

Meadowhead School



**A Level Courses Booklet
2014/2015**

“Learning and Achieving Together”

**Meadowhead School A Level Courses
For September 2014**

“Learning and Achieving Together”

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Welcome to Meadowhead School A Level courses

We are now in our fourth year of offering A-Level courses and are extremely proud of the fantastic results our Y13s achieved this summer.

Our aim is to enable students to achieve to the best of their ability so that they can progress on to further study and this year 90% of UCAS applicants achieved a place at their University of choice.

We place great emphasis on the quality of teaching and on the academic support we provide. We have delivered on our promises and we have demonstrated that we have continued our commitment to our students.

Admissions Criteria

A Levels (GCE) are two year courses with AS level examinations being taken at the end of Year 12 (these are qualifications in their own right) and A2 level examinations being taken at the end of Year 13.

In order to study A level courses students must achieve at least 5 A* to C grades at GCSE level. This should include English Language and Mathematics, with at least B grades in chosen A level subjects.

These requirements are to ensure that students follow appropriate 6th form courses where they are likely to be successful.

Admissions process

To study the courses that we offer, a Meadowhead student is guaranteed a place provided that they meet the admissions criteria.

Learner Support and Guidance

During Year 11 students will receive personal guidance on the choices available and help in deciding on the most suitable courses for them.

In Year 12 and Year 13 all students will be part of a tutor group and have a Personal Tutor with whom they will spend at least an hour a week with. Their Personal Tutor and the Pastoral Team will support and guide them in their studies in order that they reach their full potential. They will be given specialist advice selecting a university and making an application, as well as seeking employment and preparing for interviews. They will also receive elements of PSHE (personal, social and health education)

Enrichment opportunities

To enhance the applications of students aiming for university or those seeking work we place great emphasis on enriching students beyond the curriculum. At a time when job opportunities are low and universities are more competitive than ever, we see it as vital to offer students a range of opportunities to increase their experiences. Not only does it help broaden our student's range of skills, it makes them more appealing to prospective universities and employers. This is why we have an enrichment programme running for students every Wednesday. This means they have no taught subject lessons but will be either out on work placement and/or participating in internal activities organised carefully by the Post 16 Team. We have found that in previous years, students who have hands on work experience and experience in other enrichment opportunities has paid dividends to supporting their UCAS/job applications.

Hard Work/Desire to Achieve

There are choices and opportunities available for all. However without hard work these opportunities are vastly reduced. The competition for places on 'A' levels, Vocational courses, Apprenticeships as well as the job market is larger than ever. In order to earn the rewards later, now is the time to knuckle down and work hard. Where will you be this time next year?

Summer 2014 Transition Event

In June/July after GCSE exams we will be organising a 6th form induction which will include team building activities and taster sessions.

Progression from A-Levels to Employment or Higher Education

The table below pulls together combinations of subjects that are most sought after for particular university courses or jobs and gives a list of **suggested** subjects you may consider when choosing your choices.

| | Topic area | Subjects you need to do in this pathway | Other suggested subjects |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics | Engineering | Maths, Physics | Chemistry, Electronics, Further Maths, IT, Product Design, French, Spanish, German |
| | Medicine & Dentistry | Biology, Chemistry | Maths, Physics, Psychology, French, Spanish, German |
| | Veterinary | Biology, Chemistry | Maths, Physics, Psychology, French, Spanish, German |
| | Sport Sciences | Biology | Business, Psychology, Sport or Sport & Exercise Science, French, Spanish, German |
| Business & Legal Professions | Accounts | | Accounts, Business, IT, Maths, French, Spanish, German |
| | Legal | | Business, English Language, History, Philosophy & Ethics, Psychology, Sociology, French, Spanish, German |
| | Retail & Marketing | | Accounts, Business, IT, Psychology, French, Spanish, German |
| | Events Management | | Business, Media, French, Spanish, German |
| Professional Studies | Teaching | Select at least one National Curriculum Subject | Biology, English, Geography, History, Maths, Sociology, French, Spanish, German |
| | Geography & Environmental | Geography | Biology, Chemistry, Product Design, French, Spanish, German |
| | Journalism, English & Media | English Language | English Literature, Film Studies, Media, Photography, French, Spanish, German |
| | Research | | English, Geography, History, Philosophy & Ethics, Sociology, French, Spanish, German |
| Social Sciences | Psychology, Criminology & Forensics | | Biology, Chemistry, Sociology, Psychology, French, Spanish, German |
| | Health & Care | | English Language, Philosophy & Ethics, Sociology, Psychology, French, Spanish, German |
| Creative & Digital | Theatre & Arts | | English, Film Studies, Media, Theatre Studies, French, Spanish, German |
| | Creative & Digital Media | | Art / Graphics or Photography, IT, Media, Textiles, French, Spanish, German |
| Languages | An addition to all of above | | English Language, English Literature, Business, IT |

What Entry Requirements will I need?

Minimum of a GCSE Grade B in English and English Literature.

What does the course involve?

It is interesting, stimulating and gives you a chance to analyse and understand everyday language and think about how it works. You will study a wide range of texts from spoken transcripts to literary extracts. Part of the course involves analytical skills, looking at technical aspects of language such as grammar and how texts are written. You will also have the opportunity to explore the meaning, context, purpose and intended audience of a range of texts. Other parts of the course allow you to study how language works in everyday life such as learning how children speak, gender differences in language use, regional varieties or how language has changed over time. You will also have the opportunity to develop your own writing skills.

How will I be assessed?

AS LEVEL

Unit 1: Seeing Through Language

You will be assessed via a *two hour written examination*.

Section A: Language and Mode: a comparison of the effect of mode and context on meaning.

Section B: Language Development: an essay on children's spoken language acquisition, or children's writing.

Unit 2: Representation and Language

You will be assessed by means of two pieces of coursework.

Piece 1 (1,000- 1,500 words): an analysis of three – five texts with a temporal relationship, (produced at the same time/ evolving over time/ at different times.)

Piece 2: you must produce a piece of writing with a specified purpose, audience and place of publication. (600 words), accompanied by a 400 word commentary.

A2 LEVEL

Unit 3: Language Explorations

You will be assessed *via a two and a half hour examination.*

Section A: Language Variation and Change (accent and dialect, distinctive features of regional and social varieties, the effects of age, gender and social class/ context and methodologies for the study of language change).

Section B: Language Discourses.

You will evaluate how the data contributes to a chosen language topic, and evaluate the validity of the views expressed.

Unit 4 ENGA4 – Language Investigations and Interventions

You will prepare *a portfolio of written work for assessment.*

Language Investigation: (1,750-2,500 words).

Language Intervention: (1,250 words)

Progression

A Level English can be used as part of the entry requirements for any degree course. People who study it often go on to careers in journalism, Law, teaching and business.

Is there anything else I need to know?

You should opt for A Level English Language if:

You have ever wondered why certain people speak in a different way to others.

Your gender makes a difference in the way you speak.

You are good at communicating with others.

You are interested in exploring what affects the way we speak.

Where can I find out more?

- The Meadowhead English Faculty Website
- From members of the English Faculty

What Entry Requirements will I need?

Minimum of a GCSE Grade B in English and English Literature.

What does the course involve?

You will be encouraged to develop a love of English Literature through a programme of wide, critical and independent reading of texts which span the centuries. You will become a more perceptive reader as you study and discuss texts from a range of genres and learn about the way writers use language, form and structure to manipulate meaning.

How will I be assessed?

AS LEVEL

Unit 1: Texts in Context

Assessed via a *two hour open book examination*, you will answer two questions: Section A Texts in Context and Section B Poetry. This examination tests your knowledge of the poetry set text, and the wider reading option: Victorian Literature, World War One Literature or The Struggle for Identity in Modern Literature.

Unit 2: Creative Study

In this Unit, the set drama and prose texts are assessed by means of a *coursework folder comprising two pieces of writing: 2,000- 2,500 words*. As with Unit 1, you choose texts from within the chosen option. These texts may also be used in answer to Section A on Unit 1.

A2 LEVEL

You will be introduced to a range of literature from Chaucer to the present day.

Unit 3: Reading for Meaning

You will study three texts on the topic of Love Through the Ages, “love” being defined in its broadest sense. You will be *assessed via a two and a half hour written examination* which contains four written extracts to be analysed and compared to wide reading texts.

Unit 4: Extended essay and Shakespeare Study

This unit is *assessed by means of a coursework portfolio of approx 3,000 words*. The coursework consists of one extended comparative essay on three texts, one of which is a Shakespeare play and the other of any genre. The theme of Love Through the Ages can be used again, or one of your choice.

Progression

A Level English can be used as part of the entry requirements for any degree course. People who study it often go on to careers in journalism, Law, teaching and business.

Is there anything else I need to know?

You should opt for A Level English Literature if:

- You have a love of reading
- Are expecting to get at least a B or above in your English Literature GCSE
- Enjoy expressing yourself in writing and producing well crafted written texts
- Enjoy discussing, developing, expressing and sharing ideas on a wide range of issues
- Enjoy listening to, reading and responding to other people's views
- Are interested in studying how writers have used Literature texts to communicate ideas and feelings, often uncovering society's inequalities and prejudices.
- Want an A level to complement other subject combinations which are highly regarded by all Universities.

Where can I find out more?

- The Meadowhead English Faculty Website
- From members of the English Faculty



What are the entry requirements?

Normal entry requirements with GCSE Mathematics at a high grade B or above

What does the course involve?

AS LEVEL

Candidates complete 3 Units in the first year of work leading to an AS level.

Unit 1: Introduction to Advanced Mathematics, C1 :

Builds on and develops the techniques students have learnt at GCSE so that they acquire the fluency required for advanced work.

Topics: Mathematical Processes of proof and modelling; Algebra; Co-ordinate Geometry; Polynomials; Curve sketching.

Assessment: 1 hour 30 mins written examination.

Unit 2: Concepts for Advanced Mathematics, C2:

Introduces students to a number of topics fundamental to the advanced study of mathematics.

Topics: Algebra; Sequences and Series; Trigonometry; Calculus; Curve sketching.

Assessment: 1 hour 30 mins written examination.

Unit 3: Mechanics 1, M1:

Introduces students to mathematical modelling and to the basic concepts in kinematics, statics and dynamics which underlie the study of mechanics.

Topics: Modelling; Vectors; Kinematics; Force; Newton's Laws of motion; Projectiles.

Assessment: 1 hour 30 mins written examination.

OR

Unit 3: Statistics 1, S1:

Enables students to build on and extend the data handling and sampling techniques they have learnt at GCSE, apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations using simple probability models and provides insight into the ideas and techniques underlying hypothesis testing.

Topics: Processes of statistical modelling and sampling; Data presentation; Probability; Discrete Random Variables; The Binomial Distribution and its use in Hypothesis Testing.

Assessment: 1 hour 30 mins written examination.

A2 LEVEL

Candidates complete a further 3 units of work to lead to a full A level.

Unit 4: Methods for Advanced Mathematics, C3:

Builds on and develops the techniques students have learnt at AS Level, with particular emphasis on calculus.

Topics: Proof; Exponentials and Natural logarithms; Functions; Calculus; Numerical Methods.

Assessment: 1 hour 30 mins written examination plus Coursework.

Unit 5: Applications of Advanced Mathematics, C4:

Develops the work in C1,C2 and C3 in directions which allow it to be applied to real world problems.

Topics: Algebra; Trigonometry; Parametric-Equations; Calculus; Vectors.

Assessment: 1 hour 30 mins written examination & 1 hour comprehension task (written examination).

Unit 6: Mechanics 2, M2:

Students will build on the work in *Mechanics 1* by extending the range of mechanics concepts which they are able to use in modelling situations.

Topics: Force, Work Energy and Power, Momentum and Impulse, Centre of Mass

Assessment: 1 hour 30 mins written examination.

OR

Unit 6: Statistics 2, S2:

Students build on the work done in Statistics 1 and extend their ability to represent data in bivariate situations, with an emphasis on linear and rank order modelling, and associated hypothesis testing.

Topics: Bivariate Data, Poisson Distribution, Contingency Tables, Normal Distribution.

Assessment: 1 hour 30 mins written examination.

Progression

In addition to being essential for studying Mathematics at university, A level Mathematics is often necessary to gain admission to other university courses, such as Accounts, Financial Management, Medicine and the sciences.

Where can I find out more?

Talk to your Mathematics teacher about what A-Level Mathematics entails to get more details and to find out if it will be suitable for you.

What Entry Requirements Will I Need?

Normal entry requirements with GCSE Mathematics at A grade or above

What does the course involve?

Students who choose to do Further Mathematics must also choose Mathematics as an A Level choice. You cannot do this A Level without also doing the Maths AS/A2 course.

Students will therefore do 6 Mathematics units each year and will complete all 8 units mentioned under the Maths AS/A2 course plus the 4 new units mentioned here, FP1, FP2, D1 and NM.

AS LEVEL

Candidates complete 3 Units in the first year of work leading to an AS level.

Unit 1: Further Concepts for Advanced Mathematics, FP1

Students develop an understanding of the rigour and technical accuracy needed for more advanced study of mathematics.

Topics: Complex Numbers, Curve Sketching, Proof, Algebra, Matrices
Assessment: 1 hour 30 mins written examination.

Unit 2: Decision Mathematics 1, D1

Students gain experience of modelling and of the use of algorithms in a variety of situations.

Topics: Modelling, Algorithms, Graphs, Networks, Linear Programming, Critical Path Analysis, Simulation
Assessment: 1 hour 30 mins written examination.

Unit 3:

Either S1 or M1, whichever has not been taken during Maths AS. (See Maths AS/A2 for details of the unit)

A2 LEVEL

Candidates complete a further 3 units of work to lead to a full A level.

Unit 4: Further Methods for Advanced Mathematics, FP2

Students build on and extend their knowledge of Pure Mathematics and associated techniques.

Topics: Polar Coordinates, Calculus, Series, Complex Numbers, Matrices, Hyperbolic Functions, Investigation of Curves

Assessment: 1 hour 30 mins written examination.

Unit 5: Numerical Methods, NM

Students gain an understanding that many mathematical problems cannot be solved analytically but require numerical methods.

Topics: Solution of Equations, Errors, Numerical Differentiation, Numerical Integration, Approximation to Functions

Assessment: 1 hour 30 mins written examination plus Coursework.

Unit 6:

Either S2 or M2, which ever has not been taken during Maths A2. (See Maths AS/A2 for details of the unit)

Progression

Further Mathematics is ideal for students who are planning to go on and do a degree in Mathematics at University.

Where can I find out more?

Talk to your Mathematics teacher about what A-Level Further Mathematics entails to get more details and to find out if it will be suitable for you.



What are the entry requirements?

You'll need a B grade in core & additional science (or biology) and also a C grade in maths. You will also need to show a good level of interest and enthusiasm in class

What does the course involve?

AS LEVEL

| | |
|---|-------|
| Unit 1 – Biology and disease | 33.3% |
| Unit 2 – The variety of living organisms | 46.7% |
| Unit 3 – Investigative and practical skills | 20% |

A2 LEVEL

| | |
|---|-------|
| Unit 4 - Populations and environment | 33.3% |
| Unit 5 – Control in cells and organisms | 46.7% |
| Unit 6 – Investigative and practical skills | 20% |

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by examination and controlled tests in both AS and A2.

Progression

Studying biology could prepare you to study biology or one of the biological sciences in further or higher education. A-Level biology can also prepare you for a career in medicine, veterinary medicine, genetics, forensic science or agriculture. Even if you don't end up as a scientist, the skills you develop will be relevant to a wide range of careers.

Anything else I need to know?

Maths, physics and chemistry are all good partners to biology.

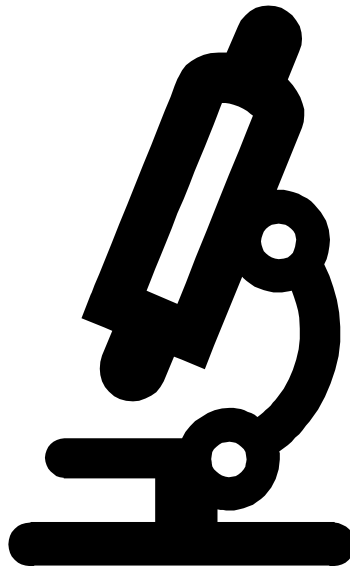
We've specifically chosen the AQA course as it allows a seamless transition from GCSE Science into AS level and has the best quality resources including a virtual book for all students and access to resources on the Meadowhead Learning Platform.

The course encourages an application of new biological knowledge that will, in one way or another, affect every person on Earth. Students studying this course will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of these advances and to develop the skills essential to make responsible use of practical aspects of biology.

The course aims to promote scientific approach to studying life and living processes, and to show how the knowledge and understanding of different aspects of biology are interconnected. Throughout each module we believe the AQA course is current, accessible and most of all enjoyable.

Where can I find out more?

Mr Stephenson, Mr Bacon



What are the entry requirements?

You'll need a B grade in core & additional science (or chemistry) and a C grade in maths. Good practical skills will help a lot.

What does the course involve?

AS LEVEL

| | |
|---|-----|
| Unit 1 – Chemistry for Life | 30% |
| Unit 2 – Chemistry of Natural Resources | 50% |
| Unit 3 – Chemistry in Practice | 20% |

A2 LEVEL

| | |
|---|-----|
| Unit 4 – Chemistry of Materials | 30% |
| Unit 5 – Chemistry by Design | 40% |
| Unit 6 – Chemistry Individual Investigation | 30% |

How will I be assessed?

Units 1, 2, 4 and 5 will be assessed by examination (you get longer for the units that are worth a higher percentage of your grade). Unit 3 involves six short practical tasks to test your chemistry skills. Unit 6 is the best bit – you choose your own project, order all the equipment and chemicals you need and get up close and personal with your favourite area of chemistry.

Progression

Getting A level chemistry shows the world that you are intelligent, logical, practical and imaginative. As these are all wonderful qualities, the careers you could choose with the right chemistry qualification are some of the most exciting there are. If you're interested in medicine, forensics, pharmacology, engineering, cosmetic science, brewing or even cooking then chemistry will help you along. Even if you don't end up as a scientist, the skills you develop will be relevant to a wide range of careers.

Anything else I need to know?

Maths, physics and biology are all good partners to chemistry.

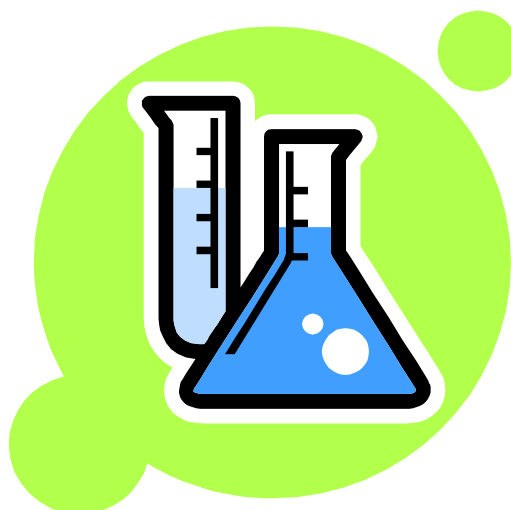
We've specifically chosen the Salter's A-level course as the best specification for students at Meadowhead to follow. Unlike some courses that just plod through the scientific facts then leave them behind when you've finished each unit, the Salter's course lets you see how chemistry is used in areas such as drug design, forensic analysis, art restoration and oceanography. As you go, you'll learn the relevant chemistry and will build your knowledge throughout the course. This means that you'll get an excellent understanding of how different areas of chemistry fit together, and will be able to develop a deep and secure body of chemical knowledge as you may revisit some important ideas several times.

By the end of this course, if you can't put your hand on your heart and say "I love the Periodic table and everything in it", we guarantee your money back.

Where can I find out more?

Mrs Mason or Mr Ridley.

If you have any questions at all then talk to us – whether you're completely undecided or just want to know where you can get a monogrammed lab coat, we'll do our best to help.



What are the entry requirements?

You'll need a B grade in core & additional science (or physics) and also a B grade in maths. You will also need to show a good level of interest and enthusiasm in class.

What does the course involve?

AS LEVEL

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Unit 1 – Mechanics | 30% |
| Unit 2 – Electrons, waves and photons | 40% |
| Unit 3 – Practical skills | 20% |

A2 LEVEL

| | |
|---|-----|
| Unit 4 – The Newtonian world | 40% |
| Unit 5 – Fields, particles and frontiers of physics | 40% |
| Unit 6 – Practical skills | 20% |

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by examination and controlled assessments in both AS and A2.

Progression

Anything anywhere – physics is the most sought after A-Level by universities and employers alike. Engineering, astronomy, geophysics, quantum physics, computer science & meteorology are all careers that rely heavily on physics. NASA and CERN both employ hundreds of physicists.

Anything else I need to know?

Taking A level maths will help you with the more mathematical aspects of physics. We also recommend taking maths because if you want to study any aspects of engineering or physics at university, then maths will be essential.

Take the 'Is-physics-for-me?' mini-quiz...

| | Yes | A bit | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| I enjoy doing practical work | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I like to use new and/ or dangerous equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I find the speed-distance-time equation easy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I'd like to learn more about sub-atomic particles | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I really enjoyed it when we did the Big Bang | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I'd like to learn about quantum mechanics | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am good at wiring up circuits | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I like GCSE science | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am considering a scientific or engineering career | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

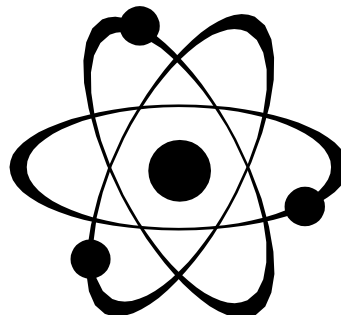
Give yourself two points for each 'yes', one point for each 'A bit' and zero points for each 'no'.

Less than 8 : Are you sure physics is for you?

8 or more: Physics could be the right choice for you.

Where can I find out more information?

Please speak to Mrs Sims.



What are the entry requirements?

You'll need a B grade in core & additional science or a Merit grade at BTEC science level 2 and also at least a C grade in Maths and English. You will need to show a good level of interest and enthusiasm in class. Students who have a keen interest in general science and how industry applies the three main disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics will succeed on this course. There will be an emphasis on understanding the human body as the course is medical based.

There are different options within this course. These include:

- Subsidiary Diploma – 1 A Level equivalent (5 hours a week)
- Diploma – 2 A level equivalent (10 hours a week)

What does the course involve?

Depending on the course that you study the number of units completed will be different. The more hours you do the more units taken. There are a wide range of units including those listed below.

Unit 1 Fundamentals of Science
Unit 2 Working in the Science Industry
Unit 3 Science Investigation
Unit 4 Scientific Practical Techniques
Unit 5 Perceptions in Science
Unit 6 Mathematical techniques in Science
Unit 8 Using Statistics in Science
Unit 11 Physiology of Human Body systems
Unit 12 Physiology of Human reproduction
Unit 13 Biochemistry
Unit 15 Microbiological techniques
Unit 18 Genetics and genetic engineering
Unit 21 Biomedical Science techniques

How will I be assessed?

All work is assessed as coursework. There is currently no exam component to this course on any of the pathways. Each unit will have a number of assignments to be completed. For each unit a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade can be achieved.

Progression

You will gain an array of lab practical skills which are directly transferable into the work place. BTEC level 3 courses offer the equivalent UCAS points as A-Level subjects. This qualification can therefore offer higher education opportunities in medical professions such as nursing, pharmacy and radiography as well as the food and drink industry or environmental health. Skills would also be gained that could lead to employment in a hospital laboratory, research laboratory or college.

Anything else I need to know?

This course offers pupil the opportunity to develop lab practical skills which are valuable in the work place. If you wish to study or work in the science industry then this course offers the appropriate experience and skills. Assignments will involve both independent and collaborative work. Pupils will need to be good at working to deadlines and well organised to keep work up to date. As this is a vocational course pupils would be provided with opportunities to attend external visits and potentially work experience.

Where can I find out more?

Miss Inglis and Mr O'Brien

What are the entry requirements?

In order to take this course we recommend that students achieve a Grade B or above in Geography at GCSE.

What does the course involve?

AS Level

Unit 1: Global Challenges

This is an exciting and relevant unit. In this unit you will study a range of topics that are often in the media such as Global Hazards, Climate Change and Future Global Challenges.

Unit 2: Geographical Investigations

This is an exciting unit that gives you an opportunity to undertake geographical research, including fieldwork. You will investigate two topics in depth, Crowded Coasts (physical geography), and Unequal Spaces (human geography). This unit involves some practical fieldwork

A2 Level

Unit 3: Contested Planet

In this unit you will consider five key world issues and in the sixth topic discuss possible technological solutions to the problems: Energy Security / Superpower Geographies
Water Conflicts / Bridging the Development Gap / Biodiversity Under Threat / The Technological Fix

Unit 4: Geographical Research

This will allow you to develop further the investigative skills gained at AS level and prepare you for the demands of higher education or employment. You will choose one topic from these six options:
Tectonic Activity and Hazards / Pollution and Human Health at Risk / Cold Environments – Landscapes and Change / Consuming the Rural Landscape – Leisure and Tourism / Life on the Margins - The Food Supply Problem / The World of Cultural Diversity.

Fieldwork

In Unit 2 you will undertake an independent piece of fieldwork in Sheffield investigating inequality. You will also have the opportunity to go on a residential to the Lincolnshire Coast for the crowded coasts unit. To complement the units in A2 we are hoping to arrange a residential trip, following the AS exams to prepare students for their A2 course.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is by examination for all 4 units at AS and A2 level.

Progression

Geography has one of the highest graduate employment rates of any non-specialist degree and can lead to careers such as accountancy, teaching, governmental & civil service jobs, transport sector jobs, jobs in business and many more!

Geography is compatible with ALL other A level subjects. It combines with the Arts, Social Sciences, Languages and Sciences.

Where can I find out more information?

To find out more talk to Ms Cook or Mr Thompson. You can also look on the Meadowhead Learning Platform or the Edexcel website for the full specification.



What are the entry requirements?

History GCSE at Grade C or above if studied at GCSE. Students can still do A Level History if they have obtained a grade C or above in five subjects at GCSE, including English Language.

What does the course involve?

Students study aspects of the past in breadth through periods or themes. The unit addresses breadth of study, requiring students to address two linked themes from a range of perspectives, for example social, religious, political and cultural.

AS LEVEL

Unit 1: Twentieth Century Post-War US History

1. Pursuing Life and Liberty: Equality in the U.S.A, 1945-1968

The focus in this topic is on the Civil Rights movement for Black Americans and other ethnic groups such as the Native American Indians. It involves a study of the role of individuals like Martin Luther King and Malcom X.

2. Ideology, Conflict and Retreat: the USA in Asia, 1950-73

The study here is on US foreign policy in Asia with special emphasis on the wars in Korea and Vietnam.

Unit 2

Students will study British History in some depth. Grounded in an exploration of source material in its historical context, this unit enables students to develop an in-depth understanding of the attitudes, beliefs and structures of the society they study.

The Experience of Wartime in Britain: Crimea, Boer and World War I 1854-1929

The study of the impact of these wars on public attitudes, medicine and social change in Britain, including the experience of war on the western front in World War I.

A2 LEVEL

Unit 3: Depth studies and Associated Historical Controversies

Each of these studies enables students to explore the nature of challenges and conflicts both within the period and relating to the societies and/or political systems studied.

From Kaiser to Fuhrer : Germany 1900-1945

Students will focus on an assessment of German History 1900-1945 and will cover the last years of the Kaisers rule, the democratic experiment of the Weimar Republic, the rise of Hitler and life in wartime Germany under the Nazis. A key element relates to the evaluation and interpretation on two Historical controversies : Germanys responsibility for WW1 and the popularity of the Nazis, 1939-1945.

Assessment – 2 hour written examination.

Unit 4: Historical Enquiry

Students address key aspects of a chosen theme over a period of at least 100 years in order to develop their understanding of the process of change over a long period. They will investigate issues relating to their causes and consequences, both long-term and short-term, and will demonstrate an understanding of factors that may accelerate, consolidate or retard the process of change.

How will I be assessed?

Units 1, 2 and 3 will be assessed with a written examination. For Unit 4, students will complete a two-part assignment (approximately 4000 words) on the Making of Modern Russia (1856-1964)

Progression

AS and A2 History provides the opportunity to develop an enquiring mind and excellent literacy skills. The Historical skills of analysis, interpretation of sources, understanding a coherent point of view and problem solving play a key part throughout the course.

You can progress to higher education courses such as honours degrees in History, or to degrees in related subjects such as Politics, English Literature, Economics or Geography; or to vocational qualifications such as the BTEC Higher National Certificate/Diploma in Media (Journalism) or in Travel and Tourism.

An Advanced GCE in History will give you a number of skills relevant to many types of employment, such as the ability to seek information and to analyse it in order to identify facts and motives and to present information clearly for others to understand.

The skills you will obtain through studying History will be useful in a number of careers, either directly related to history (eg. working in museums, galleries, heritage sites, record offices and archives and teaching), or in areas such as journalism, libraries, national and local government and the civil service.

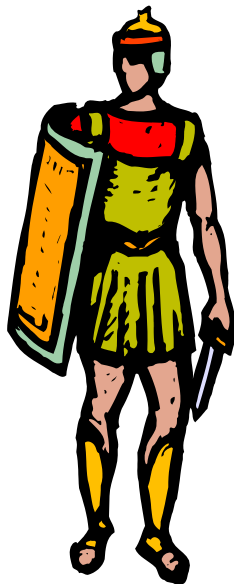
Anything else I need to know?

Extension and Enrichment Opportunities

- University Master Classes
- Field trip/visits

Where can I find out more information?

Talk to your History Teacher or to Mr Cutts. You can also find further information, including the full specification and assessment materials at www.edexcel.com



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|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Modern Foreign Languages Languages Offered: French, German, Spanish</p> |
|--|

What Entry Requirement will I need?

It is best if you obtain an A* / A at GCSE, but you may be considered with a grade B.

What does the course involve at AS level?

The course involves an in-depth study of the following topics:

- Youth culture and concerns:** relationships, music & fashion, technology, alcohol/drugs
- **Lifestyle: Health and Fitness:** sport, diet, health, smoking
- The world around us:** travel, tourism, environmental issues, and the issues related to the countries in which your chosen language is spoken

How will I be assessed?

AS:

Unit 1 is Speaking

(30% of AS marks and 15% of total A level)

Unit 2 is Reading, Writing and Listening

(70% of AS marks and 35% of total A level marks)

A2:

Unit 3 is Speaking

(35% of A2 marks and 17.5% of total A level)

Unit 4 is Reading, Writing and Listening

(63% of A2 marks and 32.5% of total A level marks)

Progression

This course leads to the A2 qualification in Languages and depending on results, entrance to university.

Job opportunities for competent linguists are numerous and diverse. From website designing to interpreting and from teaching to MI6 operations, global businesses - and those with global aspirations - think very highly of foreign language speakers, and are prepared to pay for them accordingly. On average, MFL graduates earn 8% more than anyone else whilst often travelling the world.

Is there anything else I need to know?

You need to have a strong work ethic and be prepared to learn vocabulary regularly, take part in regular speaking discussions in your language and also be willing to travel abroad to perfect your skills. You will also have to commit to a 30 minute speaking session with the Foreign Language Assistant each week.

Where can I find out more?

From your Y11 language teacher, Heads of Subject (Mrs Kelly, Ms Renshaw, Mr Merritt, Ms A. Cruikshanks), the EDEXCEL website and the Languages stand at the Post 16 evening.

BTEC Level 3 National Subsidiary Diploma in Sport

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs at C. Must include B or above in GCSE PE or a Merit or above at BTEC Level 2. A grade C or above in English is essential for this course.

About the course

On the BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport course you will cover a wide range of units including: The principles of Anatomy and Physiology, The Physiology of Fitness, Assessing risk in sport, Fitness testing for sport and exercise, Practical Team sports, Sports Nutrition and Sports Coaching. The lessons will be a mixture of practical and theory and students will be given the opportunity to organise sports events and coach/lead younger students.

Will the course suit me?

The ideal student would take an interest in sport as a whole subject. They should enjoy practical lessons and be prepared to analyse their own and others' ability. They will want to learn about how the body reacts to exercise and the different body systems involved when developing fitness and training. Students will develop an understanding of how to coach and lead sessions and should be prepared to become a role model within the PE department, helping to run Extra Curricular activities and clubs.

Personal Study Time

BTEC Level 3 students are expected to devote as much time outside the classroom to their studies as in lessons. You will be given significant amounts of homework on a regular weekly basis. The nature of this work will depend on the topic being studied but will always be given in order to reinforce the work covered in class and will often form the basis of assignment work.

Assessment

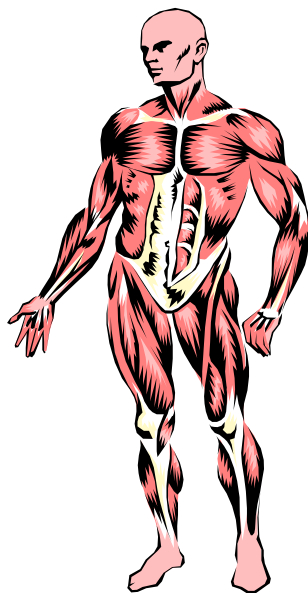
There is NO exam with this course. The qualification is gained through developing a portfolio of evidence which hits specific criteria for each unit. This work will be both internally and externally assessed throughout the course. The final grade will be established through a means of calculating a credit score, accumulated through the 7 units.

Progression

BTEC Nationals are designed to provide highly specialised work related qualifications in a range of vocational sectors. This course will give the students the knowledge, understanding and the skills that they need to prepare for employment. The qualification also provides development for students to go onto higher education, degree or professional development programmes.

Where can I find out more information?

For more information, speak to Miss Dunbar or Mr Allen.



What are the entry requirements?

English Language GCSE at Grade C or above. Or Religious Studies GCSE at grade C or above.

What does the course involve?

Students are drawn to this subject because they like to ask questions, such as, “Does science challenge belief in God?”, “How do we decide between right and wrong?”, “Are we really free?”, “Why is there evil and suffering in the world?”, “Should euthanasia be legal?” You will enjoy the course, if:

- You like discussing the big questions of life.
- You are looking for a course that is rigorous, challenging and academic.

AS Level

Unit 1: An Introduction to Ethics

1. Utilitarianism & Situation Ethics

This will examine theories for deciding right and wrong, based on ‘the greatest happiness’ principle (utilitarianism) and the idea of making decisions without following rules (situation ethics). These ideas will be applied to an ethical issue of the students’ choice.

2. Religious teaching on the nature and value of human life.

Students will consider religious beliefs about equality and difference; the value of life; what it means to be human; and the extent to which human beings have free will. Students will also consider abortion and euthanasia

Unit 2: The Philosophy of Religion

In this unit students will examine the ideas of Plato and Aristotle, as well as arguments for the existence of God and the relationship of science to religion.

A2 Level

Unit 3: Religion & Ethics

Students will consider whether people are free or are determined by their environment and genes. The unit will also consider sexual ethics, virtue ethics and the moral implications of advances in science and technology.

Unit 4: Philosophy of Religion

Students will consider whether it is logical to believe in God, miracles and life after death. They will examine the use of philosophical language.

How will I be assessed?

All units will be assessed with a written examination.

Progression

The course provides the opportunity to develop an enquiring mind, develop literacy skills and the ability to construct an argument. This A Level is increasingly regarded by employers in a range of careers, such as law, marketing, journalism, advertising, medical services, social work, counselling and psychotherapy, the police, broadcasting and publishing.

You can progress to higher education courses such as honours degrees in Philosophy, Ethics, Theology, Religious Studies or to degrees in related subjects such as English Literature or History. It is highly thought of in Universities as an academic subject.

To find out more talk to Mr. Lawrenson (Humanities Faculty).



What are the entry requirements?

Students undertaking this course will be expected to have gained normal entry requirements plus at least a GCSE grade B in Textiles Design or in a related Art & Design subject area.

What does the course involve?

Students will study one or more Textile Design area, including fashion, printed or dyed fabric and materials, domestic textiles and wallpaper, interior design, constructed textiles and textile installation.

AS Level

At AS level, students will be introduced to a variety of experiences employing a range of textile media, processes and techniques.

Unit 1 : Portfolio

50% of total AS marks, 25% of total A level marks.

- Portfolio of Art & Design / Textile materials which exemplify work carried out at AS.

Unit 2 : Externally Set Assignment

50% of total AS marks, 25% of total A level marks.

- Assignment set by AQA.
- Supervised time 5 hours.

A2 Level

At A2, students are required to build upon knowledge, understanding and skills gained at AS with greater depth of study.

Unit 3 : Personal Investigation

25% of total A level marks

- Personal investigation based on an idea, issue, concept or theme.
- Supporting written work 1000 – 3000 words linked to the practical work.

Unit 4: Externally Set Assignment

25% of total A level marks.

- Assignment set by AQA.
- Supervised time 15 hours.

How will I be assessed?

Each unit is internally marked. AQA moderators will then visit to check the marks are in line with national standards.

Progression

This course is an ideal choice for students wishing to progress to Art related courses in higher education.

Anything else I need to know?

Students will be expected to purchase specialist materials required for their individual projects.

Visits to galleries and museums will be undertaken throughout the course, students may be expected to contribute towards admission fees, travel and accommodation.

Students will be expected to equip themselves with basic Art / Textiles equipment to be used on portfolio work at home.

Where can I find out more information?

See Mrs Goodrum or Miss Davis, Meadowhead Art & Design Department.
AQA website: www.aqa.org.uk Search for A level qualifications / Art and Design. All the specifications are there.



What entry requirements will I need?

The minimum of 5 A* to C grades including English and Maths. Additionally students would also have an A*/A grade in GCSE ICT (or equivalent) but not less than a B grade. Entry from the OCR National in ICT would be considered at a Merit grade. Candidates wishing to enter via the OCR route will need to have no less than a Merit plus be able to demonstrate that they have worked independently and kept to deadlines throughout the course.

What does the course involve?

This qualification is designed to give students a broad knowledge of ICT. As well as developing their theoretical subject knowledge students get the opportunity to work on practical projects/tasks which will develop their confidence and skills in using a variety of software applications.

The AS/A2 course has 4 modules which students will study. (IT1+2 in year 12, IT3+4 in year 13)

IT1 – Written paper – 30%

A written paper of two sections, A and B, presented in a question and answer booklet. There are no optional questions. Quality of Written Communication is assessed in two questions.

Students will be required to prepare a spreadsheet on a specific topic, defined by WJEC, in advance of the written paper. Hard copies of the spreadsheet are taken into the examination and used to answer questions in Section B. This spreadsheet is submitted with the completed examination paper.

IT2 – Internal Assessment (Coursework) – 20%

Students undertake DTP and multimedia tasks, presenting the outcome for internal assessment and moderation by WJEC.

IT3 – Written Exam – 30%

A written paper of two sections, A and B, presented as a question paper requiring a separate answer booklet. Students answer all questions in Section A and one from two in Section B.

Quality of Written Communication is assessed in two questions.

IT4 – Internal Assessment (Coursework) – 20%

Students analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate a solution to a problem of their choice requiring the use of a relational database.

This is a substantial piece of work, undertaken over an extended period of time. It is internally assessed and moderated by WJEC.

Progression

The course is an ideal choice for students wishing to progress their studies further in higher education or for students looking for further qualifications to help them gain employment.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Students should have a keen interest in ICT and be willing to work on extended projects and coursework. They also need to be willing to put in 100% for each exam as this makes up 60% of the course

Where can I find out more?

You can find out more by speaking with Mr Kay, Mr Healey, Mrs Ali, Mr Eastwood or Mr Harris who would be happy to discuss your suitability for the course/course content in more detail. The course textbook is Essential ICT for AS ICT by Stephen Doyle should you wish to look at the course content in more detail.

What are the entry requirements?

Students undertaking this course will be expected to have gained normal entry requirements plus at least a GCSE grade B in Product Design or Resistant Materials or another relevant design and make based GCSE.

What does the course involve?

Students will study four units over the two years: Unit 1 - Materials, Components and Application, Unit 2 - Learning through Designing and Making, Unit 3 - Design and Manufacture and Unit 4- Design and Making Practice.

AS Level

At AS level, students will be introduced to a variety of experiences with materials, processes and techniques.

Unit 1 : Materials, Components and Application

50% of total AS marks, 25% of total A level marks.

- 2 Hour written paper

Unit 2 : Learning through Designing and Making

50% of total AS marks, 25% of total A level marks.

- Coursework – 50 hours approx.
- Written or electronic design portfolio
- Manufactured outcomes – this could be a simple design and make project or two smaller projects with accompanying portfolios

A2 Level

At A2, students are required to build upon knowledge, understanding and skills gained at AS with greater depth of study.

Unit 3 : Design and Manufacture

25% of total A level marks

- Written paper – 2 hours

Unit 4: Design and making practice

25% of total A level marks.

- Coursework – approx. 60 hours.
- Written or electronic design portfolio
- Candidates submit evidence of a single, substantial designing and making activity.

How will I be assessed?

The two coursework units are internally marked. AQA moderators will then check the marks are in line with national standards. The two written papers are marked externally.

Progression

Product Design 3D could take you to a number of exciting career paths. Product Design, Furniture Design, Automotive Design, Engineering, Manufacturing and Architecture are all example career paths

Where can I find out more information?

See Ms Evans or Mr Bagshawe in the Design Technology area, Meadowhead Art & Design Department or find more details on the AQA website.

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs at A* - C. Must include English Language with Mathematics no lower than D.

What does the course involve?

In the first year you will study two units. The first is all about how to plan and finance a business. You will learn all about what you need to do if you want to set up a business and how the financial aspects of the business are managed. You will also learn how to write a business plan.

In the second unit you will learn how to manage all aspects of a business, including staff, marketing, quality, customer service and suppliers.

You will use real life examples and cases throughout your studies. There will also be opportunities to visit real business in the region such as Coca Cola.

In the second year two more units are studied.

One is all about how businesses plan for success in all aspects of their operations. You will look in detail at marketing, human resource and financial strategies for success. You will be using real life examples of excellent business organisations to bring your studies to life.

In the second unit you will focus on the environment in which businesses have to operate, for example the political, technological and social environments. You will study leadership skills and styles and how these are important to running a successful business. You will also investigate how a business can manage change.

How will I be assessed?

You will study for, and be examined on, two AS Business units during year one, and a further two A2 units the following year.

Some exams are based on pre-released case study material and/or research.

Progression

Many students apply to study Business related courses at University. Others apply for jobs in a range of business and management related jobs and professions.

Is there anything else I need to know?

The ideal student would take an interest in current affairs and prepared to work independently, researching and reading about business and those events that affect the way that businesses operate, nationally and globally. You will need good writing and numerical skills along with the ability to analyse situations and propose solutions.

Where can I find out more?

Talk to Mr Kay or a member of Meadowhead School's Post 16 team.

BTEC Level 3 Certificate and Subsidiary Diploma Performing Arts (Acting)

What are the entry requirements?

Some students will have already studied BTEC Level 2 Performing Arts (Acting) or GCSE Drama. Experience of performing is vital and you must enjoy working collaboratively. You must be willing to push yourself physically and emotionally, be both creative and disciplined and be open to new ideas.

This course enables students to gain an entry qualification for a variety of courses in Higher Education – theatre based or in another academic discipline.

About the course

The course is challenging, adventurous and explores many different dramatic conventions, styles, theatre practitioners and live professional production. It is a practical and engaging course and one that will require lots of energy and commitment from you. It will change the way you look at yourself and the world around you.

What is BTEC?

BTEC qualifications are designed to provide highly specialist, work-related qualifications that give learners the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to prepare for employment.

Look at www.edexcel.com for more details.

There is the option of increasing the value and size of the Certificate to the Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts (Acting) Level 3.

What will I learn?

You will develop a real understanding of the performing arts industry and how to function within it. You will become an active member of a theatre company and be graded on what you do. The course is taught in Units, is very flexible and you will be looking at different styles of performance, writers and plays.

How will I be assessed?

3 Units in Y12, 3 Units in Y13. No final examination.

Where can I find out more?

Speak to Mrs Pollard.

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs at A* - C. Must include English Language, Mathematics and Science.

About the course

Psychology is one of the Social Sciences and is the study of human behaviour and experience. It is about studying people and why we think and behave in the way that we do and how we develop.

The AS Level offers a broad range of topics including a study of stress, abnormality and how others influence our behaviour. There is also a research component which examines the methods Psychologists use to study human behaviour.

At A2, there are a range of topic based options which bring together explanations from different approaches which engages students with issues and debates within contemporary psychology. The topics include an examination of relationships, aggression, gender, psychology of the mass media, psycho pathology, eating behaviour and schizophrenia as well as a research unit

Will this subject suit me?

This A Level is designed to develop skills of analysis and evaluation through an examination of arguments and evidence put forward by psychologists. You are expected to be interested in human behaviour and the world you live in. The ideal student would enjoy discussion, reading new ideas and challenging assumptions.

Good numeracy skills are required due to the science/mathematical nature of the subject.

Progression

Most A level students go on to university where Psychology has become a very popular subject with strong links to the other social sciences.

As it is also considered a science many students opt for Psychology as a third or fourth science in preparation for Medicine, Veterinary Science, Forensic Science and Sport Science.

It is beneficial in careers which involve working with people where an insight into understanding why people behave the way they do is useful. Psychology is also an essential part of some teacher training. Some students progress to study Law or Criminology.

Where can I find out more?

Talk to a member of Meadowhead School's Post 16 team.

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs at A* - C. Must include English Language, and Sociology (if taken).

About the Course

Sociology is one of the social sciences, and like History and Psychology, tries to understand human behaviour. Sociology particularly concerns the study of social life, offering different explanations and evidence for what affects our social behaviour. In contrast, psychology tends to concentrate on the workings of individuals' minds, although there is some overlap. Sociologists are also interested in the historical development of societies.

Whilst psychologists emphasise the experimental method, and historians make great use of secondary sources, sociologists use a wider range of research techniques and sources to find out about social life. You will be expected to become familiar with these methods and answer exam questions about them – compulsory topics at both AS and A2 levels.

We can all see evidence of social influences and factors, and statistically there are correlations between aspects of social life which sociologists debate. For example, it is widely known that poorer people have worse health and life expectancy than wealthier citizens – but why? It is clear that females commit fewer crimes than males – but why? These would be just two questions you might study, and there will not necessarily be any definitive answers. But there will be a lot of evidence to consider, and a lot of arguments about the topics! Sociology will make you look at everyday life in lots of new ways, so be prepared to be challenged! And be prepared to contribute, too.

AS topics can include a selection from the Sociologies of Health, Education, Wealth, Welfare and Poverty, Families and Households, or Culture and Identity.

A2 topics can include a selection from the Sociologies of Crime, Deviance and Punishment, Stratification, Beliefs in Society, Global Development, Mass Media or Power and Politics.

The traditional A level focus on thinking and analysis ensures that you will approach these topics from a number of different angles, or perspectives, with increasing emphasis on the skill of evaluation in Year 2.

Will this subject suit me?

The ideal student will be interested in current affairs, social, political and contemporary culture, in short, the world around us. You will enjoy the intellectual challenge of debating ideas, enjoy reading about and researching social issues, and be prepared to construct clear, written arguments. Good numerical skills would be advantageous since there will be statistical evaluation.

Personal Study Time

All students are expected to devote as much time outside the classroom to their studies as in lectures. Homework will regularly be set, but students are expected to routinely manage their self-directed study, consolidating work set or undertaken in class.

The exam board, AQA, specifically likes to see students apply their knowledge of theories to the real world, by referencing actual events. So you will need to keep abreast of the news, watch TV documentaries and analyse contemporary developments, both to make your study of social life much more interesting and also to gain extra credit.

Assessment

Examinations will be in the summer of Year 1 for the AS Qualification, which may be re-taken in June of Year 2. Further examinations in June of Year 2 convert the AS qualification into the full A level. There is no coursework option.

Where can it lead?

You will be assessed by written exams, which does mean that any student who 'can do' Sociology will also be capable of handling evidence, constructing and presenting quite sophisticated arguments, which are excellent skills for any university and professional career.

Many students go on to university, where Sociology is a long-established subject with strong links to the other social sciences. If, for example, you wished to train as a lawyer, journalist, doctor, teacher, social worker, police officer, public administrator, or architect, then you would study some sociology as part of your professional training. Most careers which involve working with people have some sociological content within their professional training.

Where can I find out more?

Mr Cooper.

What are the entry requirements?

Students undertaking this course will be expected to have gained normal sixth form entry requirements plus a GCSE Grade B or a BTEC Merit in an Art and Design Subject.

About the course

This is a broad AS/A level Art course that enables students to work in a variety of art disciplines and mix them together in their work. You have to study and produce work in **at least different 2 areas of Art and Design**. These could be **Fine Art** (drawing painting, printing, mixed media and experimental forms of art), **Graphic Communication** covering digital techniques, illustration, typography, experimental graphics, animation and some photography and **Three Dimensional Design** (covering ceramics, sculpture and other forms of 3D creative work).

Will this subject suit me?

We hope so. If you are an enthusiastic, confident and highly motivated student with a real enjoyment of making and thinking about art, craft and design you will like this course. A willingness to discuss both your art and the work of others and a willingness to increase the depth of your knowledge about contemporary, modern and traditional visual art forms is essential.

Visits to galleries, museums and other cultural sites will be organised throughout the course and you will have to contribute to the cost of these. You will also be expected to visit art shows and other art events yourself, keep a log of these and gather information on them.

You **will need** to have art equipment at home to work with.

Personal Study Time

You will be expected to work on projects at home, make relevant visits and read up on and study the subject. There will be some recommended reading, so some books will need to be purchased. AQA Advanced Subsidiary (AS) GCE in Art and Design

Assessment

AS comprises:

2 Units each worth 25% of A level marks. **Unit 1** is a portfolio of work, **Unit 2** is an externally set task and the timed assessment of 5 hours focuses on the development of ideas from sources you will have gathered.

A2 comprises of:

Unit 3 (25%) : A personal investigation based on an idea, issue, approach technique or theme connected to visual art. This will have supporting written work of between 1000 – 3000 words. This is integrated with practical work on your chosen topic.

Unit 4: Externally Set Task(25%): Starting points are set by AQA, similar to the EST at GCSE but you have 15 hours to work on the outcome for the **one** you choose to do.

The mark scheme for all units is: 4 Assessment Objectives, each marked out of 20.

Grades obtainable: AS - A, B, C, D , E A2 - A*, B, C, D, E

Qualification Titles:

AQA Advanced Subsidiary (AS) GCE in Art and Design

AQA Advanced Level (A) GCE in Art and Design

Where can it lead?

This qualification is recognised by all Higher Education establishments. Students who decide to specialise in Art & Design can apply to the BTEC (18+) Foundation Art & Design course at Hillsborough College or Chesterfield College. This course is a 1 year full-time course from which you can progress to an Art & Design degree course.

Where can I find out more?

Visit the UCAS Progress website, Mr Robson, Ms, Bellingham and Miss Crump

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs at A* - C including English Language and Mathematics.

Will this subject suit me?

The ideal student for this subject is one who likes solving numerical problems. The mathematics element is not difficult but it is really important that you get satisfaction from working with figures and get a kick from “balancing the books” for example.

What does the course involve?

In the AS year you will learn various different aspects of book keeping (recording) as well as how to prepare the year end accounts for a variety of business types such as sole traders and partnerships, as well as non-profit making organisations such as clubs and societies.

There will be an introduction to management accounting topics which help decision making within a business such as budgeting future cash flow.

At A2 the financial accounting topics are studied to a greater depth, relating to limited companies. The cost and management accounting topics studied at A2 include capital investment appraisal, budgeting and different costing techniques. The use of accounting information will be applied to management decision making.

How will I be assessed?

You will study for, and be examined on, two AS Accounting units during year one, and a further two A2 units the following year.

Progression

Many students apply to study Accounting/Financial Management and Business related courses at University. If you want to become a qualified accountant it is worth checking which degree courses give the maximum exemptions from the exams required by the different professional bodies. Some students are successful in gaining employment with Chartered Accountants directly after A level and then studying whilst they work, for the AAT qualification and a professional accounting qualification.

Where can I find out more?

Visit the UCAS Progress website or The Sheffield College website.

What are the entry requirements?

6 GCSEs at A* - B. Must include C or above in English Language and Mathematics.

What does the course involve?

The AQA Bacc. is based on A Level subjects as these are the principal means for assessing students academically, and includes three more elements to provide a broader life skills education.

The AQA Bacc. is made up of:

Depth of study: Any three A Level subjects to provide in-depth academic study and to test knowledge, understanding and application.

Broader Study: AS Level in Critical Thinking to develop analytical thinking and learning skills.

Enrichment Activities: Formal recognition of non-academic pursuits that develop valuable skills and qualities, such as teamwork, initiative and leadership.

Extended Project: Development of independent learning, self-management and research ability through completion of an extended project.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed for your three A Level subjects and AS Level Critical Thinking as detailed on each of the individual subject pages. The other aspects of the AQA Bacc. will be assessed through coursework.

Progression

The AQA Bacc. is awarded on consistency of achievement and is worth up to 550 UCAS points.

The qualification can help differentiate you when applying for university or employment. It will help you show how you are ready for university as you have worked to achieve three A Levels, developed key skills in AS Critical Thinking, worked with the demands of the Extended Project and developed skills and qualities through the enrichment activities.

Is there anything else I need to know?

You should be prepared to work hard and have a willingness to show that you have what it takes to make a difference in your studies.

Where can I find out more?

Visit the UCAS Progress website or The Sheffield College website.

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs at A* - C. Must include English Language

About the course

Critical Thinking focuses on the skills of analysing, evaluating and using evidence in support of rational argument.

It is very much a skills-based subject rather than a knowledge-based one, and has relevance to all academic subjects – across the full range of Sciences, Arts and Humanities. Moreover, because everyday communications in the workplace commonly require the use of evidence to support a point of view, critical thinking is a valuable skill in its own right.

Course Content

This subject is a compulsory part of the AQA Baccalaureate. Many universities and employers recognise the importance of critical thinking skills and use grades for AS Critical Thinking as an indicator of analytical ability – this is especially the case in popular subjects such as Law and Medicine.

Will this subject suit me?

This is an intellectually stimulating and challenging subject. The ideal student would have a real interest in intellectual debate and problem-solving, would understand the need for clear and logical thinking when arguing a point of view, be capable of independent thought, and enjoy being in a class where their full participation will be encouraged and valued.

Where can it lead?

Directly to a Philosophy degree or contribute towards a similar subject route (eg logic/problem solving). It is considered an important qualification for students considering either Medicine or Law.

Where can I find out more?

Visit the UCAS Progress website or The Sheffield College website.

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs at A* - C, including English Language.

About the course

Film Studies is designed to deepen your understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film, the major art form of the twentieth century.

You will engage with a wide range of different kinds of films, developing skills of observation, critical analysis and personal reflection. You will have the ability to develop your creativity and practical skills, by storyboarding and developing films either in audio-visual or written form.

Course content

In production classes you will explore film form through a research project and a creative project, including a digital storyboard based on a film sequence or short film. Theory lessons will look at British and American Film topics including Producers and Audiences of film, Topics in British Film, US Film.

In your second year you will have the opportunity to develop your understanding of world cinema, film genre and audiences. In your production session you will undertake research into film and develop a creative production based on your work.

Will this subject suit me?

You will enjoy this course if you are a creative and curious student interested in developing your knowledge of cinema, learning about how the industry works and how films are made.

Where can it lead?

Film Studies can be studied at university degree level and may lead to careers in the media, including television and radio, journalism, teaching, publishing, advertising, law, business, computing and design. It is a respected subject in its own right, but it is an excellent complement to AS Level English, Psychology, Sociology, Politics, Law, History and Art and Design.

Where can I find out more?

Visit the UCAS Progress website or The Sheffield College website.

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs at A* - C. Must include English Language and an Art-related subject.

About the course

Have you seen a billboard today, played on game software, read a magazine, looked at packaging on product design, or bought a poster? This is Graphic Design.

Graphics is a visual communication between the designer and the viewer. It constantly revolves around everyone and is a very powerful tool in delivering what we should all be aware of, what you should buy, what you should watch, what you should be informed of.

Course Content

This course starts with basic techniques and processes using mixed media and moving onto and looking at the various influences in art and graphics. This work includes a practical critical/contextual investigation where your work relates to the work of others which will help you to develop and explore your own ideas and communicate them through these areas in Graphic Design; illustration, advertising, packaging, storyboards, logos, Photoshop.

Experimentation with mixed media is essential in forming some of your outcomes. Be prepared to be flexible and explore endless possibilities. Approximately 30% of the course is theory and contextual work and 70% practical. The use of up-to-date Mac Books and appropriate software (Photoshop) will be introduced and taught as part of the course.

It is vital that you have your own basic kit, which will be approximately £30. The college will provide more equipment although you will be asked to contribute £15 studio fee per year. Those in financial hardship can apply for help from the college's Learner Support Fund.

Will this subject suit me?

An ideal student for this course is one who is enthusiastic and keen to learn about a range of graphic design outcomes and express them in an exciting and individualistic way.

Where can it lead?

After completing the two-year course the next pathway could be to go to university or one of our courses in Higher Education either at Hillsborough College or Norton College. Career opportunities include graphic design, advertising, 3D construction, publicity, architecture (with maths), web designer, and self-employment.

Where can I find out more?

Visit the UCAS Progress website or The Sheffield College website.

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs at A* - C, including English Language.

About the course

Media Studies is both a theoretical and creative practical course, in which you will learn about media texts, audiences and institutions in relation to the magazine, television, film, advertising and multi-media industries.

You will study a range of media texts produced by the above industries such as advertisements, news articles, computer games, magazines and films. You will also explore media issues and media representations. You will record, monitor and evaluate the process of your own media production from planning to outcome keeping a record of your progress as if you were working as a media professional.

Course Content

In year 2 you will develop your understanding of these and other areas such as media regulation and censorship, new technologies and textual construction, as well as an individual research project. Both AS and A2 offer the opportunity to create your own media product such as creating a magazine for students, a promotional campaign for a film or a music video.

Will this subject suit me?

The ideal student would be creative, interested in the media and take an interest in current affairs, and contemporary culture. The course is ideal for students who want to develop their skills in writing, design, photography and film. You will enjoy the intellectual challenge the subject entails, enjoy reading and be prepared to grapple with abstract concepts.

Where can it lead?

Media Studies can be studied at university degree level and may lead to careers in the media, including television and radio, journalism, teaching, publishing, advertising, law, business, computing and design. It is a respected subject in its own right, but it is an excellent complement to AS Level English, psychology, sociology, politics, history and art and design.

Where can I find out more?

Visit the UCAS Progress website or The Sheffield College website.

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs at A* - C, including English Language and an Art-based subject.

About the course

You will learn about traditional lens-based imagery and digital imagery and will progress through different genres including portraiture, landscape and movement. You will look at ideas, concepts and influences from art and design and your observational and analytical abilities will be developed through working with colour tone, texture, shape, form and sound.

Course content

Your technical ability will be developed through learning photographic techniques including the use of camera equipment (both traditional and digital), format and lenses, shutter speed control, the use of aperture, lighting and exposure techniques.

You will learn how to make effective use of different lighting conditions and learn about sequence, scale, structure, rhythm and pictorial space.

A range of digital imaging methods, techniques and processes will be taught using editing software. By the end of the course you will be able to crop, resize, sharpen or alter colour and/or tonal balance. You will explore and understand the range of options offered by digital cameras with regard to white balance, flash control, colour saturation and digital filters. Traditional and digital dodging and burning techniques will be taught. You will also learn how to build up compositions using layering approaches and combine text with images.

During the course you will learn to combine digital imagery with painting tools and create digital joiners and panoramas. Your understanding of different functions of photography will be developed by studying varying types of photography including documentary, war and fashion photography.

Visits to exhibitions are arranged during the course and you will be expected to spend between 3 and 5 hours a week on private study and on location. You will be required to pay for materials and printing and cost could average around £3.00 a week. Those in financial hardship can apply for help from the college's Learner Support Fund.

Will this subject suit me?

An ideal student for this course is someone who is motivated, has a desire to learn and wants to express their ideas visually. You will want to explore and research different topics and themes and will need to show your increasing acquisition of techniques and skills.

Where can it lead?

The next step could be to our own Foundation Degree in Photography at Norton College or other Higher Education course in this field.

Where can I find out more?

Visit the UCAS Progress website or The Sheffield College website.

BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma Sport & Exercise Science

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs at A* - C. Must include English Language, Maths and PE and/or Science.

About the course

The course is made up of three main units and you will learn about: Anatomy for Sport and Exercise, Sport and Exercise Physiology, Sport and Exercise Psychology. At College you will be taught in our excellent facilities by highly experienced qualified staff with a range of academic and industry backgrounds.

You are not expected to buy particular kit but will have the opportunity to purchase sweatshirts and T shirts with a College Sport Logo.

Much of the course takes place in the classroom and sports laboratory, however you will be expected to be able to apply your understanding to a practical sport situation. Practical sessions will take place in our sports hall, gym, fitness Suite or outdoor pitches

Will this course suit me?

This course is suitable for students who wish to take a combination of AS level subjects and are keen to study Sport as part of that package. It also suits those who prefer coursework to exams.

Where can it lead?

Future career opportunities could include working in: Teaching, coaching, personal training, health care within public, private and voluntary organisations.

Where can I find out more?

Visit the UCAS Progress website or The Sheffield College website.

AS Level Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs at A* - C. Must include English Language

Course Content

The Extended Project Qualification is studied as part of an A level Tutorial Programme and is a compulsory element of the AQA Baccalaureate.

The EPQ is an opportunity to do a project in a subject area in which you are interested. It provides a context for developing critical thinking and project management skills which are widely transferable and will be useful in the future both at University and in the workplace. The EPQ assesses your ability to plan, carry out, report on and evaluate a project.

About the course

There are 4 key elements to the EPQ which are required as assessment evidence for successful completion of the qualification: a production log, evidence of your project, a written report and a presentation.

Will this subject suit me?

The EPQ will attract a very diverse range of students. There are certain requirements which set it apart from other subjects. It requires independent research and learning, the ability to plan, deliver and present work, self motivation and strong organisational skills. So if you feel you already have these qualities this is a really good opportunity to provide some evidence. If you are looking to develop your abilities in these skill areas it is a good opportunity to start.

Where can it lead?

The skills you develop as part of the EPQ will provide you with a solid foundation in study and research skills. These skills will benefit you in either your university studies or in future employment.

Being successful in the EPQ is also likely to enhance your application to Higher Education. Some universities recognise the UCAS points awarded to the qualification but all of them acknowledge the skills that the qualification requires you to demonstrate and state that it helps students to stand out from others, both in your personal statement and at interview. This is particularly important when applying to popular university courses such as medicine and law, or if you are making an application to a top or popular university.

What Universities say about this qualification

“The University is supportive of the requirement to undertake an Extended Project ... It is expected that some admissions tutors may make two alternative offers to those offering this qualification, one of which involves success in the Extended Project (e.g. either AAA at A-level or AAB at A-level plus Extended Project).” University of Bristol

“Qualifications taken in addition to your main exams, such as the Extended Project, will improve your application by enabling you to develop study skills that will be useful in higher education. Although we do not usually make offers based on such qualifications, we encourage applicants to take them and to note them on their application form.” University of Birmingham

“The University welcomes applications from students who have taken the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). We see this as positive evidence of motivation to explore a subject in greater depth, as well as an opportunity for further development of analytical, critical thinking and independent research skills. If your results fall short of the offer level by a small margin, for example one A-level grade, your Extended Project result will be taken into account by the academic admissions selector.” University of Essex

Where can I find out more?

Visit the UCAS Progress website or The Sheffield College website.

Where can I find out more information about subjects delivered at Norton?

- To Sheffield College staff at our Post 16 Open Evening
- Sheffield College prospectus
- Sheffield College website - www.sheffcol.ac.uk



Please note – All information in this booklet is correct at time of print but may be subject to change.

Space for making notes

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