mathematics? Are you keen to develop your confidence in tackling unfamiliar problems?

The STEP exam is based on the course content from A level Applied Mathematics with a few additional topics included from the Further Mathematics A Level (for instance solving inequalities involving rational functions and proof by induction).

The structure of lessons is flexible to allow us to cater to individual students; for instance, if your Mathematics university offer requires you to sit the Mathematics Admissions Test we can also provide support with this during the lessons.

Some students choose to attend the STEP preparation classes to improve their problem solving skills and deepen their mathematical understanding, even if they do not require a STEP exam as part of their university offer. These students can choose, if they prefer, to sit the Advanced Extension Award, which still gives an additional qualification to their A Levels but is structured more similarly to the A Level Mathematics exam papers.

Support can be provided for students who need to sit STEP II or STEP III for their university offers, but the focus of these lessons is preparation for STEP I.