Holyhead

Teach What Matters

Sixth Form Prospectus

2027-2028

Welcome to Holyhead

Holyhead 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.

Dave Knox
Principal

> *Students in the Sixth Form are highly positive about their learning experiences and the wider opportunities they experience*

Ofsted - May 2025

Holyhead Sixth Form: Culture and Context

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.

Fesar Khan
Assistant Principal-Director of Sixth Form

Holyhead School Safeguarding Statement

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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Support and Guidance in Sixth Form

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.

"Sixth-form teachers engage students in challenging and independent learning. This enables students to achieve well."

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Choosing your programme of study

Holyhead SIXTH FORM

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 in the sixth form, receive extensive information on next steps through high-quality careers guidance."

Ofsted - May 2025

Choosing your programme of study

Holyhead SIXTH FORM

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.

The application process

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**

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.

Summary of courses on offer

Level 3 (Post GCSE)

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.

Are you predicted at least 5 Grade 4-9 results including a Grade 4 in English and Mathematics?

Do you enjoy majority coursework based subjects?

- Applied Law
- Applied Science
- Art
- Computing Application Development
- Criminology
- Health & Social Care
- Music
- Sport Studies

*Please note that there will be some examined units

Do you enjoy examination based subjects?

- Accounting
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Core Mathematics
- English Language and Literature
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish

Subject specific entry requirements

Holyhead SIXTH FORM

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
Accounts	High grade 6 in both English & Mathematics
Applied Science	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 5 in Mathematics, a Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or a Grade 6 in Biology (high Grade 5 will be considered)
Business Studies	Grade 6 in both English & 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.
Computer Application Development	Grade 5 in both English & Mathematics and a minimum of a Merit or Grade 5 in a Level 2 / GCSE Computing qualification
Computer Science	Grade 6 in both English & Mathematics and Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science
Criminology	Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics
English Language & Literature	Grade 6 in English Language exam component and a Grade 6 in English Literature
French	Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics and a minimum of a Grade 5 in French
Geography	Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics and a minimum of a Grade 5 in Geography
Health & Social Care	Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics and Combined Science 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 6 in History or a Grade 5 in English if History was not studied at GCSE
Law - BTEC	Grade 4 in both English & Mathematics

Subject specific entry requirements

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 English and Grade 6 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 6 in both English & Mathematics**
Religious Studies (Philosophy, Ethics & Islam)	**Grade 4 in Mathematics, a minimum of a Grade 5 in English and Grade 6 in RE or in a subject similar such as History**
Sociology	**Grade 4 in Mathematics, a minimum of a Grade 6 in Sociology or a Grade 6 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**

University degree choices and suggested subject options

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

University degree choices and suggested subject options

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

Entry requirements for competitive courses

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) or BMAT (www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-testtakers/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.

Entry requirements for competitive courses

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]

Competitive Courses Programme

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
- 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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Competitive Courses Programme

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.

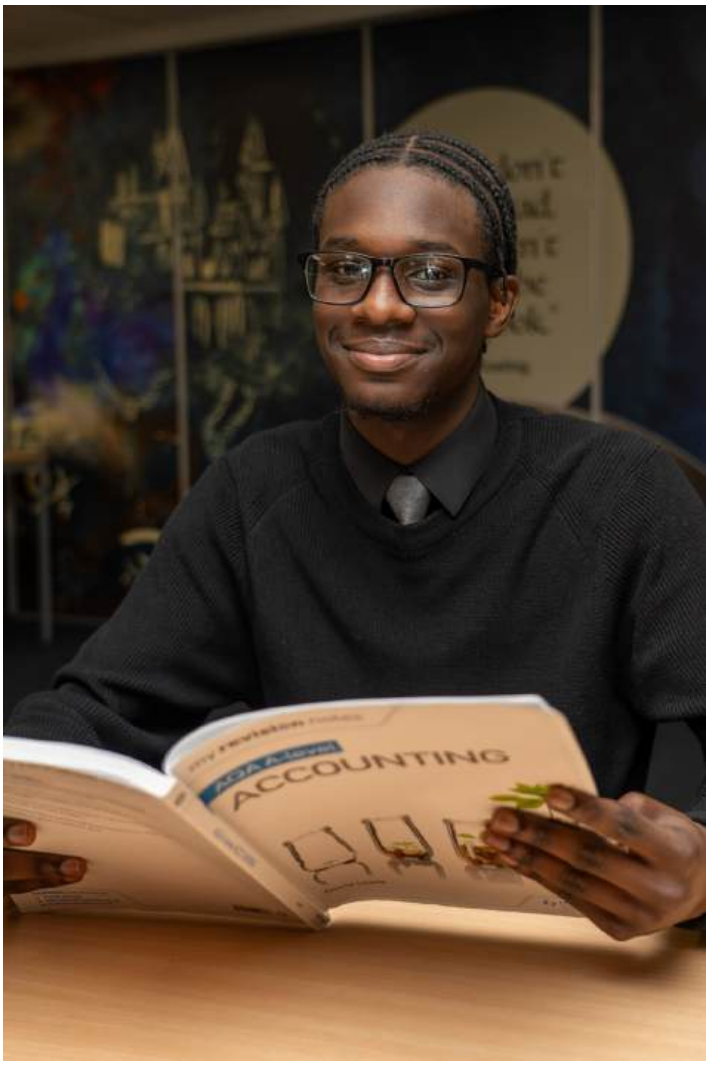
"Students in the first year of a post-16 science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) course are eligible to apply. Placements are available across the UK, in universities, commercial companies, voluntary organisations and research institutions.

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)

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.



Competitive Courses Programme

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 results 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 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 background (i.e. those who will be the first in their family to attend university, have been in receipt of free school meals etc.)

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 Wolverhamption) 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.

Enrichment at Holyhead

At Holyhead we believe that learning should extend beyong 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 univeristy 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
- Reading volunteers programe
- 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 receieve 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 subjet Parents' Evenings. Parents and carers can also make an appointment with the Director of Sixth Form or Head 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 a 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.

Accountancy 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.

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.

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
10. Marginal costing

Assessment: Year 1

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

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

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.

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.

Sixth Form entry requirements

5 GCSE 4-9 Grade High Grade 6 in both English and Mathematics

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.

Rehan Ali

For more information see: www.aqa.org.uk or speak to Mr Tariq in the Accounting Department

Applied Law BTEC

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

Options available:
Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Law

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.

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.

Curriculum: Year 1

Unit 1: Dispute Solving in Civil Law

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

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 ar ebroken. 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 4: Family Law

Family law is an area of law that deals with some of the most important and sensitive aspects of our lives, with the courts mainly getting involved only when there are disputes that need to be resolved. This unit will give you an understanding of the laws governing parenthood and parental responsibility and will examine how the courts resolve disputes regarding children.

Assessment: Year 2

Unit 3: External assessment 120 minute duration.

Unit 4: 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. University of Law Debate days

Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 4 in both English and Mathematics

"Law is a very interesting subject where you gain a lot of good skills and enjoy the different lessons."
Rehan Ali

"I enjoy Law and gain a variety of skills whilst learning about interesting subjects."
Aima Begum

"A controversially interesting subject, unlike other traditional subjects."
Taaranjot Panesar

Applied Science Pearson Level 3 AAQ BTEC National Extended Certificate

Examination board: **Pearson 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:
Pearson Level 3 AAQ BTEC National in Applied Science (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

Unit 1 - Principles and applications of Biology (60 credits)
Unit 2 - Principles and applications of Chemistry (60 credits)
Unit 3 - Practical and applications of Physics (60 credits)

Assessment: Year 1

During the first year of the course you will cover 3 units. These will be : Unit 1 , 2, & 3 .These will be externally assessed and each paper is worth 50 Marks.

Curriculum: Year 2

Unit 4 - Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques. (90 Credits)
Unit 6 - Contemporary issues in Science (90 Credits)

Assessment: Year 2

During the second year of the course, you will cover 2 units. These will be: Unit 4 and Unit 6. These units are both internally assessed.

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 has enabled 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 & interesting way to make it easier for students to understand. Every assignment broadens your knowledge & you learn new scientific facts."
Komal Devi

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.

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.

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 15 hr exam, spread over 3 days

Assessment: Year 1

Two components:

Portfolio of work is assessed and makes up 60 % of final mark in the Year 12 Exams

Internal exams at the end of Year 12

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.

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.

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.

Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 in Art and Design

"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

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, 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.

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

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.

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

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.

Enrichment opportunities

Students in Year 13 attend the annual 'Biology Live!' event at Birmingham University where guest speakers such as Professor Robert Winston (a pioneer in the field of IVF) deliver sessions on their areas of research which range from 'The science of mental health', 'Revenge of the microbes' and 'Why we laugh' alongside this examiners lead sessions to support students on exam skills for the summer.

Students who wish to pursue a medical related career including dentistry, medicine and veterinary science amongst others are supported to develop the relevant experience and knowledge needed. We also support them through the application and interview process.

Practical work is an important aspect of studying A Level Biology and students work towards achieving their Practical Endorsement by completing a number of required practicals which range from investigating cells under the microscope, to woodlice and maggots in choice chambers as well as field studies where they put their environmental skills into action sampling habitats. We also have strong links with ex students who even come back to help support our students in lessons.

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)

"A-level Biology is such an engaging subject to study, we get to explore and investigate so many different topics that cover a wide variety of biological processes, from the translation of genes to the principles that underlie how our bodies fight off illnesses. I would definitely recommend studying biology at Holyhead Sixth-form as the course is interactive and informative. My favourite aspect of A-level biology is that it challenges you and pushes you while being a fascinating subject in which you learn something new in every lesson!"
Kiran Johal

Business Studies A-level

Examination board: **Pearson 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 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.

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.

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.

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.

Assessment: Year 2

Paper 1: Marketing, people and global businesses (This 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 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 6 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?

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.

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

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.

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)

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)

Enrichment opportunities

Previously, students attended Warwick University's Chemistry Department to make their own aspirin drugs or benzoic acid food preservative. They have participated in 'Spectroscopy in a suitcase' workshops led by University lecturers and which enabled students to solve crime scenes using mass spectrometry, NMR data and infrared technology. Students have also attended 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 providng them with relevant courses, and interview practice.

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.

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

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.

Assessment: Year 1

End of Year 12 Exams - Component 01: Computer systems

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.

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%)

Enrichment opportunities

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

Sixth Form entry requirements

5 GCSE 4-9 Grades including Computer Science and Grade 6 in both English and Mathematics.

Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and Computer Science.

Criminology Level 3 Applied Diploma

Examination board: **WJEC**
Course Length: **2 years**

Course Overview

This qualification looks at the types of crime that take place within our society. How do we decide which behaviour is criminal? How do we explain why some people commit crime and how can we use different theories of criminality to explain this behaviour?

You will study real life cases in order to gain an understanding of the criminal justice system from the crime scene all the way to the courtroom and look at how social control is achieved within our society. Criminology is an Applied General qualification primarily designed to support learners progressing to university; however, much of the course is vocationally relevant, offering opportunities to learn from practical activities and the expertise of professionals currently working in criminology. It offers exciting and interesting learning experiences in purposeful contexts linked to the criminal justice system. If you are fascinated by the workings of crime and punishment, this course could be for you!

Skills needed

The study of Criminology will equip you with a wide range of transferable skills:

- The ability to complete project-based research, and to present it the ability to collect, analyse and interpret data effectively,
- The ability to construct well-informed and reasoned arguments substantiated by relevant evidence
- The ability to learn independently
- The ability to work alongside other colleagues in a professional environment
- The ability to apply your learning in vocational contexts.

Curriculum: Year 1

During the first year you will study two Certificate units. Within these units you will look at different types of crime and public perceptions of crime, gaining an understanding of why some crimes go unreported to the police and media. The second Certificate unit, through its focus on a series of criminological theories, also allows learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crimes.

Assessment: Year 1

Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime. This unit is assessed through an 8-hour controlled assessment (internally assessed at your centre and externally moderated) where you will answer some exam style questions and make and evaluate a multimedia campaign to raise awareness about a particular type of crime. (25% of qualification)

Unit 2: Criminological Theories. An examination based on theories studied. The exam consists of short answer and extended writing questions and lasts 1 hour 30 minutes. (25% of qualification).

Curriculum: Year 2

During the second year of the course, the Diploma units will foster a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system and you will develop the skills needed to examine criminal cases and review verdicts. You'll look at the roles of personnel and processes involved from the moment a crime takes place until the verdict itself is passed. In the final unit, you will apply your knowledge of criminological theories to understand how and why we use punishment within the criminal justice system in order to achieve social control. You will learn how to evaluate the effectiveness of social control agencies, such as the police and prisons, in achieving their aims.

Assessment: Year 2

Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom. This unit is assessed through an 8-hour controlled assessment (internally assessed at your centre and externally moderated) where you will answer some exam style questions to consider the investigation and prosecution of crimes (25% of qualification)

Unit 4: Crime and Punishment An examination based on questions about how organisations and groups create social control. The exam consists of short answer and extended
writing questions and lasts 1 hour 30 minutes. (25% of qualification).

Enrichment opportunities

There will likely be some exciting enrichment opportunities for the students throughout the year visiting universities and institions (courtrooms etc) linked to crime.

Sixth Form entry requirements

5 GCSE 4-9 Grades including English and Mathematics.

"Criminology can open the door to an array of career paths that require understanding of the criminal justice sector. These may include careers in the police force or in police support roles, the field of forensic psychology, social and probation work or the prison services."

English GCSE Re-sit

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

Options available:
Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Law

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.

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.

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.

Assessment: Year 1

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

Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 2/3 in English Language

English Language & Literature A-level

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 fiction and non-fiction 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.

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 1

Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing

Section A – Voices in the 20th and 21st century (20 marks) An essay comparing a text from the studied Anthology with an unseen text.

Component 2: Varieties in Language and Literature

Section A - Unseen Prose Non-Fiction Texts (20 marks) An essay analysing an unseen text.

Section B – Prose Fiction and Other Genres (30 marks) An essay comparing 'Othello' with 'The Great Gatsby'.

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

Curriculum: Year 2

Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing

Section A – Voices in the 20th and 21st century (20 marks) An essay comparing a text from the studied Anthology with an unseen text.

Section B – Drama texts (25 marks)
An essay analysing an extract from the play 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and analysing other parts of the play, too.

Component 2: Varieties in Language and Literature

Section A - Unseen Prose Non-Fiction Texts (20 marks) An essay analysing an unseen text.

Section B – Prose Fiction and Other Genres (30 marks) An essay comparing 'Othello' with 'The Great Gatsby'.

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 1

Practice assessments on either Paper 1 Section A or Paper 2 Section A or B.

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)

Enrichment opportunities

Theatre visits, for example 'Othello'. 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.

Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 6 in both English Language and Literature

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 offers 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 provide 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.

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.

Curriculum: Year 1

In the first year you will study:

Term 1: Globalisation (Topic 3) and Carbon Cycle (Topic 6)

Term 2: Superpowers (Topic 7) and Water Cycle (Topic 5)

Term 3: Glaciated Landscapes (Topic 2) and Diverse Places (Topic 4)

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

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.

Curriculum: Year 2

You then study:
Term 1 and 2: Topic 8: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Topic 1: Tectonic Hazards

You will also complete your Independent Investigation and practice your synoptic skills in this year.

Assessment: Year 2

Paper 1: Physical (105 marks) - 2hrs 30mins
Paper 2: Human (105 marks) - 2hrs 30mins
Paper 3: Synoptic (75 marks) - 2hrs 30mins

Geographical Investigation (70 marks) = 20% of total grade

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.

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 Pearson Level 3 AAQ BTEC National Extended Certificate

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

Options available:
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (AAQ) is equivalent to 1 A-Level and would need to be studied alongside other A Levels or Vocational course such as: Biology, Sociology, Psychology, English

Course Overview

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate (AAQ) course is for those learners who are interested in pursuing a career in health and social care and aiming to progress to higher education as a route to graduate level employment in Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work, Care or in Education. This course is equivalent to one A level in size, it is suitable for students 16 to 19 plus looking to develop their applied knowledge and skills in health and social care. Alongside this course you can study a further two other A levels you wish to pursue at Holyhead Sixth form ranging from Biology, Psychology, Sociology & English.

Mandatory and some optional units learners must complete are as follow:
Unit 1: Human Lifespan and Development (Exam)
Unit 2: Human Biology and Health (Exam)
Unit 3: Principles of Health and Social Care Practice
Optional units
Unit 4: Health, Policy and Wellbeing
Unit 5: Promoting Health Education
Unit 6: Safe Environment in Health and Social Care
Unit 7: Health Science

Skills needed

Students will develop good organisational skills, ability to meet deadlines, work as a team, work independently, good communication skills, ability to research and analyse and evaluate. From the following mandatory units students will develop relevant knowledge and skills such as:

- Professional values and skills expected of professionals, including communication and listening skills
- Organisational and critical thinking skills
- Cultural and social intelligence when working with individuals across the lifespan with different needs, alongside methods of managing challenging situations, Students will develop the following knowledge and skills from the optional units:
- Interpersonal skills required when working with others, including compassion and empathy • Responsibilities of professionals to be adaptable and innovative in delivering care
- Management of own time and learning
- Academic skills such as research Students will develop knowledge and skills throughout this qualification that are key to health and social care related degrees. Students have the potential to develop transferable and study skills becoming well-rounded individuals, better prepared for the demands of Higher Education.

Curriculum: Year 1

Mandatory units learners must complete in the first year are as follows:
Unit 1: Human Lifespan and Development (Exam)
Unit 2: Human Biology (Exam)

Assessment: Year 1

2 Mandatory Core Units 1 Exam based and 1 Coursework unit.
Unit 1: Human Lifespan and Development (Exam)
Unit 2: Human Biology and Health (Exam) 50% Exam & 50% coursework

Curriculum: Year 2

Mandatory and some optional units learners must complete are as follow:
Choose 1 Optional unit from the following coursework units:
Unit 2: Human Biology (Exam)
Unit 4: Health, Policy and Wellbeing
Unit 5: Promoting Health Education
Unit 6: Safe Environment in Health and Social Care
Unit 7: Health Science

Assessment: Year 2

1 Mandatory Core Unit
Unit 3: Principles of Health and Social Care Practice (Controlled Assessment - Coursework)
Choose 1 Optional unit from the following coursework units:
Unit 4: Health, Policy and Wellbeing
Unit 5: Promoting Health Education
Unit 6: Safe Environment in Health and Social Care
Unit 7: Health Science

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 from Medical Centres, Early years setting, Residentical Care Homes, Surgery, Pharmacy, Youth and Community Centres to Special Educational Schools.

Sixth Form entry requirements

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

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 continue to impact on our lives and the modern world we live in, especially in light of current political debates under a Conservative government where echoes from the Thatcher years still remain strong.

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.

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 peformance of the post-war Labour government under Clement Attlee which links to work covered in Paper 1.

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.

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 peformance of the post-war Labour government under Clement Attlee which links to work covered in Paper 1.

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)

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.

Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 6 in History

IT Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National (AAQ) in Computing: Application Development

Holyhead SIXTH FORM

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

Course Overview

The OCR Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National Extended Certificate (360 GLH) in Computing: Application Development is a vocational qualification that equips students with practical skills in application development, including software design and programming. It covers key areas such as user experience design, development methodologies, and software testing. The course combines theoretical knowledge with hands-on assignments and prepares students for higher education or IT-related careers. It offers a pathway to careers in software engineering, game development, and cybersecurity.

Skills needed

A solid understanding of basic programming concepts and logic.

Proficiency in mathematical problem-solving, particularly in areas like algebra and data manipulation.

Familiarity with computer systems, networks, and software development principles.

Strong communication and design skills, particularly for tasks like creating user interfaces and planning software solutions.

Curriculum: Year 1

Fundamentals of Application Development: Introduction to software development processes, programming languages, and system design principles.

User Experience (UX) and Interface Design: Learn how to design and communicate user-friendly interfaces with a focus on user-centered design.

Software Development Techniques: Focus on core programming skills, algorithms, and problem-solving using different development frameworks and tools.

Project Management and Development Methodologies: Explore agile methodologies, version control, and project planning to manage development workflows effectively.

Assessment: Year 1

Two externally assessed exams:

F160 – Fundamentals of Application Development: This externally assessed unit covers key principles in software development, including the software development lifecycle, programming concepts, and human-computer interaction.

F161 – Developing Application Software: An externally assessed unit focusing on practical development skills, where students learn to design, develop, and test software applications using industry-standard techniques and methodologies.

Curriculum: Year 2

Developing Application Software: In-depth learning of software development techniques, including coding, debugging, and testing to create functional applications.

Advanced User Interface Design: Further development of skills in designing complex, user-centered interfaces and implementing best practices for UX/UI design.

Project Work and Portfolio Development: Applying knowledge to real-world projects, building a portfolio of work that demonstrates practical skills and creativity.

Exploring Emerging Technologies: Investigating trends such as game development, web development, or immersive technologies, and applying them to software solutions.

Assessment: Year 2

F162 – Designing and Communicating UX/UI Solutions: Focuses on planning, designing, and communicating user interface and experience solutions.

F163 – Game Development: Involves planning, designing, creating, testing, reviewing, and improving a digital game for a specific scenario.
Reigate College

F164 – Website Development: Covers planning, designing, creating, testing, reviewing, and improving a website for a given scenario.

Enrichment opportunities

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

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

"I enjoy this course because I am learning how computer applications are developed and the various challenges faced by developers and the decisions they have to make, so that their software is successful"

Mathematics Level 3 Mathematical Studies

Examination board: **AQA**
Course Length: **1 year**

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.

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.

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.

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.

Enrichment opportunities

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

Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 GCSE English Language and Grade 6 GCSE Mathematics Higher Tier.

"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 increases my financial knowledge in life."
Paramjit Multani

"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."
Maisha Mohammed

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.
Pure mathematics builds on the algebra and trigonometry work you would have done at GCSE but introduces calculus into the mixture. Mechanics will involve vectors, kinematics, forces, and Newton's laws. Statistics focuses on sampling, interpretation of data, probability, the introduction to statistical distributions, and hypothesis testing. The A-level is examined after 2 years over 3 two-hour papers which cover Pure Maths and Applied Mathematics (Mechanics/ Statistics) in a 2:1 ratio.

We use the Pearson A-level Mathematics textbooks to cover the content as well as Dr Frost online and a newly developed curriculum to support your learning.
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/2tdap8sd
- Students require the Casio Classwiz calculator which they can purchase through school
- Students are expected to complete a minimum of five hours of private study to support their class work. We expect students to attend additional support sessions during the year, as required.
- Students have access to online textbooks, Up Learn, Integral and other online resources
- At the beginning of the second year, students have an option to 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

Pure: Algebraic expressions, Graphs and transformations, Trigonometry, Circles, Binomial expansion, Vectors, Differentiation, Integration, Exponentials and Logs, Integration, Algebraic methods, Binomial Expansion 2

Statistics: Data Collection, Measures of location and spread, Representations of data, Correlation, Probability, Statistical Distributions, Hypothesis testing, Normal Distributions, Regression and Correlation, Normal distribution hypothesis testing

Pure Mathematics Book 1 and the statistics content from Year 1 Applied and Year 2 Applied

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

Paper 2:
Statistics 1 hour 30 minutes

Curriculum: Year 2

Pure: Functions, Sequences, Trigonometry 2, Differentiation, Parametric equations, Numerical methods, Integration, Proof

Mechanics: Kinematics, Forces and Newton's Law, Moments, Projectile, Application of forces, Vectors, Further Kinematics,

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

A-level Paper 2:
Pure Mathematics 2: 2 hours / 100 marks

A-level Paper 3:
Statistics and Mechanics: 2 hours / 100 marks

Enrichment opportunities

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

Mentoring by students from the University of Birmingham.

Each year students attend the Maths in Action at the University of Warwick.

AMSP problem solving clubs take place in the Spring to support students

Sixth Form entry requirements

5 GCSE 4-9 Grades including a Grade 5 in English and Grade 6 in Mathematics

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

"A-level maths has been my favourite subject I have taken in Year 12 so far. The curriculum has been very interesting, you learn about so many new concepts, like differentiation and coordinate geometry. Taking maths as an A-level has been quite a journey, at times it can be quite hard but then once it all clicks then everything goes smoothly. There is a lot of support when taking A-level maths from the brilliant sixth form teachers, who are always available when you are unsure. You also get to go on some fun trips with the maths department such as Maths in Action at the Univeristy of Warwick as well as Bletchley Park."
Saima Tawhid

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. Additionally it 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.

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!

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

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.

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

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.

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.

Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 in French

"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

Spanish 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 Spanish course builds on skills you have developed in your GCSE. Additionally it helps students develop confident, effective communication skills in Spanish and a thorough understanding of the culture of countries and communities where Spanish 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.

Skills needed

You need to be passionate, enthusiastic and curious about Spanish 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!

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

3.Artistic cultures in the Hispanic World
- Regional identities in Spain

4.Aspects of Hispanic Society
- Human rights

5.Artistic culture in the Hispanic World
- Spanish Cinema

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 Spanish 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.

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
3. Artistic culture in the Spanish speaking world: Literature

Assessment: Year 2

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

Enrichment opportunities

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

Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 5 in Spanish

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

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!

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.

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 be 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. Trips include Alton Towers and the physics of rollercoasters.

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.

Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 6 in Mathematics, Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or a Grade 6 in Physics GCSE.
It is recommended you study A-level Mathematics alongside Physics, due to the demanding mathematical requirements of the course.

"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

"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 criminal behaviour? 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.

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.

Curriculum: Year 1

Paper 1
Introductory topics in Psychology is made up of Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Clincal Psychology and Research Methods.

Paper 2
Psychology in context is made up of Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods

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 the Summer term, 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.

Curriculum: Year 2

Year 2 includes Issues and Debates in Psychology, Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology

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, Attachment, Clinical Psychology and Research Methods.

Paper 2: Psychology in Context - Biopsychology, Approaches in 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.

Sixth Form entry requirements

A grade 6 in English and a grade 6 in Science or Mathematics

"Studying the subject of psychology has been eye opening and interesting in how it makes you rethink individual views of the real world. I have been particularly interested in the development of mental illnesses and the various cognitive functions that shape human behaviour. Not only this, but it also gives you revision techniques when studying the topic of memory and a lot of these findings can surprisingly be applied to your daily life. For example, your short term memory can hold between 5-9 items for around 18 seconds unless you repeat the information to yourself, which can make you hold the information for longer."
Sukhraj Athwal

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

"Philosophy and Ethics is an excellent subject in gaining knowledge regarding many elements in the world. It will bring your attention to issues which are never addressed, and make you see a different side of things. The subject is ubiquitous and honestly can be found in every thing, we all need a bit of P&E!"
Fouzia Rahman

RSL Rock School of Music

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

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

Course Overview

The Rockschool 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.

Skills needed

A passion for music and pop music cultre.

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.

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.

Lead Performer: Performing to an audience, selecting and rehearsing your own set list. Performaing 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.

Assessment: Year 1

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

Curriculum: Year 2

Planning your own music event

Solo music performance

Music technology

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 is it 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"
Nishant Sharma

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?

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.

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.

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

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

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

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.

Sixth Form entry requirements

Grade 6 in English Language or Literature, or Sociology if studied at GCSE

"In a world where social issues and inequality are so prevalent, A-Level Sociology provides an insight into the root causes of problems such as poverty, discrimination, and social inequality. Through Sociology, you learn how different social groups hold varying levels of status and power within society. The subject genuinely changes the way you view the world, encouraging you to question every corner of society and the biases and prejudices that can work for and against certain groups. You also gain an understanding of the institutions that shape and govern society, and regardless of the career path you choose, the analytical and critical thinking skills developed through Sociology are highly transferable. A-Level Sociology is a thoroughly engaging course that encourages a deeper understanding of society and you will definitely enjoy it!"
Devesh Sondhi

Sport Level 3 Cambridge Technicals in Sport and Physical Activity

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

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

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, 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 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.

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

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.

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

Assessment: Year 2

Unit 8 and Unit 17 are assessed through the completion of written assignments internally marked by the class teacher before being externally moderated by OCR.

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'.

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.

"Studying sport was a great way for me to gain valuable knowledge and leading sessions pushed me out of my comfort zone. This course helped me to gain confidence."
Mohammed Tayyub

Notes

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.

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