



Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form



SIXTH FORM COURSE BOOKLET



Academic Year: 2020/21

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The differences between A Level and a vocational qualifications are...

A Levels are general academic qualifications

- Most young people choose to do 3 A Levels and these are considered to be excellent academic qualifications, valued by employers and universities alike. A Levels offer a great route to degree level study.
- A Levels can give young people a chance to find out about their favourite GCSE subjects in greater depth or perhaps do one of the subjects that many schools and colleges only offer at A Level such as Sociology or Psychology.
- A Levels are good qualifications for entry to higher education. Each A Level earns UCAS points, which count towards entry for university. Vocational qualifications at Level 3 also earn UCAS points and are accepted by universities, but some higher education courses will only accept A Levels.

For more information on entry to University please visit the UCAS website.

Level 3 vocational qualifications (BTEC, OCR and WJEC)

- Level 3 BTECs are vocational qualifications available in a wide range of subjects. People choose these courses if they are interested in learning more about a particular sector or industry. The qualifications offer a mix of theory and practice. Level 3 vocational qualifications are usually studied full-time at college or at school.
- Level 3 vocational qualifications can be studied instead of, or in combination with, A Levels. At Level 3, many of these qualifications are awarded UCAS points for entry to higher education.
- Methods of assessment on vocational courses vary depending on the awarding body. A range of different assessment methods are likely to be used including assignments and exams. Generally, assessment is less exam-based and more coursework and project focused.

Post 16 Choices

Students who achieve 5 GCSEs at grades 9 - 4 have a range of choices at 16; staying on in the sixth form, going to a college or undertaking an apprenticeship. For more information about apprenticeships you can see your careers advisor.

Inclusion

The Inclusion Department try to ensure that the individual learning needs of all students are identified correctly and met. On the application form or at enrolment it is important that applicants will need to disclose their Special Educational Needs/ Disability (SEND). The Inclusion Department in discussion with students, parents and teachers is then able to provide targeted support for students with additional needs such as; physical and sensory disabilities, dyslexia, Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs), Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Visual or Hearing impairments and other mental health diagnoses. Where there is appropriated need identified, and subject to the timely disclosure of need, we will investigate examination access arrangements.

Local Authority liaison is undertaken to plan support for students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). EHCP students are encouraged to meet with the SENCO and 6th Form team before applying to ensure that the appropriate support is in place early and the LA SEN Team support the placement. Transition from a school to a 6th Form requires additional support for some students. This support is carefully managed over time, to encourage independence, rather than dependence on support, thus facilitating transition to adulthood.

The 6th Form is creative in its support for individual student needs and provides a range of opportunities for all students. Learning Support as well as Social, Emotional and Mental Health support is part of a strong Student Service provision. The department works closely with the Student Welfare Officer, School Nurses and the Student Support Workers, whom when necessary link into external agencies. OFSTED 2017 reported that 'Pupils personal development and welfare are outstanding.'

Courses on Offer (may be subject to change)

Vocational Courses:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • Combined Health & Social with Travel & Tourism | BTEC Level 2 |
| • Applied Criminology | WJEC Level 3 |
| • Applied Science | BTEC Level 3 |
| • Business Extended Certificate | BTEC Level 3 |
| • Health & Social Care Extended Certificate | BTEC Level 3 |
| • Health & Social Care Diploma | BTEC Level 3 |
| • Information Technology | BTEC Level 3 |

A Level Courses:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| • Art, Craft & Design | • History |
| • Art & Design: Textile Design | • Maths |
| • Art & Design: Photography | • Media Studies |
| • Biology | • Modern Languages - French & Spanish |
| • Chemistry | • Physical Education |
| • Dance | • Physics |
| • Design Technology: Product Design | • Politics |
| • Drama | • Psychology |
| • English Language & Literature | • Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics |
| • English Literature | • Sociology |
| • Geography | |

VOCATIONAL COURSES

BTEC Level 2 Courses

Health & Social Care BTEC Level 2

This subject is for anyone who wants to work in a caring profession with people. This is a vocational course, put together by professionals, to prepare you for the world of work in any health and social care setting. You will look at a range of client groups, how they develop and their needs. You will explore how professionals safeguard to ensure clients receive the highest quality of care and be aware of diverse situations that people have to deal with on a daily basis. This course covers four units. 2 coursework projects, worth 50%, one multiple choice exam and one exam worth 50%.

This course runs in conjunction with Travel and Tourism BTEC Level 2.

Travel and Tourism BTEC Level 2

The Travel and Tourism Level 2 course is designed to provide learners with underpinning knowledge, understanding and skills of the Travel and Tourism sector. It is a one year course which allows the learner to progress to Level 3 study or employment in the Travel and Tourism industry. This modular course covers eight units, two of which are externally examined and the rest being coursework based. This course runs in conjunction with Health & Social Care BTEC Level 2.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Less than 5 GCSEs Grade 9 to 4. This is a one-year course combining BTEC Level 2 Travel & Tourism and BTEC Level 2 Health & Social Care.

BTEC Level 3 Courses

Applied Criminology Level 3 Eduqas (WJEC)

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology.

WJEC Level 3 Applied Certificate in Criminology is a qualification with elements of psychology, law and sociology that complements studies in humanities.

This is an Applied General qualification. This means it is designed primarily to support students progressing to university. It has been designed to offer exciting and interesting experiences that focus learning for 16-19 year-old students through applied learning, i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful contexts linked to the criminal justice system. The qualification would support students' progression from any study at Level 2, particularly GCSEs in Sociology, Law, Psychology, Citizenship, History and Humanities.

What are the entry requirements for this course?

Minimum of 5 GCSE passes 9 to 4 or equivalent, including English Grade 4 and Maths Grade 4. It is not a requirement that you should have studied a Social Science such as Health and Social Care at GCSE.

Applied Science BTEC Level 3 (Edexcel)

The Edexcel BTEC qualification in Applied Science covers all three sciences of Biology, Chemistry and Physics but in an “applied” context. That means you will not only learn the science but also how it is used in real life organisations.

The four units of Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate in Applied Science are assessed by:

- Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science (written exam)
- Unit 2: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques (coursework)
- Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills (practical and written exam)
- Unit 10: Biological Molecules and Metabolic Pathways (coursework)

BTEC gives you the opportunity to develop your research and study skills. The BTEC course prepares you for many different types of careers for example; primary teaching, childcare, nursing, midwifery, and many science-based apprenticeships.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have achieved 5 GCSEs 9-4 including English and Maths at Grade 4 or above and GCSE 4-4 or above for Combined Science: Trilogy or in two separate Science subjects.

Business BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate (Edexcel)

The BTEC course in Business will give you a broad understanding of business and an opportunity to study selected areas in more depth. You will develop skills, knowledge and understanding in business, whilst having an opportunity to apply learning in a practical and realistic way. Learners will study four units covering a range of topics including marketing, finance and economic factors influencing businesses, two units are coursework based and two units are examined. Students follow a programme of study that enables progression to both higher education and employment within business and take part in course related work experience.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Minimum of 5 GCSE passes 9 to 4 or equivalent, including English Grade 4 and Maths Grade 4. It is not a requirement that you should have studied Business at GCSE, although this would be an advantage.

Health & Social Care BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A Level)

This subject is for anyone who wants to work in a caring professional with people. This is a vocational course, put together by professionals, to prepare you for the world of work in any health and social care setting. You will look at a range of client groups, how they develop and their needs. You will explore how professionals safeguard to ensure clients receive the highest quality of care and be aware of diverse situations that people have to deal with on a daily basis. Over the two years you will study four units: Human Lifespan Development, Meeting Individual Care and Support, Working in Health and Social Care, Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs. This course could lead on to; teaching, nursing, social work, early years, speech & language therapy, occupational therapy, midwifery and many more.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Minimum of 5 GCSEs 9 to 4 or equivalent, including a grade 4 English GCSE.

Health & Social Care BTEC Level 3 Diploma (equivalent to 2 A Levels)

This subject is for anyone who wants to work in a caring professional with people. This is a vocational course, put together by professionals, to prepare you for the world of work in any health and social care setting. You will look at a range of client groups, how they develop and their needs. You will explore how professionals safeguard to ensure clients receive the highest quality of care and be aware of diverse situations that people have to deal with on a daily basis. Over the two years you will study eight units: Human Lifespan Development, Enquiries into Current Research in HSC, Meeting Individual Care and Support, Nutritional Health, Working in Health and Social Care, Principles of Safe Practice in Health and

Social Care, Promoting Public Health, Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs. This course could lead on to; teaching, nursing, social work, early years, speech & language therapy, occupational therapy, midwifery and many more.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Minimum of 5 GCSEs 9 to 4 or equivalent, including a grade 4 English GCSE.

ICT BTEC National Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma (Edexcel)

This modular course provides an excellent extension to vocational ICT courses studied at GCSE. This qualification is designed to offer you an alternative route into higher education or employment. This course has been developed to recognise learner's skills, knowledge and understanding of Information and Communication Technology functions, environments and operations. The learners carry out a range of tasks that have been designed to recognise their achievements in a modern, practical way that is relevant to the workplace.

What are the entry requirements for the course? Minimum of 5 GCSEs 9 to 4 or equivalent, including GCSE English and Maths. ICT grade 4 or equivalent is preferred though not essential.

A LEVEL COURSES

Art, Craft & Design (Edexcel)

During the A Level Art, Craft & Design course you will have the opportunity to develop your creative skills in painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics and mixed-media. In your first year you will be encouraged to explore a range of the formal elements through mini workshops and projects. You will build up a portfolio of experiments and be taught to develop and sustain your ideas in a variety of outcomes. Contextual studies investigating a broad range of artists and cultures are integrated into your studies and we teach you to investigate and analyse the work of others. We run a yearly trip to a major London art fair and private galleries to develop your understanding of the wider picture and also encourage students to make regular visits to London galleries and museums to inspire their own practise. The main area of study will be on the Personal Investigation; in which you will decide with the support of your teacher the area of study for your own project. You will produce a sketchbook and portfolio of studies, experiments and ideas working towards a final outcome/s. You will also support this with a written study related to your practical investigation, a minimum of one thousand words is required. Coursework constitutes 60% of your final grade. (20% of which are allocated to the written study) 40% of the A Level mark comes from the externally set assignment, a 12-week project at the end of the two year course ending in a 15-hour practical exam.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have achieved 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 or equivalent and GCSE grade 4 in an Art or Design & Technology subject and GCSE grade 4 or above in English Language. External students and students who have not taken an Art or Design & Technology subject must submit a portfolio of work. Students who did not achieve the entry requirements must seek advice through interview with the Subject Lead for Art.

Art & Design: Textile Design (Edexcel)

A Level Textiles is specifically aimed at those students who enjoy working with fabrics and in fashion. The course includes elements of the following: hand and machine embroidery, dyeing and printing, constructed textiles and fashion. In your first year you will be encouraged to explore a range of the

formal elements through mini workshops and projects. Building up a portfolio of experiments and taught to develop and sustain your ideas in a variety of outcomes. Contextual studies investigating a broad range of artists, designers and cultures are integrated into your studies and we teach you to investigate and analyse the work of others. We run a yearly trip to a major London art fair and private galleries to develop your understanding of the wider picture and also encourage students to make regular visits to London galleries and museums to inspire their own practise.

The main area of study will be on the Personal Investigation; in which you will decide with the support of your teacher the area of study for your own project. You will produce a sketchbook and portfolio of studies, experiments and ideas working towards a final outcome/s. You will also support this with a written study related to your practical investigation, a minimum of one thousand words is required. Coursework constitutes 60% of your final grade. (20% of which are allocated to the written study) 40% of the A Level mark comes from the externally set assignment, a 12-week project at the end of the two year course ending in a 15-hour practical exam.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have achieved 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 or equivalent and GCSE grade 4 in an Art or Design & Technology subject and GCSE grade 4 or above in English Language. External students and students who have not taken an Art or Design & Technology subject must submit a portfolio of work. Students who did not achieve the entry requirements must seek advice through interview with the Subject Lead for Art.

Art & Design: Photography (Edexcel)

Studying A Level Photography, students will develop understanding and skills in both traditional and new technologies. Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of photographic media, techniques and processes, including darkroom developing techniques, Photoshop, scanography & photocopying experiments, pinhole cameras, projection and mixed media to name a few. Students will choose to explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of art, craft and design, from the past and from recent times, including European and non-European examples. This will be integral to the investigating and making processes. Students' responses to these examples will be created through practical and critical activities that demonstrate their understanding and awareness of different styles, genres and traditions, which will be documented in their sketchbooks as their work progresses. We run a yearly trip to a major London art fair and private galleries to develop your understanding of the wider picture and also encourage students to make regular visits to London galleries and museums to inspire their own practice.

The main area of study will be on the Personal Investigation; in which you will decide with the support of your teacher the area of study for your own project. You will produce a sketchbook and portfolio of studies, experiments and ideas working towards a final outcome/s. You will also support this with a written study related to your practical investigation, a minimum of one thousand words is required. Coursework constitutes 60% of your final grade. (20% of which are allocated to the written study) 40% of the A Level mark comes from the externally set assignment, a 12-week project at the end of the two year course ending in a 15-hour practical exam.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have achieved 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 or equivalent including English or Maths at Grade 4 or above and a minimum of GCSE grade 4 in an Art or Design & Technology subject. External students and students who have not taken an Art or Design & Technology subject must submit a portfolio of work. Students who did not achieve the entry requirements must seek advice through interview with the Head of Art.

Biology (OCR)

A Level Biology A will give you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of biology. It covers the key concepts of biology and practical skills are integrated throughout the course. This combination of

academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A Level Biology highly appealing. You will learn the fundamentals of biology and about the impact of biological research and how it links to everyday life. You will learn many skills including how to apply your knowledge, investigate and solve problems in a range of contexts. Topics covered include; cells, enzymes, exchange (heart and lungs), diseases, ecology, excretion, nerves, hormones, genetics, photosynthesis, respiration and biotechnology. A Level Biology can open up a range of career opportunities including: biological research, medical, environmental, forensics, sports and science communication. The transferable skills you will learn, such as problem solving, are also useful for many other areas, such as law.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have achieved 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 including English and Maths at grade 5 or above and a minimum of 5-5 in Double Science or a 5 or above in two Science subjects at GCSE (including Biology).

Chemistry (OCR)

Chemistry is the study of how elements and compounds behave in the world around us. It attempts to answer questions about why things happen, what is happening to our environment and if we can save the planet. Some of the concepts that we explore in Year 12 build on GCSE knowledge and include atomic structure; chemical bonding; the Periodic Table; quantitative analysis; organic chemistry and energy. You will also carry out many experiments, where you will learn new techniques and refine your practical skills. Chemistry is a subject that is essential to many careers such as medicine, pharmacy, forensics, environmental sciences and veterinary science but is also a useful qualification that shows you can think and solve problems.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have achieved 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 including English and Maths at grade 5 or above and a minimum of 5-5 in Double Science or a 5 in two Science subjects at GCSE (including Chemistry).

Dance (AQA)

A-level Dance provides students with the opportunity to gain experience of performance and choreography and to develop critical thinking about Dance. This four-unit specification requires students to:

- develop understanding and knowledge as well as critical skills for the analysis of choreography and performance within their own work and in professional repertoire
- gain experience of choreography and performance through practice
- gain in-depth knowledge of specific study areas and professional works.

The practical elements of the course amount to 55% of the full qualification.

This course is particularly suitable for students who have studied GCSE Dance and wish to study Dance at a higher level. The content allows students to study a subject which can be extended through higher education and promotes a healthy lifestyle through an awareness of the importance of exercise and training.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have 5 GCSEs grades 9 to 4 and preferably students should have a grade 9 - 4 in GCSE Dance. However, students who have not taken Dance at GCSE will be considered if they can demonstrate a good level of skill in Dance.

Design & Technology: Product Design (AQA)

The course is a natural progression from GCSE Design and Technology. It is a creative and thought provoking course that gives the opportunity to develop practical skills and theoretical knowledge. It is particularly relevant for those wanting to go into a creative industry. You will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology. You will also learn about contemporary technologies, materials and processes, as well as established practices. You will put

your learning in to practice by using your creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, you will need to consider your own and others' needs, wants and values. You will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers. There is a substantial practical element to the course and this is assessed through an NEA which is a design and make task. This is worth 50% of the final grade. You will also be assessed through a written exam.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have gained 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 and GCSE Design Technology Grade 4 or above and Science and Mathematics at 4 or above.

Drama and Theatre (Edexcel)

Drama and Theatre is the academic study of Drama. We focus creatively on practical work which reflects 21st century theatre practice and develops your skills to support onward progression. During the A Level course you will deepen your knowledge, understanding and appreciation of theatre of all styles and genre. You will do this through vigorous study of various theatre practitioners and playwrights, attending the theatre and by practically developing your understanding of certain plays through performance or written exam. A large part of the two-year course includes practical examined performances, therefore a full commitment is required to group rehearsals, which take place outside of sixth form hours i.e. lunchtime and after school.

What are the entry requirements for this course? GCSE Drama Grade 4 or above. Candidates without previous Drama experience will be considered for the course but will need to attend an interview with department staff and have achieved Grade 5 or above in English Language/Literature.

English Language and Literature (AQA)

This integrated English Language and Literature course offers opportunities for you to develop your subject expertise in literary and non-literary discourses. You will engage creatively and critically with a wide range of texts, bringing the nature of literary discourse into sharper view. Using literary and linguistic concepts and methods, you will analyse literary and non-literary texts in a range of modes and genres, in the process gaining insights into the nature of different discourses and ideas about creativity.

Key areas of learning: the representation of place, point of view and genre in prose, the forms and functions of poetic voice, creative transformations of texts and critical reflection on your own processes of production. You will study both fiction e.g. prose, poetry and drama and non-fiction texts e.g. personal letters, spontaneous speech, multimedia texts.

Key skills developed: producing and interpreting language, critical, creative and analytical skills all required both for progression to higher education and for enhanced employability.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have gained 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 or equivalent including English Language at grade 5 and English Literature at grade 5. This course will suit you if you enjoy reading and analysing language, you are prepared to think and work independently, to share your ideas through discussion and to present work in the classroom. You will be expected to complete regular essay based and creative writing assignments as well as keeping a log of your own wider reading.

English Literature (AQA) Option B

This particular course allows students to explore a range of texts and genres and is very enriching. This course will also introduce you to some new concepts such as examining how a text is influenced by the conditions of its production and how responses to texts change throughout time. Developing an informed and fluent personal response to literature through discussion and writing is the central feature of the

course so you will need to read a wide range of literature, covering a range of genres and texts written throughout different periods of time.

What are the entry requirements and expectations for this course? Candidates will be expected to have gained 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 or equivalent including grade 6 in English Literature and grade 5 in English Language. This course will suit you if you enjoy reading, you are prepared to think and work independently, to share your ideas through discussion and to take part in drama and presentation work in the classroom. You will be expected to complete regular essay based assignments as well as keeping a log of your own wider reading.

Geography (Edexcel)

The Edexcel A Level enables you to engage critically with real world issues and places. You are given the opportunity to apply your own geographical knowledge, understanding and skill to really make sense of the complexities of the world we live in. The specification offers an issues-based approach to studying geography, enabling you to explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues such as the consequences of globalisation, health and human rights, responses to hazards, water insecurity and climate change. The course content gives you the opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of both physical and human geography, the complexity of people and environment questions and issues, and to become critical, reflective and independent learners.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will also be expected to have gained 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 or equivalent, including grade 4 in Maths and English. GCSE Grade 5 (or equivalent) or above in Geography (however, consideration will be given to candidates on an individual basis, who have an interest in the subject).

History (Edexcel)

With this course over two years you will study a range of Modern Historical topics. In your first year you will cover 'Searching for rights and freedoms in the 20th Century.' This involves a study of the USA in the 20th century, with a focus on a number of groups ranging from minorities to the Presidents. To accompany this, we delve into the lesser known past of India under the British Empire. We follow the dramatic tale of India's quest for independence from 1914-1948, involving famous historical figures such as Gandhi and socio-political turmoil in the fall out of World War Two. In the second year you will undertake a coursework investigation based around Historical debates that surround Nazi Germany and the Third Reich. The final topic explores the British Experience of Warfare through time, from the Napoleonic wars to the First World War

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have achieved 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 or equivalent and GCSE grade 5 or above in History and grade 5 in English. However, students who have not taken History GCSE will be considered on an individual basis.

Maths (Edexcel)

The content of the new A Level Maths course splits approximately into two-thirds pure Maths, one sixth mechanics content and one-sixth statistics. The aims and objectives of the course are to encourage problem solving, comprehension and use of technology. Students are expected to use their mathematical skills and techniques to solve challenging problems that require them to decide on a solution strategy. The exam comprises of three, 2hour exam papers each worth a 100 marks; Pure Maths, Pure Maths and Mechanics and pure Maths and Statistics. The use of calculator is allowed in all exam papers. A Level Maths is a rigorous and academic qualification which is highly valued for university entry and employment.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have achieved 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 or equivalent, including a minimum grade 6 in GCSE Maths and have very good algebra skills.

Media Studies (Eduqas)

Media plays an ever-increasing role in all of our lives. From watching TV, reading magazines, to using Facebook, the media is never far away. Choosing Media Studies provides you with the opportunity to objectively analyse existing media texts and to create your own texts too.

This course will enable you to build on skills that you now possess through watching and reading forms of the media you have already experienced. It will also introduce you to new concepts and experiences within the media.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have achieved 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 or equivalent and grade 4 or above in English, study of Media or ICT at level 2 would be an advantage.

Modern Languages: French (AQA)

The topics studied are much more advanced than at GCSE and enable you to communicate with people from French and Spanish speaking countries about issues that really matter to you. At GCSE, the focus was very much on you and your day-to-day experiences. At A level, the focus shifts to considering worldwide issues and being able to discuss these in depth. You will enjoy learning a variety of topics ranging from French and Spanish societies and cultures to issues relating to young people today. You will also have the opportunity to study a French or Spanish film and book. The course encourages you to become an independent and outward-looking thinker and to develop your understanding of other cultures, beliefs and political systems which prepare you well for further studies at university.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have gained 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 or equivalent and ideally, you need to have gained a GCSE grade 5 or above in your chosen language, having sat higher level. You should be able to confidently use a range of tenses in your work.

Physical Education (AQA)

Do you enjoy science and looking at how the human body and mind is affected by participation and performance? Are you interested in the place of PE and sport in society and how the subject has developed historically? Are you keen to debate and develop an awareness of current issues in sport? A level PE is an academic course that has practical components. Study of PE at A level will enhance your knowledge and experience of PE and sport, as well as giving you a deeper understanding of health issues. The course requires you to study a range of areas such as applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sports psychology, sport and society, exercise physiology, biomechanics and the role of technology in sport. It goes without saying that you must enjoy developing and acquiring skills and techniques in your chosen sport and you must be actively participating in a sports club outside of school. You will assess your own fitness and participate in a range of fitness tests to enable you to analyse and improve your own performance. Studying A level PE will prepare you for further studies in a range of courses including degrees in sports psychology, sport and exercise sciences, sports therapy and coaching studies, as well as being relevant for a range of careers including work in the health and fitness industry, teaching, coaching and sports medicine and physiotherapy. A level PE is assessed through a combination of written examinations and coursework which will assess your skills and knowledge, and you will also be assessed in your one chosen practical activity where you will specialise either as a performer or as a coach. If you have a passion for sport, you will enjoy studying A level PE.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have achieved 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 or equivalent and at least a grade 4 in PE GCSE, along with a 4 in Science. Ideally you will also have a grade 4 in English and Maths. Students must also be actively involved in a sports club outside of school.

Physics (OCR)

Physics A Level is one of the most universally accepted qualifications for progression to university. The course content covers the basis of how things work, from the constituent parts of atoms out to the

extent of the universe. You will integrate the concepts studied with a range of practical experiments throughout each topic giving the course both an academic and practical focus. You will learn to apply your knowledge of the key concepts to solve problems in a range of different contexts and applications. You will develop the ability to think laterally and gain a deeper knowledge of the principles that you have studied at GCSE, such as Newton's Laws of Motion and the evolution of the Universe. You will also advance your use of experimental techniques to support your own theories and enrich your understanding of the subject. It is ideal for those students who wish to read Physics, Sciences, Medicine, Engineering, Computer Science or Mathematics at university. It is also extremely rewarding for those students wishing to pursue non-scientific careers, for example in Law, Design, Architecture, Accountancy and Business Studies as the principles of problem solving are transferable to many disciplines.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have achieved 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 including English at grade 5 or above and Maths at a grade 5 (but preferably a grade 6) or above and a minimum of 5-5 in Double or a 5 in two Science subjects at GCSE (including Physics).

Politics (Edexcel)

Politics offers students the opportunity to cultivate an insight into political beliefs central to an understanding of the modern world as well as developing analytical and evaluative skills. This course allows students to study contemporary politics and develop a strong understanding of the factors shaping both the British and American systems. This subject also helps in the development of discussion and debating skills and encourages students to think beyond the constraints of a textbook.

As well as providing a foundation for further study in politics, international relations or law, Politics complements many other popular A-levels including: History, Business Studies, English and Sociology.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have gained 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 or equivalent including a grade 4 in English or History at grade 5.

Psychology (AQA)

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour and is therefore directly relevant to all of us. It is a fascinating subject as it focuses on explaining why people behave as they do. The 'A' level course involves learning about psychological theories and studies across a range of topics such as Memory, Relationships and Psychopathology.

Psychology is a popular subject which is attractive to students because it develops a range of valuable skills, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. These skills are particularly relevant to young people and are transferable to further study and the workplace. Our qualification offers students an engaging and stimulating introduction to the study of psychology, combined with the academic integrity and skills that Higher Education and employers value.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have achieved 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 or equivalent and a GCSE at grade 4 or above in English, Maths and a grade 5 in Biology or Grade 5 and 5 in Double Science.

Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics (Edexcel)

This course will introduce you to some of the key themes in Philosophy of Religion and Religion and Ethics. You will study the works of classical and modern philosophers like Aristotle, Aquinas and Mill as well as studying ethical theories. You will examine the application of ethical theories to dilemmas and consider ethical issues in the world around us. You will also study a world faith in depth, considering fundamental questions of belief, values and teachings alongside sources of wisdom and authority.

This course offers a diverse range of skills which are particularly beneficial to further study. Critical thinking and analytical skills are developed throughout the course as are the skills of extended writing and communication.

As well as being superb preparation for further study in the study of philosophy and religion, a study of Philosophy and Ethics will complement many other popular A-levels including: English Literature, History and Government & Politics, Classical Civilisation, Sociology and Psychology.

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have achieved 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 or equivalent and a minimum GCSE grade 5 in English or 5 grade in RS with a grade 4 in English.

Sociology (AQA)

In this course you will investigate the central aspects of sociological thought and method, together with the application of a range of skills. It is designed to allow the integration of sociological themes, such as, socialisation, culture and identity, power and differentiation. You will critically examine the way society has developed and currently operates. Considering questions such as: Why are girls achieving better grades in education than ever before? Are families good or bad for us? Do men commit more crime than women? What does religion do in society?

What are the entry requirements for this course? Candidates will be expected to have achieved 5 GCSE grades 9 to 4 or equivalent. GCSE Sociology not required but students must have achieved a grade 4 in English.

NOTES

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