

Sixth-Form Student Guide 2018



BEECHWOOD
Sacred Heart School
Sixth-Form



Beechwood is a school that cares who you are and treats you as an individual.

Sixth-Form student



Letter from the Head of Sixth-Form

Being in the Sixth-Form will be a new phase in your life and will feel different from anything you have experienced at school so far. Your relationships with your teachers will change, as you will be expected and encouraged to take more responsibility for your own learning. Your tutors will work closely with you to help you to develop both academically and as a person, to make sure you achieve your very best, and encourage you to take up a wide range of opportunities to prepare you for the future.

As part of the Sixth-Form, you will have more freedom, but with the added responsibility of being a respected senior member of the school, perhaps prefect or house captain. You will have more choice of what to wear, take more control over your own time and have the use of the Sixth-Form common room and its facilities. This is a time for making preparations for your life beyond school by learning to balance responsibilities and freedom.

The last two years at school are the most important in any student's school career. Results achieved in A-Level examinations determine much more than just a choice of university course. The entire direction of the rest of your life can be affected by decisions made at this crucial stage. Your final two years at school will shape your future, allowing you to fulfil your ambitions and to succeed at whatever you choose in the years to come.

Wishing you every success and good fortune

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Awdry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'M' being particularly large and stylized.

Michael Awdry Head of Sixth-Form

BEECHWOOD VALUES Beechwood Sixth-Form is a tightly-knit supportive team; our Catholic Christian values lead to a happy atmosphere in which everyone is valued for themselves. In our school, Sixth-Formers are looked up to by younger pupils; you will be their role model and advisor, providing support and good sense.

SMALL CLASS SIZES Beechwood Sixth-Form classes are generally smaller than you would find at other schools. Here, your teachers will know you better; they will be more likely to understand the way you think and learn, so be able to teach you and support you more effectively in your studies. In our small groups, you will be able to have your say and have your questions answered, and play a bigger part in class discussions.

CAREERS ADVICE Every student needs help and advice when selecting courses and writing their application to Higher Education. Beechwood Sixth-Form tutors are experienced in all the procedures and, together with the Head of Sixth-Form and our careers professionals, they will help you with course selection, the application form, interviews and other matters.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT Your tutor and Head of Sixth-Form will know you personally. They will guide you and monitor your work and progress throughout your last two years of school. With their help, your teachers' expertise and your commitment, you will be able to make the most of your time in Beechwood Sixth-Form and look forward to a happy and successful future.



There are many good reasons to be in Beechwood Sixth-Form. Here are some of them

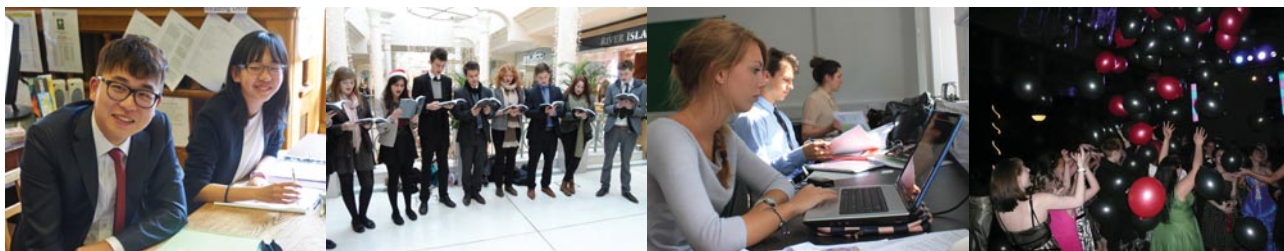
CONFIDENCE Being part of a small group means that you will have support and grow in confidence in important areas useful to you in later life, such as public speaking, organising people and in interpersonal skills; you will also have the chance to know people from different cultural backgrounds.

LEADERSHIP All our Sixth-Formers are relied on to carry out duties; many become prefects or are elected into other senior roles. In our small Sixth-Form you will have more chance to show leadership and take on responsibilities.

Life in the Sixth-Form



As Sixth-Formers you will be trusted and valued as leaders of the school. *Younger pupils will look up to you as their role models. You will have more independence and privileges, such as the freedom to leave the school at lunchtimes, within our guidelines. You will have the opportunity to organise your time to meet study deadlines. There is no school uniform for Sixth-Formers. You will have the freedom to choose what to wear, within the Sixth-Form dress code. In your study periods you will be able to study in the Sixth-Form Study Centre. Or you may choose to book a driving lesson, or have a break in the Common Room. Specialist A-Level teachers will work closely with you, in our small classes, to ensure that you develop your potential to the full. Beechwood Sixth-Formers are well rewarded on A-Level results day and all go on to their chosen courses in Higher Education.*



Sixth-Form Enrichment

Sixth-Form Enrichment is designed to broaden the awareness and experience of Sixth-Formers and prepare them more fully for the future

In the *Faith & Ethics* course you will discuss contemporary issues in the light of a sound background in Roman Catholic and other Christian beliefs. You will be encouraged to explore views on Justice and Peace and other world issues, developing your reasoning and independent thought.

In the *PE* course, you can take part in a variety of sports, for example Football, netball, basketball or badminton. Students are encouraged to join a club, or you can take the lead by organising a team, scoring, refereeing or coaching.

Expert-led workshops on a variety of topics enable you to develop as a person and acquire life skills.

A one-day *Theatre workshop* or *Film School* breaks the ice at the start of the year, helping Sixth-Formers to get to know each other.

All students take part in the *How Teams Work* one-day workshop – here you will gain an understanding of yourself and how to work effectively with others.

A *Study Skills* course helps you to understand your learning style and your EQ, helping prepare you for A-Level courses and the Extended Project Qualification.

Outside speakers will keep you well-informed and help you to develop your opinions on topical issues.

On Friday afternoons, courses such as *Finance* and *Relaxation Techniques* give you useful skills for life.

After school, Model United Nations General Assembly or running a school club are all ways in which you can make the Sixth-Form a positive experience.



Careers and University entrance

It may seem strange to be thinking about university courses and careers before you have taken GCSEs, but your choice of A-Level subjects could be an important factor in determining your future.

Many subjects offered will be familiar to you already, although the depth of study will be different from GCSE. New subjects include: Business Studies, Photography and Psychology. Information is given about all these courses in this booklet and you can speak to the teachers for further details and advice.

The careers guidance in the Sixth-Form is outlined in the Careers programme. It is important to begin your research early in Year 12. Sixth-Form tutors and the Head of Sixth-Form are there to help. Morrisby


profiling, including aptitude and ability testing, is offered to new pupils.

In Year 12 you will attend a Higher Education conference and be advised on University application procedures. You will make your application for Higher Education at the beginning of Year 13 and there will be training in interview techniques and preparing a CV. Your tutor will guide you and the many opportunities you take in the Sixth-Form will strengthen your application.

You will see from the destinations of our recent leavers that Beechwood students are very successful in gaining places on a wide variety of courses.

Careers Programme

	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
YEAR 12	Advice on A-Level subject choices Optional Morrisby testing for new students Introduction to Careers resources Intro to UCAS procedure Optional careers clinics	Choosing Universities and courses Use of websites for course search Visit to HE conference	Advice on HE Courses, with grade predictions UCAS personal statement workshop Registration on UCAS Apply Open Day visits Gap Year Talk Optional careers clinics
YEAR 13	Completion of UCAS online applications Interview training Advice on UCAS procedure Preparation of CVs Optional careers clinics	Student Finance information, including budgeting & student loans Advice on making decisions about firm and insurance offers	Briefing on procedure following A-Level results Advice and help following A-Level results



Examination results 2017

At Beechwood we are very proud of our academic record. In 2017, most students surpassed their target grades.

2017 A-Level pass rate underlines the hard work and determination of all our students. They and their teachers can be justly proud of their achievements and they can now look forward to the best that Higher Education can offer. Beechwood students have gained places at top universities to read a wide range of courses with over 20% of students achieving at least two A grades or better.

A-LEVEL RESULTS 2017

23% A* / A

45% A* – B

70% A* – C

Destinations of 2016 and 2017 Leavers

UNIVERSITY	COURSE	UNIVERSITY	COURSE
Bath	<i>Education with Psychology; Civil Engineering; Pharmacy</i>	London College of Fashion	<i>Magazine Journalism & Publishing</i>
Bath Spa University	<i>Graphic Communication</i>	Manchester	<i>Urban and Regional Planning; Mathematics with Finance</i>
Barcelona	<i>Law and Global Governance; Arts in Business and Design Management; Business Administration</i>	Nottingham	<i>International Media & Communications Studies</i>
Brighton	<i>Art & Design Foundation; Computer Engineering & Game Development; Business with Marketing</i>	Portsmouth	<i>Law with International Relations; Law with Criminology</i>
Bristol	<i>Economics and Mathematics</i>	Queen Mary, London	<i>Drama & English</i>
Central St. Martins	<i>Art & Design Foundation</i>	Reading	<i>Graphic Communication; Mathematics</i>
Coventry	<i>Media and Communications; International Hospitality Management</i>	Royal Holloway	<i>Business & Management; Politics & International Relations</i>
De Montfort University	<i>History and Politics</i>	Sheffield	<i>Mathematics</i>
Durham	<i>Natural Sciences</i>	University College London	<i>Education Studies; Architecture</i>
Edinburgh	<i>Religious Studies & English Literature</i>	University of East Anglia	<i>Politics and Media Studies; History</i>
Essex	<i>Accounting & Finance</i>	University of the Arts, London	<i>Magazine Journalism and Publishing</i>
Leicester	<i>Management Studies</i>	Warwick	<i>Modern Languages</i>

English
Psychology
Art
Spanish
Computer Science
Business Studies
Photography
Geography
Biology
Design Technology
Physical Education
Further Maths
German
History
Mathematics
Chemistry
Classical Civilisation
Media
Drama
Religious Education
French
Food Technology
Textiles
Music
Physics
German
Spanish
Photography
Textiles
Food Technology
Design Technology
Physical Education
Further Maths
German
History
Mathematics
Chemistry
Classical Civilisation
Media
Drama
Religious Education
French

Choosing your course

From September 2017 all A-Levels will be assessed from the new specification. The subject content may vary slightly from that shown in this booklet.

Generally we expect Sixth-Formers to have gained at least six good GCSE passes (A-C), or equivalent. Pupils choose three or four A-Level subjects for study in Year 12. In addition, there may be the opportunity to study for the Extended Project Qualification.

You should ask yourself a number of questions before deciding on which courses to study:

Do I enjoy this subject? Subject enjoyment, interest, involvement and examination success go hand in hand. It is difficult to motivate yourself to do well if you do not enjoy the subjects you are studying.

Am I good at this subject? We would expect a minimum Grade B at GCSE in any subject which you intend to study in the Sixth-Form, unless this is a new subject.

Do I know enough about the course? By reading this booklet and talking to the A-Level teachers you can find out what is involved. You could also visit the exam board website for more details.

Do I need this subject to fulfil my career plans?

The table below is intended to guide you about the subjects that are required for particular courses by the majority of top universities. To check entry requirements – go to www.ucas.ac.uk/students/coursesearch or ask Head of Sixth-Form.

All students receive advice from their Form Tutor and Head of Sixth-Form at the start of Year 12 to help them make sensible choices. The timetable uses five option blocks from which subjects must be chosen. The wishes of Year 11 pupils are taken into account when devising these blocks but once the timetable is completed changes to subject options become more difficult.

UNIVERSITY SUBJECT	COMPULSORY A-LEVEL SUBJECTS	DESIRABLE AT A-LEVEL	COMMENTS
Architecture	Art	Maths	Art not compulsory for all courses. Art portfolio may be required
Biochemistry, Pharmacy	Chemistry	Biology	
Biological Sciences	Biology	Chemistry	Chemistry essential for some courses
Chemistry	Chemistry & Maths	Physics, Biology	
Economics	Maths		
Engineering	Maths & Physics	Further Maths	Further Maths A-Level essential for Cambridge
Law	None		Additional Tests: LNAT for some universities
Management Science	None	Maths	Business Studies useful for Management Studies
Maths	Maths	Further Maths	Further Maths A-Level essential for top courses
Medicine	Chemistry & Biology		Additional tests: UKCAT for most medical schools; BMAT for some universities. Strong portfolio of work experience essential
Physics	Physics & Maths	Further Maths	Further Maths A-Level essential for top courses
Psychology	None	At least one science	Wide variation in courses. Science based may require science. Psychology gives evidence of engagement with the subject.
Veterinary medicine	Biology & Chemistry & either Physics or Maths		Additional tests: BMAT for some universities. Strong portfolio of work experience essential
Other school subjects	Relevant subject normally required		

PLEASE REFER TO FOLLOWING PAGES TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE COURSES WE OFFER AT A-LEVEL

Biology	9	Drama & Th'tre Studies	11	Geography	13	Media Studies	16	Psychology	19
Business Studies	9	English Literature	12	German	16	Music	17	Religious Studies	19
Chemistry	10	Fine Art	12	History	14	Photography	17	Spanish	16
Classical Civilisation	10	Food Technology	13	Mathematics	14	Physics	18	Textiles	20
Computer Science	11	French	16	Further Maths	14	Product Design	18		



Biology

AQA COURSE CODE 7401/7402 (NEW COURSE)

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

This is a course for people interested in the study of living things, who enjoy practical work and hands-on learning. The volume of facts and terminology mean that you will require a good comprehension of the English language. Students will also need to have passed higher tier GCSE Mathematics or equivalent.

What will I study?

Year 12 AS and A-Level

1. Biological molecules; 2. Cells; 3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment; 4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Year 13 A-Level

5. Energy transfers in and between organisms; 6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments; 7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems; 8. The control of gene expression

The understanding and interpretation of practical work will be assessed within the written exams accounting for 15% of the total marks. Practical skills will be assessed by teachers and indicated as a pass on the certificate. The AS and A-Level are stand-alone qualifications with A-Level grades based on exam results received at the end of the course.

What skills will I learn?

The course focuses on developing your laboratory skills and your expertise in gathering and analysing data, evaluating experimental practice and the claims made in relation to scientific evidence. You will also be encouraged to improve as a communicator of science.

What could I do at the end of my course?

Students may go to university to take degree courses in plant, animal and medical sciences; sports science; physiotherapy; pharmacy or psychology



Business Studies

AQA COURSE CODE 7132

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

Someone who is keen to analyse business problems, keep up to date with current affairs and who will be prepared to read the business press regularly will enjoy this course. No prior knowledge of the subject is necessary, as it will be taught from scratch.

What will I study?

The AS course covers the principles of business, leadership and decision-making within financial, marketing, operations and human resource functions. Two exams, each of 1.5 hours, will be taken at the end of Year 12. The full A-Level course further develops business strategy and the impact of the external environment. Three two-hour exams covering the whole course will be taken at the end of Year 13.

What skills will I learn?

You will develop the skills needed in analysing information, problem solving, decision-making, planning and essay writing.

What could I do at the end of the course?

There is a vast range of career and Higher Education options. On entering the business world you will have an excellent knowledge of how a business operates in the context of competition and other external forces. You could take a degree in Business Studies perhaps combined with another subject such as Law, Accountancy, Marketing, Languages or Social Science. Such courses prepare you well for a career in either commerce or your chosen profession and may exempt you from the first stages of a professional institute examination.



Chemistry

AQA COURSE CODE 7405 (NEW COURSE)

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

Someone who likes practical work, solving puzzles and thinking about things they cannot see may enjoy studying Chemistry. An A or B grade in both Science and Additional Science or in Chemistry at GCSE are needed, a minimum of grade B in GCSE Mathematics.

What will I study?

The A-Level course builds on the knowledge gained at GCSE using the Periodic Table as a model for understanding the behaviour of elements and compounds. Chemistry will be studied in a contemporary context with practical work at the heart of the teaching.

Year 12 – AS Physical: Atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics;

Inorganic: Periodicity, Group 2 and Group 7 elements;

Organic: Alkanes, alkenes, haloalkanes and alcohols

Year 13 – A-Level Physical: Thermodynamics, rate equations, equilibria and electrode potentials;

Inorganic: Period 3 oxides and transition metals;

Organic: Aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acids, aromatic, amines, proteins and spectroscopy

The understanding and interpretation of practical work will be assessed within the written exams accounting for 15% of the total marks. Practical skills will be assessed by teachers and indicated as a pass on the certificate. The AS and A-Level are stand-alone qualifications with A-Level grades based on exam results received at the end of the course.

What skills will I learn?

You will increase your ability to think logically, manipulate abstract ideas and use an analytical approach to problem solving. Your practical skills of observation and your manual dexterity will also improve.

What could I do at the end of my course?

An A-Level in Chemistry is highly regarded by universities for entrance into a wide variety of courses and it is essential for medicine and pharmacy. Chemistry graduates are employed in a range of fields from art restoration, textiles and cosmetics to research and development of drugs and in many professions including forensic science, law, politics and accountancy.



Classical Civilisation

AQA (AWAITING ACCREDITATION)

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

This A-Level course will appeal to a variety of students. A study of Classical Civilization complements many other popular A-Levels including Art, Theatre Studies, History and English Language. Classics is taught using entirely English primary sources and texts. Previous study of GCSE Classics is not essential to study this at A-Level. Obtaining a grade A or B in GCSE History, English or Drama would be an indication that this subject is suitable for A-Level study.

What will I study?

All learners will study material from both Greece and Rome and their surrounding worlds, drawn from diverse time periods ranging from Archaic Greece to Imperial Rome. This material will encompass aspects of literature, visual/material culture and classical thought in their respective social, historical and cultural contexts. Learners will study a range of evidence, and use this to form substantiated judgements and responses.

Unit One: The World of the Hero: Homer's Iliad and Vergil's Aeneid (40%)

Unit Two: Culture and The Arts: The Imperial Image in the reign of Emperor Augustus (30%)

Unit Three: Beliefs and Ideas: The Politics of the Late Republic: end of the Empire and legacy of Julius Caesar (30%)

What skills will I learn?

Through the study of Classical Civilization you will improve on your written and spoken skills of analysis. Additionally, your essay writing skills will become further developed.

What could I do at the end of my course?

This discipline will enable you to study the subject at degree level. It would also help with applications for many other subjects and professions such as History, Drama, Art and Journalism.

Computer Science

OCR COURSE CODE H446

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

In 2014 *The Sunday Times* reported that new graduates of computer science from one of the top UK universities had the highest salaries of any degree holders. So, if you are chasing the cash this isn't the wrong place to begin. However, you do need to be an engineer by disposition. If you have a GCSE in Computer Science, or are good at maths and have previous coding experience, then you will be well placed to start this course.

What will I study?

Computer systems: *The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices. Software and software development. Exchanging data. Data types, data structures and algorithms. Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues.*

Algorithms and Programming: *Elements of computational thinking - what is meant by computational thinking. Problem solving and programming - how computers are used to solve problems and programs can be written to solve them. Algorithms - the use of algorithms to describe problems and standard algorithms.*

Programming project: *Candidates and/or centres select their own user-driven problem of an appropriate size and complexity to solve. This will enable them to demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the Assessment Objectives.*

What skills will I learn?

An understanding of and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science including; abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation. The ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems including writing programs to do so. The capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science. Mathematical skills. The ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology.

What could I do at the end of my course?

Put simply, these are the skills that people use in every walk of life in the Information Age. This course will provide you with skills which will give you an edge in whatever field you move into.

Drama & Theatre Studies

AQA COURSE CODE 7262

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

Students who wish to pursue their interests and develop their skills in a range of practical drama elements, in particular acting and directing, would enjoy this course. There will be regular visits to the theatre in order to build a portfolio of reviews and performance analysis in preparation for both the written and practical work.

What will I study?

Component 1 – Drama and theatre

Drama and Theatre (written exam) involves: knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre; the study of two set plays; analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers. (40% of A-Level)

Component 2 – Creating original drama

Creating original drama (practical) involves: the process of creating devised drama; the performance of devised drama. The devised piece must be influenced by the work or methodologies of one prescribed practitioner. (30% of A-Level)

Component 3 – Making theatre

Making theatre (practical) involves: practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts each taken from a different play; a reflective written report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts; methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3. Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece. (30% of A-Level)

What skills will I learn?

You will learn to communicate, work collaboratively as a member of a team, debate, discuss, analyse and be creative – important skills for your future education or employment. You will develop a variety of dramatic and theatrical skills, enabling you to grow creatively and imaginatively in both devised and scripted work. You will learn to communicate meaning to an audience as well as engaging them in the dramatic work.

What could I do at the end of my course?

The requirements of the course will enable students to gain entry to courses in higher education in the area of Drama and Theatre Studies, or in other subjects at degree level, as it is perceived as both creative and academic.



English Literature

OCR COURSE CODE H472

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

English Literature A-Level is a rigorous, stimulating and challenging qualification which incorporates a range of texts from the past and present and includes elements of independent study. The coursework assessments allows learners to pursue more detailed work of particular personal interest, offering excellent preparation for study at undergraduate level. It will appeal to students with a love of reading in which they will analyse, engage and form personal and informed opinions on a range of texts through lively debate, research and discussion.

What will I study?

Exam 1: Shakespeare – Measure for Measure

Drama and poetry pre-1900

Henrik Ibsen: *A Doll's House* and Christina Rossetti: *Selected Poems*

Exam 2: Comparative and contextual study of American Literature 1880-1940

F. Scott Fitzgerald – *The Great Gatsby* and John Steinbeck – *The Grapes of Wrath*

Students are expected to independently read around this area of the course. Books include – Henry James: *The Portrait of a Lady*, Mark Twain: *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Theodore Dreiser: *Sister Carrie*, Willa Cather: *My Antonia*, Edith Wharton: *The Age of Innocence*, William Faulkner: *The Sound and the Fury*, Ernest Hemingway: *A Farewell to Arms*, Richard Wright: *Native Son*.

Coursework: Close reading and analysis of Poetry from *The World's Wife* by Carol Ann Duffy; Comparative essay on *The History Boys* and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*.

What skills will I learn?

Your powers of communication will be enhanced by a study of English at this level. You will learn to express informed and independent opinions on a wide range of literary texts, to write in a variety of styles and to work collaboratively with others.

What could I do at the end of my course?

English Literature can be studied as a single subject in Higher Education or combined with others. An A-Level or degree in English Literature is highly valued and could lead to careers in journalism, media or law.



Fine Art

OCR COURSE CODES
AS H201, A-LEVEL H601

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

This course in Fine Art would appeal to someone who is creative yet sensitive; someone who is dedicated, spontaneous and imaginative and capable of independent learning. GCSE Art is not essential but students will need to have enough basic skill and understanding to benefit and gain enjoyment from the course.

What will I study?

Tailor-made projects will enable you to develop your existing talents and expand upon your skill. You will study in detail the artists who influence your work.

AS and A-Level are now stand-alone awards

AS Level:

There is no coursework element, instead you will work on skill-based exercises which will culminate in an externally set task over ten hours.

A-Level:

Personal Investigation You will submit one major project that has a personal significance.

The investigation includes a related personal study that must be between 1000 and 3000 words.

Controlled Assignment After planning and preparing, you will have 15 hours to realise your ideas to a final outcome.

What skills will I learn?

Art provides opportunity for personal expression, encourages imagination and sensitivity and perceptual thought. You will increase your powers of observation, your analytical ability and your practical skills especially drawing, painting, photography and art history.

What could I do at the end of my course?

You could take a one-year foundation course at Art College before applying for a degree course. The study of Art also gives you transferable skills useful in advertising, marketing, architecture, publishing and the media; whichever path you choose, studying Art can be a very rewarding beginning.



Design & Technology: Food Technology

AQA COURSE CODE 2540

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

This course is ideal for students who are creative and enjoy problem solving. An interest in food and cooking is important although you do not need to be Mary Berry or Michel Roux Jnr. GCSE Food Technology is not essential either, although the course builds on previous knowledge.

What will I study?

The A-Level has four units: two written projects - one for AS and one for A-Level. The remaining units are assessed by a written examination.

The course covers the following topics:

Nutrients; Energy balance; Dietary planning; Current health factors and concerns; Health promotion; Dietary needs of individuals; Influences of Culture; Food choice; Current issues; Mass media; Product development; Food safety and hygiene; Food science; Commercial manufacture; Food labelling

What skills will I gain?

You will develop practical skills, using tools and equipment to create products; you will solve problems relating to food design, develop the ability to think independently, carry out and analyse research, present work and make plans to enhance your time management.

What could I do at the end of my course?

Being a chef is not an option as this is not a catering qualification, though it can lead directly to further study in Design Technology. You could choose from a wide range of higher education courses including Consumer Service Management, Product Design, Resource Management and Nutrition. This could lead to careers including teaching, manufacturing, retail and management.



Geography

AQA COURSE CODE 7037

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

This course will appeal to students with a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in the environment, current affairs and the willingness to explore new ideas. You do not need to have studied Geography at GCSE as every topic is taught from scratch. Geography A-Level combines extremely well with both Science and Humanities subjects and is highly regarded by universities.

What will I study?

Physical Geography: Water and carbon cycles; Coastal systems and landscapes; Hazards

40% of A-Level – 2hr 30min examination

Human Geography: Global systems and global governance; Changing places; Resource security

40% of A-Level – 2hr 30min examination

Questions in the exams will be a variety of multiple choice, short answer and extended longer answers.

Geographical Investigation

A report of 3,000-4,000 words;

Fieldwork write up

20% of A-Level

What skills will I learn?

You will develop a wide variety of transferable skills including collecting and analysing data, statistical analysis, communicating findings in different ways and exploring links between topics. These skills along with, working with others, improved own learning and problem solving are intrinsic to success in Geography A-Level and beyond.

What could I do at the end of my course?

Studying Geography opens up a wide range of career opportunities. As a bridge subject between Science and Humanities, Geography supports applications for many science-based degrees such as Engineering, Biology, Psychology or Geology, as well as providing a useful understanding of the world for those who want to go into business.



History

OCR COURSE CODE H506

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

The study of History in the Sixth-Form is both challenging and enjoyable. It will appeal to someone who is imaginative, interested in current affairs, and willing to do independent study. Ideally students should have a grade B or above in GCSE History. However, the AS course is also open to those who have not taken GCSE, providing that they have a sound level of English.

What will I study?

Contemporary Twentieth Century History will be studied with thematic history topics from other eras. Topics are:

Henry VII and Henry VIII

The Cold War in Europe 1941-95

Russia 1855-1964

Coursework will be aspects of Elizabethan England

What skills will I learn?

You will develop your powers of expression, your critical awareness and your ability to construct a reasoned argument. You will learn to respond intelligently and analytically to historical evidence, ask pertinent questions and make valid comparisons.

What could I do at the end of the course?

The skills developed through studying History are highly valued, and form a sound basis for a wide scope of options in Higher Education, as diverse as Law, Media Studies, Social work, Journalism, Medicine or Psychology and Politics.



Maths & Further Maths

EDEXCEL COURSE CODE 9371

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

The A-Level Mathematics course will appeal to anyone who has enjoyed Higher Tier GCSE Maths and gained at least grade 7. The course is also useful in supporting subjects that use Maths e.g. the Sciences, Geography and Business Studies. A-Level Further Mathematics is for those who have been particularly successful at GCSE, gaining at least a grade 8.

What will I study?

You will build on the topics you have learnt at GCSE.

In Mathematics you will study Algebra, Trigonometry and Calculus (particularly useful to Chemistry); in Statistics you will analyse numerical data (particularly useful in Biology and Geography); in Mechanics you will study the motion of objects (particularly useful to Physics); in Decision Mathematics you will study some modern topics involving algorithms and networks (particularly useful to Business studies).

Mathematics: Algebra, Trigonometry, (remove?) Calculus, Statistics & Mechanics.

Further Mathematics: as above plus Further Pure & Decision Mathematics topics.

What skills will I learn?

You will learn many methods of solving problems and develop your ability to think logically, interpret statistics and communicate your ideas concisely.

What could I do at the end of my course?

A-Level Mathematics is essential for Higher Education courses in Engineering, Operational Research and other Maths related subjects. It is desirable for degrees in Economics, Business Studies, Psychology, Law and Science subjects and also useful for courses in subjects allied to medicine. It is highly valued in its own right as evidence that you can retain and apply skills in many different situations and also that you can show rigour in your academic work. Further Mathematics is desirable for degree courses in Mathematics, Engineering and Physics.

Interestingly, a recent survey has revealed that five years after graduation, those with A-Level Maths were earning 10–20% higher salaries than those without.



Modern Languages AQA

French, German, Spanish

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

This course will appeal to someone who is interested in another culture and way of life and who enjoys languages and communicating. At least a grade B at GCSE, in the chosen language, is recommended and you should feel confident at this level in listening, reading, writing and speaking. A secure understanding of grammar is essential for translation skills.

What will I study?

The course includes a study of the society in which the language is spoken through a variety of topics such as music, film, fashion, sport and relationships. You will read magazines, newspapers and books in the chosen language and listen to the contemporary language from sources such as news reports, interviews and discussions. Learning grammar, words and phrases will help you to hold conversations and write essays.

AS topics: One aspect of the society of the language studied; Artistic culture; One film

A-Level topics: A further social issue and trend from the TL country; A theme from political life from the TL country; One literary text; Personal research project for speaking assessment

What skills will I learn?

You will learn to communicate at a higher level in the chosen language and you will have a better understanding of the country and its people. Learning a foreign language also equips you with a variety of skills such as summarising, listening for gist and detail and succinctly analysing and producing information – all skills which are in demand in a variety of professions. Critical thinking skills are developed through analysis and evaluation of texts and films. Students will learn specific translation skills which will prepare them well in a career working with languages

What could I do at the end of my course?

You could choose to study the language at degree level, perhaps combined with another subject such as Law or Business Studies. An AS or A-Level in a modern language would also prove useful if you ever work for an international company. Many employers look favourably upon candidates with a foreign language.

Media Studies Eduqas

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

This course is ideal for those interested in creating fully realised practical media projects such as films, websites, print and audio. Previous study of GCSE Media Studies is not essential but skills in subjects such as video, art, music, design and photography would be helpful in the practical assignments.

What will I study?

The Eduqas A-Level course challenges students to critically evaluate how media texts are produced; the meanings they convey and how audiences view and interpret the texts, in addition to studying the companies that produce and control the flow of information.

Creative, independent learning skills are developed, as is the ability to engage in lively discussion and debate. An interest in contemporary media forms is a good starting point.

Throughout the course, you will study nine different media forms: *Television, music videos, video games, advertising, film marketing, newspapers, radio news, magazines and online media.*

Unit 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences – 35%

Section A: Analysing Media Language and Representation;

Section B: Understanding Media Industries and Audiences.

Unit 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth – 35%

Section A: Television in the Global Age; Section B: Magazines;

Mainstream and Alternative Media; Section C: Media in the Online Age

Unit 3: Cross-Media Production – 30%

Advertising and Marketing: Music

What skills will I learn?

Media Studies is both creative and academic. You will learn the process of designing for different media platforms, use industry-standard computer programmes to realise your ideas and, through your research and analysis of the media industry, you will develop a clear understanding of the concepts that underpin much of what we all consume daily – from TV to radio, video games to Twitter!

What could I do at the end of my course?

The media industry is one of the largest employers in the country. You could take a degree in Media Studies or a vocational course, such as film making. The skills learnt would be useful in advertising, marketing, graphic and web design, or journalism.



Music

EDEXCEL COURSE CODE: 9MU0

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

The Advanced level music course is a good choice for any student interested in performing, creating or listening to music of any style or period. If you already learn an instrument and have reached Grade 5 standard, you can put your skills to good use as part of this course. The new specification covers a wide range of styles, from classical and jazz to musical theatre and popular music.

What will I study?


The course focuses on three main elements: Understanding music through listening and analysing, performing in any style, including improvising and studio techniques and creating music, through composition and set exercises in various styles. Composition and Performing are submitted as course work and controlled assessment; any style of music is acceptable.

What skills will I learn?

You will continue to develop your skills as a performer and have opportunities to play or sing in public concerts organised in School. You will learn about the fundamentals of composition and have the opportunities to improve your abilities with the use of Sibelius software and Cubase Artist 6.5 in School. Through harmony and analysis you will study a group of pieces set by the board covering a very wide range of styles and genres

What could I do at the end of my course?

Music A-Level is an excellent preparation for music at college or university. Not only that, a Music A-Level is widely acknowledged as an excellent qualification for entry into other subjects at degree level, as it combines academic rigour with creativity and a practical approach to performance. This combination of abilities says a lot about you to anyone interviewing for a university place or career in the arts.



Photography

OCR COURSE CODES: AS LEVEL H203, A-LEVEL H603

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

If you are you good at time management, enjoy practical work and learning about artists and photographers, you will find this course interesting. You will have the opportunity to take risks with ideas/techniques and use your creativity to develop personal ideas and responses.

What will I study?

You will learn how to use a camera, how to print black and white photographs and digital colour; you will experiment with a range of photographic processes and techniques and learn to present your work effectively to communicate your ideas; you will record the development of your ideas, techniques learnt and analysis of your own and others' work in a work journal and gain an understanding of the history of photography and its role in society.

AS and A-Level are now two stand-alone awards

AS

There is no coursework element, instead you will work on skill-based exercises which will culminate in an externally set task over ten hours.

A-Level

Personal Investigation: This allows you to develop a personal practical project with preparatory studies leading to finished work. You will relate your work to that of other photographers using visual and written elements, and produce a 3000-word study on photographers or artists who are influencing your practical photography.

Externally set task: This unit takes the form of a timed test (15 hours) responding to a theme set by the Exam Board plus preparatory studies. In the examination you can choose any techniques and process you wish to produce the final photography work.

What could I do at the end of my course?

You could go on to study Photography at Art College. Photography A-Level could also be useful in desktop publishing and editing, creative advertising or any design orientated work situation.



Physics

AQA COURSE CODE 7407 & 7408 (NEW COURSE)

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

If you are attracted to the idea that a very small number of theories can help explain and predict what will happen in a huge range of situations you will enjoy A-Level Physics. Grade B GCSE in Mathematics and Physics or Science & Additional Science or equivalent are required for this course.

What will I study?

The A-Level Physics course builds upon the areas of study introduced at GCSE: Forces, Waves, Electricity and Radioactivity. The subject content is relevant to the real world, aiming to nurture a passion for Physics as well as lay the groundwork for further study in science or engineering. You will have many opportunities to use practical experiences to link theory to reality.

Year 12 AS: Measurements and their errors (analysis and evaluation of practical work); Particles & radiation; Waves; Mechanics & materials; Electricity

Year 13 A-Level: Further Mechanics & Thermal Physics; Fields & their consequences; Nuclear Physics. Plus a choice from the following: Astrophysics; Medical Physics; Engineering Physics; Turning points in Physics; Electronics.

Understanding and interpretation of practical work are assessed within the written exams accounting for 15% of the total marks. Practical skills are internally assessed and indicated as a pass on the certificate. The AS and A-Level are stand-alone qualifications with A-Level grades based on exam results received at the end of the course.

What skills will I learn?

You will develop your thinking skills and imagination as well as your ability to calculate and estimate. You will also become adept at working with a wide range of apparatus and at drawing meaningful conclusions from data.

What could I do at the end of my course?

A-Level Physics provides an excellent foundation for studying sciences, medicine and engineering at university; it is also good preparation for courses such as finance, law and business.



Product Design

(3D design)
AQA COURSE CODE 2550

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

Someone who is both creative and practical, who works independently and enjoys exploring ideas. Someone who is interested in design, materials and manufacture and the ways in which these combine to create good products. This subject works well with both Art and Sciences, as well as subjects such as Business Studies for budding entrepreneurs.

What will I study?

Students will work with a variety of materials such as timber and board, a range of plastics and casting media. The use of computers in designing and making is a key factor, with small scale computer design and manufacture as a possible part of individual projects. The course consists of in depth student-led coursework projects, arising from the student's own research, and culminating in making and testing a product as well as producing in depth design folders. Theory work covers all aspects of materials science, environmental and consumer issues and leads towards a final written examination.

What skills will I learn?

The skills involved in the Product Design course range beyond simple making skills, as in addition to using tools and materials to manufacture products the students will develop the ability to think independently, to select and assess research, to present work well, and to think in a practical way in order to plan construction and manage deadlines.

What could I do at the end of my course?

Product Design leads directly to many areas of engineering and design, with students going on to study subjects as diverse as product or industrial design, graphics, automotive engineering, mechanical or civil engineering, and architecture.

Psychology

AQA COURSE CODE 7181 & 7182

Religious Studies

OCR

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

Anyone who is interested in studying people and how and why they behave as they do would enjoy this course. You should be confident in English as you will need to write well supported essays, and in mathematics as a significant part of the examination is mathematical skill and research methods. More importantly, you need an inquiring mind and an open attitude to conflicting explanations of human behaviour – often there are no ‘right’ answers.

What will I study?

Psychology is a linear subject, meaning that there will be no external examination at the end of year 12 but three two-hour examinations at the end of year 13. The course content includes:

At AS/Year 1: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Approaches in Psychology, Psychopathology and Research methods.

At A-Level, in addition to the above AS material you will also study the topics of: Gender, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology.

Through studying this course you will have opportunities to understand how and why we remember things, how we develop attachments to key people around us and what these attachments mean for our development. You will also explore mental health and illness and you will find that every topic has some relevance to people and everyday life.

What skills will I learn?

You will learn to become more independent in your research skills and approaches to study, and more confident in analysing and writing about the strengths and limitations of theories and research studies in a focussed way. The skills you learn will prepare you for Higher Education.

What could I do at the end of my course?

You could go on to study Psychology at University, which could lead to a variety of careers within Psychology. It is also a useful subject if you wish to study any subject related to people, for example within medicine, health and social care, law, media and organisations and management.

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

Someone who has an enquiring mind and a critical approach to the study of religious and philosophical issues would enjoy this course. You do not need to have studied GCSE Religious Studies but it helps and you must have a good grasp of English.

What will I study?

Learners will study:

(01) Philosophy of Religion – 120 marks, 2 hour written paper, 33%

- *Ancient philosophical influences*
- *The nature of the soul, mind and body*
- *Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God*
- *The nature and impact of religious experience*
- *The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil*
- *Ideas about the nature of God*
- *Issues in religious language*

(02) Religion and ethics – 120 marks, 2 hour written paper, 33%

- *Normative ethical theories*
- *The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance*
- *Ethical language and thought*
- *Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience*
- *Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of development in religious beliefs*

(03-07) Developments in Religious thought – 120 marks, 2 hour written paper, 33%

- *Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world*
- *Sources of religious wisdom and authority*
- *Practices which shape and express religious identity and how these vary within a tradition*
- *Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought*
- *Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society*

What skills will I learn?

You will learn to research information independently, to express your views coherently, orally and in written work and to make connections between different areas of study.

What could I do at the end of my course?

Religious Studies is regarded highly by universities as it develops many of the skills required in Higher Education, particularly for the study of subjects such as Philosophy, History, Law and Medicine.



Textiles

OCR COURSE CODES
AS – H204
A-LEVEL – H604

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

Someone who is keen to develop their capacity to design and make textile products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing would enjoy this course. Someone who is practical, has a keen eye for design but can also manage their time well.

What will I study?

Students will be expected to work with and study a variety of textile materials so that they understand the working characteristics, physical properties, cost and availability that influence the choice of materials in design situations.

You will learn to present your work effectively to communicate your ideas. You will need to record the development of your ideas, techniques learnt and analysis of your own and others' work in a journal in order to gain an understanding of the history of textiles and its role in society.

AS: There is no coursework element. You will work on skill-based exercises which will culminate in an externally set task over ten hours.

A-Level:

Personal Investigation: This allows you to develop a personal, practical project with preparatory studies leading to finished work. You will relate your work to that of designers and produce a 3000 word study on the designers and styles that have influenced your personal investigation.

Externally Set Task: This takes the form of a 15 hour test responding to a theme set by the Exam Board, plus preparatory studies. In the examination you can choose any techniques and process you wish to produce the final piece.

What skills will I learn?

Students will experience the design process so that they can develop their ideas from conception, through to the final product. You will gain an understanding of industrial and commercial practices within the area of design and market influences.

What could I do at the end of my course?

Students can choose to continue their studies through courses in textile construction, fashion management, fashion design and manufacture.



English as an Additional Language

The English as an Additional Language department provides specialist language tuition. Each student is assessed on arrival at Beechwood and classes are arranged according to the level of English.

Students are taught in small groups from diverse cultural backgrounds; they attend at least three lessons weekly within the curriculum. Extra lessons may be recommended for students requiring more language support to ensure that they achieve their full potential in their A-Level subjects.

We also offer a 3-year Sixth-Form programme for those who would like more time to develop their language skills related to their chosen A-Level.

An integrated approach encourages the development of English in the four major skills:

Listening skills and comprehension

Speaking

Reading skills and comprehension

Writing

Students in Year 12 and Year 13 sit the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examination, an entrance requirement for British Universities and affiliated colleges.

Many Year 12 and 13 EAL students choose to take extra-curricular drama lessons and study for their Bronze and Gold Medals in Acting. Not only does this support their ability to speak English clearly and with the appropriate modulation, but it also earns them valuable UCAS points as well.



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