



**Holyhead**

Teach What Matters

Sixth Form Prospectus

**2024-25**



Central  
Sixth Form

Thank you for your interest in Holyhead School. We are an 11-19 Academy at the heart of Soho Ward, a vibrant and aspirational community with a deep sense of its own heritage and culture.

The local community and those beyond the Soho Ward recognise the value of our work and consequently there is a high demand for school and Sixth Form places. There is always a high level of interest in our work and I am very proud of the amazing reputation that we have both locally and nationally.

What makes Holyhead special is our commitment to learning without limits. Students enter the school with attainment levels significantly below national average at the age of 11, but go on to achieve whatever they set their minds to. More students than you find at other schools, go on to employment, higher education and apprenticeships. They attend Russell Group Universities and read the most competitive courses you can imagine. They become Engineers, Lawyers, Accountants, Entrepreneurs and Doctors etc, but they also become well rounded individuals who understand how to keep safe, how to articulate themselves and how to respect diversity, equality and active citizenship.

We invest a lot in developing the strength of their character, making them independent and confident with vision and intellectual curiosity.

The focus on the development of character extends to staff. Whilst we have a strong commitment to staff wellbeing and CPD. We also expect staff to become role models for the school community. Our induction, staff incentive scheme and person specifications place an emphasis on leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication.

Our Sixth Form is one of the strongest aspects of our work and our team of dedicated professionals have created systems that lead to fantastic outcomes and exciting, purposeful enrichment opportunities. The students who have been with us from Years 7-11 welcome external applicants with open arms. They form a bond within days, something I am extremely proud of.

If you share our vision and values, we would love to tell you more. We are not satisfied with being outstanding and everything we do is about being better tomorrow than we have been today.



Once again, I thank you for showing an interest in learning more about our special community.

**Ross Trafford**  
Executive Principal

“

*At Holyhead School, leaders, teachers and governors are committed to improving the life chances of young people*

Ofsted - February 2020

”

Holyhead Sixth Form was established in 2008 and had a cohort of just 10 students. Over a decade later, we have grown to be a provider of post-16 education for more than 200 students from across the city and have sent hundreds of students to university to pursue their future ambitions, be that in medicine, law, teaching, nursing and many other career paths. We also support our students in gaining places on competitive apprenticeships as well as taking their first steps into full time employment.

The continued success of Holyhead Sixth Form is based on 5 core values:

1. That staff place the safety and wellbeing of the students as a prime concern meaning that students can achieve their potential
2. That everyone holds the highest of expectations in terms of the effort we give and the way we conduct ourselves as professionals regardless of age
3. That teachers and support staff are accessible and available to provide advice and guidance whenever and wherever this is needed
4. That teachers will provide stimulating and challenging learning experiences for their students and that students will rise to the challenge of wanting to improve
5. That mistakes are fundamental to development and that staff and students should be reflective and be analytical in learning from these experiences

We are a Sixth Form and a school that takes great pride in this track record of success, but we do not take it for granted. We believe sincerely in those highest of expectations and we believe in our ability to provide those students who choose to place their faith and futures with us, with the support needed for them to make the progress which results in so many students moving onto degrees or apprenticeships of their choice. We also seek to develop them in a way that makes our students confident and compassionate young adults ready for the world of employment, equipped with the crucial skills and characteristics such as leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication.

We hope that you will join us and play your part in our future success as earnestly as we hope to help contribute to your ongoing development and academic achievements.

**Jade Honeyghan**  
Director of Sixth Form



Holyhead School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its students. We believe that:

- All children/young people have the right to be protected from harm
- Children/young people need to be safe and to feel safe in school
- Children/young people need support which matches their individual needs, including those who may have experienced abuse
- All children/young people have the right to speak freely and voice their values and beliefs
- All children/young people must be encouraged to respect each other's values and support each other
- All children/young people have the right to be supported to meet their emotional, and social needs as well as their educational needs - a happy healthy sociable child/young person will achieve better educationally
- Schools can and do contribute to the prevention of abuse, victimisation, bullying (including homophobic, bi-phobic, trans-phobic and cyberbullying), exploitation, extreme behaviours, discriminatory views and risk taking behaviours
- All staff and visitors have an important role to play in safeguarding children and protecting them from abuse

Holyhead School will fulfil their local and national responsibilities as laid out in the following documents:-

- The most recent version of *Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE)*
- The most recent version of *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges (DfE)*
- *The Procedures of Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board*
- *The Education Act 2002 s175 / s157*
- *Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools: Departmental Advice (DfE 2014)*

Holyhead School seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right/Neo Nazi/White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

The school governors, the Principal and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce that risk. This risk assessment will be reviewed as part of the annual s175 return that is monitored by the local authority and the local safeguarding children board.

**A copy of the school Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available on the school website.**



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## Academic Tutoring

All students have a Form Tutor who is their daily point of contact. Tutors monitor students' progress and have regular one-to-one mentoring sessions. Tutors also run daily sessions as part of our Careers and Personal Development Programme which focus on key areas such as study skills, transition, future career options, health and wellbeing, and interview preparation amongst others. We also look to cover topical issues, be they local, national or global, with a focus on discussion and debate. Much emphasis is placed on ensuring students are supported through examination periods and that all students are on the right courses for their prospective career path.

## Career Information Advice and Guidance

Impartial one-to-one careers advice and guidance is available for all students at Holyhead through appointments with a Birmingham Careers Service Adviser. Students will be supported in developing an appropriate career plan and will be required to attend a work experience placement in Year 12. Students will be given advice by their Tutors and the Sixth Form team on education, training and work opportunities, as well as being assisted and advised with applications for universities, apprenticeships or jobs. We offer one-to-one interviews, bespoke Careers Day events for both Year 12 and Year 13 students, careers workshops and access to a range of careers resources and software.

## Mentoring and Counselling

Students in the Sixth Form have the opportunity to have one-to-one support with our Sixth Form Student Engagement Officer. This will identify if anything is getting in the way of their learning and offer any further support or help needed. Students can book an appointment with the Student Engagement Officer or they may be referred by their Tutor, Teacher or Head of Year.

## Financial Support

Financial support is available for students who meet the 16-19 Bursary requirements and will be discussed during the interview and induction process.



“Students enjoy the sixth form and achieve well. Students speak highly about pastoral and academic support. The sixth form prepares students well for adulthood and life beyond school. During the inspection, the school hosted a careers event. Students and younger pupils who visited asked good questions and left well informed. This helps raise aspirations

Ofsted - February 2020





Things to consider when choosing your subjects

We offer a variety of subjects and qualifications at Level 3 including A-levels and BTECs and Technical Qualifications. Nearly all universities including competitive universities from the Russell Group accept BTECs in relevant subject areas, similar to how they would with equivalent A-level qualifications.

Future choices and career aspirations

You need to consider what you would like to do in the future and ensure you have the qualifications needed for your chosen path. The University degree choices table will provide some guidance.

Enjoyment

Choosing a subject that you like will mean you will be more motivated to succeed and work hard to achieve your goals.

Strengths

Your choices should be realistic and suit your particular strengths. The individual course outline will provide you with information about the skills needed for the chosen course. Some subjects require a larger amount of extended writing. Others focus more on problem solving or practical work. It is also vital that you consider how subjects are assessed and whether the methods match your individual strengths.

Independent Learning

To succeed in your chosen subject both independent learning and self-discipline are vital. It is recommended that you spend a minimum of 5 hours a week on independent study outside of lessons for each subject you study. This includes revisiting class work and preparing for your next lesson. Subjects with a large amount of coursework or portfolios will require additional preparation, independent study and organisation to meet deadlines. Using your private study periods effectively is critical to your success as a Sixth Form student.

Entry requirements

Each of our subjects has its own set of entry requirements, so please read through these carefully on page 8. We offer re-sit opportunities to students who have not yet achieved a level 4 in GCSE English and/or GCSE Mathematics.



“Students respond well to excellent teaching and pastoral support and guidance and make outstanding progress”  
Ofsted

Points to consider when considering which subjects are for you

1. Know what you want to study?

Check out the entry requirements. If you have a university course which you are keen on, have you checked the relevant university website or UCAS course search to find out whether this course requires certain subjects at A-level?

2. Not sure yet about your long-term plans?

Keep your options open! If you are not sure about which course you want to study at university, have you tried to choose at least two facilitating subjects\* (Mathematics, English Literature, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History, Languages)?

\*This is especially relevant for students hoping to study at one of the Russell Group universities

3. GCSEs and other standard level qualifications matter

Make sure you understand the GCSE or standard level requirements for entry to a competitive university. Are you on track to achieve the GCSE grades to progress onto the course/s that you want to do at A-level and the university course that you may choose to do?

4. Think balance

Do you have a balance of subject choices that reflect your abilities, strengths and interests?

5. Make sure you know WHY

If you want to take a subject that you have not studied before, can you talk for a minute on what this subject is about? Try and unpick why you wish to study this subject. It's not enough to say 'It's interesting', 'I think I'll like it' or 'It will be fun'. Making sure you find out about the course, the way it will be assessed and what it can do for you is critical before making your decisions.



You can apply to study at Holyhead Sixth Form from mid-late November by completing an application form under the Sixth Form tab on our website [www.holyheadschool.org.uk](http://www.holyheadschool.org.uk)

You will receive a confirmation message when your application is initially submitted and a letter confirming we have received your application.

If your application indicates you will meet our entry criteria, we will contact you via post to invite you to an interview. At the interview we will discuss your application and your subject choices. Interviews are allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis, so please do not worry if there is a delay in arranging your appointment.

When you arrive for interview please bring with you a recent reference and report/Academic Profile with predicted grades from your school or college. We will not be able to make you an offer without a reference. Please note, missed interviews are not routinely re-scheduled unless students get in touch to explain their absence and re-arrange it.

All being well, we will make you a written offer of a conditional place at Holyhead. We will ask you to confirm acceptance of the offer by either posting back the acceptance letter or by email/telephone. Failure to confirm acceptance may mean you are putting your place at risk.

All students who receive a conditional offer will be invited for a Sixth Form Induction Programme in July. Failure to attend may put your place at risk.

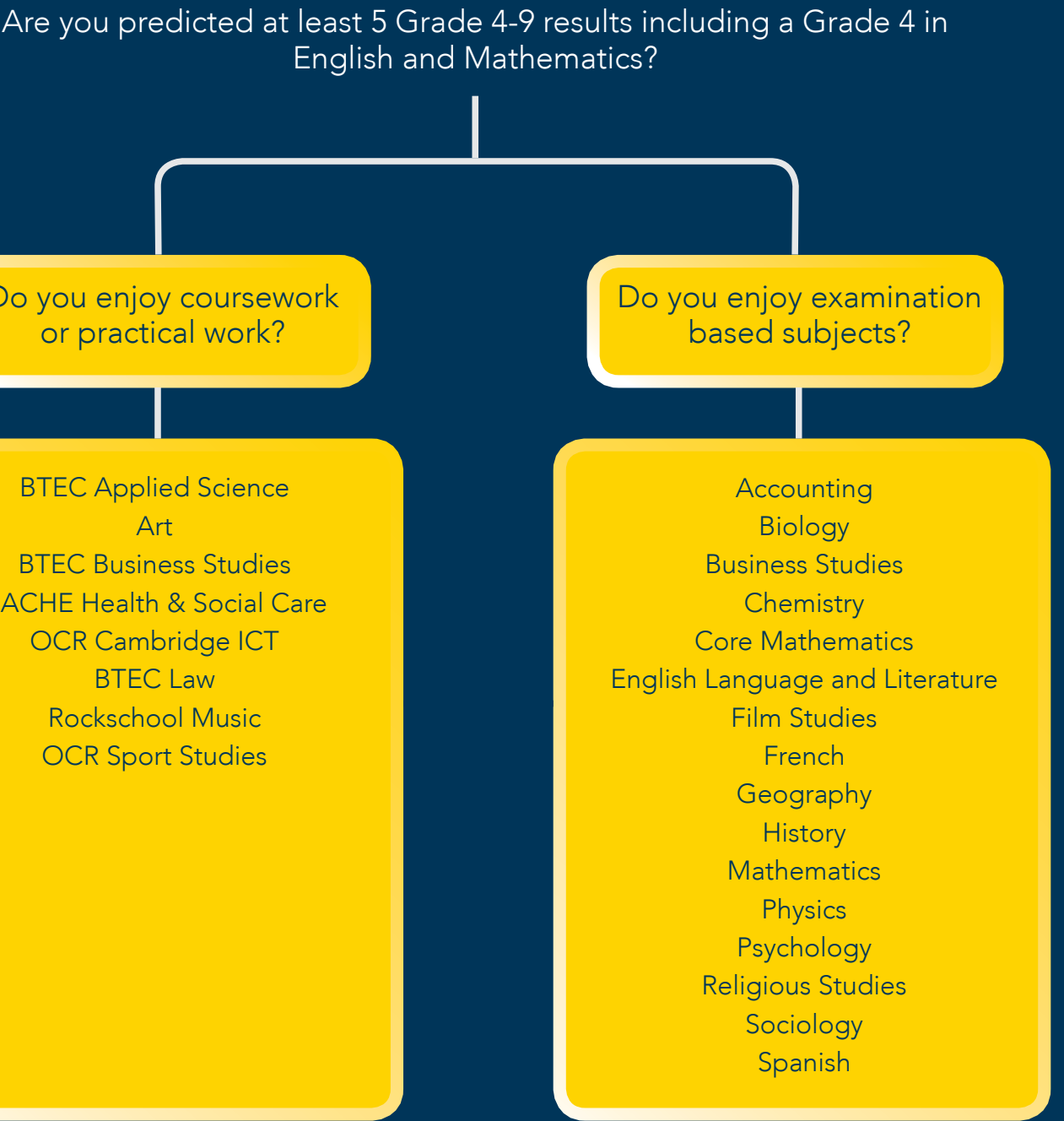
We will write to you over the summer term with details about enrolment, which will take place on GCSE results day. It is important that you attend on the date and time you have been given and **bring evidence of all GCSE/Level 2 results, including those qualifications taken early.** Failure to attend enrolment can put your place at risk.

*All courses are offered subject to there being sufficient numbers of applications for financial and educational viability and this cannot be confirmed prior to enrolment in August/September.*

Level 3 (Post GCSE)

With the transition from A\*-C grades to the numerical grading system now complete, we have general entry requirements which reflect this situation. Courses are aimed at students who have achieved a minimum of 5 GCSE 4-9 grades including a minimum Grade 4 in both English and Mathematics. The curriculum may be reviewed dependent on the number of students that opt for a course.

See subject specific entry requirements and course information for more detail.



Note: A-level subjects will require a **high Grade 5/Grade B** results as a minimum if studied at GCSE

Subject	GCSE or Equivalent Entry Requirements
Accounting	Grade 6 in Mathematics and a Grade 6 in English
Applied Science - BTEC	Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics and a Grade 4-4 in Combined Science or Grade 4's in Separate Sciences
Art & Design	Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics and a minimum of a Grade 5 in Art and Design
Biology	Grade 6 in Mathematics, a Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or a Grade 6 in Biology (high Grade 5 will be considered)
Business - BTEC	Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics
Business Studies	Grade 5 in both English and in Mathematics
Chemistry	Grade 4 in English, a Grade 6 in Mathematics, a Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or a Grade 6 in Chemistry. (high Grade 5 will be considered). You will also need to study either Core Mathematics, A-level Mathematics to study Chemistry due to the demanding mathematical requirements of this course.
English Language & Literature	Grade 5 in English Language exam component and a Grade 5 in English Literature
French	Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics and a minimum of a Grade 5 in French
Film Studies	Grade 4 in Mathematics, a minimum of a high Grade 4 in English and English Literature and a Grade 5 or above in GCSE Media Studies if studied
Geography	Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics and a minimum of a Grade 5 in Geography
Health & Social Care - BTEC	Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics and a Merit / Grade 4 in a Health and Social Care qualification if studied at Level 2 / GCSE
History	Grade 4 in Mathematics, a minimum of a Grade 5 in History or a Grade 5 in English if History was not studied at GCSE
OCR/Cambridge Technicals in IT	Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics and a minimum of a Merit or Grade 5 in a Level 2 / GCSE Computing qualification
Law - BTEC	Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics

Note: A-level subjects will require a **high Grade 5/Grade B** results as a minimum if studied at GCSE

Subject	GCSE or Equivalent Entry Requirements
Mathematics	Grade 6 in Mathematics and a Grade 5 in English
Mathematics - Core (AS level)	Grade 5 in both English and a Grade 5 in Mathematics
Music & Music Technology	Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics and a Merit or Grade 5 in Music at Level 2 / GCSE. A Grade 4/5 should be achieved if having instrumental lessons.
Physics	Grade 4 in English, a Grade 6 in Mathematics, a Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or a Grade 6 in Physics (high Grade 5 will be considered). You will also need to study A-level Mathematics to study Physics due to the demanding mathematical requirements of this course.
Psychology	Grade 5 in English and a Grade 5 in Mathematics.
Religious Studies (Philosophy, Ethics & Islam)	Grade 4 in Mathematics, a minimum of a Grade 5 in English and/or RE or in a subject similar such as History
Sociology	Grade 4 in Mathematics, a minimum of a Grade 5 in Sociology or a Grade 5 in English if Sociology was not studied at GCSE
Spanish	Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics and a Grade 5 in Spanish
Sport - BTEC	Grade 4 in both English, Mathematics and Combined Science. It would be advantageous to have completed a BTEC Level 2 course in Sport at Merit as a minimum.
GCSE Mathematics re-sit	Grade 2/3 in Mathematics
GCSE English Language re-sit	Grade 2/3 in English Language



Degree Course	Essential/desirable A-levels or equivalencies
Archaeology	Generally no specific requirements although some prefer Chemistry
Architecture & Building	Mathematics and Physics may be required
Art & Design	Art or Product Design depending on area. Portfolios of work may be required
Audiology	At least one science subject, either Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics
Biosciences	Two sciences, Chemistry and Biology; BTEC Extended Diploma in Applied Science
Business & Management	Can have Mathematics requirement at GCSE or A-level
Chemistry	Chemistry and another science: BTEC Extended Diploma in Applied Science
Chemical Engineering	Chemistry and Mathematics
Computer Sciences & IT	Mathematics, Computing
Dentistry	Chemistry and usually Biology as a second science
Drama	One from English Literature, Drama
Economics	Economics, Mathematics preferred/required at some universities
English	English Literature
Engineering	Mathematics and Physics
Geography & Environmental	Geography; one or more science subjects required for some courses
History	History (often but not always required)
Law	No specific requirements, although English, History, Classics, Mathematics or a Modern Language is useful
Mathematics	Mathematics
Mechanical Engineering	Mathematics with Mechanics (if no Mechanics - Physics + Chemistry, D & T or Further Mathematics)

Degree Course	Essential/desirable A-levels or equivalencies
Media Studies	English/Film Studies can be useful. Relevant work experience often considered
Medicine	Chemistry plus one of Biology, Physics, Mathematics; Biology often required to at least AS
Modern Languages	Target language almost always required
Music & Music Technology	Music required, audition often required with practical Music grades
Nursing	A science subject (Biology preferred, but Psychology is often accepted). CACHE Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care, BTEC Extended Diploma in Applied Science.
Pharmacology & Pharmacy	Chemistry plus another Science and Mathematics; BTEC National Extended Certificate/Extended Diploma in Applied Science
Physics	Physics, Mathematics, sometimes Further Mathematics
Physiotherapy	Biology or other science subject or Physical Education
Psychology	Traditional Science subject or Mathematics often required. Often a GCSE Mathematics requirement
Radiography	At least one science subject at A-level, either Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics or an Extended Diploma in BTEC Applied Science
Sports Science	BTEC Extended Certificate in Sport; Science subjects and Physical Education can be useful
Sports Therapy	BTEC Extended Certificate in Sport; A-level Biology or PE
Veterinary Science	Chemistry, plus one of Biology (preferred), or Physics or Mathematics

## Medicine

### Grades:

Students are required to have 3 A-levels including Chemistry and Biology (and be predicted AAA minimum). Students are expected to have achieved at least grade B/high grade 5 in GCSE in English & Mathematics and grade A/grade 7 in Science GCSEs.

### Admissions Testing:

Depending on which Medical School students apply to they will be expected to have taken the UKCAT ([www.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk)) or BMAT ([www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/bmat](http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/bmat)).

### Personal Statement:

Use the advice given in school and medical school websites. Students need to reflect on some medical insights and experiences - refer to an Open Day, Medical Conference or Lecture attended, read literature, books or websites, engage with current issues, medical breakthroughs or ethics, observe a doctor/GP.

### Work Experience:

Examples - a commitment to caring professions is key - voluntary work in a hospital or care home, with St. John Ambulance, Red Cross or similar organisation. A minimum of 2 weeks is required.

## Midwifery

### Grades:

At GCSE, students are required to have 5 passes at grade C/grade 4 or above including, English, Mathematics and one of Biology, Chemistry or Physics or Science Double Award. A typical offer at A-level is ABB in Psychology or Sociology or Biology or CACHE/BTEC Health & Social Care (Distinction/Distinction/Distinction for BTEC).

### Personal Statement:

Students need to demonstrate understanding of the profession, relevant skills, relevant work experience and wider reading of recent news related to Midwifery, Nursing and Healthcare.

### Work Experience:

This needs to be a placement which shows skills in communication, working with people or giving advice and support. More than one week is required and different care related experiences will help show all your skills. Students will be expected to do a literacy and numeracy test as part of the application.

## Pharmacy

### Grades:

At GCSE, students require 5 grade 4-9/A\*-C qualifications including a grade 5 in Mathematics and 4 other passes at minimum grade 4/C. A-level requirements include at least grade B in Chemistry and one further science from Biology, Mathematics or Physics.

### Personal Statement:

Students need to demonstrate excellent communication skills, a commitment to the profession through work experience and skills gained as well as evidence of reading current research.

### Work Experience:

As many weeks as possible in a range of different pharmacies, a hospital, as a Health Care Assistant or a Nuffield Research Placement.

## Nursing

### Grades:

At GCSE students require 5 Grade 4-9/A\*-C results including a Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics. At A-level grades required are BBB with at least one of the qualifications being in Biology, Psychology, Chemistry or Physics, a grade B in CACHE Extended Diploma in Health & Social Care, whilst BTEC Extended Diploma in Applied Science would require at least Distinction/Distinction/Merit results.

### Personal Statement:

Students need to explain why they have chosen nursing and why a particular field of nursing, e.g. adult, child, learning disability or mental health. Experience and explanation of the skills gained in a healthcare environment or even in a non-healthcare environment (e.g. working in a cafe) where there are time pressures and prioritising involved are important.

### Work Experience:

Some suggestions are in hospitals, a Nuffield Research Placement, a voluntary position as a Health Care Assistant or volunteering in a school or nursery.

**A range of relevant work experiences is crucial when applying or these competitive courses!**

**For all of the courses above look to complete online University Courses [MOOCS - these are available through [www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com)]**



The programme is designed to provide students with tailored support and guidance in preparation for applications for the most competitive university courses and apprenticeships.

The programme aims to develop a variety of skills including research skills, presentation skills, critical thinking and problem solving.

This includes support with university applications and interviews for courses including: Medicine applications and programmes with professional accreditation such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Nursing.

Students on the programme have regular mentoring by the Sixth Form team and access to a variety of additional programmes.

## Support includes

- Subject mentoring
- Medical Admissions (UCAT) support
- Interview guidance
- University Masterclasses
- Independent University modules (MOOCs)
- The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

**Students can also take advantage of support to apply for a wide range of external programmes whilst at Holyhead Sixth Form including:**

- Social Mobility Foundation - Aspiring Professionals Programme
- University of Birmingham Routes to the Professions Programme (Medicine/Dentistry/Finance/Law)
- Aston University Sir Doug Ellis Pathway to Healthcare Programme
- University of Birmingham A2B Scheme & Birmingham Link Programme
- Oxbridge Mentoring
- The Nuffield Foundation Research Placement
- University Masterclasses
- Skills Test support for teaching
- Sutton Trust Summer Schools
- University of Birmingham Undergraduate Mentoring



*Through the school's exceptionally strong links with local colleges and universities almost all students progress to the higher education institution of their choice.*

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**We have a wide variety of opportunities available on the Competitive Course Programme including:**

## The Social Mobility Foundation



The Social Mobility Foundation (SMF) is a charity which aims to make a practical improvement in social mobility for young people from low-income

backgrounds. The programme provides opportunities and networks of support for 16-17 year olds including internships, residential programmes and one-to-one mentoring from Year 12 through to graduation from university.

Students who meet the entry requirements can apply to take part in one of eleven career sectors (Accountancy, Architecture, Banking & Finance, Biology & Chemistry, Business, Engineering & Physics, Law, Media & Communications, Medicine, Politics, and Technology) through the Social Mobility Foundation's Aspiring Professionals Programme.

## The Nuffield Foundation



The Nuffield Foundation is a charitable trust established in 1943.

Nuffield Research Placements provide

over 1,000 students each year with the opportunity to work alongside professional scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians on a 4 week research placement during the summer at the end of Year 12.

"Students in the first year of a post-16 science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) course are eligible to apply. Placements are available across the UK, in universities, commercial companies, voluntary organisations and research institutions.

Nuffield Research Placements are administered at a regional level by a network of Nuffield coordinators.

We particularly encourage students who don't have a family history of going to university or who attend schools in less well-off areas. We make sure no-one is excluded on a financial basis by covering students' travel costs. Some students may also be eligible for a weekly bursary in addition to travel expenses.

Your regional coordinator will be able to advise on eligibility."

## University of Birmingham Routes to the Professions Programme (Dentistry, Finance, Law and Medicine)



**UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM**

The programme offers students a unique opportunity to get a real

insight into studying medicine, dentistry, law or finance related courses at the University of Birmingham as well as receiving tailored advice, guidance and support at key points throughout their university application process. Students join the programme in year 12 and receive a range of support through to year 13 including: careers advice, support with UCAS personal statements, interview preparation, work placement opportunities, mentoring by current undergraduate students, and the opportunity to shadow current students during lectures.



## Oxford Pathways Programme



The Pathways Programme is an initiative coordinated by the Colleges of the University of Oxford,

with support from the Sutton Trust.

The programme aims to provide information, advice and guidance on higher education and Oxford to academically able students, and staff members, in non-selective state schools with little history of student progression to Oxford.

All of our events are run in Oxford, and are free to attend.

## Birmingham A2B scheme



The Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme is designed to help students from families and communities in the West Midlands who have

little or no experience of Higher Education to find out about what studying at university involves. A large number of students at Holyhead are now studying at the University of Birmingham in a variety of subjects as a result of their success on this scheme. Students who meet the eligibility criteria receive a lower alternative offers to courses at the University of Birmingham on the condition of the successful completion of the A2B module. The A2B offer is typically a reduction of up to two A level grades (eg BBB rather than AAB) or 40 UCAS tariff points. If you pass the A2B module and get the grades needed for your A2B offer or above you will receive a bursary of £1,200 in your first year of study.

## The Sir Doug Ellis Pathway to Healthcare Programme



In November 2016 Aston University launched the Sir Doug Ellis Pathway to Healthcare Programme.

Designed to prepare students to enter medical school and other healthcare professions at Aston or elsewhere, the programme is for students from non-traditional backgrounds (i.e. those who will be the first in their family to attend university, have been in receipt of free school meals etc.) In the first cohort of 100 students in 2016-17, 5 were from Holyhead Sixth Form, and we have had a similar number of students in the following cohorts.

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

### Students interested in applying to the Pathway Programme must:

- Be enrolling in Year 12 at a non-selective state school/ college in either the Birmingham, Black Country (Dudley, Walsall, Sandwell and Wolverhampton) or Solihull regions
- Have achieved eight 4-9/A\*- C grades at GCSE including: maths, English language and double science or chemistry and biology at high grade 5 minimum.
- Show an active interest in life and health sciences.

At Holyhead we believe that learning should extend beyond the classroom and we feel it is important that our students have opportunities that will enable them to have a well-rounded experience of Sixth Form life and to develop their character through practical experience.

Employers and universities are not only interested in high grades, they want people who are willing to embrace new challenges, work well with others and have leadership skills.

All Year 12 students choose at least one enrichment activity alongside their subjects, some of which carry additional qualifications. Other experiences allow students to develop characteristics which will enhance their employability skills.

Students' commitment to the enrichment programme and their achievements will be referred to in employer and/or university references and provide useful evidence in personal statements/applications.

### Opportunities include:

- Becoming a member of the Sixth Form Student Council
- Becoming a Sixth Form Prefect
- Community Contribution Scheme - Holyhead in Handsworth
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Extended Project
- First Aid training
- In class support
- NCS: The Challenge
- Reading volunteers programme
- Social Action Campaigns
- Sports Coaching
- STEM projects including the Engineering in Education Scheme
- Student Mentoring
- University Masterclasses
- Volunteering (including at Hamilton School)
- Work Experience
- Writing for the Pulse magazine

### Working together to achieve a common goal

Students get the best out of their time in our Sixth Form through our established three-way partnership between staff, parents/carers and the students themselves.

Parents and carers receive guidance:

- In supporting their child through Sixth Form study
- In the university application process
- On Student Finance

There will be an opportunity to check on the progress of students through our Induction Evenings and subject Parents' Evenings. Parents and carers can also make an appointment with the Director of Sixth Form, the Assistant Director of Sixth Form or Heads of Year 12/13 at any time to discuss any concerns.

### Sixth Form Dress Code

A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all students in the Sixth Form.

The dress code for all Sixth Form students is smart business wear:

As role models for the school all students are expected to dress professionally and promote high standards of personal appearance.

Male Students: A suit (or smart trousers and blazer jacket), shirt and tie with smart shoes.

Female Students: A dress, skirt, full length trousers or cropped trouser suit with smart shoes. You do not need to wear a shirt with your suit, but your top should be smart, conservative and suitable for a professional workplace. Your skirts should be at least knee length.

Shoes: Shoes should be sensible, smart and clean. No pumps or trainers. No lace up boots. No stiletto heels.

Sports wear: Only to be worn by OCR Sports Studies students on days when there are practical lessons.

Students are also provided with a photo ID badge which should be visibly worn at all times when on school site in support of safeguarding arrangements.

We look forward to working closely with parents/carers to ensure that all students flourish and realise their full potential.





# Accounts A-level



Examination board: **AQA**  
Course length: **2 years**

## Course Overview

A-level Accountancy is a popular and successful subject at Holyhead School. Whatever type of career you are planning to go into, A-level Accountancy will help you get started with any financial tasks you might face. This course is an ideal foundation if you plan to study Accounting and Finance in higher education.

## Curriculum: Year 1

1. An introduction to the role of the accountant in business
2. Types of business organisation
3. The double entry model
4. Verification of accounting records
5. Accounting concepts used in the preparation of account records
6. Preparation of financial statements of sole traders
7. Limited company accounts
8. Analysis and evaluation of financial information
9. Budgeting

## Curriculum: Year 2

1. An introduction to the role of the accountant in business
2. Types of business organisation
3. The double entry model
4. Verification of accounting records
5. Accounting concepts used in the preparation of accounting records
6. Preparation of financial statements of sole traders
7. Limited company accounts
8. Analysis and evaluation of financial information
9. Budgeting
10. Marginal costing
11. Standard costing and variance analysis
12. Absorption and activity based costing
13. Capital investment appraisal
14. Accounting for organisations with incomplete records
15. Partnership accounts
16. Accounting for limited companies
17. Interpretation, analysis and communication of accounting information
18. The impact of ethical considerations

## Enrichment opportunities

Masterclasses and 'Taster Days' at some of the local universities.

"A level accounting has been a very useful subject for me and it has helped me improve my analytical skills which are important when producing and adjusting financial statements, and when writing essays where you are asked to advise businesses with decision making.

I would recommend A Level accounting to someone who would like to run their own business, or work in the accounting field as the knowledge gained from taking this subject will help you gain a better understanding of how businesses operate.

This subject has helped me stand out to employers as most students have not gained the same level of understanding with regards to preparing and correcting financial statements. I have used these skills to help me gain an offer for a degree apprenticeship at a top 10 UK accounting firm."

**Harjot Virdee**

## Skills needed

You will be working with figures so an aptitude for Maths is helpful as well as having a good level of literacy to be able to handle the longer written answer in the examination.

## Assessment: Year 1

Internal assessments through Year 12 with a 3 hour examination in May/June mirroring the A-level examination.

## Assessment: Year 2

Two examination papers: 3 hours in duration for each paper. Each examination contains 120 marks per paper and there are three compulsory sections:

- Section A has 10 multiple choice questions and several short answer questions. The section is worth 30 marks.
- Section B has two structured questions each worth 20 marks. The section is worth 40 marks.
- Section C has two extended answer questions each worth 25 marks. The section is worth 50 marks.

Where can this lead?

This course is an ideal foundation if you plan to study Accounting or Finance further in higher education or go directly into a Degree Apprenticeship.

For more information see: [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk) or speak to Mr Maguire in the Accounting Department..

## Sixth Form entry requirements

High Grade 5 in both English and Mathematics.

# Applied Law BTEC



Examination board: **Edexcel**  
Course length: **2 years**

## Course Overview

This qualification is for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the legal sector. It aims to give a coherent introduction to study of the legal sector. It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A-levels. It provides the basis of an excellent route for learners to pursue a career in the legal sector. This can be through higher education (degrees in business and law) or through an Advanced Apprenticeship in Legal Services..

## Curriculum: Year 1

### Unit 1: Dispute Solving in Civil Law

Learners explore how civil disputes are resolved, both in courts and by alternative means. They will examine the making and working of precedent and its application in the law of negligence.

Options available:  
**Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Law**

## Skills needed

Cognitive and problem-solving skills: use critical thinking, approach non-routine problems applying expert and creative solutions, use systems and technology

Intrapersonal skills: communicating, working collaboratively, negotiating and influencing, self-presentation

Interpersonal skills: self-management, adaptability and resilience, self-monitoring and development.

### Unit 2: Investigating aspects of Criminal Law and The Legal System

Learners research how laws are made and interpreted, who advises and decides on the outcome of criminal cases and punishments that can be imposed if laws are broken. They will then present advice to clients on non-fatal offence case studies.

## Assessment: Year 1

Unit 1 External assessment 90 minute duration.

Unit 2 Internal coursework assessment.

## Curriculum: Year 2

### Unit 3: Applying the Law

Learners examine the law related to specific crimes, including homicide and offences against property. They will explore the police procedures for dealing with such offences.

### Unit 7: Aspects of Tort

Learners explore how the law of tort protects people and the enjoyment of their property. They will examine compensation for loss, damage and injury in aspects of negligence, nuisance and occupiers' liability cases.

## Assessment: Year 2

Unit 3 External assessment 120 minute duration.

Unit 7 Internal coursework assessment.

## Enrichment opportunities

Masterclasses and 'Taster Days' at some of the local universities. Opportunities to gain work experience at local law firms. Guest speakers and trips to the local law courts.

"This year of Btec Law has been very interesting and exciting. The content is extremely engaging with consistent tasks to pursue. Not only this, I have had great support and motivation from both teachers which has allowed me to fulfil expectations and finish the year with the highest grade achievable."

**Brandan Sparkes**

## Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 4 in both English and Mathematics.

"You gain an in depth knowledge of law within our country, and this allows you to develop skills needed for the world of work."

**Nikita Dhanda**



Examination board: **Edexcel**  
Course length: **2 years**

Course Overview

This course is ideal if you want to study Science as part of your KS5 choices. There are plenty of practical activities to help develop your understanding of scientific techniques. You will learn to carry out practical laboratory tasks, plan investigations, collect, analyse and present data as well as review and refine the methodology of practical and laboratory-based work.

You will also study aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics as well as work on your English, Mathematics and IT skills. Training in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is vital in the UK and global economy today and the skills and knowledge you will learn on this course could really get you ahead in the job market. The extended certificate in Applied Science is intended for students who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment in the Applied Science sector.

Options available:  
**BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate. Equivalent to 1 A-level.**

The qualification is equivalent in size to one A-level and it has been designed as part of a two-year programme. With an Extended Certificate in Applied Science you will be able to progress into careers such as Radiography, Biomedical science, Forensics Science, Biological Sciences, Zoology, Biotechnology, Nursing, Nutrition Studies, Agricultural Science, Marine Biology, Sports Science and many more.

Skills needed

The Extended Certificate in Applied Science BTEC requires a good level of self-organisation and time management skills along with the ability to carry out practical techniques and data analysis. There is academic content that you will need to learn and understand in order to complete assignments as well as both practical and written examinations. The emphasis throughout the course focuses on the practical application of skills so whether you decide to study further, go on to work or an apprenticeship this course will be your passport to success in the next stage of your career.

Curriculum: Year 1

During the first year of the course you will cover 2 units.

<b>Unit 1:</b> Principles and applications of Science (90 credits).	1 hour 30 min written exam which is externally assessed in January.
<b>Unit 2:</b> Practical scientific procedures and techniques (90 credits).	This is a mandatory unit which will be set and marked internally.

Assessment: Year 1

Curriculum: Year 2

During the second year of the course you will cover 2 units.

<b>Unit 3:</b> Science Investigation Skills (120 credits).	This is a mandatory and synoptic unit. Where the task is set and marked by Pearson.
One other optional unit which is equal to 60 credits.	The optional unit will be assessed internally.

Assessment: Year 2

Enrichment opportunities

We have a visit by ‘Spectroscopy in a suitcase’ run by university lecturers who let us to use their £15000 technology to solve crime scenes using mass spectrometry, NMR data and infrared technology. You can also visit the University of Birmingham for Masterclasses in Chemistry, Biology and Physics courses that relate to your course.

Sixth Form entry requirements

4-4 in Combined Science or 4 in each individual Science.

“Studying Applied Science enables me to focus on particular areas of science and research in depth. It opens a lot of opportunities for careers. You get to carry out a lot of practical work.”

Gurinder Sohal

“I feel the teachers have immense knowledge of what they were teaching. They know how to turn the content in a more fun and interesting way to make it easier for students to understand. Every Assignment broadens your knowledge and you learn new scientific facts.”

Komal Devi

Examination board: **Edexcel**  
Course length: **2 years**

Course Overview

This course is an excellent foundation to pursue a science course at university or if you want a practical career in the sciences. There are plenty of practical activities to help develop your understanding of scientific techniques. You will learn to carry out practical laboratory tasks, plan investigations, collect, analyse and present data as well as review and refine the methodology of practical and laboratory-based work.

You will also study aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics as well as work on your English, Mathematics and IT skills. Training in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is vital in the UK and global economy today and the skills and knowledge you learn on this course could really get you ahead in the job market. The Extended Diploma in Applied Science is intended for students who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment in the Applied Science sector. The qualification is equivalent in size to 3 A-levels and it has been designed as part of a two-year programme. With an Extended Diploma

Options available:  
**BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma. Equivalent to 3 A-levels.**

in Applied Science you will be able to progress into careers such as Radiography, Biomedical Science, Forensics Science, Biological Sciences, Zoology, Biotechnology, Nursing, Nutrition Studies, Agricultural Science, Marine Biology, Sports Science and many more.

Skills needed

The Extended Diploma in Applied Science BTEC requires a good level of self-organisation and time management skills along with the ability to carry out practical techniques and data analysis. There is academic content that you will need to learn and understand in order to complete assignments as well as both practical and written examinations. The emphasis throughout the course focuses on the practical application of skills so whether you decide to study further, go on to work or an apprenticeship this course will be your passport to success in the next stage of your life.

Curriculum: Year 1

During the first year of the course you will cover 4 units.

<b>Unit 1:</b> Principles and applications of Science (90 credits).	1 hour 30 min written exam which is externally assessed in June at the end of the first year.
<b>Unit 2:</b> Practical scientific procedures & techniques (90 credits).	This unit will be examined by assignments that will be set internally.
<b>Unit 3:</b> Scientific investigation skills (120 credits).	Assessed practical investigation under exam conditions and a written submission which is also assessed under examination conditions.
<b>Unit 4:</b> Laboratory techniques and their application (90 credits).	This unit will be examined by assignments that will be set internally. 2 additional units will also be selected.

Assessment: Year 1

Curriculum: Year 2

<b>Unit 5:</b> Principles and Application of Science 2 (120 credits).	2 hour written exam which is externally assessed in January and June in the second year.
<b>Unit 6:</b> Investigative project (90 Credits).	A synoptic investigative project which is internally assessed. The two synoptic units are also internally assessed.
<b>Unit 7:</b> Contemporary issues in Science (120 Credits) 4 Additional units will also be covered.	An assessed task set by Pearson. The rest of the content will be assessed internally by assignments.

Assessment: Year 2

Enrichment opportunities

We have a visit by ‘Spectroscopy in a suitcase’ run by university lecturers who let us to use their £15000 technology to solve crime scenes using mass spectrometry, NMR data and infrared technology. You can also visit the University of Birmingham for Masterclasses in Chemistry, Biology and Physics courses that relate to your course.

There will be outside speakers and visits which will take place where the application of the techniques will be explored further. Students will also be invited to participate in the Healthcare Society this will also give them the opportunity to get an indepth insight into the vast opportunities that are available with this course.

Sixth Form entry requirements

4-4 in Combined Science or 4 in each seperate Science.

# Art and Design - Fine Art A-level



Examination board: **AQA**  
Course length: **2 years**

## Course Overview

The Art and Design course will lead to a better understanding of the visual world and provide opportunities for students to develop their own visual language. The introduction to the programme begins with observation of nature: recording, analysis and creation of a visual response to the surroundings. Art makes students look at things anew - even mundane ordinary aspects of the world.

There is something magical about smearing pencil and paint across a piece of paper and sculpting form with your hands. Communicating with colour, shape and form awakens the imagination. Art students often arrive at exam season with a significant portion (if not all) of their Art marks accumulated and accounted for. For many students - especially those with a heavy exam load in other subjects or those who struggle with exam anxiety - this advantage is significant.

## Curriculum: Year 1

Introduction to the course, visit to inspire ideas, keeping a sketchbook and how to produce more prolonged studies and observations.

This is then followed by a more extended project in a media of student's choice.

External exam consisting of five questions to choose from. The preparation time is followed by a 10 hour exam.

## Curriculum: Year 2

Component one is the personal investigation. Students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or a series of outcomes.

It must be supported by written work of between 1,000 and 3,000 words.

Exam of 15hrs plus preparation time.

## Enrichment opportunities

Enrichment opportunities available in the department, working to support younger students in Art and Design, or helping with technical issues. Various trips are available to experience Art and Design in museums and galleries in London, Yorkshire or Liverpool, as well as trips to see degree shows in the local area.

*"Art is such a fun course to do. It really helps with developing your artistic skills, the staff are lovely and it's never dull with Mr Brown."*

**Esraa Almat**

## Skills needed

Passion for drawing, painting, printmaking and ceramics is essential. Creative ideas and ability to work independently on a theme is required. Desire to extend ideas in own time through a diverse range of experimentation. Keen interest in discovering relevant contemporary artists.

## Assessment: Year 1

Two components:

The portfolio is 60% of final mark

Externally set exam is 40%

## Assessment: Year 2

There are two components:

Component one: Personal investigation, which consists of coursework and is worth 60% of the marks.

Component two: Is an externally set assignment. Students choose from starting points and produce work during a 15 hour exam. This is 40% of the final mark.

## Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 in Art and Design.

# Biology A-level



Examination board: **AQA**  
Course length: **2 years**

## Course Overview

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and microorganisms. Biology is never far from the headlines, whether it's advancements in sequencing the human genome which means finding treatments for many life limiting diseases is closer than ever before, the effects our growing population has on the Earth and the need to manage the conflict between human needs and conservation, as well as our developing understanding of how stem cells become specialised. Biologists are concerned with all these issues and many more. They work in the fields of cell biology, medicine, food production and ecology and the work they do is vital to us all. Biology A-level is a great choice for anybody interested in a career in health and clinical professions, such as Medicine,

## Curriculum: Year 1

Topic 1: Biological molecules.

Topic 2: Cells.

Topic 3: Organisms exchange substances with their environment.

Topic 4: Genetic information, Variation and Relationships between organisms.

## Curriculum: Year 2

Topic 5: Energy transfers in and between organisms

Topic 6: Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments

Topic 7: Genetics, Populations, Evolution and ecosystems

Topic 8: The control of gene expression

## Enrichment opportunities

In the past, students in Year 13 have attended the 'Biology Live!' event, where guest speakers in the field of Biology present their research and examiners help with different exam skills for the summer. Students in year 12 (pre Covid) had the opportunity to attend Mini Medical school at Birmingham University to gain an insight into the world of medicine and the application processes required. Students have also taken part in a field trips where they have put their environmental skills in action. There is the opportunity to attend Masterclasses at the University of Birmingham to further develop understanding of key areas of Biology. Another fantastic opportunity was to use Future Learn, a website with online learning modules run and recognised by some great universities where students can pick an area of interest, to study in more detail. We also have mentors attending from local universities to help students with AS/ A level biology studies.

Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Audiology, Optometry, Nursing, Zoology, Marine Biology, or Forensic Science. The skills you will learn are transferable and many students go on to professions such as Computing, Accountancy and Teaching.

## Skills needed

The Biology A-level course helps you to develop a number of skills which you will need to master in order to succeed. These skills include learning how to collect data and evaluate it, how to investigate facts and use deduction, how to put over your point of view effectively and how to take responsibility for your own learning.

## Assessment: Year 1

As there are no external exams, formal assessments will take place throughout the year, with internal exams taking place in the summer.

## Assessment: Year 2

Paper 1: 35% of A-level: A 2 hr written exam = 91 marks. A mixture of short and long answer questions and extended response questions.

Paper 2: 35% of A-level: A 2 hr written exam = 91 marks. A mixture of short and long answer questions and comprehension questions.

Paper 3: 30% of A-level: A 2 hr written exam = 78 marks. Structured questions including practical techniques, critical analysis of given experimental data and an essay from a choice of two titles.

## Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 in Mathematics, Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or a Grade 6 in Biology GCSE (High Grade 5 will be considered).

Examination board: **Edexcel**  
Course length: **2 years**

## Course Overview

The Extended Certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the business sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in business-related subjects.

The qualification is equivalent in size to 1 A-level and aims to provide a coherent introduction to a study of the business sector, normally alongside other Level 3 qualifications. In addition to the business sector specific content, the requirements of the qualification mean the student develops the transferable and higher order skills that are highly regarded by both HE and employers. For example, when studying the Business and Personal Finance unit, students will be measuring the financial performance of a business, preparing and analysing statements of comprehensive income and statements of financial position, as well as analysing profitability, liquidity and business efficiency, which supports some of the skills students need to progress into higher education, employment, self employment or training.

Options available:  
**BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business (360 GLH) 601/7159/5**

## Skills needed

The following skills or qualities are desirable or will be developed through the course:

- The ability to write reports, create newsletters, articles and PowerPoint presentations
- To be able to create financial documents, analyse information and make recommendations to real life business scenarios
- The ability to present your work in front of an audience, debate various issues and take part in role plays
- To be able to collate evidence of all work including video evidence, cognitive and problem-solving skills
- To use critical thinking skills, approach non-routine problems applying expert and creative solutions, and to use systems and technology
- Intrapersonal skills: communicating, working collaboratively, negotiating and influencing, self-presentation
- Interpersonal skills: self-management, adaptability and resilience, self-monitoring and development

## Curriculum: Year 1

Unit 1: Exploring Business

## Assessment: Year 1

Internal Unit, 90GLH  
5 Learning aims – A-E, with given content areas and recommended assessment approach.

Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign

External Unit (marked by Edexcel) 90GLH  
A task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions.  
Learners will be provided with a case study two weeks before a supervised assessment period in order to carry out research. Learners will be required to complete a task that will require them to prepare a rationale and then a plan for a marketing campaign for a given product or service. Learners have the opportunity to get involved with employers.

Pearson sets and marks the task.  
Written submission. 70 marks.

## Curriculum: Year 2

Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance

## Assessment: Year 2

Unit 3 - Personal and Business Finance Examination - 2 hour written examination set by Pearson with a total of 100 marks.

Unit 22: Market Research

Unit 22 - Market Research - Internal coursework assessment

## Enrichment opportunities

A variety of visits to businesses used in assignments such as Pizza Hut, British Red Cross, Greggs and Jaguar Land Rover, Drayton Manor, Cleone Foods.

## Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 4 in both English and Mathematics. A Merit or Grade 4 in a Level 2/GCSE Business qualification if previously studied at KS4.

*"It provides us with opportunities to learn about realistic businesses by having lessons that immerse us into a business setting. With information learnt, the course allows us to dig deeper into the business and learn how it operates and understand why it is successful. We have opportunities to visit organisations and get a real feel of businesses. We are then able to put the theory into practice and use the primary research in our assignments. An interesting subject that allows us to explore businesses and their activities in depth"*

**Hasan Ali Ahmed**

Examination board: **Edexcel**  
Course length: **2 years**

## Course Overview

Business Studies will not make you a millionaire by the time you are 21. It will, however, provide an exciting insight into the dynamic world of business, giving the basic skills necessary to produce a business plan and manage a company. You will learn the importance of marketing, how to identify, target and satisfy customer requirements and how to motivate people, in order to maximise their output. You will learn that every business decision has financial implications and you will be taught how to calculate profit, forecast cash flow and analyse a firm's published accounts. Apart from

## Curriculum: Year 1

Theme 1: Marketing and people meeting customer needs, marketing mix and strategy, managing people, entrepreneurs and leaders.

Theme 4: Business globalisation, global markets and business expansion, global marketing, global industries and companies.

## Curriculum: Year 2

Theme 2: Managing business activities raising finance, financial planning, managing finance, resource management, external influences.

Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy business objectives and strategy, business growth, decision-making techniques, influences on business decisions, assessing competitiveness, managing change.

learning the theoretical aspects of business, examining case studies encourages students to use their initiative in problem-solving and gives rise to lively class discussions.

## Skills needed

The ability to write an extended essay from a range of perspectives is essential for examination success.

Decision making, problem solving, the challenging of assumptions and critical analysis.

The ability to apply numerical skills in a range of business contexts.

## Assessment: Year 1

End of Year 12 Exams - Paper 1: Marketing, people and global businesses (35%) Each question is drawn from topics across Themes 1 and 4, and from one or more of the following contexts: local, national or global.

- Sections A and B each comprise one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open-response question
- The assessment is 2 hours
- The assessment comprises 2 questions
- The assessment comprises 100 marks

## Assessment: Year 2

Paper 1: Marketing, people and global businesses (This is worth 35% of the final A-level grade). Each question is drawn from topics across Themes 1 and 4, and from one or more of the following contexts: local, national or global.

- Sections A and B each comprise one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open-response question.
- The assessment is 2 hours
- The assessment comprises 2 questions
- The assessment comprises 100 marks

Paper 2 - Business activities, decisions and strategy (This is worth 35% of the final A-level grade). The paper has two sections:

Sections A and B each comprise of one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open-response question

Paper 3 - Investigating business in a competitive environment (This worth 30% of the final A-level grade)

This paper has two sections:

Sections A and B each comprise of one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open-response question.

## Enrichment opportunities

A variety of visits to JLR, Coca-Cola and other local businesses are used to complement the delivery of the topics. Masterclasses and 'Taster Days' at local universities. Students take part in a nationwide competition 'The Eureka Challenge' which is hosted at Birmingham University. We are also working with DivInc to provide students with entrepreneurial opportunities.

## Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 in both English and Mathematics.



# Chemistry A-level



Examination board: **AQA**  
Course length: **2 years**

## Course Overview

A-level Chemistry can lead you on to a wide range of careers including the in the cosmetics industry, Medicine, Pharmacy, Engineering, Accountancy and Forensics.

The course is split into Organic (study of molecules), Inorganic (behaviour of inorganic compounds) and Physical Chemistry.

Fancy learning a new language? It is called the IUPAC naming of compounds; names which can get very long indeed! Students on this course will develop a real sense of understanding of scientific techniques through the rigorous practicals, including titrations and preparation of organic molecules. Students will become better equipped at answering some of the biggest questions facing our society today; Are fuel cells the future? What else can we achieve with nanotechnology? How can we stop wrinkles? How do you clean a river polluted with chemicals? Can cancer be cured?

## Curriculum: Year 1

Physical Chemistry - Atomic structure, Bonding, Energetics, Kinetics, Equilibria.

Inorganic Chemistry - Periodicity, Group 2, Group 7.

Organic Chemistry - Alkanes, Alkenes, Alcohols, Haloalkanes, Organic analysis.

## Curriculum: Year 2

The three key topics are explored again, with more detail:

Physical Chemistry - Thermodynamics, rate equations, electrochemical cells, equilibrium, Acids and bases .

Inorganic Chemistry - Period 3 oxides, transition metals, reactions of inorganic ions.

Organic Chemistry - Compounds with carbonyl groups, the BIG Picture (Organic synthesis), analytical techniques such as Mass spectrometry, Chromatography, and Proteins and DNA (Biochemistry).

## Enrichment opportunities

Students attend Warwick University's Chemistry Department to make their own aspirin drugs or benzoic acid food preservative. They can participate in 'Spectroscopy in a suitcase' workshops led by University lecturers and which enable students to solve crime scenes using mass spectrometry, NMR data and infrared technology. Students may also attend Masterclass chemistry lectures held at the University of Birmingham and Aston University. Students are given a lot of support in their career choices, and in particular those wishing to study Medicine and engineering have likewise been given support by providing them with relevant courses, and interview practice.

## Skills needed

The ability to find connections between different ideas and concepts is essential in the Organic part of A-level Chemistry.

In addition students would need to be able to link concepts they learn with the practical activities.

Having a good aptitude in mathematics is essential in achieving success with A-level Chemistry.

Logical thinking and problem solving abilities are key skills that enable learners to access the higher grades.

Students will develop a set of core skills respected by employers, such as logical processing, analytical and problem solving skills. Students will develop resilience throughout this course along with the personal discipline needed to impress future university tutors and employers.

## Assessment: Year 1

AS Paper 1: Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and practical skills (50% of AS). A 1hr 30min written exam with a total of 80 marks; A mixture of short and long answer questions as well as 15 marks available from multiple choice questions.

AS Paper 2: Physical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and practical skills (50% of AS). A 1hr 30min written exam with a total of 80 marks; A mixture of short and longer answer questions as well as 15 marks available from multiple choice questions.

## Assessment: Year 2

A-level Paper 1 - Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and relevant practical skills (This worth 35% of the final A-level grade). A 2 hour written exam worth 105 marks from a mixture of short and longer answer questions.

A-level Paper 2 - Physical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and relevant practical skills (This worth 35% of the final A-level grade). A 2 hour written exam worth 105 marks from a mixture of short and longer answer questions.

A-level Paper 3 -Any content, any practical skills (This worth 30% of the final A-level grade). A 2 hour written exam: Practical techniques/data analysis (40 marks), Questions testing across the specification (20 marks), multiple choice questions (30 marks).

## Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 6 in Mathematics, Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or a Grade 6 in Chemistry GCSE (high Grade 5 results will be considered). It is recommended you study either Core Mathematics or A-level Mathematics to study A-level Chemistry due to the demanding mathematical requirements of this course.

# Computer Science A-level



Examination board: **OCR**  
Course length: **2 years**

## Course Overview

The A Level Computer Science course helps students understand the core academic principles of computer science. Classroom learning is transferred into creating real-world systems through the creation of an independent programming project. Our A Level will develop the student's technical understanding and their ability to analyse and solve problems using computational thinking.

## Curriculum: Year 1

Component 01: Computer Systems Students are introduced to the internal workings of the (CPU), data exchange, software development, data types and legal and ethical issues.

Component 02: Algorithms and Problem Solving This builds on component 01 to include computational thinking and problem-solving.

## Curriculum: Year 2

Component 02: Algorithms and Problem Solving This builds on component 01 to include computational thinking and problem-solving.

Component 03: Programming project Students are expected to apply the principles of computational thinking to a practical coding programming project. They will analyse, design, develop, test, evaluate and document a program written in a suitable programming language.

## Enrichment opportunities

The computing department offers some exciting enrichment opportunities for the students throughout the year.

## Skills needed

An ability to analyse problems and trace them to their core causes. Be able to take a systematic approach to work and problem solving.

You need to be a stickler for accuracy and have a strong ability to anticipate and diagnose problems

## Assessment: Year 1

End of Year 12 Exams - Component 01: Computer systems

## Assessment: Year 2

Computer systems (01) 2 hours 30 minutes written exam (40%)

Algorithms and programming (02) 2 hours 30 minutes written exam (40%)

Programming project (03) (20%)

## Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 in both English and Mathematics. A grade 6 in Computer Science if taken at GCSE.

Examination board: **Edexcel**  
Course length: **1 year**

**Course Overview**

Did you not do as well as you expected to in your English Language GCSE?

Students wanting to do an apprenticeship, work and/or go to university to study a degree at university require a minimum of a Grade 4 in GCSE English. Here at Holyhead we specialise in helping you through your re-sits. We offer a short 1 year intensive course for GCSE students wishing to improve their grades. Our expert teachers help you to identify the areas you need to improve on. The classes are geared to improving your understanding based on the assumption that you have already completed a full GCSE English course of study.

Students who apply must be prepared to do all assignments, attend all lessons and put in the hard work required on this intensive course in addition to your KS5 studies.

**Curriculum: Year 1**

Paper 1: Unseen 19th Century Fiction (40%) .

Section A : Extract will be approximately 650 words in length. Shorter response questions will focus on close reading of the text; longer response questions will ask students to show their understanding of the whole text.

Section B: Creative writing (60%)A choice of two tasks linked to the theme of the 19th century fiction. One task will include images as an optional stimulus for learners.

Assessing writing for audience and purpose, tone, style and register as well as grammatical and structural features, vocabulary, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation.

Paper 2: Comparison of modern non-fiction texts (60%).

Section A: Comparison of two unseen texts from the 20th and 21st century. One will be non-fiction; the other literary non-fiction. Extracts will be up to 1000 words in total.

Shorter response questions will focus on the close reading of the individual texts; a longer response question will ask students to compare the writers’ use of language.

Section B: Transactional writing.

Choice of two tasks linked to the theme of the comparison texts. Newspaper articles, letters etc. Assessing writing for audience and purpose, tone, style and register as well as grammatical and structural features, vocabulary, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation.

**Sixth Form entry requirements**  
Grade 2/3 in English Language

**Skills needed**

Students will need to be prepared to study selections from a range of prose fiction.

In turn the following skills will be explored:

- Develop skills to analyse and evaluate 19th-century fiction extracts
- Develop imaginative writing skills to engage the reader
- Use spelling, punctuation and grammar accurately
- Study a range of 20th and 21st century non-fiction texts (including literary non-fiction)
- Develop skills to analyse, evaluate and compare non-fiction extracts
- Develop transactional writing skills for a variety of forms, purposes and audiences

Candidates must also undertake a prepared spoken presentation on a specific topic in a formal setting, listen and respond to questions and feedback, and use spoken English effectively.

**Assessment: Year 1**

2 written examinations :  
Paper 1 (1 hour 45 minutes)  
Paper 2 (2 hours)

Examination board: **Edexcel**  
Course length: **2 years**

**Course Overview**

Studying English provides you with the opportunity to develop your reading and analytical skills and build a lifelong love of reading. You’ll study a varied selection of different poetry and prose texts, exploring themes, language and structure. You’ll develop your critical thinking skills by studying a variety of unseen texts. You will reflect upon the creative process and produce your own original writing, drawing inspiration from the works that you have studied. English as a subject is highly respected and valued by the top universities. It is academically rigorous and that means it’s a fantastic introduction to the skills you’ll need in higher education.

**Curriculum: Year 1**

Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing.  
Section A - Creating Voices (20 marks).  
One re-creative response drawing upon a text from the Anthology.  
Section B - Comparing Voices (30 marks).  
One comparative essay question on one unseen extract and one text from the Anthology.

Component 2: Varieties in Language and Literature.  
Section A - Prose Fiction Extract (25 marks).  
One essay question based on the studied prose fiction text.  
Section B - Exploring Text and Theme (25 marks).  
One essay question based on the other studied text from the chosen theme.

**Assessment: Year 1**

2 written examinations of 1 ½ hours each worth 50% of the total AS grade.

**Enrichment opportunities**

Theatre visits, for example ‘The Kite-Runner’. Masterclasses, for example Creative Writing at the University of Birmingham. Access to clips, articles and revision resources through our subscription to the e-magazine website. The Sixth Form collection in the library will help you to read widely.

**Skills needed**

There are four main skills you need to develop during your A-level course:

- You need to show that you are capable of reading texts closely and thoughtfully and writing about those texts in ways that show intelligent engagement and control.
- You need to show that you understand the characteristics of various kinds of language, ranging from speeches, podcasts and biographies to classic novels and drama.
- You need to show that you are capable of producing writing that is appropriate to the purpose and audience specified in the task, showing conscious control of your choices of vocabulary, grammar and structure.
- You need to show that you are capable of writing in a focused and analytical way about your own writing - the processes you apply, the choices you make and the evaluation of whether the text works as well as you intended.

**Curriculum: Year 2**

Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing.  
Section A - Voices in 20th and 21st Century Texts (25 marks)  
One comparative essay question on one unseen extract and one text from the Anthology.  
Section B - Drama Texts (25 marks)  
One extract-based essay question on the chosen drama text.

Component 2: Varieties in Language and Literature  
Section A - Unseen Prose Non-Fiction Texts (20 marks)  
One essay question on an unseen prose non-fiction extract linked to the studied theme.  
Section B - Prose Fiction and Other Genres(30 marks)  
One essay question on two studied texts.

Component 3: Coursework  
Students select two texts (one fiction, one nonfiction) related to their chosen topic. They will produce two pieces of creative writing, using their texts as stimulus or style models and one commentary.  
Assignment 1 - one piece of fiction writing.  
Assignment 2 - one piece of creative nonfiction writing.  
Assignment 3 - one analytical commentary reflecting on the two pieces they have produced.  
Tasks 1 and 2 - 36 marks  
Task 3 - 24 marks

**Assessment: Year 2**

A-level assessment:

- Two external exams of 2 ½ hours each (40% each)
- Three pieces of coursework (20%), which includes two pieces of creative writing (1500-2000 words combined) and one analytical commentary (1000-1250 words)

**Sixth Form entry requirements**

Grade 5 in both English Language and Literature.

# Film Studies A-level



Examination board: **Eduqas**  
Course length: **2 years**

### Course Overview

Film is one of the main cultural innovations of the 20th century and a major art form of the last hundred years. The A-level Film Studies course is designed to introduce learners to a wide variety of films in order to broaden their knowledge and understanding of film and the range of responses films can generate and how they relate to their social and cultural contexts. This course offers an opportunity to discover, watch and study 11 films over the two year course with a mix of films from the past and present, as well as a range of recent and contemporary British films, American independent films and global films, both non-English language and English language. With each of these films, students will apply their understanding of key conceptual areas such as film form (cinematography, editing, mise en scene, sound), aesthetics, narrative, spectatorship as well as historical and production contexts. In addition, production work is a crucial part of the course and is integral to learners’ study of film. Students will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed to their own filmmaking and screenwriting.

### Curriculum: Year 1

Students complete a roughly chronological study of 11 films throughout the two year course.

In Year 12 students will apply key concepts of film form, messages and meaning and contexts to the following films:

- Sunrise (1927)
- Casablanca (1942)
- Bonnie and Clyde (1967)
- Pulp Fiction (1994)
- City of God (2002)
- Pan’s Labyrinth (2006)
- Amy (2015)

In addition, students will complete the coursework unit where students study a range of short films, leading to a production of their own screenplay and storyboard for a short film.

### Curriculum: Year 2

In Year 13 students will consolidate understanding of the films studied in Year 12, adding understanding of specialist areas of study such as spectatorship, ideology and narrative as well as undertaking study of the final four films in the course:

- Trainspotting (1996)
- La La Land (2016)
- We Need to Talk About Kevin (2011)
- Moonlight (2016)

Furthermore, students will build on their Year 12 coursework and have an opportunity to film and edit their short film and evaluate this in comparison to the short films they studied in preparation for this unit.

### Enrichment opportunities

Visits to cinemas and media institutions, location scouting visits, Masterclasses by current film producers and BBC journalists as well as the local universities. Many students produce creative work outside of lessons to build on the skills they have developed.

### Skills needed

To succeed on this course you need to be willing and able to develop the skills needed for film production work: creativity, working with technology, attention to detail, good communication and organisational skills, the ability to evaluate your decisions and adapt well to problems - but most of all, tenacity and a commitment to hard work. What makes Film Studies unique as a course is the challenge of combining these skills with an ability to act as an academic student for rigorous examination topics; you will need to be able to: write extended answers to answer questions, debate, make comparisons and evaluate, use Film Studies terminology and illustrate your ideas with good examples.

### Assessment: Year 1

Student sit two internally assessed A level-syle papers focusing on the films they have studied throughout the Year 12 course. This will be used, alongside the coursework grade achieved, to assess students eligibility to move onto the full two-year course.

### Assessment: Year 2

Component 1: Varieties of film and filmmaking - 2½ hour examination (This worth 35% of the final A-level grade).

Component 2: Global filmmaking perspectives - 2½ hour examination (This worth 35% of the final A-level grade).

Component 3: Production (This worth 30% of the final A-level grade) - non-exam assessed coursework.

### Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 in English and English Literature.  
Grade 5 or above in Media Studies if studied at GCSE.

# Geography A-level



Examination board: **Edexcel**  
Course length: **2 years**

### Course Overview

There is nothing on this planet that can’t be related to Geography. It is the study of everything and everyone around us. Students who study Geography at A Level are well-rounded and well-equipped for further education or employment. This specification offer an issues-based approach to studying geography, enabling students to explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues such as the consequences of globalisation, responses to hazards, water insecurity and climate change. It provides a balance between your own physical, human and/ or environmental interests, and key geographical topics that provides you with the knowledge, understanding and skills to ready you for further study in higher education - or for employment. Geography has an extremely high success rate and student satisfaction.

### Curriculum: Year 1

In the first year you will study:

Topic 3: Globalisation.  
Topic 5: Water Cycle.  
Topic 7: Superpowers.  
Topic 1: Tectonic Hazards.  
Topic 4: Regeneration.

You will start an Independent Investigation which is worth (20% of your final A-level).

### Curriculum: Year 2

You then study:

Topic 8: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty.  
Topic 5: Carbon Cycle.  
Topic 2: Glacial Landscapes.

You will also complete your independent investigation and practice your synoptic skills in this year.

### Enrichment opportunities

Visits to Snowdonia, Manchester, Birmingham City centre and the University of Birmingham. There are also a range of lectures, seminars and Masterclasses that vary from year to year which are made available to all students.

### Skills needed

Basic skills including annotation of illustrative material, maps, diagrams, graphs, sketches, photographs. You will also develop investigative skills, this means being able to identify geographical questions and issues, and offer effective approaches to enquiry, you will also need to be able to identify, select and collect quantitative and qualitative evidence from primary sources (including fieldwork) and secondary sources. You will have to process, present, analyse and interpret evidence as well as drawing conclusions and showing an awareness of the validity of conclusions and construct evaluations. You will also need statistical skills and literacy skills.

### Assessment: Year 1

Assessments are carried out through the year culminating in the End of Year 12 exam which synoptically covers the content from Paper 1 and 2.

### Assessment: Year 2

Paper 1: Physical (105 marks) - 2hrs 30mins.  
Paper 2: Human (105 marks) - 2hrs 30 mins.  
Paper 3: Synoptic (75 marks) - 2hrs 30mins.  
Geographical Investigation (60 marks) = 20% of total grade.

### Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 in Geography.

“Geography is an essential part of life that encompasses multiple different aspects of learning through various topics. I have found that what I have learnt in geography has not only been enjoyable but also extremely useful when applying my knowledge to other lessons.”

### Jasmine Narwal

“Geography A-level is a fantastic subject in the sense that it combines a variety of other subjects into one to cover a diverse range of topics relating to the current political spectrum.”

### Asma Faraz



# Health & Social Care CACHE

## Technical Level 3 Extended Diploma



Examination board: **CACHE (Council for Awards in Care Health and Education)**  
Course length: **2 years**

### Course Overview

Health and Social Care is a relevant current topic that is always making the headlines to the world today. You will get the opportunity to apply different strategies of effective communication to a health or social care role play. In addition, you will have an understanding of the various roles and responsibilities of the health care professional when empowering individuals in the health and social care sector.

This CACHE qualification has been developed in the health and social care sector to:

- Give you the opportunity to enter employment in the health and social care sector or to move on to Higher Education and progression into a wide range of roles within the health and social care sector.

### Curriculum: Year 1

HSC CM1 Equality, diversity and rights in HSC.  
HSC CM2 Human growth and development.  
HSC CM3 Safeguarding in HSC.  
HSC CM4 Communication in HSC.  
HSC CM5 Infection prevention and control in HSC.  
HSC CM6 Psychological perspectives in HSC.  
HSC CM7 Sociological perspectives in HSC.  
HSC CM8 Working in HSC.  
HSC CM9 Reflective practice One Extended Assessment (externally set, externally marked).

### Curriculum: Year 2

DM1 Empowerment in HSC.  
DM2 Protection of children, young people and adults in HSC.  
DM3 Anatomy and Physiology for HSC.  
DM4 Research skills for HSC.  
DM5 Personal and professional development One Extended Assessment (externally set, externally marked).  
CMO6 End of life care.  
CMO12 Nutrition for HSC.  
CMO17 The role of play for children and young people.  
DMO5 Learning Disability.

### Enrichment opportunities

Specific Masterclasses are held at Newman University and University of Birmingham such as Introduction to Nursing. Placement in a real work environment to support your learning.

*"Health and Social Care is very relevant to everyday life, which I have seen after doing the course. Plus the subject is very interesting and engaging."*

**Jaya Duggal**

- Give you the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.
- Give you the opportunity to attend a placement in a real working environment for a minimum of 175 hours to support your learning.

### Skills needed

Organisation, ability to meet deadlines, work as a team, work independently, good communication skills, ability to research and analyse and evaluate.

### Assessment: Year 1

100% coursework.  
Nine core mandatory units (graded A\*-D).  
One extended assessment covering the core mandatory units.  
Work Experience.

### Assessment: Year 2

Five diploma mandatory units which are internally assessed.  
One extended assessment covering the diploma mandatory units.  
One external assessment short answer examination covering DM3.1.  
Four optional units & work experience with 175 hours in total.

### Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 4 in English and Maths. Level 2 Pass if Health and Social Care was previously studied. It is recommended that you have achieved a 4-4 in Combined Science to progress onto Health and Social Care related careers in the future.

*"I have learnt beneficial skills which are transferable to various healthcare settings. It has also enabled me to build my confidence and effectively manage my time."*

**Iqrah Sabir**

# History A-level



Examination board: **Edexcel**  
Course length: **2 years**

### Course Overview

History students are not just limited to 'becoming another History teacher' (unless they want to of course!). Nor are they destined to gather dust in a museum or library (again unless they want to!). It's a universally respected subject because of the challenge it presents, but the challenge is the stimulation. A well rounded education includes an understanding of our past, which continues to inform the present and our future and the units available to study in this qualification combine to provide you with an appreciation of this. By focusing on the history of modern Britain and the USA we can address social, cultural and political themes that have an impact on our lives and the modern world we live in, especially in light of current political debates under a Conservative government where echoes of the Thatcher years still remain strong.

### Curriculum: Year 1

Unit 1H - Britain Transformed 1918-1997 (Core Sections = A changing political and economic environment 1918-79; The creation of the welfare state 1918-79; Society in transition 1918-79; Changing quality of life 1918-79; Historical Interpretation theme = What impact did Thatcher's governments (1979-90) have on Britain, 1979-97)

Unit 2H.2 - The USA, 1955-92: Conformity & Challenge (Affluence and Conformity 1955-63; Protest and Reaction 1963-72; Social and Political Change 1973-1980; Republican Dominance and its Opponents 1981-92)

Coursework: Historical Controversy - Students complete an independently researched enquiry on historical interpretations relating to the performance of the post-war Labour government under Clement Attlee which links to work covered in Paper 1

### Curriculum: Year 2

Paper 3 - (Option 35.2): The British Experience of Warfare, 1790-1918 (Aspects in breadth = Changes in organising the military; Changes in the role of people: Aspects in depth = The British and French wars 1793-1815; The Crimean War 1854-1856; The Boer War 1899-1902 & The First World War 1914-1918)

Coursework: Historical Controversy - Students complete an independently researched enquiry on historical interpretations relating to the performance of the post-war Labour government under Clement Attlee which links to work covered in Paper 1.

### Enrichment opportunities

History students will have the chance to benefit from A-level 'Study Days' and Masterclasses. There will also be supporting work through the National Army Museum, Imperial War Museum and other organisations as and where relevant.

History is about controversy and there is plenty of that in the topics you'll cover, so if you enjoy debate and justifying your opinions then you'll find plenty to get your teeth into over the two years!

### Skills needed

Develop skills to analyse and evaluate contemporary sources and historical interpretations.

Apply knowledge of historical context to the world we live in today.

Develop analytical skills in addressing questions relating to causation/consequence, continuity/change and significance.

Think critically to apply criteria leading to well supported interpretations of history and judgements.

### Assessment: Year 1

End of Year 12 Exams:

Paper 1 (Unit 1H): Same length and structure as the A-level exam.

Paper 2 (Unit 2H.2): Same length and structure as the A-level exam.

### Assessment: Year 2

Three written examination papers:

Paper 1 (Unit 1H) = 2 hours 15 minutes (60 marks = 30% of the total A-level qualification). Sections A & B are AO1 essays with a choice of 1 from 2 questions (both worth 20 marks). Section C is a compulsory AO3 Historical Interpretations question on Thatcher worth 20 marks.

Paper 2 (Unit 2H.2): 1 hour 30 minutes (40 marks = 20% of the total A-level qualification). Section A is a compulsory AO2 source based question worth 20 marks and Section B is an AO1 essay question worth 20 marks with a choice of 1 from 2 questions.

Paper 3 (Option 35.2): 2 hours 15 minutes (60 marks = 30% of the total A-level qualification). Section A is a compulsory AO2 source based question worth 20 marks and Section B & C both require students to answer one AO1 extended essay question from a choice of two (20 marks each)

Coursework: (20% of the total A-level qualification - to be internally marked and externally moderated)

### Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 in History.

Examination board: **OCR**  
Course length: **2 years**

Course Overview

This course builds upon the knowledge and understanding that has been gained by students who have completed KS4 Computing and ICT. This qualification can lead to further study at university, providing access to a wide variety of computing and creative computing courses such as Computer Science, Web Development, Computer Animation, Games Developer and Computer Graphics.

Curriculum: Year 1

- Communication and employability skills for IT  
Personal attributes valued by employers such as:
- The principles of effective communication
  - How to communicate effectively using ICT
  - How to address personal development needs
- Information systems:
- How organisations use business information
  - The issues related to the use of information
  - The key features and functions of information systems
  - How to use the tools to produce management information
- Website production:
- Understand web architecture and components
  - Understand the factors that influence website performance
  - Design websites
  - Create websites

Curriculum: Year 2

- Unit 8: Project Management  
Unit 5:
- Understand the uses and principles of AR and VR
  - Design an AR and VR resource
  - Create an AR or VR resource
  - Unit 17: Internet of Everything

Enrichment opportunities

Masterclasses and ‘Taster Days’ at some of the local universities.

“I particularly enjoyed the coursework aspect of this subject because it was enjoyable to create different products such as apps and IOE technologies.”

Anisha Begum

Skills needed

Develop transactional writing skills for a variety of forms, purposes and audiences.

Assessment: Year 1

- Two externally assessed exams:  
Unit 1- Fundamentals of IT and Unit 2: Global Information.  
Both exams are 1 hour 30 minute written papers.
- For Unit 2, students will receive a pre-release scenario which will make up 50% of the questions on the paper, the other 50% will be general questions based on the material covered within the unit.

Assessment: Year 2

All units are assessed by way of a coursework portfolio.

Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 and above in English & Maths  
Merit/Grade 5 and above in an ICT based subject if studied at Level 2/GCSE.

Examination board: **AQA**  
Course length: **1 year (equivalent to an AS level)**

Course Overview

Did you like GCSE Mathematics but don’t wish to proceed onto A-level Mathematics?  
Do you want to learn how to analyse information effectively and logically solve real mathematical problems?  
Do you enjoy analysing and breaking down problems into smaller steps?

The AQA Level 3 Mathematical Studies qualification is for students who have passed GCSE Mathematics at grade 5 or above but have decided not to study A-level Mathematics. It builds upon, and strengthens existing skills and focuses on using and applying Mathematics to solve problems relevant to their everyday lives. The Mathematical Studies course has been designed in association with employers, universities and professional bodies as valuable preparation for employment and further studies. Students currently studying AQA Level 3 Mathematical Studies have found that it gives them confidence to better understand the mathematical requirements in other A-level courses such as Accounting, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Geography, ICT and Psychology.

Curriculum: Year 1

- One Year Course Component:
1. Analysis of Data, Mathematics for Personal Finance, Estimation
  2. Critical Analysis of given Data and Models, Critical Path and Risk Analysis, Expectation and Cost Benefit Analysis.

Enrichment opportunities

Students take part in various workshops relating to real world application of statistics. Students are encouraged to attend Masterclasses at various universities.

“It was very beneficial to learn how maths is applied to the real-life context such as calculating your salary, Budgeting, Income Tax, National Insurance and Student Loans. It helped me to solve extremely difficult problems in a logical manner. This course is very challenging yet rewarding and has cross-curricular links to many other subjects. In addition, it helped me to increase my financial knowledge in life”

Ashiqur

Skills needed

Students learn through using and applying mathematics to solve meaningful and ‘real life’ problems including:

1. Personal contexts e.g. budgeting household finances, tax return computations, working out interest payments on loans and savings.
2. Occupational contexts e.g. analysing and evaluating data, financial calculations, modelling.
3. Societal contexts e.g. probability and estimation calculations relating to local or global communities.
4. Scientific contexts e.g. sequences and growth scenarios related to the natural world, science and technology.

Assessment: Year 1

- Two papers to be sat at the end of the year:
- Paper 1: The exam is based on component 1 topics, lasts for 1hr 30mins, is worth 60 marks, and calculators are allowed.
- Paper 2: The exam is based on component 2 topics, lasts for 1hr 30 mins, is worth 60 marks, and calculators are allowed.
- The question values within each paper vary from 1 mark to 10 marks. Some questions require explanation and assumptions that need to be written down.

Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE English and Grade 5 in Mathematics Higher Tier.

“Core Maths aims to promote creative and stimulating approaches to learning that will interest and engage students and give them the confidence and skills to succeed not only in Core Maths but in using their mathematics in other subjects and real-life context. The Gantt Chart was useful as it helped me to plan and prioritise my workload.”

Khashish

# Mathematics A-level



Examination board: **Edexcel**  
Course length: **2 years**

## Course Overview

A qualification in Mathematics holds great prestige and is sought after by many employers, as it develops skills in logic, communication and problem solving.

The new A-levels are examined after 2 years over 3 two hour papers which cover Pure/Core Maths and Applied Mathematics (Mechanics/Statistics) in a 2:1 ratio.

We use the Oxford A-level Mathematics textbook to cover the content as well as the MEI integral resources, both of which are specific to the Edexcel specification.

Students will be assessed throughout the first year in order to provide directed support and will receive formal assessments at regular intervals for reporting.

Useful information:

- To see the full specification go to <https://tinyurl.com/l9qh9gt>
- Students require the Casio Classwiz calculator which they can purchase through school
- Students are expected to complete a high volume of private study to support their class work. We expect students to attend additional support sessions during the year

- Students have access to Kerboodle online textbooks, MyMaths and other online resources
- Google classroom is used extensively to support flipped learning in advance of lessons
- At the beginning of the second year, all students will be entered for the TMUA examination. This will help in applications to Russell Group universities in the absence of an AS grade. Further information can be found on <https://tinyurl.com/y5njytem>

## Skills needed

Students need to:

- Have very good mathematical knowledge
- Be tenacious
- Be independent learners
- Be problem solvers
- Go above and beyond what is expected
- Have a genuine love for the subject

## Curriculum: Year 1

Mathematics is now a linear specification with no specific modules.

All students will learn aspects of Pure Mathematics and Statistics.

## Assessment: Year 1

This course is 100% exam based and will consist of 2 written internal exam papers at the end of Year 12.

Paper 1:

Pure Mathematics, 2 hours, 100 marks

Paper 2:

Statistics 1 hour 15 minutes

## Curriculum: Year 2

All students will learn aspects of Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics.

Pure Mathematics makes up 2/3 of the curriculum with Mechanics and Statistics both equating to 1/3 of the curriculum.

The second year curriculum builds on, and extends on what was covered in the first year and also introduces new topics.

## Assessment: Year 2

This course is 100% exam based and will consist of 3 written exam papers.

A-level Paper 1:

Pure Mathematics 1: 2 hours / 100 marks = 1/3 of the A-level qualification.

A-level Paper 2:

Pure Mathematics 2: 2 hours / 100 marks = 1/3 of the A-level qualification.

A-level Paper 3:

Statistics and Mechanics: 2 hours / 100 marks = 1/3 of the A-level qualification.

## Enrichment opportunities

Students interested in engineering are able to take part in the Engineering Education Scheme (ESS).

Students are encouraged to attend Masterclasses at various universities both locally and nationally.

Mentoring by students from the University of Birmingham.

Pupils can access free online short courses (MOOCs) accredited by universities, which are highly desirable for UCAS personal statements.

Problem solving workshops take place at Wolverhampton University on Saturday mornings and students are strongly encouraged to attend as universities are looking for evidence of extended learning.

# Mathematics GCSE Re-sit



Examination board: **Edexcel/AQA**  
Course length: **1 year**

## Course Overview

Did you not do as well as you expected to in your Mathematics GCSE?

Students wanting to do an apprenticeship, work and /or go to university to study a degree at university require a minimum of a grade 4/5 in GCSE Mathematics. Here at Holyhead we specialise in helping you through your re-sits. We offer a short 1 year intensive course for GCSE students wishing to improve their grades. Our expert teachers help you to identify the areas you need to improve on. The classes are geared to improving your understanding based on the assumption that you have already completed a full GCSE Mathematics course of study.

Students who apply must be prepared to do all assignments, attend all lessons and put in the hard work required on this intensive course in addition to your KS5 studies.

## Skills needed

Students need to:

- Have confidence and competence with mathematical content when they can apply it flexibly to solve problems
- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context

## Curriculum: Year 1

Areas to be covered:

- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Measures
- Probability
- Statistics

## Assessment: Year 1

Three papers will be sat during the exam periods in November and May/June.

Each paper is out of 80 marks with the first one being non calculator and the second and third being calculator papers.

## Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 2/3 in Mathematics.

*"I am very grateful to the teachers who helped me achieve my desired grade second time round. I was more confident this time round."*

**Jaskaran Sahi**



# French A-level



Examination board: **AQA**  
Course length: **2 years**

## Course Overview

Are you a linguist in the making? Are you good with words? Do you get a thrill out of being able to communicate with others in a language other than English? Being willing to have a go at speaking is a brilliant place to start. The A-level French course builds on skills you have developed in your GCSE. A-level French helps students develop confident, effective communication skills in French and a thorough understanding of the culture of countries and communities where French is spoken. It develops an interest in and enthusiasm for, language learning and encourages students to consider their study of the language in a broader context.

## Curriculum: Year 1

Aspects of French speaking society:

- The changing nature of family
- The cyber society
- The place of voluntary work
- Artistic culture in the French speaking world:
- A culture proud of its heritage
- Contemporary Francophone music
- Cinema

## Curriculum: Year 2

Aspects of French speaking society:

- Current trends and current issues
- Positive features of a diverse society
- Criminality
- Aspects of political life in France:
- The right to vote and political commitment
- Strikes
- Immigration
- Artistic culture in the French speaking world

## Enrichment opportunities

Trips to the cinema and theatre, University French Days, a trip to France, and French conferences at local universities. We also look to provide students with a Grammar booster session.

*"I am so glad I did French A-level as I am going to study Law with Languages at university. I particularly enjoyed the study of French movies and talking about current affairs. A-level French has helped me acquire a high level of communication skills, essential skills in the multicultural, global society that we live in".*

**Priscilla Boatemaa Nketiah**

## Skills needed

You need to be passionate, enthusiastic and curious about French culture, as well as confident in your ability to communicate with others. You should be well organised and not afraid of the challenges posed by grammar in a foreign language!

## Assessment: Year 1

There is regular assessment through Year 12 culminating in the end of Year 12 internal exams:

Paper 1: Listening; Reading and responding, translation into English. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes = 80 marks. This paper is worth 40% of the total end of Year 12 grade.

Paper 2: Translation into French focusing on one book or a movie. Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes = 60 marks. This paper is worth 30% of the total end of Year 12 grade.

Non-exam assessment: Speaking - Knowledge of 2 sub-themes: 12-14 minutes (+ 15 minutes preparation time) = 60 marks. This assessment is worth 30% of the total end of Year 12 grade.

## Assessment: Year 2

A-level Paper 1: Listening; Reading and responding. Translation into English and French.

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes = 160 marks. This paper is worth 40% of the total A-level grade.

A-level Paper 2: 2 books or one book and one film.

Written exam: 2 hours = 90 marks. This paper is worth 30% of the total A-level grade.

Non-exam assessment:

Speaking: Individual research project and knowledge of one of the 4 sub-themes.

Speaking test: 21-23 minutes (+5 minutes preparation time) = 60 marks. This assessment is worth 30% of the total A-level grade.

## Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 in French.

# Spanish A-level



Examination board: **AQA**  
Course length: **2 years**

## Course Overview

This course delves deeper into the rich diversity of the Hispanic world, enhancing the students' linguistic skills while furthering their understanding of the cultures and societies where Spanish is spoken. This course will be challenging, stimulating and immensely rewarding to those who are curious to broaden their horizons.

## Curriculum: Year 1

1. Aspects of Hispanic society including:

- Modern and traditional values
- Cyberspace
- Equal rights

2. Artistic culture in the Hispanic world:

- Modern day idols
- Spanish regional identity
- Cultural heritage or cultural landscape

## Curriculum: Year 2

1. Multiculturalism in Hispanic society; immigration, racism and integration.

2. Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world; today's youth and tomorrow's citizens, popular movements, monarchies, republics and dictatorships.

## Enrichment opportunities

Trip to Spain, excursions to the cinema, theatre and art exhibitions, University visits.

*"During these two years, thanks to the intensive learning lessons, I developed communication, listening, writing and translations skills. And it's amazing what you can learn just in one year. My teachers helped me a lot in the literature part as this is not just practice based but it's more about interpreting and analysing what the writer is trying to say. Even though this subject requires a lot of effort, it is rewarding to see the level of fluency that you can reach just in few months."*

**Amanprit Kaur**

## Skills needed

Passionate, enthusiastic and creative.

Highly motivated, hardworking and well-organised.

Confident in your own ability and to share your views with others. Not afraid of the challenges of grammar in another language.

## Assessment: Year 1

Assessments are carried out throughout Year 12, culminating with the end of Year 12 internal exams.

All questions are set and answered in Spanish and the use of dictionaries is not permitted during the examinations.

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (includes a translation into English). A 1 hour 45 minutes exam = 80 marks. This paper is worth 40% of the total end of Year 12 grade.

Paper 2: Writing (translation into Spanish, followed by a choice of questions about either one book or one film from the set list). A 1 hour 15 minutes exam = 60 marks. This paper is worth 30% of the total end of Year 12 grade.

AS Paper 3: Speaking exam (discussion based on a choice of stimulus cards about two of the set sub-themes) lasting 12-14 minutes (plus 15 minutes preparation time) = 60 marks. This paper is worth 30% of the total end of Year 12 grade.

## Assessment: Year 2

All questions are set and answered in Spanish and the use of dictionaries is not permitted during the examinations.

A-level Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (includes a translation into Spanish and a translation into English).

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes = 160 marks. This paper is worth 40% of the total A-level.

A-level Paper 2: Writing (a choice of questions about either one text and one film or two texts from the set list).

Written exam: 2 hours = 90 marks. This paper is worth 30% of the total A-level grade.

A-level Paper 3: Speaking (discussion based on a stimulus card about one of the four set sub-themes, followed by presentation of individual research project and follow up questions).

Speaking exam: 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes of preparation time) = 60 marks. This paper is worth 30% of the total A-level grade.

## Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 in Spanish.

# Physics A-level



Examination board: **AQA**  
Course length: **2 years**

## Course Overview

A-level Physics will allow you to appreciate how fundamental science works and to study optional topics including Astrophysics, Medical physics or Applied physics. A-level Physics builds on the concepts and skills developed in the Physics studied at GCSE. Particle physics introduces you to the fundamental properties and nature of matter, radiation and quantum phenomena.

The principles and applications of mechanics, materials and waves are also studied. This course provides a foundation for studying a variety of subjects at university including: Engineering, Optometry, Radiography, Medicine and Physics. Physics is also useful for those who want careers in Engineering, Electronics, Meteorology, Astronomy, Space Exploration and Nanotechnology industries. Some of you may even choose to become teachers of Physics!

### Curriculum: Year 1

- Measurements and errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and materials
- Electricity
- Further Mechanics + Thermal Physics

### Assessment: Year 1

There will be no external examination during this year. Instead there will in class formal assessments throughout the year, culminating in the End of Year 12 internal exams in May/June.

### Curriculum: Year 2

- Fields and consequences
- Nuclear physics
- Turning points

### Assessment: Year 2

Paper 1 = 34% of the total A-level grade. A 2 hour written exam worth 85 marks, comprised of short and long answer questions (60 marks) and multiple choice questions (25 marks).  
Paper 2 = 34% of the total A-level grade. A 2 hour written exam worth 85 marks, comprised of short and long answer questions (60 marks), multiple choice questions (25 marks).  
Paper 3 = 32% of the total A-level grade. A 2 hour written exam worth 80 marks.  
Section A: A mixture of short and long answer questions on practical skills and data analysis (45 marks)  
Section B: A mixture of short and long answer questions on an optional topic (35 marks)

## Enrichment opportunities

Students are given mentoring opportunities from students at local universities and can attend Masterclasses to enrich their learning of physics. There are opportunities for students to participate in whole school STEM events as well as those run by companies and universities.

Year 12 and 13 students will also attend a prestigious A-level focused physics lecture with the opportunity to learn about new research and updates in the subjects.

*"Physics is a way for humans to understand the world around them through logic and problem solving. The teachers at Holyhead School guarantee engaging lessons and ensure there is a deep understanding of concepts before moving forward."*

**Sameer Sohail**

## Skills needed

Analytical and problem solving skills are central to your theory and practical lessons in this course. Joining a debate club, playing chess, attempting logic puzzles or playing video games that require a strong element of problem solving, are just some ways you can help develop your ability to solve problems in Physics!

You should be comfortable with mathematical concepts and how to apply them. Physicists like to use computer technology to assist in manipulating data, so deducing formulas on spreadsheets is a useful skill to learn whilst studying this course.

## Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 6 in Mathematics, Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or a Grade 6 in Physics GCSE (high Grade 5 may be considered).

You will also need to study A-level Mathematics to study A-level Physics due to the demanding mathematical requirements of this course.

*"Physics unravels the mysteries of the universe, the more I learn, the more I realise how much there is yet to discover."*

**Arif Uddin**

# Psychology A-level



Examination board: **AQA**  
Course length: **2 years**

## Course Overview

What causes aggression? Why do some people have phobias? How does memory work? Why do some people suffer from mental illness? Why do people conform?

Psychology looks at questions like these in the study of the human mind and behaviour. It is a science with cutting edge research that has real world applications to issues in everyday life, ranging from criminal justice, relationships, medical treatments to social change.

### Curriculum: Year 1

Paper 1

Introductory topics in Psychology is made up of Social Influence, Memory, Attachments, Psychopathology and Research Methods.

Paper 2

Psychology in context is partly made up of Approaches to Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods.

### Curriculum: Year 2

Year 2 includes Issues and Debates in Psychology.

Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology

## Skills needed

To succeed on this course you will need the ability to think logically, view the world around you from different perspectives, have critical reasoning skills, be able to fluently put your views across within extended writing, have good maths and science knowledge, including the ability to understand and/or conduct scientific investigations.

### Assessment: Year 1

There are regular topic assessments that students will sit in class so that teachers and students can gather an understanding of the progress they are making. This prepares students for their end of Year 12 internal exams in May/June, which mirror the AS-level exam structure.

The end of Year 12 exam is made up of 2 x 1.5 hour papers which are worth 72 marks each.

Both papers include multiple choice, short answer and extended writing responses.

### Assessment: Year 2

The A-level is 100% examination. It is made up of 3 x 2 hour examinations which are each worth 96 marks.

All 3 papers are composed of multiple choice, short answer (ranging between 2-6 marks) and extended writing (up to 16 marks) questions.

Paper 1: Introductory knowledge in Psychology - Social Influence, Memory, Attachments, Psychopathology and Research methods.

Paper 2: Psychology in Context - Biopsychology, Approaches to psychology and Research Methods.

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology - Issues and Debates in Psychology, Relationships, Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology and Research methods.

## Enrichment opportunities

Students are able to take advantage of a number of 'grade booster' sessions held at cinemas locally from Tutor2U that aim to develop students' application skills through interactive activities. Students are also able to visit the local courts to see a court trial in action to apply their knowledge of explanations for offending behaviour and how best to deal with this behaviour. Likewise, a number of professionals in different specialisms for Psychology deliver talks on how to enter their field.

*"I decided to take psychology as I believed it would fit very well with my other A-level subjects and aide me massively with my application for dentistry as psychology teaches us about the many different perspectives there are in explaining behaviour. It is extremely essential to be able to have an open mind as a dentist which psychology has helped me develop my ability to be versatile and unbiased. I really enjoy the wide variety of topics we learn from developing attachments as children to disorders like schizophrenia. Psychology has a very scientific and practical side to it which fits well with my A-level biology and chemistry subjects e.g ensuring all variables are controlled. I would definitely recommend studying a-level psychology!"*

**Kiran Johal**

Religious Studies (Philosophy, Ethics & Islam) A-level



Examination board: **Edexcel**  
Course length: **2 years**

Course Overview

Religious Studies is the subject for you if you enjoy debate and critical thinking. Philosophy will stretch your mind analysing different arguments regarding the existence or non-existence of God and looks at philosophical problems centred around the problem of evil and suffering and life after death. Ethics involves evaluating how we make moral decisions and will cover a number of theories before applying these to issues such as Abortion, Euthanasia, Sexual Ethics and War. The study of Islam will give you the skills necessary to apply to theology and comparative religion. It is an interesting subject that is applicable to all future studies involving reasoning and critical thinking as well as covering issues related to religion, teaching, medicine and social studies.

Skills needed

Excellent literacy and communication skills are essential as the subject is assessed exclusively through the writing of essays! Feistiness (at least on paper) is also a desirable quality as it aids critical thinking and the ability to evaluate.

Curriculum: Year 1

Philosophy: Philosophical issues, Religious experience, Problem of evil.  
  
Ethics: Ethical Theories, Environment, Equality, Sexual Ethics, War & Peace.  
  
Islam: Key beliefs, values & teachings, Sources of Wisdom & Authority: The Prophet Muhammad, Qur'an, Hadith & Sunnah. Practices: 5 Pillars, Ummah as an expression of Muslim identity

Assessment: Year 1

The course is 100% exam based and the end of Year 12 internal exams will mirror the structure of the actual papers. Students will sit 2 x 2hour composite papers.

Curriculum: Year 2

Philosophy: Philosophical Language, Influential Philosophers, Life After Death, Religion & Science.  
  
Ethics: Ethical Language, Relationship between religion and morality, Deontology, Virtue Ethics, Medical Ethics.  
  
Islam: Social & Historical Developments: Sunni & Shia Islam, Rightly Guided Caliphs, Sufism, Works of scholars on Jihad, Religion & Society: Challenges from multi-faith / secular society, Gender roles.

Assessment: Year 2

The course is 100% exam and at A-level there are 3 x 2 hour papers each worth 33.3% of the total qualification.

Enrichment opportunities

Candle Conferences' which are amazing events presented by top scholars in their fields - one for Philosophy and one for Ethics. Annual Sixth Form conference at Newman University. Students are also encouraged to support in lower school lessons.

Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE Religious Studies or in a subject with similar skills such as History. Minimum of a Grade 5 in English.

“Religious Studies is a great subject to gain more knowledge about issues that affect society, particularly when leaning about ethics. As well as gaining more knowledge, it brings to light issues that you may have never heard of before, thus making you more aware about concepts and theories. Overall it is an interesting subject.”

Ammarah Faraz

RSL Rock School of Music



Examination board: **Rockschool**  
Course length: **2 years**

Course Overview

The Rockschoo qualification aims to provide students with a flexible, vocationally-relevant suite of popular music qualifications which will equip learners with the skills to develop realistic employment opportunities in the music industry or to progress into Higher Education. Holyhead School aims to keep the focus on practical music making, music production and the development of music business skills through learner centred activity; and to embed transferable skills and functional skills into the qualifications.

Curriculum: Year 1

The units for the Music curriculum for students in KS5 will be specifically based on the student's particular skill set and ability. There are a range of different units to choose from, which focus on different areas within music, such as;  
  
Lead a Music Making activity: In this unit you will plan and deliver a music workshop to a group of students. This will be a theme of your choice.  
  
Rehearsal skills and live music performance: This unit focuses on planning and rehearsing for a live music performance. Students will learn how to rehearse effectively and present a live music performance.  
  
Lead Performer: Performing to an audience, selecting and rehearsing your own set list. Performing to an audience of your choice.  
  
Live sound engineering: This unit will develop the student's skills in using front of house systems. Students will set up, sound check, and mix for a live performance. The unit will focus on technical aspects, the timeframe, and communication skills involved in musical events & performances.

Curriculum: Year 2

Planning your own music event  
Solo music performance  
Music technology

Options available:  
**RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners**  
(Equivalent to 1 1/2 A-levels – taught across 2 blocks)  
**RSL Level 3 Extended Diploma for Music Practitioners**  
(Equivalent to 3 A-levels – taught across 3 blocks)

Skills needed

A passion for music and pop music culture.  
An interest in management, performing, event organisation and sound engineering.  
Experience and ability to perform on a musical instrument.  
Experience in studying music from KS4.

Assessment: Year 1

Practical assessment and written work which is submitted and marked internally before being externally moderated.

Assessment: Year 2

Practical assessment and written work which is submitted and marked internally before being externally moderated.

Enrichment opportunities

Students will experience a wide range of enrichment opportunities by performing at local venues such as the ICC, Symphony Hall, Town Hall, Birmingham REP, The MAC and many more. There are several different extra-curricular clubs that students at Key Stage 5 can get involved in, in order to enhance their music education.

Sixth Form entry requirements

Merit or above in BTEC Level 2 Music.  
Ability to play a musical instrument to a good standard.

“In music I like that I am able to get opportunities to perform in great venues such as the REP and the Town Hall. In the lessons I have learnt about how important it is to work as a team to get stuff done in lessons. Music lessons in Sixth Form have helped me build my instrumental abilities so I can adapt to play in any style or genre.”

Joaida Thomas



# Sociology A-level



Examination board: **AQA**  
Course length: **2 years**

### Course Overview

Sociology enables you to focus on your personal identity, roles and responsibilities within society and to develop a lifelong interest in the social issues that affect us on a daily basis. Who holds power? Why is this? Why do inequalities exist?

Is society truly fair and, are we really, as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares, all born free and equal?

### Curriculum: Year 1

Paper 1: Education with Methods in Context: An introduction to key themes, issues and perspectives. Students have to apply knowledge on research methods to educational contexts.

Paper 2: Families & Households: Sociological explanations for the organisation of families and kinship ties.

### Curriculum: Year 2

Paper 1: The sociology of education, methods in context and research methods.

Paper 2: Families & Households and The Mass Media.

Paper 3: Crime and deviance, theory and methods.

### Enrichment opportunities

There are mentoring opportunities from university students and Masterclasses at local universities. Recent trips have included events run by ex-convicts and prison wardens about the criminal justice system, relevant cinema screenings and also to the Galleries of Justice. We have also attended a conference in London to listen to key sociological figures speak.

*"I thoroughly enjoyed studying this subject, you learn about so many different social issues and I think learning about these things are actually helpful in understanding the way societies and communities work. I also enjoyed my experience because of the great teaching and support that I have recieved."*

**Alisha Miah**

### Skills needed

The ability to write extended pieces of writing is crucial as the examinations feature a number of essay questions.

An interest in society and contemporary debates is highly beneficial and the ability to make links between topics and concepts ensures access to the highest grades.

### Assessment: Year 1

There are regular assessments through Year 12 culminating in the end of Year 12 internal exams in May/June. In Sociology this is made up of 2 x 2hour examinations. Both units feature source material.

Paper 1: Features 6 compulsory questions ranging from 4 - 30 marks.

Paper 2: Features 3 questions ranging from 10 - 20 marks.

### Assessment: Year 2

Assessment at A-level is 100% examination. It is made up of 3 x 2 hour exams.

Papers 1 and 3 are all compulsory questions.

Paper 2 features optional questions.

All components feature source material and 6 compulsory questions.

Paper 1: Features questions ranging from 4 - 30 marks.

Paper 2: Features questions ranging from 10 - 20 marks.

Paper 3: Features questions ranging from 4 - 30 marks.

### Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 in English Language or Literature, or Sociology if studied at GCSE.

# Sport Level 3 Cambridge Technicals in Sport and Physical Activity



Examination board: **OCR**  
Course length: **2 years**

### Course Overview

This course aims to develop students' knowledge and understanding of the principles of Sport and Physical Activity. Students will gain an insight into the sector as they investigate opportunities for delivering sport and physical activity to a wide range of participants, whether it is to mobilise sedentary people to improve their health and wellbeing, or to support regular participants to improve their performance and fitness, all done in a safe and professional environment. In doing so, students will also gain core skills required for employment or further study in the sector such as analysis, organisation and adaptation. They will also develop professional, personal and social skills, as well as theoretical knowledge and understanding to underpin these skills. These support the transferable skills required by universities and employers such as communication, problem solving, time management, research and analytical skills. The Level 3 Cambridge Technicals in Sport and Physical Activity focus on the requirements that today's universities and employers demand,

### Curriculum: Year 1

In year 1, students will complete 2 mandatory units and 1 optional unit to qualify for the Cambridge Certificate in Sport and Physical Activity (the equivalent of an AS level):

Unit 1: Body Systems and the Effects of Physical Activity

Unit 2: Sports Coaching and Activity Leadership.

Unit 3: Sports Organisation and Development.

### Curriculum: Year 2

In year 2, students will have 2 further optional units to complete so that they can meet the requirements for the National Extended Certificate:

Unit 8: Organisation of Sports Events.

Unit 17: Sports Injuries and Rehabilitation

### Enrichment opportunities

Alongside the units studied, students will get the opportunity to go to universities to take part in seminars and practical courses, they will receive careers guidance and information about the university application processes and university 'life'.

*"You will not get the same amount of support at any other college/Sixth Form than here at Holyhead."*

**Rebekah Kataria**

Options available:  
**1 Year Course available.**  
One year course will allow students to achieve Certificate (Completing Year 2 awards the Extended Certificate).

and students will practically apply their skills and knowledge in preparation for further study at University or in a sports based workplace. For more information go to [ocr.org.uk](http://ocr.org.uk) or contact the PE Department.

### Skills needed

You need to have a keen interest and enjoyment for sport, and for the theory behind sport.

You will need to be willing and prepared to commit to hard work and dedication in the completion of written assignments and in sitting the external examinations.

You will have to meet strict deadlines set and conform to the rules of the PE department.

Attendance and punctuality to school and lessons, and conforming to the rules; alongside hard work, will be crucial in your successful completion of this course.

### Assessment: Year 1

Students will be assessed through a range of methods. This will include a written examination, written assignments and presentations, video evidence and tutor observation records.

Unit 1 and 3 are written examination which will be assessed externally by OCR.

Unit 2 is assessed through the completion of written assignments internally marked by the class teacher before being externally moderated by OCR.

Students have to complete and achieve a minimum of a Pass grade in all of the units to move into Year 2.

### Assessment: Year 2

Unit 3 is a written examination which will be assessed externally by OCR.

Unit 8 and Unit 12 are assessed through the completion of written assignments internally marked by the class teacher before being externally moderated by OCR.

### Sixth Form entry requirements

A Grade 4 in both English and Mathematics and a Grade 4-4 in Combined Science

It would be advantageous, but not essential, to have completed a Level 2 course in Sport with a Merit/Grade 5.





*Students' achievement in the Sixth Form is outstanding. They have received excellent guidance to ensure that the courses they are following meet their needs and aspirations, and their progress is carefully tracked to ensure they are given the support they need to meet their targets.*



Ofsted





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