

Gospel Oak Sixth



Respect Pride Aspiration

Founded 2021. A Life Changing Education.



Principal's Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to Gospel Oak School Sixth Form and thank you for considering us for the next stage of our educational journey. As part of the Central Region Schools Trust, we benefit from Trust-wide support and collaboration which enables us to provide a first-class Further Education provision for our students, whichever Level 3 pathway they choose to embark upon.

We are a fully inclusive learning community rooted in respect, pride and aspiration. We are very passionate about social justice and the right of all children to have an excellent education regardless of their background, educational starting point or any other potential barrier that has the potential to affect their progress. We aim to enable our students to achieve exceptional outcomes through Quality First Teaching, supported by our rich and diverse curriculum and our strong pastoral support programmes which enable all student to maximise their potential.

We invest a lot in preparing students for their next steps in their education through an extensive careers programme, supporting students towards Higher Education or apprenticeships, or indeed the world of work. Our bespoke and personalised systems of support enable all students to make the right choices for them, allowing them to further build on the skills, attributes and knowledge they have gained here.

Our Sixth Form is a strong facet of our school and an areas we are incredibly proud of. Student destinations include Russell Group Universities, highly sought after apprenticeships and high-level jobs in the wider community which reflects the support and guidance they are given here at gospel Oak in their post-16 journey. Students benefit from a wide range of subjects and an exclusive Sixth Form study area; they also have opportunities to lead our community action groups and provide support to younger students in their learning, as well as charitable work, which all builds a neat and mature Personal Statement in readiness for University life.

I encourage you to come and have a look for yourself and meet our Sixth Form community to see why they have chosen Gospel Oak and the truly special community they are creating. Whenever you choose to visit us, I can assure you of a very warm Gospel Oak welcome.

With every good wish,

Christopher Czepukojć
Principal



“Sixth Form at Gospel Oak is a great environment to learn vital subject knowledge but also learn about yourself and where you want to be in the future.”
Student



Sixth Form Welcome

Welcome to Gospel Oak School Sixth Form. I am immensely proud to lead a Sixth Form team who alongside our students, work incredibly hard to fulfil both academic potential as well as shaping the whole person with preparation for life after Sixth Form.

Gospel Oak School Sixth Form is a special part of our school. It is focused on providing the highest quality of teaching and learning and extra-curricular opportunities for our students. The two-year journey at our school will enrich and shape your child's future. The curriculum we offer has a variety of subjects and is designed to support your child with their next steps.

We are also fortunate to have a strong careers team dedicated to supporting your child with the best advice to guide them on their next steps. This team will create experiences to engage students and develop students that are worldly and suited for the world of work. During your time here, you will develop essential skills through independent study, enrichment opportunities and developing interpersonal skills, shaping resilient and determined individuals who thrive in an internationally competitive world. The Sixth form is a real asset to our ever-growing school.

Mr Bala
Director of Post 16

 ***Gospel Oak Sixth Form is a good place to be as teachers are helpful and always take your ideas into account.*** 
Student

Personal Development Opportunities

Work experience

All students will complete work experience in Year 12 to help guide and focus their direction for post 18 pathways. This is a crucial time where students will develop skills such as self-reliance, problem solving, time management, self-confidence and maturity. Links with local and national businesses during this time have proven fruitful for future apprenticeship and employment opportunities for our students at the end of Year 13.

Gospel Oak distinctiveness

The Distinctiveness Program aims to develop opportunities for students to give something back by being active members of the school and wider community. This may be through volunteering or developing a physical or creative skill to pass on to others. As part of this, the Duke of Edinburgh Award is offered along with the opportunity to be part of the Combined Cadet Force, various sports teams and Performing Arts opportunities.

Student leadership and community action groups

There is the opportunity to be part of the Student Leadership Team, which has gone from strength to strength with our Head Students, Deputy Head Students and Prefects working hard to ensure students across the school have a voice. Our Community Action Groups promote equality and diversity within the school and local community, charity events, environmental issues as well as sports leadership and these are all lead by our Sixth Form students.

Accelerated Reader buddies

All Sixth Formers are paired with Year 7 or Year 8 students as part of the Accelerated Reader Program. They listen to their buddies read one to one on a weekly basis and then support them to complete the quiz at the end of their book. Sixth Form students are responsible for logging the progress of their buddies and ensuring that books are chosen of the appropriate level. Our younger students have made incredible progress with their reading by working with our Sixth Form students and the Sixth Formers have developed their personal skills at the same time.

Trips and rewards

We believe that it is incredibly important for students to socialise together outside of the school environment to encourage the positive culture and togetherness in Sixth Form that we have built. Examples of current trips are to the Frankfurt Christmas Market in Birmingham, an escape room experience at Shrewsbury Prison, climbing Mount Snowdon for charity and end of Year 13 prom.

Support and Guidance in the Sixth Form

Career Information Advice and Guidance

At Gospel Oak School we are here to help, support and guide students into getting into the top universities, apprenticeships and full-time employment when they finish their studies with us. We have a dedicated, highly qualified, Careers Leader and work closely with Wolverhampton University and their Aspire to Higher Education Partnership to give our students a variety of Higher Education experiences.

During your Sixth Form experience you will get support with the following:

- Expanding your career aspirations
- Choosing the right course at university
- Applying to university through the UCAS system
- Understanding student finance information
- Apprenticeship and employment seeking
- Access to university open days
- Access to a variety of online seminars across a wide range of subjects and career pathways
- Work experience with excellent links to local face to face employers as well as nationwide online opportunities.
- Interview technique development
- Developing your CV



Mentoring and counselling

We understand that life can sometimes throw things our way that are difficult, therefore all students in Sixth Form have access to our school counsellor and support team if needed, alongside daily pastoral support from their form tutor, our Head of Year for Sixth Form and the Director of Post 16.

Academic tutoring

Form tutors are the first point of contact for our students as they see them daily. Form tutors monitor students' academic progress and have regular one-to-one mentoring sessions with their tutees. Our successful PSHCE program runs through tutor time which focuses study skills, future career options and health and wellbeing to name a few. Topical local and national issues are discussed and debated during tutor time, developing students reasoning and oracy skills.

Financial support

Students who meet the 16-19 Bursary requirements will be able to apply for financial support. If successful, this funding will help with transport costs to and from sixth form, buying professional clothing, revision guides and textbooks as well as helping fund any academic trips. Eligibility for Bursary funding will be discussed during interview and again on upon being offered a place at Gospel Oak.



Staff at Gospel Oak Sixth Form are very dedicated to helping you onto the right pathway after post 16.



Student

Choosing Your Programme of Study

We offer a range of BTEC and A-Level qualifications at Gospel Oak Sixth Form. Things to consider:

- Ensure your qualifications match the career you would like to do in the future.
- You must enjoy the subjects you have chosen as A-Level and Level 3 BTECs are incredibly demanding.
- Choose subjects that play to your strengths. Some subjects are exam based whereas others have a high coursework content. Some subjects require high levels of practical performance and others require a large amount of extended writing.
- Consider the entry requirements for the courses you wish to study. There is the opportunity to re-sit either GCSE English or GCSE Maths but one of these courses must be at a grade 4 or higher to gain entry into our Sixth Form.
- Keep your options open if you are not yet sure of your long-term plans. Consider facilitating subjects such as History, Geography and English Literature.
- If you are choosing a subject that you haven't studied before, consider why you want to study it. Find out exactly what the course is about, how it will be assessed and what you can go on to do after completing the course.



I enjoy Gospel Oak Sixth Form. It has provided me with many opportunities and prepared me for the next steps needed to fulfil my full potential.

Student



The Application Process

You can apply to Gospel Oak Sixth Form via the school website (www.gspeloakschool.co.uk) or as a paper copy of the form available in the Year 11 office, Sixth Form office or main reception.

You will receive a letter to confirm that we have received your application.

You will be invited for an interview to discuss your application and subject choices.

When you arrive for the interview, please bring an academic reference and current grades from your school or college. We will not be able to make you an offer without a reference.

If the interview is successful, you will receive written confirmation of your conditional offer. We ask that you confirm acceptance of this offer by posting back the acceptance letter or by email/telephone. Failure to accept your conditional offer may put your place at risk.

All students that receive a conditional offer will be invited to an Induction Programme in July. Failure to attend may put your place at risk.

Enrolment will take place on GCSE results day. The Post 16 team will be at hand to discuss results and ensure make the right choice for your next steps. Failure to attend enrolment may put your place at risk.

Summary of Courses on Offer

Are you predicted at least 5 grade 4-9 GCSE results including Maths or English?

Do you enjoy coursework or practical work?

Do you enjoy examination based subjects?

BTEC Art
BTEC Business Studies
WJEC Criminology
BTEC Dance
BTEC Drama
BTEC Health and Social Care
BTEC Music
BTEC Sport
A Level Art and Design:
Three-Dimensional Design

Biology
Chemistry
Computer Science
Criminology
English Language and Literature
Geography
History
Law
Mathematics
Physics

Subject Specific Entry Requirements

General: 5 GCSEs at grades 4-9 including 4+ in English and/or Maths

Subject Specific - A Level (and applied)	
A Level Biology	5 GCSE's at grades 4-9 including English and Maths as well as Science/Biology at grade 6.
A Level Chemistry	5 GCSE's at grades 4-9 including English and Maths as well as Science/Chemistry at grade 6.
A Level Computer Science	5 GCSE's including English at grade 4 or above and Maths at grade 6 or above.
A Level Criminology	5 GCSE's at grades 4-9 including English.
A Level English Language and Literature	5 GCSE's at grades 4-9 with English Language and/or Literature at grade 6.
A Level Geography	5 GCSE's at grades 4-9 including English and Maths and Geography at grade 6 or higher.
A Level History	5 GCSE's at grades 4-9 including English. Although not essential, having studied History at GCSE would be advantageous.
A Level Law	5 GCSE's at grades 4-9 with English Literature and Language at grade 6.
A Level Maths	5 GCSE's at grades 4-9 including English as well as grade 6 in Maths.
A Level Physics	5 GCSE's at grades 4-9 including English, grade 6 in Maths and Science/Physics.
A Level Art and Design: Three Dimensional Design	5 GCSEs at grades 4-9 including English and Maths (an additional GCSE/BTEC is product design/ art subject is preferred).
A Level Psychology	5 GCSE's at grades 4-9 including Maths and English Language at level 5 or higher. If you have studied Psychology at GCSE level, a minimum grade of 5 is required.

Subject Specific - BTEC	
BTEC Level 3 National in Art & Design	5 GCSE's at grades 4-9 including English AND BTEC Level 2 or GCSE Art OR a portfolio of artwork demonstrating skill.
BTEC Level 3 National in Business	5 GCSE's at grades 4-9 including English and Maths. Although not essential, having studied Business at level 2 would be beneficial.
BTEC Level 3 in Dance	5 GCSE's including English and if studied at Level 2 not necessary but would be preferred.
BTEC Level 3 National in Health & Social Care	5 GCSE's at grades 4-9 including English. Although not essential, having studied a health-related subject at level 2 would be advantageous.
BTEC Level 3 National in Music Performance	5 GCSE's at grades 4-9 including English. Although not essential, having studied Level 2 Music Practice tech award would be advantageous. Musical instrument ability equivalent to grade 3 performance standard or higher is essential and an audition with the music team to showcase this.
BTEC Level 3 National in Performing Arts (Drama)	5 GCSEs at grades 4-9 including English. It is not essential to have studied Drama at level 2, although this would be beneficial. There is a heavy practical component in this course. As such students are expected to engage in all practical elements, especially performing in front of an audience.
BTEC Level 3 in Sport	5 GCSEs at grades 4-9 including English. It is not necessary to have studied a sport related subject at level 2, although this would be advantageous. Students will spend a lot of time performing and leading in a variety of different sports and so must be physically committed to full engagement, including representing the school as a competitor and an official in a variety of sports.

Opportunities Available

Social Mobility Foundation

The Social Mobility Foundation (SMF) is a charity which aims to make a practical improvement in social mobility for young people from low-income backgrounds. The programme provides opportunities and networks of support for 16–17-year-olds including internships, residential programmes and one-to-one mentoring from year 12 through to graduation from university. Students who meet the entry requirements can apply to take part in one of eleven career sectors (Accountancy, Business, Engineering & Finance, Biology & Chemistry, Business, Engineering & Physics, Law, Media & Communications, Medicine, Politics and Technology) through the Social Mobility Foundation's Aspiring Professionals Programme.



University of Birmingham A2B Scheme

The Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme is designed to help students from families and communities in the West Midlands who have little or no experience of Higher Education to find out what studying at university involves. Several students from Gospel Oak Sixth Form are now studying at the University of Birmingham in a variety of subjects due to the success of the scheme. Students who meet eligibility criteria receive a lower alternative offer to courses at the University of Birmingham. Typically, the A2B offer is 2 grades lower than the original offer (eg BBB instead of AAB) or 40 UCAS tariff points. If you are successful in the A2B scheme and gain the grades needed to meet your offer, you will also receive a bursary of £1200 for your first year of university studies.



Sir Doug Ellis Pathway to Healthcare Programme

Aston University launched this programme in 2016 which is designed to prepare students to enter medical school and other healthcare professions at Aston or elsewhere. The programme is for students of non-traditional backgrounds (e.g. those who will be the first in their family to attend university, have been in receipt of free school meals etc.) Gospel Oak Sixth Form had our first student accepted onto this course in 2020.



Students who complete this programme and meet Aston University's academic entry criteria will be eligible to apply for one of the subsidised places on their undergraduate medicine degree.

Enrichment Opportunities

The enrichment opportunities that are available to all students in Sixth form are designed to get students to try new and varied activities that develop their character. Enrichment creates opportunities for students to improve their outcomes and allow for student professional and personal development. Examples of enrichments include: EPQ, Cadets, iDEA and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

EPQ

The Extended Project Qualification is a qualification that is equivalent to an AS Level. It provides the opportunity to select a specific topic that you would like to research further and then generate a presentation and report to evaluate your findings.

Cadets

The Cadets programme is designed to develop young people of all abilities and backgrounds both physically and mentally, improving self-confidence, teamwork, friendship, leadership and community.

iDEA

iDEA is an inspiring digital enterprise award that helps you develop digital, enterprise and employability skills.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The D of E programme is designed to challenge young people to attain standards of achievement and take part in a wide variety of active interests. The students will also partake in serving their community, experience adventure and to develop learning outside of the



Art and Design: Three-Dimensional Design A Level

Course title

Three-Dimensional Design

Awarding body

AQA

Course description

This specification has been designed to encourage students to take a broad view of design and design influences on the modern world. Additionally, this course will develop the student's capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials and manufacturing.

Course content

Through study and first-hand experience in practical project work, students will also develop knowledge of design influences from across the globe.. Coursework projects may also provide an opportunity for students to learn about the use of computer aided design (CAD) and computer aided manufacture (CAM).

Assessment

Project 1: 50% of overall grade

Students will develop a brief based on their own research and investigation to Design, manufacture and evaluate their own project/product. This will be completed and assessed in the classroom and workshop.

Essay (extended writing): 10% of overall grade

Reflection essay - 3000 words. Students will write a review of their work and the designers they have taken influence from.

Project 2 - February year 13 release: 40% of overall grade

Students will work on an unseen project brief and will have 15 hours to respond with a project outcome using Research, designing, making, and evaluating their outcome.

There is no exam for this course. Work is 100% assessed in house and completed at school. Work can be presented in a sketchbook or digitally.

Progression routes

The study of design creates exciting routes for progression within similar fields and could lead to great career opportunities within the design sector. These include, but are not limited to, Architecture, Product Design, Engineering, Fashion, Art, Manufacturing, CAD Designing, Interior Design, Teaching, Degree Apprenticeships, University progression.

Biology A Level

Course title

Biology

Awarding body

AQA

Course description

A level Biology explores the theories and principles involved in all living systems. You will cover a broad range of biology, including lifestyle, transport, genes and health, development, plants and the environment, practical biology and research skills, the natural environment and species survival, energy, exercise and co-ordination and practical biology and investigative skills. You will not only learn the content but develop transferable skills which can be applied to any subject. The qualification is designed for post-16 learners who aim to progress to higher education and can be used as a springboard for any course.

Course content

Students will study:

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange with the environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfers
6. Organism's response to change
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and Ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

Assessment

Throughout the course students will be provided with continuous support, guidance and examination practice to allow them to succeed during assessment.

3 exam papers, each 2 hours long, and you shall be assessed on your practical skills.

Progression routes

A Level Biology is a good academic option which combines well with many other subjects, science and non-science based, providing a firm foundation for those who wish to continue to higher education. Biology is necessary for many careers, including Dentistry, Animal Behaviour/Training, Science Education, Pharmacist, Medicine, Biometrics & Robotics, Health Care Professional. Many employers, for those who wish to seek employment, also hold it in high regard.

Chemistry A Level

Course title

Chemistry

Awarding body

AQA

Course description

Chemistry is the study of matter and the chemical reactions between substances. Chemistry is also the study of matter's composition, structure, and properties. Matter is essentially anything in the world that takes up space and has mass. Chemistry is sometimes called 'the central science', because it bridges physics with other natural sciences, such as geology and biology. You will not only learn the content but develop transferable skills which can be applied to any subject. The qualification is designed for post-16 learners who aim to progress to higher education and can be used as a springboard for any course.

Course content

This subject is separated into two components at AS and A2: Physical Chemistry and Organic Chemistry.

Physical Chemistry topics: Amount of substance; Bonding; Energetics; Kinetics; Chemical equilibria, Le Chatelier's principle and K_c; Oxidation, reduction and redox equations Thermodynamics (A-level only) Rate equations ;Equilibrium constant K_p for homogeneous systems (A-level only); Electrode potentials and electrochemical cells (A-level only) ;Acids and bases (A-level only);Inorganic chemistry; Periodicity; the alkaline earth metals; Group 7, the halogens; Properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides (A-level only);Transition metals (A-level only); Reactions of ions in aqueous solution (A-level only).

Organic Chemistry topics: Organic chemistry; Introduction to organic chemistry; Alkanes; Halogenoalkanes; Alkenes; Alcohols; Organic analysis Optical isomerism (A-level only);Aldehydes and ketones (A-level only); Carboxylic acids and derivatives (A-level only);Aromatic chemistry (A-level only);Amines (A-level only) ; Polymers (A-level only); Amino acids, proteins and DNA (A-level only); Organic synthesis (A-level only); Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (A-level only); Chromatography (A-level only).

Assessment

Throughout the course students will be provided with continuous support, guidance and examination practice to allow them to succeed during assessment.

3 exam papers, each 2 hours long, and you shall be assessed on your practical skills.

Progression routes

A Level Chemistry is a good academic option which combines well with many other subjects, science and non-science based, providing a firm foundation for those who wish to continue to higher education. Chemistry is necessary for many careers, including Chemistry, Medicine, Pharmacy, Biochemistry, Biomedical Science, Dentistry, Health Care, Science Education Professional, Research, Analytical chemist, Biotechnologist, Chemical engineer, Clinical scientist, Forensic scientist, Nanotechnologist, Pharmacologist, Research scientist (physical sciences), Scientific laboratory technician, Toxicologist. Many employers, for those who wish to seek employment, also hold it in high regard.

Computer Science A Level

Course title

Computer Science

Awarding body

OCR

Course description

Do you love problem solving, gaming, robotics and maths? Then A Level Computer Science is perfect for you!

From games developer to IT managers, computer science graduates have a vast range of opportunities open to them. All businesses rely on computers to function effectively, so whether you want to work for an IT consultancy, a major organisation in retail, aerospace or healthcare or even set up your own web design business, you'll have a great start to your career with a sought-after computer science qualification. Whether you love the concept of remote working from anywhere in the world, working from home or high salaries, Computer Science is the only subject that will open doors to endless possibilities in any field you work in.

Course content

Component 01: Programming and System Development - You will learn about the internal workings of the Central Processing Unit (CPU), the exchange of data and will also look at software development, data types and legal and ethical issues.

1. Data Structures
2. Logical Operations
3. Algorithms and Programming
4. Principles of Programming
5. Systems Analysis
6. System Design
7. Software Engineering
8. Program Construction

Assessment

This is a two-year, linear course. The exams will take place at the end of the course.

Examination - Component 1 and 2: Two exams, each of 2 hours 30 mins (80%)

Coursework - Component 3: System development project (20%)

Progression routes

This A level will give you a significant advantage if you decide to do a Computer Science degree at university. It is also a good base for several other degree areas such as Electronics engineering or Digital media, where the ability to program will be very useful. Some universities also require a good grade in A Level Mathematics in order to enrol onto their Computer Science courses.

Criminology Applied A Level

Course title

Criminology

Awarding body

WJEC

Course description

Criminology is the scientific study of crime and criminals. Students will study the psychological and sociological theories of crime as well as how crime is perceived in society and the impact of the media and crime statistics. By understanding why crimes are committed, we can develop ways to control crime or rehabilitate the criminal. Students will develop skills to research policies in practice, assess campaigns for change and examine information to resolve criminal cases.

Course content

Students will study Changing Awareness of Crime and Criminological Theories and they must complete all units. The first mandatory unit will enable students to demonstrate their understanding of different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported. The second mandatory unit will allow learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crime, drawing on what they have learned in Unit 1.

Assessment

Exam - 2 Papers, 50%
2 pieces of Coursework - 50%

Progression routes

This qualification can lead to employment as a Solicitor, Lawyer, Barrister, Police Officer, Forensic Science Technician, Corrections officer and Probation officer to name just a few.

English Literature A Level

Course title

English Literature

Awarding body

AQA

Course description

The course covers the study of literature, building on the work completed at GCSE Level. The texts that students will study throughout the duration of the course will cover two themes: Love through the ages and Modern Texts. Students will study a range of prose fiction, poetry, drama and non-fiction texts that will span across a range of literary time periods. Students will also be expected to complete a wider range of reading outside of lessons. Teaching is primarily through group and class discussion, developing analysis skills.

Course content

For Paper one, students will focus on 'telling stories'. This includes looking at texts through the lens of the representation of place different points of view and the forms and function of poetic voice. Students will study a compulsory anthology, 'Paris', The Handmaid's Tale and Carol Ann Duffy's 'Mean Time' anthology.

Students' second examination will focus on 'exploring conflict'. Students learn about the ways in which writers and speakers use language, beginning with a general focus on broad questions such as: How do people interact? How do people claim power and position others in talk? How do people express identity? Students will study and be assessed on: 'The Kite Runner' and 'Othello'.

In addition to the two examinations, students will also complete an independent non-examination assessment which requires them to focus on language use in different types of text. It is called 'Making Connections' because it requires students to make active connections between a literary text and some non-literary material. The connections must be based either on a chosen theme or on the idea that particular linguistic strategies and features may occur in the different types of material.

Assessment

Paper 1: 40% - 3 hours
Paper 2: 40% - 2 hours 30 minutes
NEA: 20%

Progression routes

The course offers, through a range of study, the chance to develop analytical, evaluative, and communicative skills. Students develop wider reading and research skills which will prepare them for further study. It can be used as the pathway to further study in higher education or work in almost all fields, as well as being a recognised qualification, well known and well regarded by employers.

Geography A Level

Course title

Geography

Awarding body

AQA

Course description

The A Level Geography course content reflects the world today. There is a physical and human geography approach which are taught side-by-side. The content builds upon the knowledge and skills developed at GCSE. A level Geography is very well recognised by employers and universities because it requires students to develop a deep understanding of the world around them. Students will also be able to understand a variety of information and assess its importance. Therefore, the course is well suited to students who will be continuing their education or choosing to find challenging work in the 21st century.

Course content

Students will study Hazards, Globalisation, Coastal Systems, Resource Security, Water and Carbon Cycles, Changing Places and the Independent Enquiry (fieldwork and written report).

Assessment

Two 2 hour 30 min examination papers (80% of A level)
Fieldwork Investigation (20% Of A level).

Progression routes

A level Geography is very well recognised by employers and universities because it requires students to develop a deep understanding of the world around them. They will also be able to understand a variety of information quickly and assess its importance. Therefore, the course is well suited to students who are continuing their education or choosing to find challenging work in 21st century, including Engineer, a range of careers in local or national government, international aid/ developer worker, environmental consultant, teacher, cartographer (design maps) and astronomer.

History A Level

Course title

History

Awarding body

OCR

Course description

A level history is a demanding yet rewarding course that sees students study the past in a variety of different ways, whether it be collaboratively, independently, in the form of a debate or presentations to peers. Students will look at a range of source material and critically evaluate interpretations of the past in order to build up their own views of some of the most interesting and contentious events.

Course content

Students will learn about the key political, social and economic developments in Russia over a 100 year period amidst the rise of revolution and communism which signaled the end of the old Russian monarchy.

They will also study the later Tudors looking at Elizabeth I, paying particular attention to her religious settlements and how she maintained control of the country at a time of massive upheaval. There will also be an enquiry study built into this module on the mid-Tudor crisis focusing on Edward and Mary.

Students will also study Democracy and dictatorship in Germany, tracking the rise and fall of the Nazi party and the impact of the divisions caused by the Cold War on Germany post 1945.

Assessment

England 1547-1603: The Later Tudors (Enquiry topic: Mid Tudor Crises 1547–1558) - 25% of total mark.
Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1919-1963 - 15% of total mark.
Russia and its Rulers 1855-1964 - 40% of total mark.
Topic based essay - 20% of total mark.

Progression routes

A level history is extremely well recognised by employers and Universities as it demonstrates an ability to summarise, evaluate and analyse as well as write at length to support an opinion. It has been designated as one of the facilitating subjects that demonstrates a student's ability to think, work and write at the highest analytical levels. Linked careers include Law, Politics, Teaching, Archaeology, Journalism and Research.

Law A Level

Course title

Law

Awarding body

OCR

Course description

Law is a subject which impacts on us all. Laws are rules made by the state (Parliament, government and the judiciary) to regulate all areas of life from crime, contract, property and wills to family, personal injury, sport and media. For law to be enforced successfully there also need to be systems through which it is delivered such as courts, the legal profession, other forms of dispute resolution but also systems for changing the law and keeping it relevant and up to date. You will study the English Legal System, law making and three areas of both private and public law in England and Wales. Through the study of criminal law, the law of tort and contract law, you will learn, develop and apply the techniques

Assessment

Paper 1: The legal system and criminal law, 80 marks, 2 hours - 33.5%

Paper 2: Law making and the law of tort, 80 marks, 2 hours - 33.5%

Paper 3: The nature of law and Human Rights, 80 marks, 2 hours - 33.5%

Paper 1:

- Civil courts, tribunals, ADR and civil appeals
- The Criminal courts and processes
- The judiciary and the legal profession
- Access to justice and funding
- General principles of criminal law
- Non fatal offences - assault and battery, ABH, GBH
- Fatal offences - murder and manslaughter
- Property offences - theft, robbery, burglary
- Criminal attempts
- Defences - intoxication, insanity, automatism, duress, self defence, consent

Paper 2:

- Parliamentary law making
- Delegated legislation
- Law Reform
- Statutory Interpretation
- Judicial Precedent
- EU Law
- Negligence
- Occupiers' Liability
- Vicarious Liability
- Nuisance
- Rylands v Fletcher

Paper 3

- The Nature of Law
- Law and Justice
- Law and Morality
- Law and Society
- Contract formation - Intention, agreement, consideration, privity
- Contract terms - express, implied and controls over exclusion clauses/unfair terms
- Vitiating factors - misrepresentation and economic duress
- Discharge of contract - by performance, frustration and breach
- Remedies - common law damages and equitable court orders

Progression routes

Our students go on to study a wide variety of degrees including the LLB and other law-related degrees. Some choose alternative pathways by becoming paralegals, legal apprentices, training to become legal executives or working for the police or government (Department of Justice). Law is also useful for students who are aiming towards careers in journalism, real estate, accountancy, business and the civil service.

Mathematics A Level

Course title

Mathematics

Awarding body

Edexcel

Course description

This qualification will enable students to:

- Understand mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence, fosters enjoyment and provides a strong foundation for progress to further study.
- Extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques.
- Understand coherence and progression in mathematics and how different areas of mathematics are connected.
- Apply mathematics in other fields of study and be aware of the relevance of mathematics to the world of work and to situations in society in general.

Course content

Pure maths, including proofs; algebra; geometry; sequences and series; trigonometry; exponentials and logarithms; differentiation and integration; and vectors. Application through statistics and mechanics, including statistical sampling; data presentation and interpretation; probability; statistical distributions, quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics

Assessment

Three written examinations, each of 2 hours duration.

Progression routes

The academic rigour of A Level mathematics is recognised by all universities and as such it is often chosen as an accompanying A Level for entry into science-based degree courses including physics, chemistry, biology, medicine and psychology, as well as the more obvious routes into pure mathematics, statistics, accountancy and IT based degrees.

Psychology A Level

Course title

Psychology

Awarding body

AQA

Course description

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and its functions. Psychology A-level appeals to a cross section of students, regardless of whether or not they have studied psychology before. Students study topics such as Psychopathology (abnormalities), Memory, Relationships, Eating behaviour and stress. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

Course content

The units studied on this course are:

Compulsory: Social influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology, Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research methods, Issues and debates in Psychology.

Optional: Relationships, Gender, Cognition and development, Schizophrenia, Eating behaviour, Stress, Aggression, Forensic Psychology, Addiction.

Assessment

3 equally weighted exam papers

Progression routes

This course could lead to the following careers, Clinical psychologist, Counselling psychologist, Educational psychologist, Forensic psychologist, Further education teacher, Health psychologist, High intensity therapist, Occupational psychologist, Psychological wellbeing practitioner, Sport and exercise psychologist.

Physics A Level

Course title

Physics

Awarding body

OCR

Course description

Physics is the most fundamental of the sciences, with the ultimate goal to lead us to understand all aspects of how the universe works, from the apparently simple processes to the highly complex.

This course is designed for those who want to know how and why the natural world around us works as it does and covers a wide range of Physics topics from the quantum scale of sub-atomic particles to the evolution of our Universe. The course aims to develop an interest and enthusiasm for the subject along with the skill set to complete practical work in laboratory conditions.

Further opportunities such as visits to the world leading research centre CERN in Geneva, Switzerland and visits to Iceland are used to embed that enthusiasm and give students the ability to see the practical applications of what is learnt in the classroom.

Course content

Module 1 - Development of Practical Skills in Physics.

Module 2 - Foundations of Physics.

Module 3 - Forces and Motion.

Module 4 - Electrons, Waves and Photons.

Module 5 - Newtonian World and Astrophysics.

Module 6 - Particles and Medical Physics.

Assessment

Paper 1 - Modelling Physics (Modules 1,2,3 and 5) worth 37% 2hr 15min.

Paper 2 - Exploring Physics (Modules 1,2,4 and 6) worth 37% 2hr 15mins.

Paper 3 - Unified Physics (Modules 1-6) worth 26% 1hr 30mins.

Practical Endorsement in Physics (non-exam assessment).

Progression routes

A Level Physics is a good academic option which combines well with many other subjects, science and non-science based, providing a firm foundation for those who wish to continue to higher education. Physics is necessary for many career pathways, including medical physics, communications, energy, meteorology, and nanotechnology. Many employers, for those who wish to seek employment, also hold it in high regard.

Art BTEC

Course title

Art

Awarding body

Pearson

Course level

Extended Certificate and Diploma

Course description

The qualification is an in-depth introduction to the study of art and design. Learners develop art and design projects and gain an understanding of the creative process. They study visual recording and communication, in areas such as drawing, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture as well as critical analysis of artists and production skills to produce art and design outcomes. The qualification is designed for post-16 learners who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the creative industries.

Course content

The course covers both practical and vocational skills in art and design and has a rigorous academic focus. Students can specialise in the following areas: Unit 1 Visual recording and communication, Unit 2 Critical and Contextual Studies, Unit 3 The Creative Process and Unit 9 Photography.

Assessment

Assessment will be at several stages throughout the year usually in line with the end of each term, which will include practical and written assignments. These are continually assessed and graded internally and will give students regular feedback as to their progress on the course and abilities to reach targets set. The coursework culminates in a final project in the summer term of the 2nd year.

Progression routes

Upon successful completion of the course most students progress on to higher education. On completing the course, you will have gained a substantial portfolio of artwork that demonstrates your practical skills in a specialist subject area. This will assist you with interviews at university or if applying for work in the creative industries and could lead to jobs in Practising Art/Designer, Interior Design, Animation, Architecture, Art Teacher.

Business Studies BTEC

Course title

Business

Awarding body

Pearson

Course level

Extended Certificate (Equivalent to 1 A Level)

Course description

This course helps shape students into becoming pioneering business leaders. Business Studies explores the key ingredients for business success and the importance of businesses being dynamic and innovative. You will be given the opportunity to design your own advertising campaign for a for a real business. You will learn fundamental life skills of how to manage finance personally as well as develop financial strategies to ensure businesses run efficiently. You will gain experience in the recruitment process which will be invaluable for when you apply for a job yourself or run your own business and need to hire employees!

Course content

Students will study: Exploring Business, Developing a Marketing Campaign, Personal and Business Finance, Recruitment Process.

Assessment

Coursework 60%
Exam 40%

Progression routes

Entrepreneur - Business Owner, Marketing Manager, PR and Advertising Manager, Retail Manager, Accountant, Business Advisor, Financial Advisor, HR and Recruitment Manager and Business Studies Teacher.

Dance BTEC

Course title

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Awarding body

Pearson

Course level

Extended Certificate (Equivalent to 1 A Level)

Course content

The three mandatory units focus on:

- Research, critical analysis, and extended writing skills that aim to support learners' progression to higher education. Learners will gain a good understanding of the work of influential practitioners to inform their own work and practice.
- An introduction to the performing arts where learners will develop the appropriate skills and techniques in various performance disciplines such as acting, dance, musical theatre, and physical theatre
- Group performance, where learners will develop the essential psychomotor and affective skills essential for the performing arts.

They will develop physical techniques as well as wider transferable skills, such as being able to work collaboratively, personal management and organisation (rehearsals, time-management), being able to give and take direction, confidence in front of an audience, problem solving (refining the process) and teamwork (essential when dancing as a group). Learners will understand different audiences in different environments and will learn to adapt a performance to engage the target audience. Learners select one optional unit to support their choices in progression. These units cover acting, dance and musical theatre topics. Examples of the optional units include:

- Unit 8: Classical Ballet Technique
- Unit 11: Street Dance Technique
- Unit 19: Acting Styles
- Unit 20: Developing the Voice for Performance
- Unit 28: Variety Performance

Assessment

4 units, of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external. Mandatory content (83%). External assessment (58%).

The Extended Certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the performing arts sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in performing arts. It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

BTEC Performing Arts (Dance Route) How does the qualification provide employability skills?

In the BTEC National units there are opportunities during the teaching and learning phase to give learners practice in developing employability skills. Where employability skills are referred to in this specification, we are generally referring to skills in the following three main categories:

- Cognitive and problem-solving skills: use critical thinking, approach non-routine problems applying expert and creative solutions, use systems and technology
- Intrapersonal skills: communicating, working collaboratively, negotiating, and influencing, self-presentation
- Interpersonal skills: self-management, adaptability and resilience, self-monitoring and development.

Drama BTEC

Course title

Drama

Awarding body

Pearson

Course level

Extended Certificate (Equivalent to 1 A Level)

Course description

In Drama you will conduct both explorative and performance work exploring a broad range of themes. You will be using script and other stimuli to create original drama individually and within a group setting. Drama as a subject is defined as 'the curiosity led exploration of what it is to be human'. In this course you will need to be self-motivated, creative and deeply analytical. We will explore the perspectives of human beings from all parts of society and across the world, learn how to argue and persuade and most importantly understand how to empathise and express emotion.

Course content

You will study a wide range of units that are assessed both internally and externally. The external unit is set and assessed by the exam board and will allow you to create your own work based on a given stimulus. Exploration of professional practitioners will help shape your journey through performance Drama and allow you to develop your understanding of creativity. The performance element of the course enables you to explore techniques and skills relevant both to the world of Drama but also transferrable to other careers.

Assessment

Exam 25%

Coursework 75%

Progression routes

Presenter, Playwright, Producer, Artistic Director, Drama Therapist, Stage Manager, Drama Teacher., Barrister, Police.

Health and Social Care BTEC

Course title

Health and Social Care

Awarding body

Pearson

Course level

Extended Certificate and Extended Diploma

Course description

This qualification is a two-year course which prepares students to work with clients in a variety of settings and environments within the sectors of Health and Social Care, working with children, vulnerable adults and young people.

Course content

This qualification covers a wide range of key subject areas in health and social care. The course includes a wide range of optional units, allowing learners to pursue an interest in the specific areas of social care, health studies and health sciences, while still allowing enough diversity for the optional units to be tailored to suit a learner's preferred progression path.

Assessment

The course is assessed via 2 or 4 examination units, depending on the size of the qualification studied. Being Science minded with a good standard of written English will help greatly. The courses cover between 4 and 13 units, depending on the course chosen. Being well organised and self-directed is a must! You will also need to complete between 50 and 100 hours of work experience, again depending on the course chosen.

Progression routes

Studying this subject is useful to those wishing to further their study and enter professions such as teaching, careers in medicine, nursing, health care science and mental illness care as well as jobs such as dentistry and medical technicians.

Musical Performance BTEC

Course title

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance

Awarding body

Pearson

Course level

Extended Certificate (Equivalent to 1 A Level)

Course content

Learners taking this qualification will study three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Practical Music Theory and Harmony - pupils explore and upskill their knowledge on theory and use this to compose and arrange score sheets for a variety of different musical styles.
- Unit 2: Professional Practice in the Music Industry- students explore a specific scenario where they take on a role of organising and leading an event in the music industry such as a festival like Glastonbury.
- Unit 3: Ensemble Music Performance - students perform set music and create their own stylistic versions and take part in a final showcase performance at the end of year 13.

Learners choose one optional unit that links to their strength. These have been designed to support progression to more specialist music courses in higher education and to link with relevant occupational areas, such as composing music, improving music or solo performance.

Assessment

4 units, of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external. Mandatory content (83%). External assessment (58%).

Internal assessments:

Most units are internally assessed and subject to external standards verification. This means that we set and assess the assignments that provide the final summative assessment of each unit, using the examples and support that Pearson provides. Learners could be given opportunities to:

- Write up the findings of their own research
- Use case studies to explore complex or unfamiliar situation
- Carry out projects for which they have choice over the direction and outcomes
- Demonstrate practical and technical skills using appropriate instruments and techniques.

External assessments:

All of the units developed for external assessment are of 90 or 120 GLH to allow learners to demonstrate breadth and depth of achievement. Each assessment is taken under specified conditions, then marked by Pearson and a grade awarded. Learners are permitted to resit external assessments during their programme. You should refer to our website for current policy information on permitted retakes. The styles of external assessment used for qualifications in the music performance suite are:

- Performance - learners prepare for assessment over an extended window and demonstrate skills that generate some non-written evidence.
- Set tasks - learners take the assessment during a defined window and demonstrate understanding through completion of a vocational task.

Sport BTEC

Course title

Sport

Awarding body

Pearson

Course level

Extended Certificate, Diploma and Extended Diploma

Course description

BTEC Sport at Level 3 offers learners the knowledge and experience of all aspects involved in Sport today. There are units which focus more on the practical side of sport such as Practical Sports Performance and units which are purely theory based such as Anatomy and Physiology. Overall, the course offers a good mix of practical, and theory work as well as a range of physical, coursework or exam-based assessment. The course also gives learners the chance to experience officiating, coaching, and managing in different sports building on people skills such as communication, listening and speaking in front of groups of people.

Course content

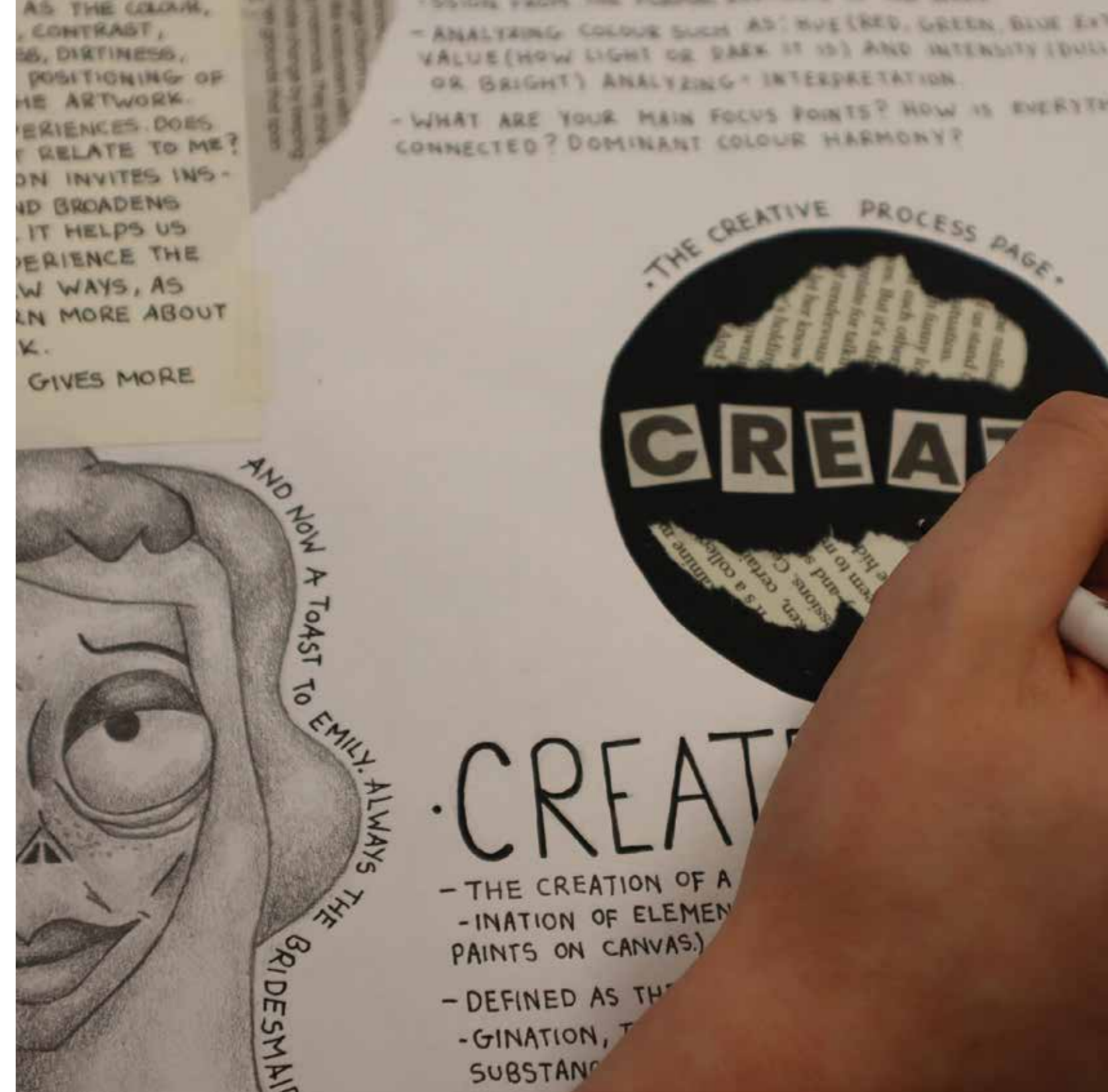
It allows students to specialise in the sports sector with a view to progressing to higher education. You will study Anatomy and Physiology, Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being, Professional Development in the Sports Industry, Sports Leadership, Application of Fitness Testing, Practical Sports Performance, Sports Event Organisation, Investigating Business in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry, Skill Acquisition in Sport, Development and Provision of sport and Physical Activity.

Assessment

Up to 18 sports-related units will be completed over a two-year period. Some of which are mandatory and assessed internally. The other units are externally assessed. Two of the externally assessed units, fitness training or programming and sports development, will be case study based. The anatomy and physiology unit will be assessed through a formal examination.

Progression routes

Useful for careers in coaching, physiotherapy, teaching, youth work, sports leadership, leisure centre management, fitness instructor, armed forces. Learners who successfully complete this course can also go on to study a Sports related degree at university.



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