
INTRODUCTION

Deciding to continue your education is an important decision. Joining Shenley Brook End Sixth Form Centre is about you wanting to choose the very best route for success. The Sixth Form at Shenley Brook End School will encourage you to take advantage of as many opportunities as you can. We want you to develop your interests, find new challenges and assume the responsibility needed to determine your future.

This prospectus will help you with the decisions that need to be made by providing detailed information about the various subjects, their courses and entry requirements. You will also find information covering all aspects of our Sixth Form life and details of how to make an application to Shenley Brook End Sixth Form Centre.

The sixth form is about expanding your horizons, both in your academic study and more generally in terms of your awareness of the world and yourself. As well as gaining the best exam results that you can, the Sixth Form at Shenley Brook End will encourage you to develop interests, find challenges and assume responsibilities. It aims to be a purposeful and enthusiastic Sixth Form of young adults preparing for university or employment.

It has never been harder for 16 year-olds to decide what is best for their future. Naturally we believe that there are real benefits in deciding to join the Sixth Form at Shenley Brook End School:

- you will receive high quality teaching by subject specialists, in a new and purpose-built environment
- equally importantly you will receive extremely good pastoral guidance and support which is a recognised strength of Shenley Brook End School
- it is undoubtedly beneficial to study locally and this is an important factor when the workload and commitment involved in achieving success at this level is considered
- our expectation is that the majority of Sixth Form students will go on to Higher Education and that you can be confident you will receive the appropriate care and guidance to help you achieve this goal.

Entry into the Sixth Form Centre at Shenley Brook End School

Entry into the sixth form is not automatic. Our entry policy is for your guidance. We wish students to demonstrate:

- an ability to succeed in a chosen area of study
- a suitable aptitude to work in a more independent and self-motivated manner
- a proven satisfactory behaviour record in previous years

Entry to A Level courses

For entry to A level courses we normally expect students to have gained a minimum of 7 points from their level 2 qualifications, where we classify GCSE grades as: A*/A = 3 points, B = 2 points and C = 1 point; BTEC grades P = 4 points, M = 8 points, D = 12 points.

Some A level courses indicate a specific GCSE grade within that particular subject as a minimum grade of entry. These are for your guidance and should be compared to your forecast GCSE grades in your chosen subjects before you complete an application form:

COURSE NAME	Minimum Entry	
Access Course	C X 5	Equivalent of 5 grade C at GCSE
Art and Design	C	B grade recommended for full A Level
Biology	BB	A*/A recommended from double award Science C+ in maths desirable
Business Studies	C	English/maths required, GCSE Business Studies recommended
Business Studies and Economics	C	English/maths required, GCSE Business Studies recommended
Chemistry	BB	A*/A recommended from double award science. C+ in maths desirable.
DT	C	From resistant materials or product /graphics design (Not food tech)
Drama and Theatre Studies	C	Drama and C in English advisable
English Literature	B & C	Recommended grade combination in either order from English Language and English Literature
English Language & Literature	B & C	Recommended grade combination in either order from English Language and English Literature
Environmental Studies AS only	B/C	Grade C+ in maths desirable
Film Studies	B & C	Recommended grade combination in either order from English Language and English Literature
French	B	Recommended
Further Maths	A*/A	Only available to those taking maths A Level.
Geography	C	As a single award subject – gained from Higher Tier Paper
History	C	Additionally, minimum C recommended in English
Computing	C	In English/maths recommended (need not have studied ICT GCSE)
ICT	C	In English/maths recommended (need not have studied ICT GCSE)
ICT Single Applied	Merit	At BTEC if studied at BTEC
Information Technology Advanced Diploma		
Mathematics with Statistics	B	from Higher tier A*/A recommended
Mathematics with Mechanics	B	from Higher tier A*/A recommended
Music	B/C	C for AS, B for full A level (Grade 4 for AS, Grade 6 for A)
Music Technology	C	Recommended C in Music but not essential – proficient on an instrument
Philosophy and Ethics	C	Grade C in GCSE Religious Studies (either short or long course)
Physics	BB	A*/A recommended plus B or higher in maths
PE	C or Dist	Grade C in GCSE PE or Distinction from BTEC Certificate or BTEC Diploma
Psychology	{	C or above in maths and English as well as general sixth form
Sociology	{	entry criteria (6/7 points minimum) for both Psychology & Sociology
Science – AS only	B/C	Grade C+ in maths desirable
Statistics	C	Grade C or above from Higher Tier Paper

How many AS level courses should I study in Year 12?

Students who demonstrate the ability to study four AS qualifications in Year 12 will be encouraged to do so (for example 15 or more points). It is normal practice to see students taking three of these through to a full A Level qualification in Year 13. Some students, however, may be more likely to achieve higher grades by taking only three AS qualifications in Year 12.

The choice of subjects may be one of the most difficult aspects of completing your sixth form application. Please be assured that guidance can be given to students who are uncertain as to the best combination or number of A Level subjects to select. Guidance will be based on prior attainment, eg GCSE forecast grades, and point score entry.

Entry to Applied ICT courses

The entry guideline is based on previous experience of students' success or otherwise in the demanding A level curriculum. Due to the assessment structure of the Applied course, where much more emphasis is placed on coursework and continuous assessment, the entry requirement may be slightly more flexible than a course consisting only of A level subjects. Typically 5+ GCSEs at C+ or merit in BTEC ICT and 1+ GCSE at C+. Previous work practices will also be considered as equally important.

Entry to Level 3 Access Course

This is a new course introduced this year, and students will need to demonstrate:

- achievement of five or more level 2/GCSE grades at C/pass+. For example 5 GCSEs at C; a BTEC ICT pass and CoPE pass etc
- an ability to work hard independently at coursework (a good report from teachers showing no problems with late Year 11 coursework submissions)
- an excellent behaviour record (students on the course will be trusted to represent the school at a work placement and to be reliable in working independently on coursework)
- an active desire to succeed, which will be assessed by a planning meeting

Diploma in ICT

A diploma consists of a Principle Learning Subject in this case ICT and is equivalent to 2 A Levels. Alongside ICT all students undertake a course of functional skill (Level 3) and Extended Project Qualification students can select a further A Level from the A Level option choices.

Course summary

In Year 12, students will follow:

- Three or four AS subjects
- General Studies A Level (completed in year 12)
- Recreation and Personal Development Qualifications
- Any other optional qualifications, eg, JSLA / CSLA / Millennium Volunteers / Young Enterprise

In Year 13, most students will follow:

- Three A2 subjects
- Optional, additional AS qualification

Please note – Further Maths is an additional A Level qualification only available to students studying Maths A Level. It will be considered as a fourth or fifth subject.

Academic study is one thing!

Equally important, however, is that you are motivated towards study and hard work. You will be expected to act as a role model for younger students in school and so your attitude is a vital factor in gaining a place in the Sixth Form.

Success in your academic studies is only part of the story. It is important to achieve a balance between this and your more general development as an independent young adult. As well as the range of academic courses, we offer the opportunity to develop the qualities of responsibility and personal organisation through our care and guidance systems and by encouraging you to take on responsibility within and outside of school. Being a sixth form prefect or working on the sixth form common room committee are two examples of this.

There is no doubt that in order to succeed in today's workplace a wide range of skills, qualities, attitudes and knowledge is required. We aim to provide a broad and balanced education, which will equip you with the abilities, confidence and flexibility to take your place in the adult work environment either directly or after higher education at university.

Sixth Form Council / Sixth Form Mentors

Sixth Formers are important role models to younger pupils. Through our system of Sixth Form Council some Sixth Form students can take on a special position of responsibility in school, which may involve supervising, and helping younger students or assisting staff in various duties. The Sixth Form Council will be led by two head students whose position carries considerable status.

The Sixth Form Council meets regularly to discuss issues of importance to the life of the Sixth Form. The Sixth Form Council also has an important role to play in helping to run the Sixth Form. One area in which the Council will wish to be particularly active is in organising social activities for the Sixth Form. This will include an opportunity for foreign travel.

Sixth Form Debating Group

The sixth form debating group meets fortnightly in the sixth form resource centre. At each debate two students compete against each other to convince the panel of student judges and the audience of their side of the motion. Competitors have the chance to give a speech but must also respond to questions from the panel and audience. This allows students to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world around them whilst improving questioning, analytical and public speaking skills required for sixth form life and beyond. Students from the debating group have the opportunity to represent the school in debating competitions.

Our philosophy of Respect and Excellence

We encourage students to respect themselves and other people, regardless of their sex, race or religious conviction. We encourage learning and a sense of responsibility.

Shenley Brook End School has earned an excellent reputation for high standards. We want the students at Shenley Brook End Sixth Form Centre to maintain and develop this reputation. It depends on you. If you come to the Sixth Form the impression the community has of the school will depend a great deal on what people think of you.

Sixth Form Contract Agreement

This is in two parts. The first part sets out the school's responsibilities to you. The second part explains your responsibilities as a Sixth Form student. The contract is signed by the school, the student and the student's parents. We take this contract very seriously.

Parental Support

Additionally we expect parents/guardians to support the students and school by:

- taking an active interest in their academic and social development
- acknowledging your responsibility for the continuing development of your child's behaviour and supporting the school in our expectations of discipline and student behaviour and values
- attending information and parents' evening whenever possible
- encouraging your child to take the very best advantage of the decision to continue in full-time education and be mindful of the impact that paid part-time employment may have on success in sixth form studies. (Research has shown that more than 8 hours paid employment per week will result in lower grades.)
- refraining from taking their child away from studies during the school term, eg holidays etc.

School and Community Service

School service is an opportunity for students to contribute to and experience the wider aspects of our school or community, allowing them to develop further skills beyond their normal academic study.

A school service report can form an integral component to any future reference, allowing individual strengths and qualities to be realised. School service will be recorded and commented upon in tutorial reports and may be part of any reference requirements.

Examination Entry Policy

Shenley Brook End Sixth Form Centre will usually enter students for examinations for which they have been prepared, unless students have failed to meet work deadlines or have failed to work to a satisfactory standard or had a high level of absence. If you fail to meet coursework deadlines or do not turn up for an examination you will be required to pay the necessary exam fees.

All A Levels comprise a number of modules. In Year 12 students study the first half of the course, called AS Level. At the end of Year 12 the AS Level courses are externally examined and stand as qualifications in their own right. Where a student successfully completes the AS Level he/she may then continue with the remaining (A2) modules during Year 13 to achieve the full A Level qualification. Most Year 13 students study three A2 courses.

Resit Examination Policy

Students may be entered to resit AS or A2 examinations when:

- recommended by the school
- and requested by the student/parent/guardian.

Re-sitting examinations will be considered when a formal request is received by a student or parent/guardian. This resit request will be considered in line with our examination entry criteria, eg consideration is given to the likely success of the examination result. It will be strongly recommended that a maximum of two resit module examinations will be allowed in any one examining period.

In all cases the resit entry fee and certification costs will be paid for by the student or parent/guardian.

Making Your Subject Choices

You need to give very careful thought to the subjects that you choose. What you choose now may open up or close down some opportunities when you leave the Sixth Form. At an interview you may be expected to explain your choices and to show that you understand what these courses entail. If you are intending to go on to university you need to think especially carefully about the combination of subjects that you choose. Many universities expect to see some coherence in the subjects you take and a few degree courses have very specific entry requirements. Please speak to your teachers if you have any questions or concerns.

When choosing your subjects it is also important to remember that you will be studying these subjects in depth over two years. As well as choosing subjects that will be useful to you, you need also to choose ones which you will enjoy studying and in which you can be successful. Discussion with your teachers is very important if you are to make good decisions at this stage. You should talk to your Year 11 form tutor, current sixth form students, the careers service or Mr Lloyd-Jones for further advice on subjects. University reference books can be found in the careers section of either the school's library or the Central MK library. You can talk to the careers service on 01908 232808.

Specific details of the A Level and Applied courses available are found on the loose sheets inside this folder.

Application Process

Sixth Form Prospectus available	25 November 2009
Prospective Sixth Form Evening	26 November 2009
SBE Year 11 internal exams	4 January 2010
SBE Year 11 Parents' evening	11 February 2010
Deadline for applications	25 January 2010
Consultations held from	February 2010
Letters offering places sent out	March/April 2010

[Induction Week: 5th – 9th July 2010]

GCSE results will be published on **26 August 2010**. Staff are available in school on **26 and 27 August** to answer questions raised by the GCSE/BTEC results.

Please note that we aim to offer all the courses described in this prospectus. However, we cannot guarantee all possible combinations of subjects. After the application forms are submitted, subject blocks will be allocated to allow the maximum number of students the opportunity to study their requested combinations. Also final confirmation of a subject being offered will depend upon student demand and staffing availability.

Induction

If we offer you a conditional place, which you accept, we will invite you to a weeks induction and bridging programme in early July. The purpose of this is to introduce you to the Sixth Form, for you to confirm that the courses you originally applied for are still the appropriate ones for you and for you to begin some preparation for those courses so that a very brisk start can be made straight away in September.

Tutorial Groups

You will be allocated a tutor group and a personal tutor with whom you will register daily. The tutor will be responsible for much of the day-to-day administrative work that affects you but will also help you to take responsibility for your personal welfare. He/she will be your first point of contact in the event of any problems and will liaise with your teachers about your progress. Regular progress checks will take place and these will be followed up by your tutor who will discuss your progress with you and help you to set yourself targets.

Private Study

All courses require you to complete set homework tasks and to spend some time studying on your own to supplement your taught lessons. Approximately 5 hours per subject per week is considered to be a realistic estimate for a typical student. The Sixth Form Resource Centre is available with library, ICT and study facilities and you will be expected to make good use of them. You are asked to work quietly and not to disturb others. **Year 12 students are expected to stay on site for private study sessions for the first term and this is only then recommended by tutors based as appropriate evidence of independent study and good personal organization. Home Study is a privilege not a certainty.**

Recreation and Personal Development

An important feature of our Sixth Form curriculum is the opportunity to develop and participate in team events and physical activities. It also creates an important opportunity for you to keep healthy. During these sessions, you will have the opportunity to select an option. For guidance, our current range are;

NCFE Level 1: Certificate in Exercise Studies
NCFE Level 2: Certificate in Nutrition and Health
NCFE Level 2: Certificate in Sports Coaching

An alternative option is to participate in a sport during the assigned rec period.

General Studies AS/A Level

The General Studies course is compulsory for students at Shenley Brook End sixth form. It is designed to develop a greater awareness of human knowledge, understanding and behavior. It allows you to experience the wider aspects of our world through the study of scientific issues, the political system, the role of media, the role of business and industry and issues surrounding beliefs, values and morality.

The course is an examined A Level qualification and the grade attracts the same UCAS tariff as other A Levels. There are four main units to be completed in Year 12.

January of Year 12

AS Units

- Conflict
- Space

June of Year 12

A2 Units

- Power
- Change

Each year we review our enrichment programme and the above gives a summary of our current provision. The precise options available for 2010/11 will be finalized later.

Completing the Application Form

You need to complete the application form carefully making sure you fill in all the sections indicated.

You may choose up to four subjects indicating the priority you give these subjects. Your most important subject will be indicated by Selection 1, your second by Selection 2, and so on. If you regard two subjects as having equal priority, please attempt to separate them out! If you are considering a four AS Level combination, then please make two choices in Selection 4 to increase the likelihood of our being able to timetable a choice of subjects that closely matches your selection.

Further Maths is available for able mathematicians who are studying A Level Maths. Please indicate whether you are interested in having a Further Maths qualification in addition to your Maths A level. Further Maths is often taught outside the normal timetable.

Please indicate the GCSE subjects you are currently studying or any GCSE qualifications already attained. Please make sure you specify details such as tier entry level, specific areas of study in DT, eg Food, Graphics etc, and whether, for example, your science qualification is a double award. Also, in anticipation of completion of subject references, please complete the first column on the reverse of the form. If you are a student from another school please try to get a comment from your existing subject teacher.

For Maths subjects please confirm the exact choice eg Maths with Statistics.

If you choose our Level 3 Access course this is the **only** selection you are required to make – please write **Access** in box 1 **only**.

Finally, please sign your form and hand it into the sixth form office post boxes at Shenley Brook End School by 25 January 2010.

(Shenley Brook End students: please use post box B outside the sixth form office)

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ACCESS COURSE

COURSE TITLE: Level 3 Higher Education/Career Progression Course

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

The course is designed for those students who do not have a specific A level programme of study, but who wish to continue their education to improve their career or higher education opportunities. It is appropriate for anybody who has achieved the equivalent of five or more level 2 qualifications at C+, either through GCSEs or other level 2 courses such as BTECs, CoPE etc.

The course is vocationally orientated in that the vast majority of subjects taken are assessed by coursework and portfolio submission rather than examinations. All individual elements are at level 3, which are the equivalent of AS and A level courses. The subjects that make up the overall course are aimed at helping students improve their personal skills and develop self-confidence in their own abilities and in the workplace.

The course is ideal for those students who are currently unsure of their future direction since it prepares individuals for direct entry into a career or a variety of university courses at the end of Year 13.

COURSE CONTENT

The final list of subjects that will be studied is yet to be confirmed, but will include some of the following (all at level 3):

Subject	Exam Board	AS Level percentage	Grades available
Certificate of Personal Effectiveness	Asdan	50%	Pass
Certificate in Career Planning	Asdan	20%	Pass
Advanced GCE in Applied ICT (Double Award)	OCR	20%	AA – EE
Key Skills: Application of Number Communication ICT Problem Solving Working With Others Improving Own Learning	Asdan	180%	Pass Pass Pass Pass Pass Pass
Rec Qualification	NCFE		Level 1 or 2
PSHE	-	-	-

i.e. a pass in all subjects could give the equivalent of 4½ A Levels.

Students will also carry out one day of work experience each week to gain an understanding of employment. (This will be the student's responsibility to organise, although help will be provided by the school if accepted onto the course. This can be a paid or voluntary work placement. The employer will write a reference to add to the student's portfolio of qualifications.)

The aim is to provide access for students to gain a range of qualifications equivalent to 6+ AS levels (ie 3+ A levels) and a long-term work placement.

PROGRESSION

With successful achievement at level 3 courses and a positive reference from a long-term employer, students will be able to access a wide range of university courses (degrees and Foundation Degrees) or a full-time employment. Help and support from the school will be given to find a suitable route.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Achievement of five or more level 2/GCSE grades at C/pass+. For example 5 GCSEs at C; a BTEC ICT pass and CoPE pass etc
- an ability to work hard independently at coursework (a good report from teachers showing no problems with late Year 11 coursework submissions)
- an excellent behaviour record (students on the course will be trusted to represent the school at a work placement and to be reliable in working independently on coursework)
- an active desire to succeed, which will be assessed by an interview

FURTHER INFORMATION: Please contact Mr Kimberley

ART & DESIGN

COURSE TITLE: EDEXCEL – Art and Design

COURSE CONTENT

The A level Art is a continuation from the studies undertaken during the GCSE Art course and although it is divided into AS and A2 for assessment and grading, it is designed to be one coherent course in its structure and the development of skills. Students will experience a series of units/projects where they will establish and develop a broad range of intellectual, technical and creative skills in a variety of media, materials and approaches. Students who have been conscientious during their GCSE Art will recognise this higher course as a direct extension from their previous studies and should aim to work to challenge themselves with new experiences and more sophisticated approaches.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

As AS and A2 Art and Design is a fully academic subject, some students will wish to follow this course without intending to follow further Art studies at a higher level or as an artistic career. This is acceptable and is recognised as common practice. However, students wishing to follow a career in the Arts will find this course essential and a valuable contribution to their future plans. Few university Art courses would accept students without a high grade in A level Art & Design.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The ownership of the course is 100% with the student. Techniques, materials and content will be tutored in compliance with the EDEXCEL examinations council, but the emphasis is with the students challenging themselves to learn independently, by experience and experimentation. A high level of motivation is required. Students will be expected to have achieved a grade C or higher at GCSE Art to undertake this course at AS. Grade B is recommended for students wishing to follow the full A Level course.

ASSESSMENT

There are two units of study in each year

AS

Unit One	Coursework: Thematic and creative enquiry with historical research
Unit Two	Examination: Externally set themed project.

A2

Unit Three	Coursework: Creative problem-solving / creative enquiry with historical research
Unit Four	Examination: Externally set themed project.

Equipment and Expenses

A small range of personal equipment will need to be built up gradually over the course and a work journal for each unit of work can be purchased through the school at cost price. Travel expenses to galleries will also need to be met by the students. Costs will always be kept to a minimum.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mr Dilly.

BIOLOGY

COURSE TITLE : AQA Biology (2410)

WHY CHOOSE BIOLOGY?

If you have an interest in the living world, plants, animals, bacteria, fungi and protists, and how they interact with each other and the environment you need to consider biology. Areas that are studied in biology include 'Biology and Disease', and 'Variety of Living Organisms'. It can be taken alongside or without the other science subjects but matches particularly well with chemistry or physical education. Students who take biology with another science often achieve more than those who just take biology.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a B grade in 'core' science and 'additional science' or grade B in triple science biology and a further grade B in another science as well as a genuine interest in the subject. Students with grade A or A* are more likely to go on to study at A2. A grade C or above in maths is essential.

ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed by a combination of module exams and practical assessment.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mr Ings or Mr Gavan.

CHEMISTRY

COURSE TITLE: OCR Chemistry A (H034/H434)

WHY CHOOSE CHEMISTRY?

Chemistry sits in the middle of the 'science continuum'. If you are intrigued by the chemical elements, the way that substances react and change then you need to consider chemistry. Areas that will be studied include thermo chemistry, organic chemistry and bonding. Chemistry can be taken alone but also fits well with either physics or biology or maths or all three sciences.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a B grade in 'core' science and 'additional science' or grade B in triple science chemistry and a further grade B in another science as well as a genuine interest in the subject. Students with grade A or A* are more likely to go on to study at A2. A grade C or above in maths is essential.

ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed by a combination of practical assignments and module exams.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mr Ings or Mr Pritchard.

PHYSICS

COURSE TITLE: OCR Physics A (H158/H558)

WHY CHOOSE PHYSICS?

If you are interested in the fundamental science, the smallest 'building blocks' of the universe or if you have an interest in engineering or technology of any sort you need to consider studying physics. It can be taken alongside, or separate to, other science subjects but it matches particularly well with chemistry and/or maths.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a B grade in 'core' science and 'additional science' or grade B in triple science physics and a further grade B in another science as well as a genuine interest in the subject. Students with grade A or A* are more likely to go on to study at A2. A grade B or above in maths is essential.

ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed by a combination of practical assignments and module exams.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mr Ings or Ms Flack.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES – AS ONLY

COURSE TITLE: AQA (2440)

NEW DESCRIPTION FOR A PROVISIONAL COURSE

COURSE CONTENT

Candidates will study the biodiversity of life on planet earth and the physical resources which are essential for life on earth.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

If you are interested in the environment and the science that controls and affects it as well as wildlife conservation, pollution and global climate change this is the course for you. If you wish to continue to study science for one year this could be the course (but also see AS Science)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least grade B in 'core' science and a C in 'additional science' or CCC in triple science as well as a genuine interest in the subject. A grade C or above in maths is essential. As part of the course a residential field trip may be undertaken.

ASSESSMENT

Is by module written exams.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mr Ings or Mr West.

SCIENCE – AS ONLY

COURSE TITLE: OCR Science (H178)

NEW DESCRIPTION FOR A PROVISIONAL COURSE

COURSE CONTENT

Candidates will extend their knowledge of biology, chemistry and physics as well as some earth science and environmental science.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

If you are interested in science but not sure that you want to take any of biology, chemistry or physics then you need to consider AS science. The modules include 'Remote Sensing and the Natural Environment' and 'Science and Human Activity' and involve a bit of biology, chemistry and physics as well as some more practical skills.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least grade B in 'core' science and a C in 'additional science' or CCC in triple science as well as a genuine interest in the subject. A grade C or above in maths is essential. As part of the course a residential field trip may be undertaken.

ASSESSMENT

Is by module written exams, a case study and an assessed practical task.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mr Ings, Mrs Walton or Mr West.

BUSINESS STUDIES

COURSE TITLE: AQA Business Studies AS (first examined in 2009) and A2 (first examined in 2010)

COURSE CONTENT:

Knowledge and Skills to be developed

Business studies aims to provide candidates with a critical understanding of:

- The internal functions of a business
- The external environment
- Major topical issues that generate change for businesses
- A range of stakeholder perspectives of business activities

The skills that are encouraged are:

- Data skills – to manipulate and analyse data to help make decisions
- Present arguments – based on available evidence
- Solve problems – using various analytical tools
- Planning – take into account demands of a task and plan time and resources around that

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It is essential that students have an understanding of what is going on around them in the world and in the business environment in general. E.g. Issues such as current business practice and new legislation that is passed very frequently. Students of business must be interested in this area of study if they are to perform well.

Modules studied and methods of assessment

AS Course

Unit and code	Specification title	% of final A level	Methods of assessment
Unit 1 – BUSS1	Planning and Financing a Business – Starting a Business and Financial Planning	20%	1 hour 15 minutes examination consisting of short answer questions and extended data responses based on a mini case study
Unit 2 – BUSS2	Managing a Business – People, Operations Management, Finance and Marketing and Competitive Environment	30%	1 hour and 30 minute examination consisting of a compulsory, multi-part response questions

A2 Course

Unit and code	Specification title	% of final A level	Methods of assessment
Unit 3 – BUSS3	Strategies for Success – Financial strategies and accounts, Marketing strategies, Operations strategies and HR strategies	25%	1 hour and 45 minute examination consisting of questions requiring extended answers based on an unseen case study, drawing upon knowledge from AS units.
Unit 4 – BUSS4	The Business Environment and Managing Change – Mission aims and objectives, External influences, Leadership and corporate culture and Managing change	25%	1 hour and 30 minute examination consisting of two parts: Pre-release research tasks and a second section with a choice of essays. All essays will be synoptic and thus draw on knowledge of all of the four units studied

If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact Mr Greenhalgh or visit www.AQA.org.uk/qual/gce/businessstudiesnew

BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

COURSE TITLE: Edexcel AS Economics and Business (first examined in 2009) and A2 (first examined in 2010)

HOW IS THIS COURSE DIFFERENT FROM BUSINESS STUDIES?

Business studies is all about studying how businesses work and how external factors affect how they operate. The Economics and Business course have elements of this but that is where the similarity ends!

COURSE CONTENT:

If you were to study pure Economics you would be investigating how the world (businesses and countries) allocate scarce resources as almost all resources are not infinite. Businesses are part of this mechanism as they operate within the world; however, governments and economists become involved to help allocate these resources (not always for the best!). In the end, every decision must take into account the Opportunity Cost of that decision. Economics tries to understand and explain this. Thus, this course integrates the two areas of study to provide students with a grounding in both areas.

Modules studied and methods of assessment

AS Course

Unit	Specification title	% of final A level	Methods of assessment
Unit 1	Developing New Business Ideas	25%	1 hour and 15 minute examination consisting of two sections: Section A is supported multiple choice questions and Section B is made up of questions based on data
Unit 2b	Business Economics	25%	1 hour and 15 minute examination consisting of two sections: Section A is supported multiple choice questions and Section B are questions based on data

A2 Course

Unit	Specification title	% of final A level	Methods of assessment
Unit 3	International Business	25%	1 hour and 30 minute examination consisting of two sections: Section A is made up of questions based on data and Section B is a case study and questions
Unit 4b	The Wider Economic Environment and Business	25%	1 hour and 30 minute examination consisting of two sections: Section A is made up of questions based on data and Section B is a decision-making report and questions. The context of the decision-making report is based on pre-released material issued in June of the previous year (2009 for this qualification)

If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact Mr Greenhalgh or visit www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/eco-bus

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

**COURSE TITLE: OCR – Design and Technology:
Product Design H053/H453**

COURSE CONTENT

This course builds on your experience of design and technology at GCSE. It focuses on product design. Through it you will have the opportunity to study, propose and realise prototype solutions to designing and making opportunities closely linked to the real world of product manufacture.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

With a qualification in design and technology you could go on to study for a degree in higher education, or work in the engineering, manufacturing or design industries. Other subjects which would go well with design and technology are physics, mathematics or art.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You should enjoy exploring, working with and manipulating resistant and non-resistant materials. You should be willing to continue to develop your visual and graphical communication skills and be able to work under pressure as an element of this course is a timed design challenge. Ideally you would have studied design and technology and have achieved success at GCSE level at C or above in either resistant materials or graphic products. You should also be willing to read the texts provided together with other relevant directed reading.

ASSESSMENT

You will be assessed via four units. The first two consist of an Advanced Innovation Challenge on a theme supplied by the exam board and a product design project in which you design a prototype product. These lead to an award at AS Level.

The second two units consist of a major design and manufacturing project. The design folio and the making and evaluating of the product count as one unit. The final unit is a product design exam. These units lead to an award at A Level.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mr Clarke or visit www.ocr.org.uk

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

COURSE TITLE: EDEXCEL – Drama and Theatre Studies

COURSE CONTENT

The course is structured in a very practical sense, focusing as it does on the elements of drama in performance and the *application* of practitioners' ideologies rather than simply looking at them as clinical theories. It combines the theoretical and textual work with practical experiences of theatre and writers, looking at styles and genres from ancient Greek theatre to modern and postmodern production techniques and values. Students of theatre will study several plays in a series of workshops and theatre visits. They will also present performances for examiners and a complete written examination on their experiences and knowledge of drama and theatre.

This course builds on the skills learned at GCSE Theatre Studies, but is also accessible for students with a practical imagination and a good grade at GCSE English.

Units are as follows:

AS	% of A level	Unit	Assessment
	20%	1: Exploration of Drama & Theatre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A series of practical workshops with exploration notes.• Evaluation of live theatre.
	30%	2: Theatre Text in Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practical group performance of a scripted play.• Monologue/Duologue performance.• Both are externally assessed by visiting examiners.
A2	20%	3: Exploration of Dramatic Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students devise or interpret a piece of original drama and provide an accompanying portfolio.
	30%	4: Theatre Text in Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2½ hour written examination on a:• Set text studied in class.• Historical play – comparing performances with original conditions

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

If you wish to study English or Drama at university, this course will prepare you well. It also links with other Arts subjects, the humanities and design-related A levels. It provides the opportunity to learn a number of impressive skills, which would be useful in many areas, as well as the theatre, such as: leisure and tourism, public relations, psychology, journalism etc.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Drama and Theatre Studies require a large range of skills, even in the written components. It is about practical work – performances, application of practitioners' theories, coping with different challenges – and so requires people who can describe the practical work in written format. Students with a good drama GCSE will find the course very accessible and will have built a good base of knowledge from which to approach the course.

This course will require students to be present at all rehearsals and be prepared to attend rehearsals outside of school hours. The course is collaborative so students must be fully committed to the group and rehearsals as the attainment of each individual can be dependant on a 'whole-group' approach. Students will also be required to attend theatre visits. A grade C in Drama and C in English GCSE is advisable.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Miss Whitaker or Miss Mowatt, or visit www.edexcel.org.uk

ENGLISH LITERATURE

COURSE TITLE: AQA – English Literature (Specification A)

COURSE CONTENT

The course covers English literature from Shakespeare's time to the present day through a study of eight key texts and wider study of a range of literature on a set theme. This is done through a mixture of coursework tasks and exams.

AS Texts in Context

One set poetry text and wider reading on World War One Literature

Creative Study

2 pieces of coursework of 2000 words total on a set piece of poetry and prose on World War One

A2 Reading for Meaning

Unprepared passages and wider reading of prose, poetry and drama on the theme of 'Love through the ages'

Extended essay

An extended essay that compares two texts (3000 words)

An extract from a Shakespeare play (1000 words)

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Enjoyment and intellectual challenge aside, A Level English Literature is an excellent qualification to have. The ability to engage with a diverse range of texts and to be able to shape a clear response requires skills extremely welcome to employers or universities. The subject enhances the study of all arts or humanities related A Levels and is commonly held to provide a helpful introduction to any degree course because of the quality of reading and essay skills involved. Careers in law, media, publishing and teaching are common routes.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a combination of grades B and C minimum are recommended in English Language and English Literature GCSE. Students must be committed to extensive reading and detailed writing. A willingness to go on theatre trips, attend lectures and to work well with anyone is important. Students who wish to be told what to think will be disappointed!

ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed as follows:

Assessment

Year 12

Unit one - two hour exam

Unit two – coursework

Year 13

Unit three - two hour exam

Unit four - coursework

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Miss Smith or visit www.aqa.org.uk

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

COURSE TITLE: AQA – English Language and Literature (Specification B)

COURSE CONTENT

The course covers both English Language and Literature and the connections between them. Students will study a range of literary and non-literary texts, and both spoken and written language. The course builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired for GCSE English and English Literature, and assessment is carried out through a mixture of coursework tasks and examination. Units are as follows:

AS Introduction to Language and Literature Study (Anthology)

Genres in Language and Literature (fiction and library non-fiction)

Comparison of a shared theme in 2 literary texts from different time periods

A2 Talk in Life and Literature (transcripts and set drama)

Text Transformation with associated commentary

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

A Level English Language and Literature is an excellent qualification, giving students confidence in handling and analysing both spoken and written English. Students will engage with a wide variety of texts and develop skills, which are viewed very favourably by universities and employers. This course will enhance the study of all arts or humanities A Levels and will develop the reading, essay writing and analytical skills, which will be valuable in any degree course. Those wishing for careers in law, media, publishing, teaching or communications may find this an appropriate choice.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a combination of grades B and C minimum are recommended in English Language and English Literature GCSE. A genuine interest in language is needed to gain the most from this course. Students must be committed to extensive reading and essay writing, and should be prepared to study many types of English including the features of speech in different situations. An ability to work both as an individual and part of a group is essential.

ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed as follows:

Year 12

Unit one – one hour thirty minute exam

Unit two – coursework folder

Year 13

Unit three – two hour thirty minute exam

Unit four – coursework folder

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mrs Smith or visit www.aqa.org.uk

FILM STUDIES

COURSE TITLE: WJEC – Film Studies

COURSE CONTENT

AS

The units cover – film form, production and values

Unit 1 Making Meaning – written analysis and practical application.

Unit 2 is examined at the end of the AS year and covers British and American Cinema.

A2

An in-depth study of meaning and form plus a unit on world cinema, a unit on critical studies and a unit on spectatorship studies.

Two coursework projects – one in depth research task

One practical project with a film-making option

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

The course goes well alongside English and theatre studies. It is suitable for careers in media and journalism. Film Studies is a demanding but very interesting course, which pairs analytical skills with creativity very effectively.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a combination of grades B and C minimum (achieved on the higher paper at GCSE) are recommended in English Language and English Literature GCSE. Students should also have an enthusiasm for film and a willingness to explore films from all genre.

ASSESSMENT

- Year 12:
1. Internally assessed coursework unit including practical work such as a story board or screenplay
 2. Externally assessed exam units
- Year 13:
1. Internally assessed coursework unit including practical work – either screenplay or short film production
 2. Externally assessed exam units.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Miss Danks or www.wjec.co.uk

FRENCH

COURSE TITLE: AQA FRENCH

COURSE CONTENT

The general topic areas for the AS and A2 courses are:

- Media (television, advertising, communication technology)
- Popular culture (cinema, music, fashion/trends)
- Healthy living/lifestyle (sport/exercise, health and well-being, holidays)
- Family/relationships (relationships within the family, friendships, marriage/partnerships)
- Environment (pollution, energy, protecting the planet)
- The multicultural society (immigration, integration, racism)
- Contemporary social issues (wealth and poverty, law and order, impact of scientific and technological progress)
- Cultural topic

The AS/A2 French course should encourage students to:

- develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, language learning
- develop their understanding of the language in a variety of contexts and genres
- communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language for a range of purposes
- develop awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of countries or communities where the language is spoken
- consider their study of the language in a broader context

WHAT KIND OF STUDENT IS THIS COURSE SUITABLE FOR?

The AS/A2 French course is for students who are interested in languages and communication and enjoy learning about other cultures and ways of life. Similarly, students who are interested in the business world, in travel and tourism or in journalism and the media, are also likely to find the course appropriate. It will enable students to acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use, further study and/or employment.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students choosing to continue with their French at AS/A2 will need to have gained at least a grade B in the French GCSE examination in order to cope with the demands of this course. They will need to feel confident at this level in the four language skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. In addition, it is expected that they will have some knowledge and understanding of the culture and way of life in French speaking countries. Students need to be interested in developing this understanding and in exploring in more depth the topic areas covered at GCSE.

Students should be prepared to go to France during the course to practise their skills and it is important to undertake individual research and reading around the subject to enhance understanding.

ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed through four units over two years.

AS course:

Unit 1 - Listening, Reading and Writing

Unit 2 - Speaking Test

A2 course:

Unit 3 - Listening, Reading and Writing

Unit 4 - Speaking Test

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Ms Froggitt or visit www.aqa.org.uk

GENERAL STUDIES

COURSE TITLE : AQA (B) General Studies

General Studies is a compulsory course at Shenley Brook End Sixth Form. Students take both the AS and A2 qualification in their first year of sixth form. This means that students who leave at the end of year 12 leave with a full A level qualification. It also means that when making their university applications at the start of year 13, students can show their accelerated learning and the key skills that they have acquired through studying the subject.

General Studies is, at its most basic, a study of the world that we live in. It attempts to integrate different fields of human knowledge. It encourages students to reflect on the nature of human knowledge and experience of the world through the consideration of spiritual, moral, ethical, social and cultural issues. This compliments study in other subject areas as it facilitates the development key skills of analysis, evaluation and communication.

General Studies crosses boundaries across between subjects and challenges students to make links between different topics. It forces students to make decisions, formulate opinions and communicate fluently.

General Studies at Shenley Brook End School

- 2 x 50 minute lessons per week – often debates or seminars
- AS = 2 units of assessment (2 x 1 ½ hour exams in January)
- A2 = 2 units of assessment (2 x 2 hour exams in June)
- No coursework
- Attendance is compulsory and homework or any other lesson preparation is mandatory

Study is split across five topic areas. Students have the opportunity to select which three topic areas they would like to study. The process of selecting their topics is designed to mirror the module selection process that students will experience at university. Students choose from

- Science and Technology
- Society and Politics
- Arts and Media
- Business and Industry
- Beliefs and Values

For more information please see www.aqa.org.uk or contact Miss Beechey

GEOGRAPHY

COURSE TITLE: AQA – Geography (Specification A)

COURSE CONTENT

AS

Unit 1 Physical and Human Geography – rivers, floods and management, population change and two additional topics.

70% of total AS marks

(35% of total A level marks)

Unit 2 Geographical skills

30% of total AS marks

(15% of total A level marks)

A2

Unit 3 Contemporary geographical issues – an issues-based approach to contemporary geographical themes through the study of one human unit, one physical unit and one additional topic.

30% of total A level marks

Unit 4a Geography fieldwork investigation

20% of total A level marks

or 4b Geographical issue evaluation fieldwork investigation

20% of total A level marks

(Selection of additional topic and geographical issue to be confirmed)

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

The course provides a logical extension from GCSE geography, building on skills developed in Years 10 and 11. The subject has links with other subject areas: notably biology, maths, and business studies. Traditionally the subject is linked with English and history. The course helps students to develop decision-making skills and to consider management issues. These are valuable in future study and careers.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have at least grade C at GCSE geography (from the Higher Tier Paper). You will be required to take part in fieldwork activities arranged through school and also to undertake your own individual piece of fieldwork in your own time. Students should be able to research issues with a minimum of guidance and are expected to use the media to maintain a knowledge of key current events. Whilst no specific entry requirements in maths are insisted upon, numeracy is important in this course.

ASSESSMENT

AS – 2 written exams

A2 – 2 written exams

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mr Fuller or visit www.aqa.org.uk

HISTORY

COURSE TITLE: AQA – History

COURSE CONTENT

AS

Unit 1 – HIS1M – Change and Consolidation: USA, 1890 - 1945

Unit 2 – HIS2N – Historical Issues: Periods of Change: Anti-Semitism, Hitler & the German People, 1919 - 1945

A2

Unit 3 – HIS3M – The State and the People: Change and Continuity: the Making of Modern Britain, 1951 - 2007

Unit 4 – HIS4X – Historical Enquiry – Coursework Unit – approximately 3500 words on an analysis of US Civil Rights c1865 – c1965.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

The A Level History course has been designed to help students understand the value of significance of world events in the past and to gain a deeper understanding of social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity in the process. Knowing how people lived in the past helps students to understand why people act like they do today. The A Level course builds naturally on the knowledge and skills learnt by students in Years 10 and 11, and so it is a good choice for a student who both enjoyed and achieved well at GCSE.

History is traditionally a subject taken alongside geography, English or a foreign language but it can be complementary to maths or science, giving a broad educational base. A Level history gives students knowledge and skills which will prepare them for higher education and which are also useful in any career. Students who specialise in history can go on to become historical researchers, work in heritage organisations or become teachers. History also supports other career paths, like journalism, politics, law, social work and public services.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students need to have at least grade C in history GCSE and a C+ grade in English is recommended. Students will be expected to read widely and use the library and other sources to research the topics they are studying, as well as to be able to produce extended pieces of writing. Students should be aware that coursework at A2 is now a compulsory element of the A Level course and this will require a considerable amount of independent research to carry out the 3,500 word historical enquiry that the specification demands.

ASSESSMENT

AS

Unit 1: 1 hour 15 minutes written examination (50% or AS, 25% of A Level)

Unit 2: 1 hour 30 minute written examination (50% of AS, 25% of A Level)

A2

Unit 3: 1 hour 30 minutes written examination (30% of A Level)

Unit 4: Coursework Unit: approximately 3,500 words on an analysis of US Civil Rights c1865 – c1965 (20% of A Level)

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Miss West or visit www.aqa.org.uk

COMPUTING

COURSE TITLE: WJEC – Computing

COURSE CONTENT

This course covers computer systems from software, hardware and networks to their social and legal implications. The emphases are on the background theory to practices used in computer systems and on programming a system using a high-level language rather than the use of packages as in ICT.

The topics that are covered at both AS and A2 are:

- Software
- System development
- Data
- Applications
- Computing project – software design and development

The AS course introduces each of these topics including structured programming in a high level language. The A2 course continues studying each topic to a much deeper level.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

This course is aimed at students who wish to have a deeper understanding of how computer systems work and provides a suitable foundation for the study of computing or a related area in higher education. It is also for those who wish to learn to program in a structured manner, using a specific programming language, rather than adapting generic packages.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General sixth form entry requirements. (Prior study of ICT may be initially advantageous but is not a requirement.) A minimum of a C grade in Maths and English GCSE is recommended.

ASSESSMENT

Topics	Weighting		Assessment
	AS	Full A Level	
Year 12			
Written Paper	65%	32.5%	3 Hour exam written paper
Internal Assessment (Task)	35%	17.5%	Internally assessed and externally moderated
Year 13			
Written Paper		32.5%	3 hour exam written paper
Internal Assessment (Project)		17.5%	Internally assessed and externally moderated

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mrs Meecham or Mr Acquaah or visit www.wjec.co.uk

ICT

COURSE TITLE: AQA – Information and Communications Technology

COURSE CONTENT

This course will introduce you to the fundamentals of ICT, and then develop and extend the knowledge of this growing area. Through the course you will learn and increase your understanding of the principles of problem solving using ICT. You will learn about the range of ICT applications and the effects of their use through theory and practical work. The course aims for you to be able to apply this knowledge and understanding when developing ICT solutions to problems. The course considers how ICT is used by individual users and also within large businesses.

The topic breakdown is as follows:

AS

- Practical Problem Solving in a Digital World
- Living in the Digital World

A2

- The Use of ICT in the Digital World
- Coursework: Practical Issues Involved in the Use of ICT in the Digital World

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

ICT presents students with an overview of how problems can be solved using the advanced facilities of ICT applications. With a qualification in ICT you could go on to higher education or work in one of the many areas emerging to reflect the importance of ICT in the modern world. ICT also supports the learning of any subject at HE. A qualification in ICT combines well with a wide range of other subjects.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General sixth form entry requirements. (Prior study of ICT may be initially advantageous but is not a requirement.) A minimum of a C grade in English and Maths GCSE is recommended. However if BTEC Intermediate ICT has been studied a Merit grade is usually required.

ASSESSMENT

Topics	Weighting in %		Assessment
	AS	Full A Level	
Year 12			
Practical Problem Solving in a Digital World	50%	25%	1 hr 30 min exam written paper, based on sample work created prior to the examination by students.
Living in the Digital World	50%	25%	1 hr 30 min exam written paper
Year 13			
The Use of ICT in the Digital World		30%	2 hour exam -written paper
Practical Issues Involved in the Use of ICT in the Digital World		20%	Internally assessed and externally moderated

FURTHER INFORMATION

We are completing our review of the new GCE course and may select a different examination board. Please contact Mrs Meecham or Mr Acquah or visit www.aqa.org.uk

ICT SINGLE APPLIED (Single AS/A Level Award)

COURSE TITLE: OCR GCE Single Award Applied ICT

COURSE CONTENT

This course will cover many different aspects of ICT focusing on their practical implementation and impact on society. A range of ICT applications are covered including spreadsheets, databases, multimedia, web development, graphics etc. Also the use of ICT is covered within business and for training staff including the production of reports.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

This is a vocational/practical course which is the equivalent of one A level. It is suitable for those considering a career in ICT after sixth form. It can also be used for entry into higher education. It combines well with other subjects although Business Studies AS/A level is particularly appropriate. For students wishing to follow a double A level route within the subject area this combines well with Computing.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General sixth form entry requirements. (Prior study of ICT may be initially advantageous but is not a requirement.) However, if BTEC intermediate ICT has been studied a merit grade is usually required.

ASSESSMENT

Six units (of equal weighting) are studied during the two-year course.

The majority of the work is assessed by portfolio/project work undertaken during school time (ie coursework). One unit will be externally assessed as an exam in both years twelve and thirteen.

Topics include:

The five compulsory units that will be studied are:

Using ICT to Communicate (AS)
How organisations use ICT (AS)
ICT Solutions for Individuals and Society (AS)
Working to a Brief (A2)

Additionally two further units will be selected by the school from topics including:

- Numerical modelling using spreadsheets
- Interactive Multimedia products
- Publishing
- Artwork and Images
- Developing and Creating Websites

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mrs Meecham or Mr Acquah or www.ocr.org.uk

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVANCED DIPLOMA

Shenley Brook End is planning to offer the Diploma in Information Technology – Level 3 (subject to sufficient student numbers) from September 2010. The level offered will be equivalent to 'A' level known as an Advanced Diploma. Following the Diploma is an alternative route in the sixth form.

HOW IS THE ADVANCED DIPLOMA MADE UP?

Principal learning	Generic learning			Additional learning	Equivalent to
IT subject	project	Functional skills	Work experience	Optional courses	
Practical Assessments + 2 or 3 exams	Extended project	ICT/Maths/English level 2	Minimum 10 days	1 additional level 3 course	3.5 A levels (A*-E grades)

The Diploma is made up from several components including the core IT subject learning, an extended project, functional skills, work experience and an additional or specialist element equivalent to one 'A' level.

IT will be at the centre of your course you will learn about issues that are affecting the IT industry today, how it works and what skills you will need to work within it.

You will develop skills in other areas for example Functional skills (in English, Maths and ICT) and personal, learning and thinking skills. There will be a work experience element.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The majority of assessments will be based on submission of coursework rather than examinations. The precise number of examinations that you take over the two years will also depend on the additional learning that you follow.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THE DIPLOMA?

You want to follow a course that has vocational links and includes more of the practical application of IT. Learning about IT will be the major part of the Diploma so obviously you will only select this course if you are interested in this area of study.

MATHEMATICS WITH STATISTICS

COURSE TITLE: EDEXCEL – Mathematics and Statistics

COURSE CONTENT

A Level mathematics is both challenging and interesting. It will build on the work you met at GCSE but will also involve new ideas such as differentiation and integration.

You will be expected to:

- Use mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems
- Present mathematical arguments
- Model real-life situations
- Use calculator technology and other resources appropriately

The three modules taken for AS are:

- Core mathematics 1 (Indices and surds, polynomials, co-ordinate geometry and graphs, differentiation)
- Core mathematics 2 (Trigonometry, sequences and series, algebra and integration, numerical methods)
- Statistics 1 (Representation of data, probability, discrete random variables, bivariate data)

The three modules taken for A2 are:

- Core mathematics 3 (Algebra and functions, trigonometry, differentiation and integration, numerical methods)
- Core mathematics 4 (Algebra and graphs, differentiation and integration, differential equations, vectors)
- Statistics 2 (Continuous random variables, normal distribution, Poisson distribution, sampling and hypothesis tests)

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Mathematics with statistics is very valuable as a supporting subject to many courses at Advanced GCE and degree level, especially in geography, psychology and sociology. It is strongly recommended for degree courses in economics and accounting.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A*/A recommended (or very high B from the Higher Tier).

ASSESSMENT

The modules of the course are assessed purely by written examinations. Each module is equally weighted, with each exam lasting 1hr 30mins.

Core Mathematics 1, Core mathematics 2, Statistics 1 are assessed in Year 12.

Core mathematics 3, Core mathematics 4, Statistics 2 are assessed in Year 13.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mrs Matthews, Miss Lewis, Miss Webster or visit www.edexcel.org.uk

MATHEMATICS WITH MECHANICS

COURSE TITLE: EDEXCEL – Mathematics and Mechanics

COURSE CONTENT

A Level mathematics is both challenging and interesting. It will build on the work you met at GCSE but will also involve new ideas such as differentiation and integration.

You will be expected to:

- Use mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems
- Present mathematical arguments
- Model real-life situations
- Use calculator technology and other resources appropriately

The three modules taken for AS are:

- Core mathematics 1 (Indices and surds, polynomials, co-ordinate geometry and graphs, differentiation)
- Core mathematics 2 (Trigonometry, sequences and series, algebra and integration, numerical methods)
- Mechanics 1 (Force as a vector, equilibrium of a particle, kinematics of motion in a straight line, Newton's laws of motion, linear momentum)

The three modules taken for A2 are:

- Core mathematics 3 (Algebra and functions, trigonometry, differentiation and integration, numerical methods)
- Core mathematics 4 (Algebra and graphs, differentiation and integration, differential equations, vectors)
- Mechanics 2 (Centre of mass, equilibrium of a rigid body, motion of a projectile, uniform motion in a circle, coefficient of restitution and impulse, energy, work and power)

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Mathematics with Mechanics is very valuable as a supporting subject to many courses at Advanced GCE and degree level, especially in physics and the sciences, engineering and medical courses. It is strongly recommended for degree courses in architecture and ICT.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A*/A recommended (or very high B from the Higher Tier).

ASSESSMENT

The modules of the course are assessed purely by written examinations. Each module is equally weighted, with each exam lasting 1hr 30mins.

Core Mathematics 1, Core mathematics 2, Mechanics 1 are assessed in Year 12.

Core mathematics 3, Core mathematics 4, Mechanics 2 are assessed in Year 13.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mrs Matthews, Miss Lewis or Miss Webster or visit www.edexcel.org.uk

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

COURSE TITLE: EDEXCEL – Further Mathematics

COURSE CONTENT

The Further Mathematics course deals with more complex mathematical ideas such as complex numbers and matrices.

The three modules taken for AS are:

Further Pure 1 (Summation of series, mathematical induction, roots of polynomial equations, complex numbers, matrices, co-ordinate systems)

Decision Maths 1 (Algorithms, graph theory, networks, linear programming)

Decision Maths 2 (Game theory, flows in a network, matching and allocation problems, critical path analysis, dynamic programming)

The three modules taken for A2 are:

Further Pure 2 (Rational functions and graphs, polar co-ordinates, hyperbolic functions, differentiation and integration, numerical methods)

Further Pure 3 (Differential equations, vectors, complex numbers, groups)

One of Mechanics 1, 2, 3 or Stats 1, 2, 3 depending on units already taken.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Maths is very valuable as a supporting subject to many courses at Advanced GCE and degree level, especially in the sciences and geography, psychology, sociology, engineering and medical courses. It is also strongly recommended for degree courses in economics, architecture, accounting and ICT.

Further maths is preferred by many universities when applying for a maths, or maths related degree.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A* or A at GCSE in maths and teacher recommendation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mrs Matthews, Miss Lewis or Miss Webster or visit www.edexcel.org.uk

STATISTICS

COURSE TITLE: AQA – A Level Statistics

COURSE CONTENT

A Level statistics is both challenging and interesting. It will introduce you to new ways of analysing data that will be useful in other subjects eg psychology, geography, and biology.

You will be expected to:

- Model real situations
- Use calculator technology and other resources appropriately
- Present mathematical arguments
- Use statistical techniques to solve problems

The three modules taken for AS are:

- Statistics 1
- Statistics 2
- Statistics 3

The three modules taken for A2 are:

- Statistics 3
- Statistics 4
- Statistics 5

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Statistics is very valuable as a supporting subject to many courses at Advanced GCE and degree level, especially in geography, psychology and sociology. It is strongly recommended for degree courses in economics and accounting.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade C or above from the Higher paper.

ASSESSMENT

Three examinations in year 12. Three examinations in year 13. No coursework.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mrs Matthews, Miss Lewis, Miss Webster or visit www.aqa.org.uk

MUSIC

COURSE TITLE: AQA – GCE Music

COURSE CONTENT

The course develops skills in performing, composing and listening. It covers a great variety of music with particular emphasis on the western classical tradition and British pop, but allowing considerable freedom to choose your own repertoire in the composing and performing elements. There is ample opportunity for the use of music technology if this is one of your areas of interest.

AS

1. 2 performances: solo, ensemble, music technology
2. Composing or arranging on composition techniques
3. A listening/written exam involving listening, questions and essay style questions on set works.

A2

4. A 15 minute Performance.
5. Composing or arranging on composition techniques
6. Listening/Aural/music in context written exam

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

This course would prepare you for studying music at university or music college. It links well with other arts and humanities courses as well as science and maths. It is also excellent preparation for study or work in the areas of media, theatre, music and education. It teaches an array of skills useful in a range of areas and if you have already reached a reasonable performance level on an instrument, is a good use of all those years of work.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade C in music at GCSE for AS and at least a B for the full A level is recommended. A performance standard of around Grade 4 to 5 is required for AS and this should rise to Grade 6-8 for the full A level.

ASSESSMENT

60% coursework (performance and composition)

AS

1. Performing 20%
2. Composition 15%
3. Listening and written paper 15%

A2

4. 15 minute Performance recital 15%
5. Composition and or technical study 15%
6. Listening/Aural/music in context written exam 20%

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mr Coveney or visit www.aqa.org.uk

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

COURSE TITLE: EDEXCEL – Music Technology

COURSE CONTENT

This is a very practical course with an emphasis on coursework tasks involving midi sequencing, audio recording, composing using technology and producing. Students will have to understand the technical processes and principals that underpin the use of technology and comment on it in writing.

AS

1. Sequence using midi a performance of a piece of music specified by the exam board.
2. Produce a multi-track recording of a pop/rock or jazz piece.
3. Produce a creative sequenced arrangement from a stimulus provided by the exam board.
4. Complete a listening exam containing aural perception questions and requiring an understanding of musical styles and genres from 1910 onwards.

A2

1. Sequenced integrated performance containing audio and midi.
2. Multi track recording.
3. Composing using technology
4. A written exam assessing students understanding of music production.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

This course would prepare you for studying music at university, college or for a career in the music industry particularly in the areas of music recording and production. It links in well with the other arts as well as science and maths. It is also excellent preparation for study or work in the areas of media, theatre, music and education.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade C or above at GCSE music would be useful but not essential. You should be proficient on an instrument and have an interest in music technology and composing / performing. Some keyboard skills would be beneficial for easy use of music technology software. Knowledge of traditional notation is needed.

ASSESSMENT

AS	Coursework	35%
	Listening and analysing	15%
A2	Coursework	30%
	Analysing and producing	20%

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mr Coveney or visit www.edexcel.org.uk

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

COURSE TITLE: EDEXCEL – Philosophy and Ethics

COURSE CONTENT

AS

Unit 1 – Foundations: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

Unit 2 – Investigations: An in-depth study into an ethical issue.

A2

Unit 3 – Developments: Further studies in Philosophy and Ethics

Unit 4 – Implications: Synoptic paper.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Probably more widely known as Religious Studies, this is a subject growing in popularity. It is for anyone who has an enquiring mind, who likes to debate and exchange ideas on many issues connected with the world, life and the universe.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students need to have a least a grade C in Religious Studies (can be from either short or long course) and a C in English. You must be able to discuss research and be prepared to think ideas through to a logical conclusion.

ASSESSMENT

AS

- Unit 1: Written exam (50%) AS (25% of A level)
- Unit 2: Written exam (50%) AS (25% of A level)

A2

- Unit 3: Written exam (25% of A level)
- Unit 4: Written exam (25% of A level)

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mrs Archer or look on www.edexcel.org.uk/quals/gce/rs/sdv/9562/

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

COURSE TITLE: EDEXCEL – Physical Education

COURSE CONTENT

The A-Level Physical Education course is a refreshing and innovative approach to the study of physical education. The course follows a multi-disciplinary approach looking at sport from physiological, psychological and sociological perspectives. This course offers students the flexibility of choosing their role in sport, which could be performer, leader or official.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Anyone who wishes to follow a career in sports coaching, teaching PE, the uniformed services, armed forces, leisure and recreation or industry, should seriously consider this course. It is also ideal for anyone who simply loves sport and would like to gain a valuable qualification by studying it further. It is however not an easy option. The theory papers are demanding and require skills from a range of areas. Coursework units require large amounts of research and critical evaluation based on findings.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade C or above at GCSE PE or Distinction from PE BTEC Certificate or from PE BTEC Diploma. A willingness to take part in sport or physical activity at least three times a week is also vital*. Students are also expected to undertake a level 1 or level 2 qualifications in sports coaching, which will help with their studies. They will complete this qualification during the sixth form recreation lessons.

* Students are expected to play for a club, county or be a qualified official (referee, umpire or coach) in their chosen sport. Without this, the coursework units are not possible.

ASSESSMENT

AS

- Unit 1: Participation in sport and recreation (50%) (Exam)
- Unit 2: The critical sports performer (50%) (Coursework)

A2

- Unit 3: Preparation for optimum sports performance (50% (Exam)
- Unit 4: The developing sports performer (50%) (Coursework)

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Mr Chambers or visit www.edexcel.com

PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE TITLE: AQA – Psychology

COURSE CONTENT:

Psychology is about understanding people and their behaviour – how they think, what they say and why they do what they do. The most exciting thing about the subject matter is that people are complex and change all the time.

AS Psychology Overview

Unit 1 – Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology and Research Methods

Models of memory; Memory in everyday life; Attachment; Methods and techniques; Investigation design; Data analysis and presentation.

Unit 2 – Biological Psychology, Social Psychology and Individual Differences

Stress as a bodily response; Stress in everyday life; Social influence; Defining and explaining psychological abnormality; Treating abnormality.

A2 Psychology Overview

Unit 3

Three from four of the following topics will be studied for the examination and one summer extended writing task.

- 1) Aggression – social psychological approaches to explaining aggression; biological explanations of aggression; aggression as an adaptive response.
- 2) Eating behaviour – biological explanations of eating behaviour; eating disorders.
- 3) Relationships – the formation, maintenance and breakdown of romantic relationships; human reproductive behaviour; effects of early experience and culture on adult relationships.
- 4) Gender – psychological explanations of gender development.

Unit 4 – Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods

This unit is divided into three sections.

- A) Psychopathology
- B) Psychology in Action
- C) Psychological Research and Scientific Method

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

A Level psychology is a stimulating and interesting course in its own right. It also fits well with History, PE, biology and English. It can be especially valuable if you are considering a career in areas such as teaching, law, criminology, social work or management. At degree level psychology is amongst the faster growth subjects.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There is no requirement for previous experience of psychology. However, a GCSE grade C or above in psychology, maths and English is more preferable at GCSE level.

For further information, please contact Ms Hession or www.aqa.org.uk

SOCIOLOGY

COURSE TITLE: AQA – Sociology

COURSE CONTENT:

Sociology is about gaining a critical understanding of the society in which we live. How does society shape people's ideas? How do people interact to shape the society they live in? The two year sociology course follows the AQA specification of the following units of study.

AS Sociology Overview

AS Examination: 1191

Unit 1 - SCLY1

AS Unit 1 - Families and Households;

Written paper, 1 hour

Unit 2 - SCLY2

AS Unit 2 - Education and Sociological Methods

Written paper, 2 hours

A2 Examination: 2191

Unit 3 – SCLY3

A2 Unit 3 - Beliefs in Society

Written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes

Unit 4 – SCLY4

A2 Unit 4 - Stratification and Differentiation and Theory and Methods

Written paper, 2 hours

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

A Level sociology is about broadening your understanding of the world at large. It complements other subjects such as psychology, history, biology, geography and PE.

Sociology involves the study of people in their social environment at every level.

Sociologists study human interaction – people's behaviour with others in any situation, such as in schools to street gangs. In school this may involve looking at students' behaviour in class, their relationships with teachers and other students for example. These interactions and the relationships on which they are based form patterns, which create social institutions such as the family, school and the workplace.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There is no need for any previous experience of sociology but an interest in wider social issues and the ability to offer opinions to debates would be an advantage. A GCSE grade C in English or Sociology, Geography or History is desirable.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact Ms Hession or www.aqa.org.uk