





Chew Valley School

Options Booklet

Sixth Form Courses 2027-2028

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Art

Head of Subject
- Mr T Helme

Exam Board
- AQA

Entry Guidelines
- You will have a achieved a Grade 5 in GCSE Art and Design (or equivalent).
- In exceptional cases, students without GCSE Art may be considered based on the strength of a portfolio and a successful induction process.

You will have the opportunity to develop your creativity and technical skills through drawing, painting, printmaking and mixed media. Through investigation, experimentation and visits to local and national galleries, you will develop a personal artistic practice and create work that reflects your own interests and ideas.

"Fine Art helped me develop not only my creativity, but also my confidence, resilience and problem-solving skills"

Course Description

You will begin the course with skills-based workshops, exploring a range of materials, techniques and contextual influences. This will lead to your Personal Investigation (Component 1), where you will create a portfolio of practical work alongside an illustrated essay. In the second year, you will complete the Externally Set Assignment (Component 2), culminating in a 15-hour practical examination. The course provides an excellent foundation for further study and careers in Fine Art, Architecture, Graphic Design, Illustration, Fashion and the wider creative industries.

Course Content

You will develop ideas through sketchbook work, research and experimentation, exploring a range of processes to help identify areas in which to specialise including:
- Drawing
- Painting
- Photography & Digital Media
- Printmaking
- Mixed Media
- Sculpture and Installation
- Critical and Contextual Studies
- You are encouraged to experiment with and combine different media, producing outcomes in the format most appropriate to their ideas.

Assessment

Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%)
- Portfolio of practical work
- Illustrated essay (1,000-3,000 words)

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)
- Preparatory studies
- Final outcome(s) produced during a 15-hour practical examination

Photography

Head of Subject
- Mr T Helme

Exam Board
- AQA

Entry Guidelines
- A GCSE Art and Photography or a related creative subject is advantageous.
- Alternative evidence of creative ability and commitment may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

You will have the opportunity to explore and develop your photographic practice through a range of digital and traditional techniques, including camera control, natural and studio lighting, image editing and visual storytelling. Through the study of photographers and artists, supported by visits to galleries and exhibitions, you will learn how to communicate ideas, experiment with materials and develop your own creative approach to image-making.

"I enjoyed the freedom to experiment with ideas and create images that were personal and meaningful."

Course Description

You will begin the course with a series of practical workshops, exploring camera techniques, composition, exposure, lighting and digital image editing alongside the work of photographers and artists. This will lead to your Personal Investigation (Component 1), where you will develop a portfolio of creative photographic work alongside an illustrated essay. In the latter part of the second year, you will complete the Externally Set Assignment (Component 2), culminating in a 15-hour practical examination. The course encourages both technical and creative exploration, providing an excellent foundation for further study and careers in Photography, Graphic Design, Advertising, Media, Film and the wider creative industries.

Course Content

You will develop ideas through portfolio, research and experimentation, exploring:
- Portraiture
- Landscape Photography
- Documentary Photography
- Studio and Still-Life Photography
- Experimental Imagery
- Darkroom Processes
- Digital Image Manipulation
- Moving Image
- Critical and Contextual Studies

You are encouraged to develop a personal visual style and produce outcomes using a range of photographic, practical and digital processes.

Assessment

Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%)
- Portfolio of practical work
- Illustrated essay (1,000-3,000 words)

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)
- Preparatory studies
- Final outcome(s) produced during a 15-hour practical examination

Design Technology

Head of Subject
- Mrs J Ashman

Exam Board
- Eduqas

Entry Guidelines
- A grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths and at least two grade 5's in Triple or Combined Science at GCSE.
- You do not have to have studied Design Technology at GCSE but studied Design Technology or Art would be an advantage.

The course offers a unique opportunity for students to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products in a wide range of contexts in relation to their personal interests.

"We always work in small groups and have one-to-one help from the teachers"

Course Description

It will encourage you to study the relationships between designer, manufacturer and user. It will allow you to develop an appreciation of the importance of creativity and innovation to good design practice, and to understand the key principles of designing, evaluating and making.

Course Content and Assessment

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century
- Written examination 3 hours and 50% of qualification

Core knowledge and understanding is presented in six distinct topic areas:
- Impact of new and emerging technologies
- Evaluation of new and emerging technologies
- Energy
- Modern and smart materials
- Ecological and social footprint
- Investigating and analysing the work of others

You are required to study all of the content in these six areas, to ensure you have a broad knowledge and understanding of design and technology and that you are able to make effective choices in relation to which materials, components and systems to utilise within design and make activities.

Component 2: Design and make a project
- Non-exam assessment 80 hours and 50% of qualification

The core skills that you are required to develop and apply are presented in nine topic areas:
- Understanding design and technology practice takes place within contexts
- Identifying and understanding user needs
- Writing a design brief and specifications
- Investigating challenges
- Developing ideas
- Using design strategies
- Communicating design ideas
- Developing a prototype
- Making decisions

You are required to cover all of the content in these areas to ensure you are able to apply a broad knowledge and understanding of design and technology principles within design and make activities.

Information Technology

Head of Subject
- Mrs J Gardiner

Exam Board
- Pearson Edexcel

Entry Guidelines
- Students should have a good standard of written English and ICT skills.
- Passion for computing.

A modern, practical and relevant course allowing you to demonstrate an excellent level of ICT and Computing skills ready for employment or higher education.

"All the lesson resources are put on the ICT website so you can work and learn at your own pace."

Course Description

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Information Technology (Extended Certificate) allows you to study the fundamental knowledge of Information Technology covering the role and implications of using Information Technology systems and cyber-security threats and how to manage attacks. You will also develop important skills for creating websites to meet a specific purpose and to manage data through the development of a relational database solution.

There are two examined units and two internally assessed units where you will engage in practical tasks to develop your Information Technology skills and knowledge.

You will use Digital Skills for Problem solving; Digital Collaboration and Communication; Transacting Digitally; Digital Security; and Handling Data Safely and Securely. As well as IT skills you will build Transferable Skills to do with: Managing yourself; Effective learning; Interpersonal skills and Solving problems. Finally, you will develop Sustainability Skills as the qualification is aligned to the UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals.

Course Content

Learners will study four units:

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems (synoptic)
- Information technology systems, including the relationship between software and hardware, and the issues related to IT systems

Unit 2: Cyber Security and Incident Management
- Types of cyber security attacks, the vulnerabilities in networked systems and how to plan and respond to attacks

Unit 3: Website Development
- Development tools, techniques and processes used in website development and how to test usability, functionality and fitness for purpose

Unit 4: Relational Database Development
- Structure of data, data design and database management systems (DBMS).

Assessment
- Unit 1and Unit 2 – Exam
- Unit 3 and Unit 4 – Coursework

Computer Science

Head of Subject
- Mrs J Gardiner

Exam Board
- OCR

Entry Guidelines
- Students should have achieved a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Computer Science and Maths.

The perfect course for academic learners who want to extend their knowledge of Computer Science, including programming, even further. The A Level Computer Science qualification helps students understand the core academic principles of Computer Science.

Classroom learning is transferred into developing real-world systems through the creation of an independent programming project. Our A Level will advance the students' technical understanding and their ability to analyse and solve problems using computational thinking.

Course Description

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention, excitement and can look at the natural world through a digital prism.

To be a Computer Science student, you will possess:
- An understanding 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 to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of Computer Science.
- Mathematical skills.

Course Content

Students will study:
- 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
- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

The learner will choose a computing problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification.
- Analysis of the problem
- Design of the solution
- Developing the solution
- Evaluation

Assessment

Computer systems Unit 1: 140 marks - 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper (no calculators allowed) **40% of total A Level**

Algorithms and programming Unit 2: 140 marks - 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper (no calculators allowed) **40% of total A Level**

Programming project Unit 3 **Repository or** Unit 4 **Postal** Non-exam assessment 2**0% of total A Level**

Business

Head of Subject
- Mrs J Gardiner

Exam Board
- AQA

Entry Guidelines
- The course is not just aimed at those students who studied Business at GCSE, although this is an advantage.
- It is equally suitable for well-motivated students who have an interest in a business career.

A highly practical course where you will have the opportunity to apply relevant business ideas and techniques to your work. You will investigate local and national businesses through a variety of research methods.

"We have learnt key skills such as organisation, self-discipline and independence as well as team working."

Course Description

The course offers an holistic to business, it demonstrates the interrelated nature of business using business models, concepts and techniques to support analysis of contemporary business issues and situations to provide a dynamic course.

The content is designed to engage students through topics and issues that are relevant in today's society through studying key contemporary developments such as digital technology, impact of business on the environment, business ethics, modern workplace practices and globalisation is covered throughout the topics.

You will develop the knowledge and skills needed to analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions – all skills that are needed for further study and employment.

Course Content and Assessment

Focus: What is business, managing marketing and finance?
- Assessed by a 2-hour exam based on 2 case studies.

Focus: Managing operations and people.
- Assessed by a 2-hour exam based on 2 case studies

Focus: Managing Business Culture.
- Assessed by a 2-hour exam based on 2 case studies

English Language and Literature

A fascinating exploration of how we manipulate language for different audiences and purposes through a range of literacy and non-fiction texts. The coursework enables creative writing on a topic of your choice, allowing your passions into your studies.

"This course has opened my eyes to the importance of studying linguistics to analyse literary texts as well as nurturing my creative instincts."

Head of Subject
- Mr G James

Exam Board
- Edexcel

Entry Guidelines
- Grade 5 or above in both English Literature and English Language
- You should already be a keen reader who pushes yourself to consider a wide range of writing, both in terms of fiction and diverse non-fiction.

Course Description

This course is aimed at students who enjoy reading widely in a range of genres and are interested in developing the skills of a versatile writer. You will need to be open to and interested in new and different forms of texts. You should be confident in challenging interpretations and offering alternative viewpoints.

The majority of the course will be assessed through terminal exams, accounting for 80% of the final grade. You will read a wide range of literature covering an engaging selection of prose, poetry and drama, both modern and classic.

The course will provide you with a chance to explore a selection of linguistic texts dating back to the start of the previous century, with a focus on how context and audience shape our use of language. The coursework requires you to craft two complex and substantial pieces: one with a fiction focus and one a non-fiction focus.

Course Content and Assessment

Component 1- Voices in Speech and Writing

Section A - Voices in the 20th and 21st Century - one comparative essay question on one unseen extract selected from either 20th or 21st Century sources and one text from an Edexcel anthology studied in class, covering a wide range of linguistic texts.

Section B - Drama: One extract-based essay question on the studied drama text. This is an open book exam, meaning you are allowed a copy of the text with you.

Worth 40% of total grade

Component 2- Varieties in Language and Literature

Section A – Unseen prose non-fiction texts: One essay question on an unseen prose non-fiction extract. The unseen extract is linked to a theme studied for Section B.

Section B – Prose fiction and other genres: One comparative essay question on one prose fiction anchor extract and one other text from a theme, that could include drama and poetry. Possible themes include 'Love and Loss', 'Society and the Individual' and 'Encounters'.

Worth 40% of total grade

Coursework: Investigating and Creating Texts

Students select two texts (one fiction, one non-fiction) related to their chosen topic. They will produce two pieces of creative writing, using their texts as stimuli and/or style models, and one commentary on both.

Worth 20% total grade

English Literature

A course that will challenge you to think for yourself. You will read a range of powerful literature and develop a critical voice which is able to tackle complex ideas analytically and eloquently.

"English Literature has helped me to look at books differently and explore many aspects of what it is to be human."

Head of Subject
- Mr G James

Exam Board
- Edexcel

Entry Guidelines
- Grade 5 or above in both English Literature and English Language

- You should already be a keen reader who pushes yourself to consider a wide range of writing, both in terms of fiction and analytical non-fiction.

Course Description

On this course you will enhance your enjoyment of reading and develop a perceptive, critical eye. A wide range of texts and genres are studied. You will learn to explore and consider different people's perspectives and to communicate your own opinions through discussion. You will learn to become good at conveying an argument by considering creative, abstract and philosophical ideas. You will, of course, develop your skills in written analysis, discussion and literary criticism.

The majority of the course will be assessed through terminal exams, accounting for 80% of the final grade. You will read a wide range of literature covering the finer points of Shakespeare's work, a selection of prose, poetry and drama from across a range of literary periods and explore how to respond to the challenges of unseen texts.

Course Content and Assessment

Component 1- Drama

Section A - You will study a Shakespeare play AND a collection of critical essays from the exam board. In the exam, you will answer one essay question on the Shakespeare text.

Section B - One essay question on another drama text studied in class.

Worth 30% of total grade

Component 2- Prose

You will study two prose texts from a chosen theme and one of which will be pre-1900. The possible themes include: 'Childhood', 'The Supernatural' and 'Crime and Detection'. In the exam, you will answer one comparative essay question from a choice of two and it is open book, meaning you are allowed a copy of the text with you.

Worth 20% of total grade

Component 3- Poetry

Section A - You will study a selection of modern poetry from 'Poems of the Decade', an Anthology of Poetry covering pieces from 2002-2011. In the exam, you will answer one comparative essay question on an unseen poem written post 2000 and a named poem from the collection. It is open book, meaning you are allowed a copy of the text with you.

Section B - You will study a selection of poetry from a literary period OR a range of poetry by a named poet from within a literary period. In the exam, you will answer one question from a choice of two on your studied movement / poet. Again, this section is open book.

Worth 30% of total grade

Coursework: A comparative essay referring to two literary texts of your choosing. You will devise an analytical question and produce a 2500-3000 word essay based upon it.

Worth 20% total grade

Media Studies

Head of Subject
- Mr E Sanderson

Exam Board

Entry Guidelines
- You do not have to have studied GCSE Media Studies
- You will need a Grade 4 or above in GCSE English.
- We are after students who are interested in all aspects of the media and keen to understand how it works.

A lively, challenging and practical course which will develop your creative skills in designing and making a media production.

"It's creative, interesting and it's given me a lot of insights into the media world."

Course Description

This is a lively, challenging course teaching the practical and creative skills needed for making a convincing media product whilst also developing your knowledge and understanding of existing media and the industries that produce it. You will have the opportunity to develop real skills with industry standard equipment and the software used to produce short films, music videos and webpages.

Course Content and Assessment

Component 1- Media Messages

Candidates focus on contemporary news in the UK, exploring how newspapers and their online counterparts are responding to the internet, shaping their message and catering to their audiences. A detailed study of a number of music videos, magazines and print adverts is completed in order to explore media language and the concept of representation.

Component 2- Evolving Media

Candidates study a variety of media texts including video games, film and radio in order to understand how specific industries engage specific audiences. Students will compare two long form TV drama programmes, exploring the technical and narrative construction of specific episodes.

Component 3- Non- exam Unit

This is a coursework unit, which is internally assessed and externally moderated. In response to a brief set by the exam board, candidates draw on their developing knowledge of audience, representation and genre to produce a music video and accompanying website.

Geography

Head of Subject
- Mrs E Shuttleworth

Exam Board
- AQA

Entry Guidelines
- Will have achieved at Grade 5 or above in Geography at GCSE.

A chance to study the ever changing planet on which we live. It involves multi-dimensional skills, being a bridge between the arts and the sciences.

"Geography is the only subject that deals with the past, present and most importantly the future of our planet."

Course Description

Modern geography is an all-encompassing discipline that seeks to understand the Earth and all of its human and natural complexities. The course offers students the chance to study the key features, inhabitants and phenomena of Earth. Geography will excite students' minds, challenge perceptions and stimulate their investigative and analytical skills. There will be an opportunity to attend field trips to Devon and other areas of the South West to investigate both human and physical geographical phenomena.

Course Content and Assessment

Unit 1 Physical Geography
1. Water and carbon cycles
2. Coastal systems and landscapes
3. Hazards

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes Worth 40% of A Level

Unit 2 Human Geography
1. Global systems and global governance
2. Changing places
3. Population and the environment

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes Worth 40% of A Level

Unit 3 Geographical Investigation
- Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

3,000 – 4,000 words: marked by teachers, moderated by AQA Worth 20% of A level

History

Head of Subject
- Dr I Ahmed

Exam Board
- OCR

Entry Guidelines
- Will have achieved a Grade 5 or above in History at GCSE.

A Level History is a great subject to choose if you enjoy debating, arguing and defending your judgements. Are you excited by investigating the past, weighing up the evidence you find and even being prepared to have your ideas changed by what you find?

History is a highly regarded academic discipline where you develop both practical and critical thinking skills sought out by both universities and employers.

"History helps us understand change and how the society we live in came to be. There is no better way to understand current events and our own place in the world."

Course Content:
The course is made up of 4 main components:

Unit 1: British Depth Study: England 1547–1603: the Later Tudors – Mid Tudor Crises 1547-1588
Delve into a world of rebellion, competing nobles and religious change.

Unit 2: Non-British Period Study: Apartheid and Reconciliation: South African Politics, 1948-1999
Consider how the system of apartheid developed, resistance to it and how it collapsed.

Unit 3 (Thematic Study): The Middle East 1908-2011
A unit which unpicks the complex nature of conflict, religion, politics, environment, and societies, in a region which has been at the centre of much of global politics in recent decades.

Independent Historical Investigation
Coursework on a about a topic you have always been interested in. Define your own enquiry, test your hypotheses against sources and other historians' interpret.

Course Assessment:
Unit 1 - *Worth 25% of the overall A Level. Exam: 1hour and 30 minutes.*
Unit 2 - *Worth 15% of the overall A Level. Exam: 1hour.*
Unit 3 - *Worth 40% of the overall A Level. Exam: 2hours and 30 minutes*

Religious Studies

Head of Subject
- Ms L Pope

Exam Board
- Eduqas

Entry Guidelines
- Will have achieved a Grade 5 or above in GCSE English.
- Students with curiosity, healthy scepticism and an inquisitive mind

A chance to develop insights into areas of knowledge, belief and thought central to understanding this modern world.

"You get to know your classmates really well and this allows you to express your own point of view really freely."

Course Description

An opportunity to study religion, philosophy and ethics in a critical, enquiring and reflective way. It incorporates a balance of teacher-directed work and individual student enquiry.

Course Content

Unit 1 The study of Buddhism
An investigation into the beliefs and practices of the Buddhist religion including modern challenges to the religion and Buddhist responses to pluralism, secularisation, atheism and gender equality.

Unit 2 Philosophy
Arguments for and against the existence of God, the challenge of secularisation and the psychology of religion.

Unit 3 Ethics
Ethical theory and the application of ethics to two current issues, for example: sexual ethics and medical ethics.

Assessment
All three units are assessed by examination.

Mathematics

Head of Subject
- Miss H Wallace

Key Stage 5 Co-Ordinator
- Mrs T Carle

Exam Board
- Edexcel

Entry Guideline
- Students who love Mathematics and will have achieved a Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics (Higher).

Extend your mathematical knowledge; develop your logical reasoning and problem solving skills. Maths at A Level builds on the work you have done at GCSE as well as introducing new topics such as Calculus.

"I really enjoyed the challenge; it's a lot tougher than GCSE Maths, but a lot more rewarding."

Course Description

The course will enable students to:
- Use mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems.
- Solve problems by using mathematical arguments and logic.
- Simplify real-life situations so that Mathematics can be used to show what is happening and what might happen in different circumstances. Use Maths in real-life contexts.
- Use a calculator and information technologies appropriately.

Course Content and Assessment

- Pure Mathematics
- Statistics
- Mechanics

Assessment will be through three two-hour exams at the end of Year 13.

Further Entry Guidelines

Students will be considered if they have achieved a grade 6 at GCSE but were predicted a grade 7 or above and were close to the grade 7 boundary.

Students who achieve a grade 6 will also require a recommendation from their Key Stage 4 teacher, along with a meeting to discuss their GCSE performance in more detail.

Further Mathematics

Head of Subject
- Miss H Wallace

Key Stage 5 Co-Ordinator
- Mrs T Carle

Exam Board
- Edexcel

Entry Guideline
- Students who have achieved a Grade 8/9 in GCSE Mathematics and will have been in Set 1 in Years 10 and 11.
- Recommendation from Year 11 teacher.

If you have a real enthusiasm for Mathematics and enjoy exploring and practicing the subject, Further Maths could be for you. It would be particularly useful for those considering university courses in Mathematics, Physics or Engineering.

"Provides considerably more depth than the single Maths course alone."

Course Description

The course complements A Level Mathematics. This course is for students who would enjoy the opportunity to learn some extra Mathematics at a higher level while also developing their skills as an independent learner. The course would be in addition to A Level Mathematics and would need to be taken as a fourth subject.

Course Content and Assessment

- Pure Maths 1 & 2
- 2 examination papers, worth 25% each.

- Options 1 & 2 (Pure Maths, Statistics, Mechanics, Decision Maths)
- 2 examination papers, worth 25% each.

French

Head of Subject
- Mrs H Robinson and Mrs I Nicolas

Exam Board
- AQA

Entry Guideline
- Students will have done well at GCSE and are motivated and committed.

A chance to discover the French Speaking World! Learn about French culture, language and people in an authentic and exciting environment.

"It boosts your confidence because you develop a skill which many employers and universities really value."

Course Description

The course builds on and extends the language skills acquired at GCSE. You will further your knowledge of grammar and structures as well as widening your vocabulary.

You will study aspects of French society such as culture, history, politics, business and current affairs as well as a literary text and/or film. You may also have the opportunity to take part in an educational and cultural trip to France to further develop your language skills and broaden your cultural experience.

Course Content

Social Issues and trends
- Changing family structures
- The 'cyber society'
- The place of voluntary work
- Life for the marginalised and the treatment of criminals

Political and artistic culture in French speaking countries
- A culture proud of its heritage
- Contemporary Francophone music
- French cinema
- Young people and the right to vote
- Demonstrations and strikes
- Politics and immigration

Assessment

- Paper 1 Listening, Reading and Translation into English and French
- Paper 2 Written response to literary works and film
- Paper 3 Speaking Social Issues and trends

Spanish

Head of Subject
- Mrs H Robinson and Ms G Flynn

Exam Board
- AQA

Entry Guideline
- Students will have done well at GCSE and are motivated and committed to further their Spanish studies.

A chance to discover the Spanish Speaking World! Learn about Spanish culture, language and people in an authentic and exciting environment.

"I enjoy learning Spanish as it opens my options for the future; it's a fun and supportive environment to learn in."

Course Description

The course builds on and extends the language skills acquired at GCSE. You will further your knowledge of grammar and structures as well as widening your vocabulary. You will study aspects of Spanish society such as culture, history, politics, business and current affairs as well as a literary text and/or film.

You may also have the opportunity to take part in an educational and cultural trip to Spain to further develop your language skills and broaden your cultural experiences.

Course Content

Social Issues and trends
- Changing family structures
- Cyberspace
- Gender equality

Immigration and Spanish multicultural society
- Historical and contemporary immigration
- Integration and multiculturalism

Political and artistic culture in Spanish speaking countries
- Music
- The media
- Regional identity
- Young people and their attitude towards politics
- From dictatorship to democracy

Assessment

- Paper 1 Listening, Reading and Translation into English and French
- Paper 2 Written response to literary works and film
- Paper 3 Speaking Social Issues and trends

Performing Arts

Head of Subject
- Ms Ayling & Mr Stinchcombe

Exam Board
- AQA

Entry Guideline
- Students who enjoy working as part of a team and who are enthusiastic about Dance, Drama or Music.
- You Do Not have to have studied dance, drama or music at GCSE level, but you must be interested in all aspects of performing.

If you are interested in Music, Dance or Drama, this is the course for you. You may be keen on performing, creating or the more visual and technical aspects of the three subjects. All will be explored during the course.

"The CTech is a fun, creative and inspirational course that develops your confidence, self awareness, teamwork and communication skills."

Course Description

This is an exciting, 2-year course which is equivalent to 1x A Level, with a Distinction grade worth the same UCAS points as an A grade at A Level.' Or 'This is an exciting, 2-year course which is equivalent to 1x A Level, with a Distinction* grade worth the same UCAS points as an A* grade at A Level.'

You will gain experience of many practical skills. The best way to develop these is under performance conditions; as a result, you will be given the opportunity to be involved with productions both in and out of school.

You will also study a number of key practitioners in your chosen subject area, and this study will include, where possible, workshops, theatre or concert visits, enabling you to see for yourself how pieces were created and intended to be performed. Finally, you will study the role that your chosen skills can play in community engagement.

Course Content

Prepare to work in the Performing Arts sector
- A research unit with a 10-minute pitch to camera, 5-minute audition piece and portfolio of written work.

Commissioning a Brief
- A 2000-word proposal in which you outline your ideas for a community arts project. Influential Performance practice
- 2 x contrasting pieces of practical work based on a practitioner from your chosen subject area.

Combined Arts
- A new performance piece by integrating 2 or more different art forms or styles.

Improvisation
- A devised performance based on stimulus chosen by the school.

Assessment
- 2/3 of your marks come from practical work. In this work you can be assessed upon acting, dance, music or production. It will be your choice which area you wish to specialise in. You could keep the same specialism for all 5 units or change for different units. It is up to you.
- The final 1/3 of your marks come from written coursework which you produce during the course.

Physical Education

Head of Subject
- Mr Monk

Exam Board
- AQA

Entry Guideline
- Students with a genuine interest in studying Physical Education at a higher level.
- You will have achieved a Grade 6 (or equivalent) on a KS4 PE/Sport course and Grade 5s or higher in science.

You will develop your knowledge of both scientific and sociological aspects of physical education and sport. These combinations of topics will help you to access a variety of courses at university.

"Stimulating, actively engaging and enjoyable lessons that help learning."

Course Description

A level Physical Education aims to develop and extend students' knowledge and skills within the field of Physical Education. This course blends theory with practical sports performance. There is opportunity for both practical performance and the development of scientific and sociological knowledge of Physical Education. It explores how the human body and mind operate during exercise, while examining the wider role of sport in society.

Course Content and Assessment

This qualification blends academic theory with practical sports performance. The course is split into 70% theoretical exams and 30% Non-Exam Assessment (NEA).

Assessment Component	Weight Marks Duration	Content
Paper 1: Factors affecting participation	35% 105 2 Hours	Applied Anatomy & Physiology, Skill Acquisition, Sport & Society
Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance	35% 105 2 Hours	Exercise Physiology & Biomechanics, Sport Psychology, Technology in Sport
NEA: Practical performance & analysis	30% 90 Internal	Full practical performance plus a written performance analysis project

The theory papers are examined through a combination of multiple-choice, short-answer, and 15-mark extended writing questions.

Further Entry Guidelines

You will also be participating in at least one approved practical activity on a regular basis, outside of school in addition to school clubs.

Sport

Head of Subject
- Miss Hibbert

Exam Board
- Edexcel/Pearson
- BTECH National Extended Certificate in Sport (one A Level equivalent)

Entry Guideline
- Students with a genuine interest in studying Sport at a higher level.
- Will have achieved a Grade 5 at GCSE in PE or a Level 2 Pass in the Cambridge National Sport Studies course.

You will gain a strong base of knowledge from across the sports sector, especially within the coaching and performance field. There will be opportunities to gain vocational experience and additional related qualifications, employment or university.

Course Description

BTECH Sport focus is on the body systems and how this can be applied to programming improvements in fitness, health, sport and well being. In addition, there will be a vocational focus on the sport industry. Optional units can be taken in sport performance and sports leadership. The course is assessed by coursework and exams.

Course Content and Assessment

Unit 1 Anatomy and Physiology
- Assessment - Written exam

Unit 2 Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-Being
- Assessment: Exam – externally marked.
- Working to pre-prelease material, students can take notes into exam.

Unit 3 Professional Development in the Sports Industry
- Coursework

One Optional unit from the following (all coursework):
- Unit 4 - Sports Leadership
- Unit 5 - Application of Fitness Testing
- Unit 6 - Sports Psychology
- Unit 7 - Practical Sports Performance

Further Entry Guidelines

You will also already be regularly participating in at least one practical activity both in and out of school. You must be willing to attend school clubs for your chosen sport and be prepared to be a role model for younger students.

Biology

Head of Subject
- Mr P Clements

Exam Board
- AQA

Entry Guideline
- Students will have achieved a Grade 6 or above in Biology or 6 6 in Combined Science at GCSE.
- Students will have a passion for understanding how living things work and their interactions with the environment.

You will enjoy this course if you are interested in all aspects of living organisms, how they work and how they interact with their environment.

"I loved that there is a topic for everyone's interests, from emphysema."

Course Description

This course provides students with an in-depth appreciation for how living things work and interact with our environment. This is explored from a molecular level all the way through to ecology.

Students will develop their analytical and statistical skills and learn to apply their knowledge to new contexts. Therefore, appreciating the application of theory in both medical and industrial settings. Over the two 21 years students will have a laboratory book to report on required practicals. This provides the evidence for achieving the practical endorsement of the course. Practical skills will be further enhanced with the opportunity to visit 'We the Curious', where students will experience using University-level equipment in the field of DNA technology.

Course Content

There are eight modules:
1. Biological molecules: structure and functions of proteins and enzymes, carbohydrates and lipids.
2. Cell ultrastructure and membranes.
3. How organisms exchange substances with their environment: digestion, gas exchange.
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms: a detailed look at photosynthesis and respiration.
6. How organisms respond to changes in their environments.
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems.
8. The control of gene expression.

In addition, all students will have the opportunity to attend a residential field trip to Slapton Field Study Centre in Devon in July of Year 12.

Assessment

- Paper 1 - Covers modules 1 to 4 Worth 35% of the A Level
- Paper 2 - Covers modules 5 to 8 Worth 35% of the A Level
- Paper 3 - Covers modules 1 to 8 with questions about practical techniques, data handling and an extended essay Worth 30% of the A Level

Chemistry

Head of Subject
- Mrs L Hodgson

Exam Board
- AQA

Entry Guideline
- Students will have achieved a Grade 6 or above in Chemistry or 6 6 in Combined Science at GCSE.

- Students will natural fascination about atoms and molecules and their interactions.

An understanding of the chemical world from a molecular level up to an industrial scale. You will develop the skills of analysis, problem solving, concept realisation and application.

"It is a challenging course, but very interesting."

Course Description

This course allows candidates to build up a detailed all-round knowledge of Chemistry, relevant to modern day society. An A Level in Chemistry is highly regarded in higher education as it shows an ability to analyse, problem-solve, understand and apply difficult concepts. We cover the production of dyes, medicines and explosives. There are practical sessions throughout the two years.

An A Level in Chemistry is mandatory for medicine, veterinary sciences and dentistry. We have several opportunities to visit the world- renowned Department of Chemistry at Bristol University, including a day in their state-of-the art laboratories.

Course Content

Unit 1 - Physical Chemistry Atomic structure, energetics, rates of reaction and acids/bases.
Unit 2 - Inorganic Chemistry Periodicity with a focus on the halogens and alkaline earth metals.
Unit 3 - Organic Chemistry This unit focusses on the main organic compounds, mechanisms of their reactions and forensic analysis.

Assessment

- In-depth study of the three modules above.
- The course is assessed by three 2-hour papers sat at the end of Year 13, which will make up 100% of the A Level grade.
- Practical skills are assessed in all three papers.
- Students will also be expected to produce a portfolio of laboratory reports which will be completed over the two years. This will provide the evidence for them to achieve the practical endorsement award.

Physics

Head of Subject
- Mr J Newton

Exam Board
- AQA

Entry Guideline
- Students will have achieved a Grade 6 or above in Physics or 6 6 in Combined Science at GCSE plus a Grade 7 in Maths.
- Students will be considered with a 6 in Maths with a teacher recommendation and quality of transition work.

Develop your understanding of the scientific study of the mind and behaviour.

"Psychology gives a great insight into the human mind and involves fun and lively debates."

Course Description

The course aims to provide insights into how the universe works and how the laws of Physics can be applied in practical and technological contexts. It delves into the microscopic when dealing with quantum physics and quarks, through the application of forces, waves and fields to everyday life, reaching to the macroscopic when looking at cosmology and 23 space. The subject is endlessly fascinating, philosophical, complex and inspiring. It is ideal for those who like a challenge and ponder the big questions.

A Physics A Level displays skills that are highly valuable in modern society. It shows your ability to understand complex ideas, think logically, solve problems, apply mathematical skills and operate practically in a laboratory environment. The skills open the door to many different career and higher education opportunities.

Course Content

Core Content
- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and materials
- Electricity
- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Fields and their consequences
- Nuclear physics

Options
- Astrophysics
- Medical physics
- Engineering physics
- Turning points in physics
- Electronics

Assessment

At the end of the two-year course there will be two written papers assessing knowledge and skills from the core content. Students also undertake twelve required practical tasks over the two years, which are formally written up and examined in paper 3 along with the option topic

Psychology

Head of Subject
- Miss Rozio

Exam Board
- AQA

Entry Guideline
- Students will have achieved a Grade 5 5 5 in Combined Science at GCSE plus a Grade 5 in Maths.

The perfect foundation for a wide range of careers, this course will challenge you to think critically about the universe, its origins and its future, whilst developing invaluable skills in problem solving and abstract thinking.

"It alters the way you think of the world around you."

Course Description

This course aims to give students the opportunity to understand why humans think and behave in the ways they do. It will introduce students to the key ideas and theories behind the subject as well as developing a wide-ranging understanding of how Psychology impacts on the world.

The first year of the course acts as an introduction to Psychology. We begin the year with building our understanding of Psychological Research, then move onto the foundation of Psychology with topics such as Approaches and Issues and Debates. Once the foundation for knowledge has been laid out, we begin to study more focused topics such as Social Influence, Attachment, Memory and Clinical Psychology and Mental Health. The second year will involve higher focus on developing analytical skills within topics such as Biopsychology, Forensic Psychology, Relationships and Schizophrenia.

Course Content

Paper 1 Introductory Topics in Psychology
- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Clinical Psychology
- Mental Health

Paper 2 Psychology in Context
- Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research Methods

Paper 3 Issues and Options in Psychology
- Issues and Debates in Psychology
- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology

Assessment

Paper 1 - 2 hour exam - Worth 33% of A Level course, assessed in Year 13.
Paper 2 - 2 hour exam - Worth 33% of A Level course, assessed in Year 13.
Paper 3 - 2 hour exam - Worth 33% of A Level course, assessed in Year 13.

Sociology

Head of Subject
- Miss E Fletcher / Miss H Kenyon

Exam Board
- AQA

Entry Guideline
- Students will have an interest in the social world around them.

A better understanding of how society works, society's influence on you, and your influence on the world.

"I've even found myself discussing lessons at home."

Course Description

The course aims to give students the opportunity to study society to understand how and why it functions the way it does. Students will apply sociological ideas to contemporary society and their own experiences to further develop their understanding of both our society and others around the world.

The first year of the A Level course acts as an introduction to Sociology. Students will study the Sociology of the family, understanding how it is changing in our society; the Sociology of Education, analysing the reasons why different groups in society achieve differently; and the research methods that sociologists use to find out.

Second year students will study Beliefs in Society, looking at how belief in religion is on the decline and being rapidly replaced by alternatives; Crime and Deviance, looking at explanations for why crime occurs; and Theory and Methods, which is a more in depth look at the way Sociologists find out about the world.

Course Content

Paper 1 - Education with Theory and Methods
Paper 2 - Topics in Sociology
- Families and Households
- Beliefs in Society

Paper 3 - Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Assessment

All three are assessed with a 2 hour exam - Worth 33% of A Level course, in Year 13.
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Health and Social Care

Head of Subject
- Miss E Fletcher / Miss H Kenyon

Exam Board
- OCR
- Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care

Entry Guideline
- If Students have taken Health and Social Care as an option at KS4, they would be expected to have achieved at least a Level 2 Pass.

This course is designed to provide you with an introduction to and overview of the Health and Social Care sector. It provides an ideal route to Health and Social Care pathways.

Course Description

Health and Social Care is a vocational course designed to give students an insight into the knowledge and skills required to work within the Health and Social Care sector. Students will develop knowledge and skills that can be directly or transferred to the workplace on completing the course enable progression degree/apprenticeship level.

Course Content and Assessment

All students will study modules in the areas of:
- Principles of health and social care (exam)
- Anatomy and physiology for health and social care (exam)
- Person-centred approach to care (NEA/ coursework)
- Supporting people in relation to sexual health, pregnancy and postnatal health (NEA/ coursework)
- Supporting healthy nutrition and lifestyles (NEA/ coursework)