

Built around you,
supporting your future



Sturminster Newton
High School

GUIDE TO SIXTH FORM

September 2026 entries



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SAST
SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

Welcome to Sturminster Sixth Form

Welcome to our Sixth Form - one that is built
around you with a strong legacy of success



As the Head of School, I am delighted that you are considering being a part of our Sixth Form. We welcome you to our distinctive school community and, we hope you will see the strong core values and principles that shine through across both sites. We are extremely proud of the community we have built over time and look forward to seeing the role you'll play in shaping our future.

Mr M Motteram (Head of School)



I am proud to lead a sixth form that is embedded in our community. Our Sixth Form is a space where every student is known and is able to achieve their potential through our breadth of subjects, high-quality support, and enrichment based on our students' interests. You will take your own journey through, while gaining from the wealth of experiences provided. The principle is a Sixth Form shaped by you, getting you where you need to be. Whether that's to improve on your GCSE outcomes, join the world of work post-further education, go to a top university, or study medicine, we will help you find where you want to go, surrounded by people who will get you there. Combining this with comprehensive support available for university applications, apprenticeships, and career planning, every student leaves our sixth forms more than ready for their next steps.

Mr S Ling (Head of Sixth Form)



Sixth Form is so different from any lower school you may have attended, and the transition is a really exciting step, but we also recognise it can feel daunting at times. Our role is to support you not just academically, but personally as well — helping you grow in confidence, resilience, and independence. You are not expected to have everything figured out straight away. What matters is that you ask for help when you need it, look out for one another, and make the most of the opportunities ahead. I look forward to meeting and supporting you over your Sixth Form journey.

Mrs H Privett (Sixth Form Coordinator)

Message from our Head Students

Well done for making it this far through Year 11, you should be really proud of yourselves. As you move through your GCSEs, remember to pace yourself with revision and keep things in perspective, they'll be over before you know it.

As you look ahead, choose subjects you genuinely enjoy and take advantage of the wide range of opportunities available to you. Sixth Form offers so much more than just lessons; from work experience, lower school mentoring, trips (social and educational), leadership roles and the EPQ, to unique experiences such as summer workshops at universities like Oxford, which can really help you grow and develop as a student.

A-levels are often more manageable than people expect, especially if you start working hard from day one in Year 12, it makes Year 13 feel far more manageable. One of the best pieces of advice we've received is simply to get on with it. Stay consistent, read around your subjects, and actually complete the summer transition work your teachers set, it really can make a difference.

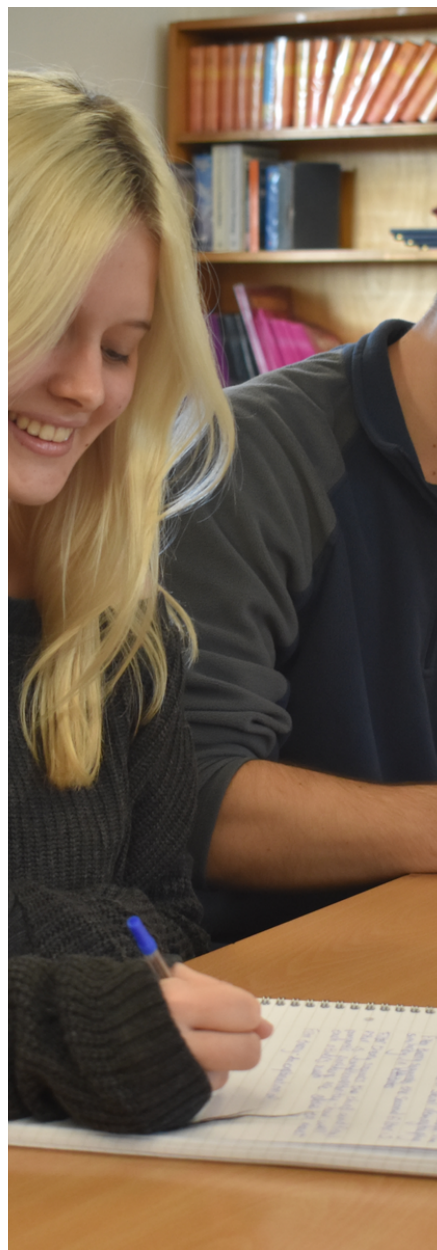
Alongside your studies, try to develop a sport, passion or hobby and share it with others, balance is key.

Good luck with the rest of Year 11, you've got this, and we can't wait to see what you achieve next.

Elliott, Eve, Lina & Neve



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Open for Applications



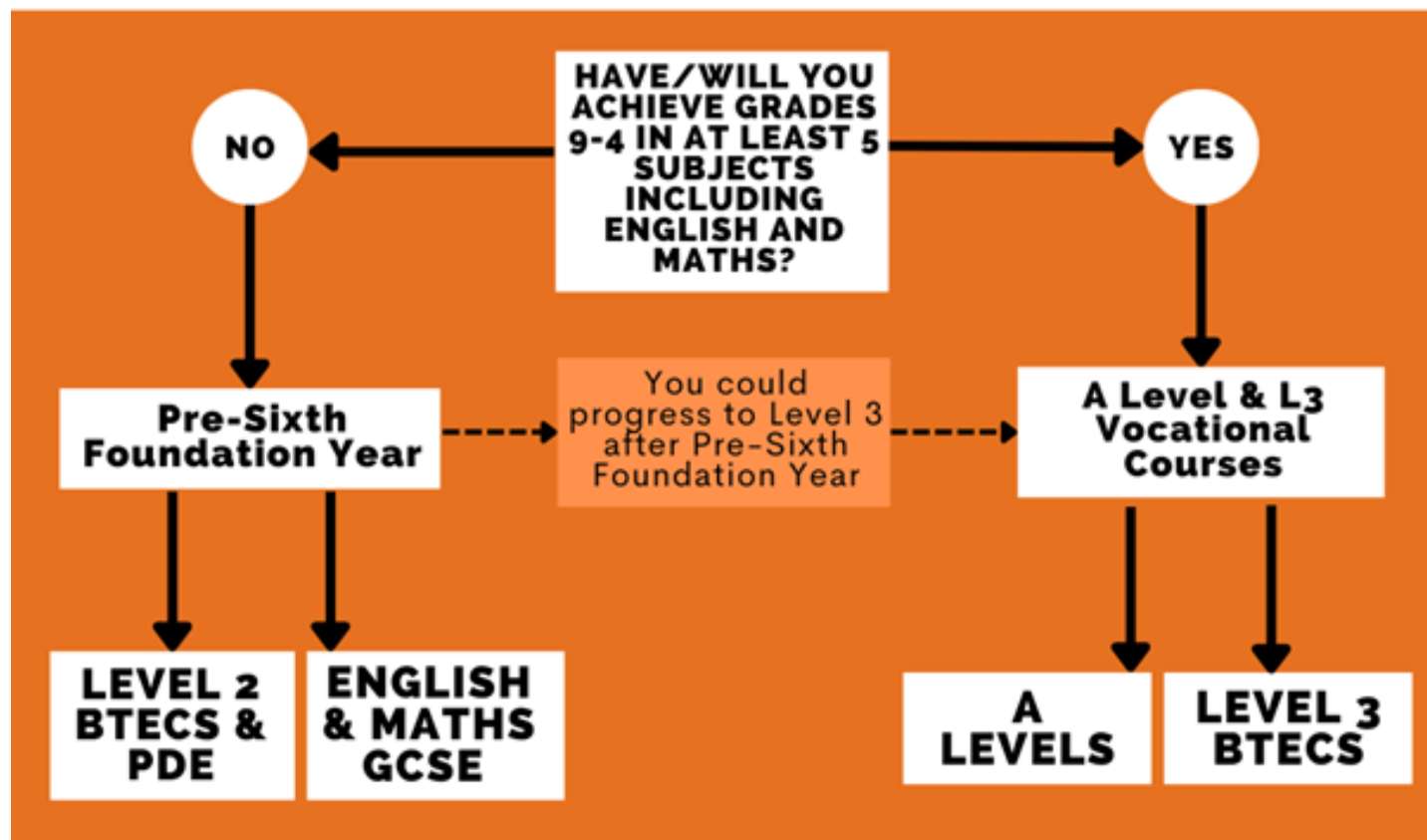
**If you have any questions please contact
our Sixth Form team:**

**SNHSSixthForm@mysnhs.net
01258 471423**

Sixth Form Pathways Explained

WHICH SIXTH FORM PATHWAY IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Please use the below alongside your predicted or actual grades received



We offer students a wide range of courses at both Level 2 and Level 3. Our flexible system of options allows you to 'mix and match' Level 3 vocational courses and A levels, so you can study the best range of courses for you. We treat students as individuals and are keen to provide the best structure to ensure the best outcomes for students.

For students who still need to achieve the qualifications to access a full Level 3 study programme, the 1-year **Pre-Sixth Foundation Year** gives the opportunity to improve English and Maths GCSE grades and learn new qualifications, while preparing for training, apprenticeships, or Level 3 study.

A Levels and Level 3 BTECs are at the same academic standard. Each qualification is worth the same number of university entrance points, and both are widely recognised by employers. Most universities accept both A Levels and BTECs; however, some of the most competitive universities may prefer A Levels for courses such as Law and Medicine.

How the courses are structured

We have shaped our teaching model around your needs, talking to you, our future students, and parents to deliver on what you are telling us you need.

We are providing traditional in-person learning with a small range of subjects available at our neighbouring school.



Your Home Sixth Form Site

Our sixth form is based in Sturminster Newton, where you'll regularly meet with a dedicated tutor for daily check-ins, pastoral support, and guidance.



Extended options with shared year groups

A key part of the sixth form experience is interactions with students across all levels of their learning. Where suitable, we provide some subjects taught with shared year groups to allow for more vibrant class discussion, mentoring between the year groups, and a strong learning culture passed down from year to year.



Expanded Experience Across Sites

More than 75% of our courses are taught on the home site, but we're providing free transport to allow you to access one block of subjects from our neighbouring sixth form to ensure you have the widest possible choice of subjects on offer, while retaining all the benefits of a small sixth form experience.



Preparing for the future

We want to prepare our students for the future of work. Digital tools are embedded as a normal part of everyday learning, with students making extensive use of laptops and online platforms such as Teams throughout their lessons. This ensures they develop the digital skills, independence, and confidence needed for their next steps.



Time in the classroom

To best support our students, we allocate 8 hours of teaching to all of our subjects.

For any travel subjects, hours are blocked into double lessons to maximise learning time and reduce travel. Each week, students can expect to travel no more than twice for a 2-hour taught lesson.

For shared year groups, we provide an additional 2 hours per fortnight in Year 2 to support exam preparation.

We've spent time listening to our students, parents and local community to design a Sixth Form built around you.

Subject Blocking

Students are able to select only one subject per block, and we expect Level 3 students (A level/BTEC) to select 3 or 4 subjects.

We would expect most of those starting on 4 subjects to reduce to 3.

Block	A Level & BTEC courses
A	Biology English Literature
B	Maths Art Photography History
C	Physics Media Psychology
D Travel to SHA 	Sociology Sport Computer Science Religious Studies
E	Criminology Business Health & Social Care Chemistry

Didn't see your subject?

That doesn't mean it's off the table.

Through the EPQ and our student pathways, you're still able to gain real experience and real qualifications in your particular area of interest without the need to take a full A level or BTEC.

Many students study subjects such as **Geography** or **Performing Arts** in depth, with staff support and real enrichment opportunities.

Speak to us about shaping a pathway that works for you.

Entry Requirements

Pre-Sixth Foundation Year General Entry Requirements

The general entry requirement for study in the Foundation Year is 3 GCSEs at Grade 2+; our Foundation Year programme ensures all students are able to continue their studies with us.

We use this year to support anyone who has not met entry requirements for Level 3 with additional qualifications, work experience, and key skills, creating opportunities GCSE results have not unlocked at this stage.

English and Maths GCSE

Any student who has not achieved at least a Grade 4 in English Language or Maths GCSE will be provided with lessons and supported to take these exams.

Level 2 Qualifications	Minimum Entry Requirement	Course Contact	Page
Pre-Sixth Foundation Year course	Three GCSEs Grade 2+.	Mr S Ling	27-29

Level 3 General Entry Requirements

The general entry requirement for study at Level 3 is five GCSEs at grades 9–4, including English Language and Maths. Subjects may require grades 9–5 at GCSE in the relevant subject. Please see the individual course descriptions for details of the entry requirements for each course.

Level 3 Qualifications	Additional Entry Requirement	Lead Teacher	Page
Art & Photography (A Level)	4 in Art / Photo (or portfolio)	Mr Pallett	10/11
Biology (A Level)	5-5 in Combined Science or 5 in Biology; 5 in Maths	Mrs Thompson	12
Business (A Level)	Standard Entry	Mrs Alner	13
Chemistry (A Level)	5-5 in Combined Science or 5 in Chemistry; Grade 5 in Maths	Dr King	14
Computer Science (A Level)	5 in Maths, 5 in Computer Science (if taken)	Mrs Broughton	15
Core Maths (A Level)	Standard Entry	Mr A Harrison	30
Creative Digital Media (BTEC)	Standard Entry	Mr Dodman	16
Criminology (BTEC)	Standard Entry	Mrs Phipps	17
English Literature (A Level)	5 in English	Mr Hawker	18
Extended Project Qualification	Standard Entry	Mr Ling	33
Health & Social Care (BTEC)	Standard Entry	Mr Ling	19
History (A Level)	5 in History (if taken)	Miss Allen	20
Mathematics (A Level)	6 in Maths	Mr Miller	20
Physics (A Level)	5-5 in Combined Science or 5 in Physics; 6 in Maths	Mr Brown	22
Psychology (A Level)	5 in Science	Mrs Phipps	23
Religious Studies (A Level)	5 in RE, 5 in English	Miss Doble	24
Sociology (A Level)	Standard Entry	Mr Almond	25
Sport (BTEC)	4 in Science, L2 Pass in BTEC Sport if taken	Mrs Batchelor	26

Art

Art Craft and Design A level

"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see." – Edgar Degas

Course Overview

A Level Art allows you to explore and express your creativity through a wide range of media, techniques, and themes. This course encourages independent thought, personal exploration, and the development of technical and conceptual skills. Whether your passion lies in painting, drawing, sculpture, or digital media, Art A level provides the opportunity to refine your artistic voice and produce a portfolio of work that reflects your ideas and creativity.

Art and Photography are taught together to enrich students with a wider range of expertise.

What will I learn?

Throughout the course, you will explore different materials, methods, and processes. You will develop skills in observation, research, and experimentation, learning to critically engage with your own work and that of others. You will study various art movements and influential artists, using their work as inspiration for your own projects. The course culminates in the creation of a personal project and a final exam piece.

Assessment

The course is assessed through two components: a **Personal Investigation** (60%) that includes a practical project supported by written analysis, and an **Externally Set Assignment** (40%,) where you respond to a given theme to produce a final piece during a timed exam.

Progression

A Level Art is an excellent foundation for pursuing higher education in art and design, including degrees in fine art, graphic design, illustration, fashion, or architecture. It also opens up careers in the creative industries, from gallery curation to advertising and media.

Photography

Art Craft and Design A level

"Nature is so powerful, so strong. Capturing its essence is not easy - your work becomes a dance with light and the weather. It takes you to a place within yourself." – Annie Leibovitz

Course Overview

Photography is a powerful medium for storytelling and creative expression. This course helps you develop technical skills alongside artistic insight, allowing you to create visually striking and meaningful images.

Art and Photography are taught together to enrich students with a wider range of expertise.

What will I learn?

You will learn various photographic techniques, including digital editing, lighting, and composition, while also studying historical and contemporary photography practices. You will create a portfolio of work that reflects your personal style and creativity.

Assessment

The course is assessed through two components: a personal investigation, which includes a written element, and an externally set assignment, which culminates in a final project.

Progression

Photography offers a pathway to careers in the creative industries, such as graphic design, film production, advertising, and journalism. It also provides a solid foundation for further study in photography, media, and visual arts.

Biology A Level

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." – Jane Goodall

Course Overview

If you have a natural curiosity about the world and a desire to understand it, then Biology is for you. The course is varied, with topics covered ranging from biochemistry to human disease and environmental biology.

What will I learn?

You will study topics such as biodiversity, disease, genetics, evolution, and ecosystems, as well as transport systems and homeostasis. Students learn to make close observations, collect and analyse data, and make scientific conclusions. Above all, students will be taught to appreciate the complex and amazing ways in which living things work.

Assessment

You will be assessed through terminal written exams, covering both theoretical content and practical skills. There is also a practical component assessed by your teachers. Practical skills will be assessed within the written papers, as well as students completing at least 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence. Practical competence is assessed by teachers and awarded a separate pass or fail.

Progression

Studying Biology can lead to a range of careers in fields such as medicine, biotechnology, pharmacy, physiotherapy, agriculture, and environmental conservation.

Business A Level

"Success is about creating value, not just profit." – Mary Barra

Course Overview

From Brexit and ever-changing inflation, to the concept of 'shrinkflation' and our expanding gig economy, Business A level explores interesting and contextualised topics, covering theoretical concepts that are relevant to real-world life.

What will I learn?

Students will explore how real businesses operate across different sectors and markets, from small UK firms to global organisations, within an increasingly uncertain and unstable global environment. You'll develop a strong understanding of key business functions such as marketing and operations, strategic decision-making, and how digital, ethical, environmental, and external factors shape success.

The course also builds your confidence in analysing data and understanding how interconnected business activities respond to global challenges and impact the world around us.

Assessment

Three 2-hour examinations will be taken at the end of Year 13.

Progression

This is an excellent course if you are considering pursuing a career in the business world after A level and is a qualification welcomed by employers. The subject is a suitable introduction to a variety of higher education courses, including Accounting, Law, Marketing, European Studies, Sports Management, Business Management, Travel and Tourism, Economics, and manufacturing careers. It is also highly suited to a range of apprenticeships, including finance/economics, business administration, and human resources.

Chemistry A Level

"The farther the experiment is from theory, the closer it is to the Nobel Prize." – Irène Joliot-Curie

Course Overview

Chemistry is the study of substances, their properties, reactions, and the energy changes that accompany those processes. It is a central science, essential for understanding biological processes, the environment, and the materials we use every day. A level Chemistry will develop your understanding of fundamental concepts, from atomic structure to organic synthesis, and equip you with analytical and experimental skills.

What will I learn?

The course covers physical, organic, and inorganic chemistry. You will delve into atomic theory, bonding, thermodynamics, kinetics, and equilibria. Organic chemistry explores the chemistry of carbon-containing compounds, while inorganic chemistry focuses on the properties and reactions of elements and compounds. Throughout the course, you will enhance your problem-solving skills and learn to carry out practical investigations safely and accurately.

Assessment

The course is assessed through three written exams at the end of Year 13, which cover both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. In addition to this, you will complete a range of practical activities to develop essential laboratory techniques, which will be assessed internally.

Progression

A level Chemistry is highly valued by universities and employers, and is essential for degrees in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, biochemistry, and chemical engineering. It also provides excellent preparation for careers in research, environmental science, forensic science, and many areas of technology.

Computer Science A Level

"Everybody should learn to program a computer, because it teaches you how to think." – Steve Jobs

Course Overview

Computer Science provides a solid foundation in the understanding of computer systems, principles of programming, and solving computational problems. The course helps students develop skills in logical thinking and problem-solving using computers.

What will I learn?

The course focuses on programming, algorithms, and mathematical skills. You will also have the opportunity to produce a programming project that involves coding, problem-solving, and applying algorithms. Computer Science is a very creative subject, and skills such as problem-solving and analytical thinking will all be refined and explored as learners progress through the learning and assessment programme.

Assessment

You will be assessed through two written exams (80% of the total grade) and a programming project (20%).

Progression

Computer Science is highly regarded for further study in IT, business, engineering, and sciences. Career paths include software development, data analysis, systems design, and IT management. If learners wish to progress to higher education, many universities now recognise the value of an A level qualification in Computer Science. Learners could then go on to a career in medicine, law, business, engineering, or any of the sciences.

Creative Digital Media Production BTEC

"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." – Maya Angelou

Course Overview

This course offers an introduction to digital media production and covers the technical skills needed to work in fields such as photography, digital editing, and media representation. It's ideal for those interested in creating digital media projects.

What will I learn?

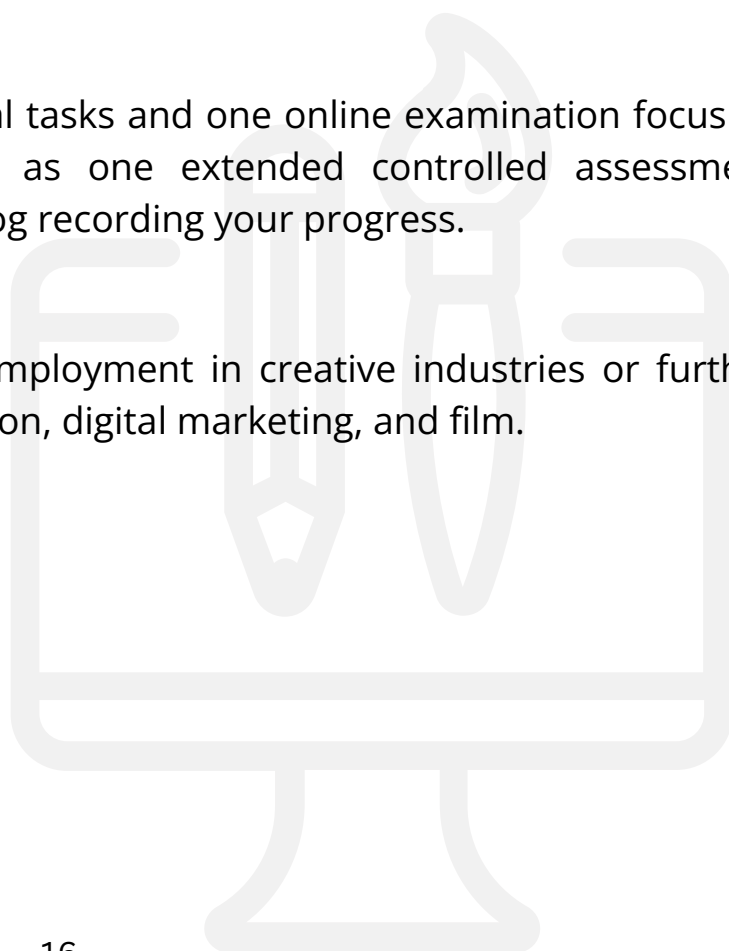
You will develop practical and technical skills in media production, including filming, editing, and pitching. You will also learn about media representations and develop projects in various formats, such as websites, film, and magazines.

Assessment

You will be assessed through practical tasks and one online examination focusing on media representations, as well as one extended controlled assessment completed in class and an ongoing blog recording your progress.

Progression

Successful completion can lead to employment in creative industries or further study in fields such as media production, digital marketing, and film.



Criminology L3 Applied

"Criminology asks not only why people break the law, but how society decides what counts as crime." - Tim Newburn

Course Overview

Criminology explores crime, criminal behaviour, and how society responds. The course combines psychology, sociology, and law to examine why crimes occur, how offenders are identified, and how justice is delivered. Learning is grounded in real case studies and contemporary issues.

What will I learn?

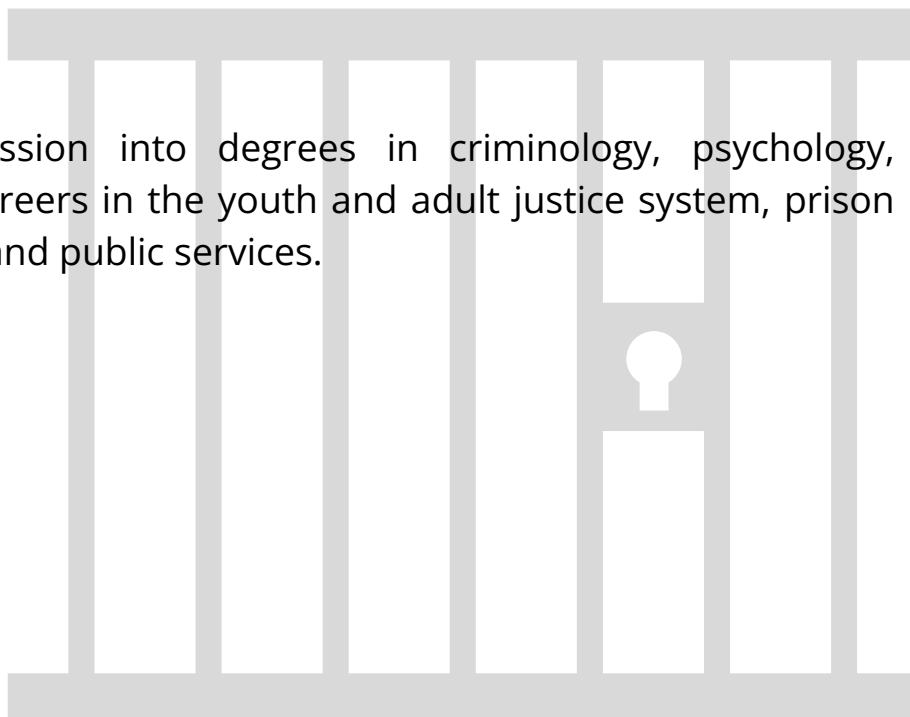
You will study how crime is defined and represented, the causes of criminal behaviour, methods of investigation, and the effectiveness of the criminal justice system. You will develop skills in research, evaluation, and structured written responses. Criminology also involves the analysis of real-life crimes and criminals.

Assessment

Assessment is through a combination of applied assignments and controlled assessment tasks, based on crime scenarios, data, and case studies.

Progression

Criminology supports progression into degrees in criminology, psychology, sociology, or law, as well as careers in the youth and adult justice system, prison services, policing, social work, and public services.



English Literature A Level

"A word after a word after a word is power." – Margaret Atwood

Course Overview

English Literature offers the opportunity to explore a wide range of novels, plays, and poetry from different time periods and cultures. This course encourages you to read critically, analyse texts, and develop a deep appreciation for literature.

What will I learn?

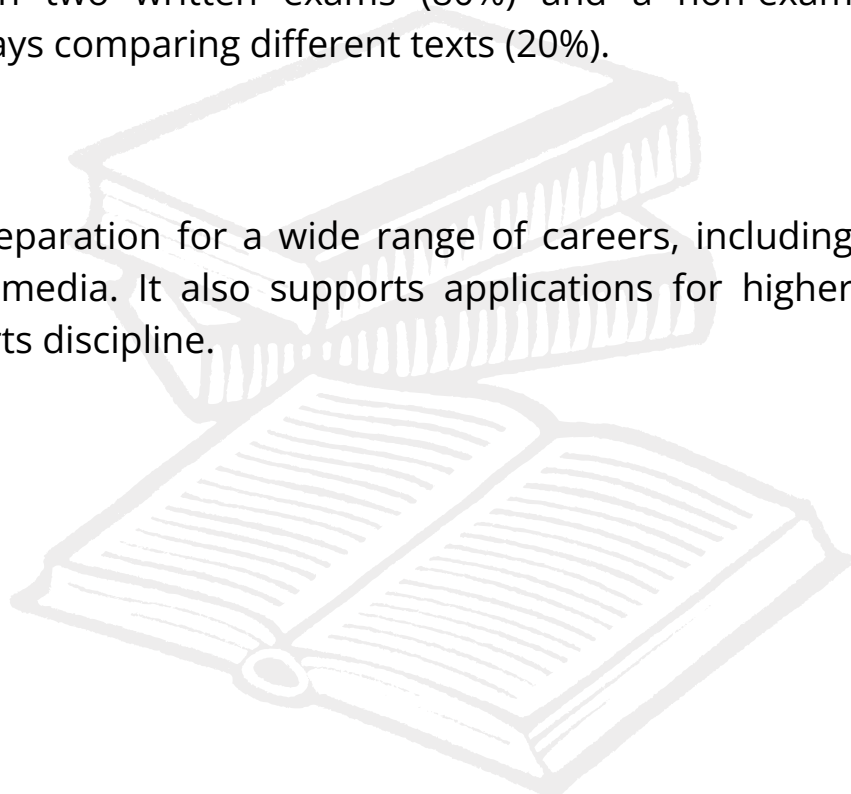
You will study a variety of literary genres and themes, focusing on significant works from tragedy, crime writing, and political and social protest writing. You will also engage in a re-creative or comparative analysis through coursework.

Assessment

The course is assessed through two written exams (80%) and a non-exam assessment, where you write essays comparing different texts (20%).

Progression

English Literature is excellent preparation for a wide range of careers, including law, publishing, education, and media. It also supports applications for higher education in any humanities or arts discipline.



Health & Social Care BTEC

*"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth." –
Shirley Chisholm*

Course Overview

Health & Social Care provides you with an understanding of how the health and social care sectors operate, and the skills required to support people of all ages. The course focuses on real-world applications in health, care, and education.

What will I learn?

You will study human growth and development, working in health and social care, meeting individual care needs, and supporting individuals with additional needs. The course emphasises communication, empathy, and understanding in a care setting.

Assessment

The course is assessed through a combination of external exams and coursework, with opportunities for practical learning in real-world settings.

Progression

This qualification is ideal for those interested in careers in nursing, midwifery, social work, and education. It is also a strong foundation for further study in health and social care at the university level.

History A Level

"The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future."
– Theodore Roosevelt

Course Overview

History is the study of human experiences and how they have shaped the world we live in today. This course covers significant events and periods that have defined societies and cultures, helping you develop analytical skills and a deep understanding of the past.

What will I learn?

You will study a variety of historical periods, including British, European, and global history. Topics may include the Russian Revolution, the English Civil War, and the African-American Civil Rights Movement, with an emphasis on historical debates and interpretations.

Assessment

Assessment includes three written exams and coursework on a historical investigation of your choice.

Progression

History is a highly respected subject that opens doors to careers in law, politics, journalism, and education. It also provides a strong foundation for further study in the humanities and social sciences.

Mathematics A Level

"Maths makes things clear. Through it, you can see things that were previously hidden." – Maryam Mirzakhani

Course Overview

Mathematics is a subject that underpins many fields of study, from science to economics. This course covers advanced mathematical concepts and techniques, helping you develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

What will I learn?

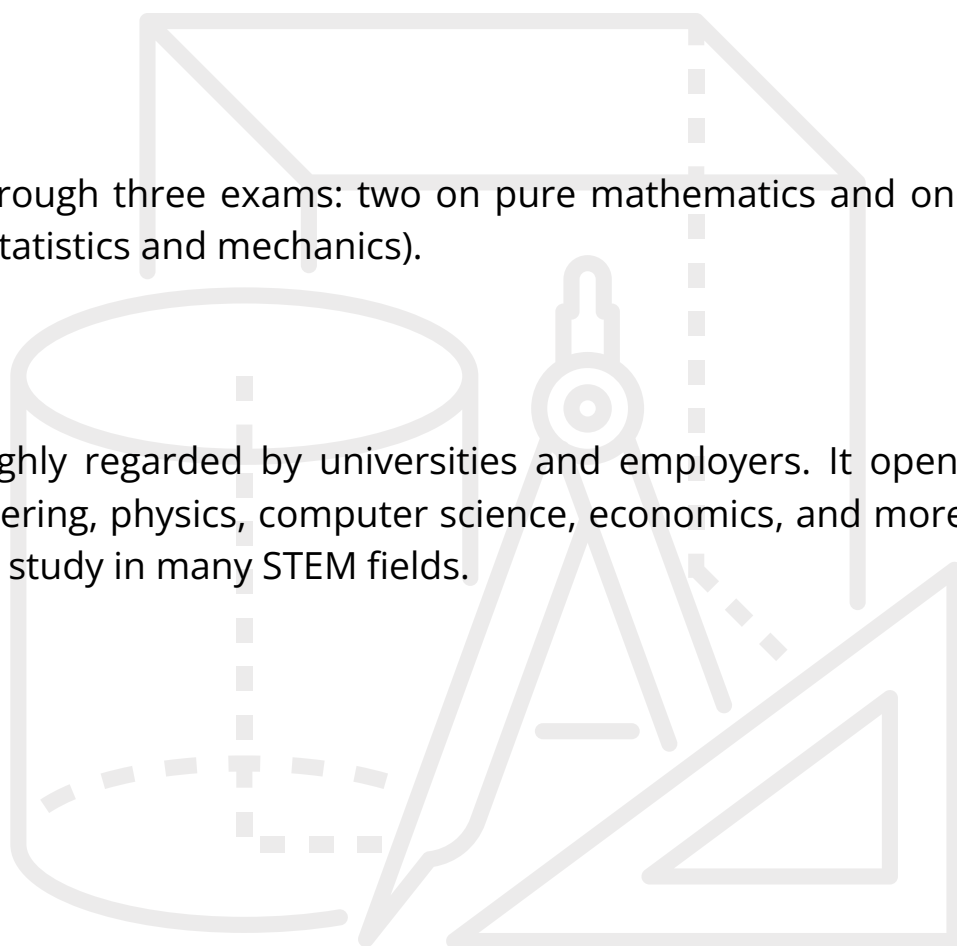
You will study pure mathematics, including algebra, calculus, and trigonometry, as well as applied mathematics, focusing on mechanics and statistics. These concepts are essential for understanding real-world problems in science and engineering.

Assessment

The course is assessed through three exams: two on pure mathematics and one on applied mathematics (statistics and mechanics).

Progression

A level Mathematics is highly regarded by universities and employers. It opens doors to careers in engineering, physics, computer science, economics, and more, and is essential for further study in many STEM fields.



Physics A Level

"Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Be curious." – Stephen Hawking

Course Overview

Physics is the foundation of the natural sciences, exploring the fundamental laws that govern the universe. This course allows you to dive deep into concepts such as forces, energy, and the nature of matter, while honing your problem-solving and mathematical skills.

What will I learn?

You will explore topics including mechanics, electricity, waves, and quantum physics. There is also a strong emphasis on practical experiments, allowing you to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world situations.

Assessment

Assessment is through three written exams, with questions that test both theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

Progression

Physics opens doors to careers in engineering, research, medicine, and technology. It is highly respected by universities and is essential for degrees in the physical sciences, engineering, and computing.

Psychology A Level

"Psychology marks the triumph of human evolution. How many other species would need a science of the mind?" Isaac Asimov

Course Overview

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. This course explores how humans think, feel, and act, providing valuable insights into mental health, decision-making, and social interactions.

What will I learn?

You will study topics such as memory, social influence, psychopathology, and research methods. The course covers various approaches to psychology, including cognitive, behavioural, and biological perspectives, offering a comprehensive understanding of human behaviour.

Assessment

The course is assessed through three written exams, covering key psychological theories, case studies, and practical research methods.

Progression

Psychology is an ideal subject for those interested in careers in healthcare, education, human resources, and law. It is also a popular choice for further study in psychology, neuroscience, and social sciences.

Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics A Level

"The unexamined life is not worth living." – Socrates

Course Overview

Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics explores the big questions about life, morality, and the universe. This course challenges students to think critically and analytically about the nature of reality, the existence of God, and ethical decision-making. It provides an excellent foundation for understanding how humans make moral choices and the impact of these choices on society. If you enjoy debating ideas and exploring different perspectives on life's fundamental questions, Philosophy & Ethics is the perfect subject for you.

What will I learn?

You will study key philosophical issues such as **the existence of God, the problem of evil, and arguments for the soul and the afterlife**. In ethics, you will explore different moral theories, such as Utilitarianism and Kantian ethics, and apply them to contemporary ethical issues like medical ethics, sexual ethics, and business ethics. The course also covers religious philosophy, providing insights into how religious beliefs influence moral and philosophical debates.

Assessment

The course is assessed through three written exams at the end of Year 13. The exams focus on evaluating arguments, constructing well-reasoned essays, and applying philosophical and ethical theories to real-world situations.

Progression

Religious Studies provides a strong foundation for further study in philosophy, law, theology, or social sciences. The critical thinking and analytical skills developed during the course are highly valued by universities and employers in fields such as journalism, politics, law, education, and public policy.

Sociology A Level

"The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden."
– Pierre Bourdieu

Course Overview

Sociology examines society, human interactions, and the structures that shape our daily lives. This course explores the ways in which individuals are influenced by social forces, such as family, education, and media, and how these forces affect behaviour and opportunities.

What will I learn?

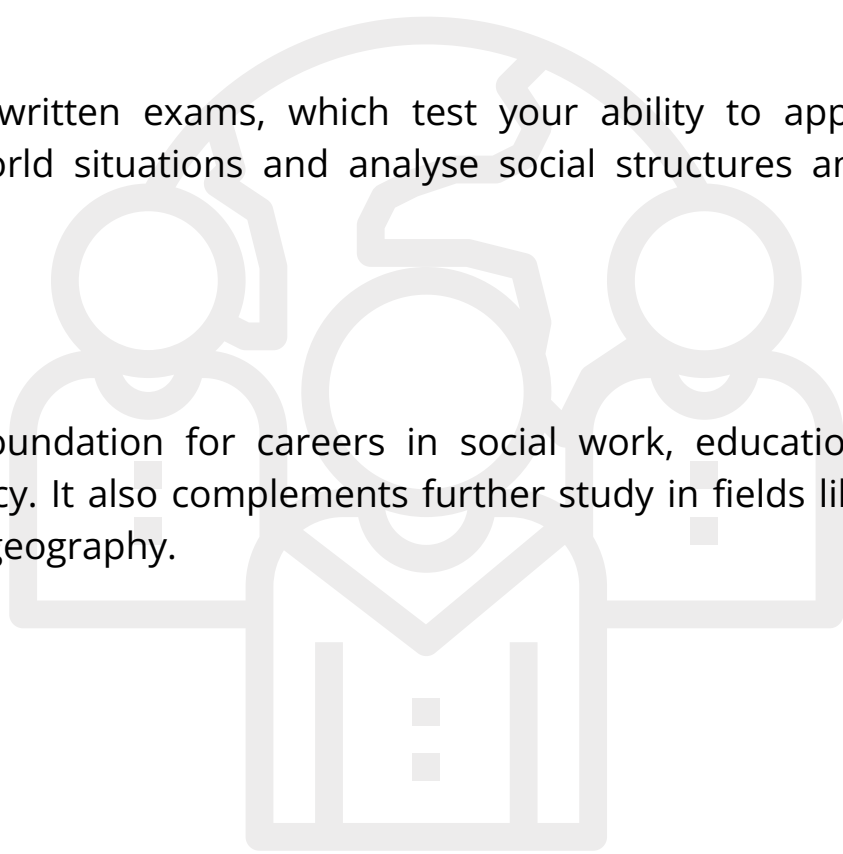
You will study key sociological theories, such as Feminism, Marxism, and Functionalism, and research methods, focusing on topics like crime and deviance, social stratification, and gender inequality. The course also encourages critical thinking and analysis of contemporary social issues.

Assessment

Assessment is through three written exams, which test your ability to apply sociological theories to real-world situations and analyse social structures and institutions.

Progression

Sociology provides a strong foundation for careers in social work, education, criminal justice, and public policy. It also complements further study in fields like anthropology, law, and human geography.



Sport BTEC

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing." – Pelé

Course Overview

The BTEC Sport qualification provides a comprehensive understanding of the sports industry, combining both practical skills and theoretical knowledge. This course is designed for students passionate about fitness, physical education, and sports science, and offers insight into the wide range of career opportunities within the sports sector. Whether your interests lie in coaching, sports development, or health and fitness, this course provides the foundation for a successful career in sport.

What will I learn?

The course covers a variety of topics, including Anatomy and Physiology, Fitness Training and Programming, Sports Leadership, and Practical Sports Performance. You will develop your understanding of how the body responds to exercise, how to plan fitness training programmes, and how to lead sports activities. Practical lessons will help refine your skills in different sports, while theoretical components will enhance your knowledge of health, fitness, and sports development.

Assessment

The course is assessed through a combination of externally set exams and internally assessed coursework. You will be required to complete practical assessments, written assignments, and presentations, all of which will test your ability to apply your knowledge in real-world sports contexts.

Progression

A BTEC in Sport provides a strong foundation for pursuing higher education in sports science, physical education, sports coaching, or physiotherapy. Career opportunities include roles in sports coaching, fitness training, personal training, sports therapy, and leisure management. The qualification is well regarded by universities and employers alike.

Pre-Sixth Foundation Year

The **Pre-Sixth Foundation Year** is designed to give students a strong foundation for entering post-16 education and progressing towards Level 3 qualifications. This programme is perfect for those looking to prepare for A levels, BTECs, or other pathways such as apprenticeships or further education at college. It allows students to continue their studies while benefiting from the experience of being part of the Sixth Form.

Options and Courses Available

Students on the Pre-Sixth Foundation Year will study from a range of courses, including:

- GCSE English and Maths (if Grade 4 is not achieved)
- Extended Work Experience placement
- Personal Development & Employability Skills (PDE) through the The King's Trust
- Culinary Skills for Life and Work

Each of these courses provides students with the skills and qualifications they need to progress to Level 3 study or other career paths. Students will also have the opportunity to engage in work experience and various enrichment activities to broaden their learning experience.

Work Experience

Work experience is important as it helps to prepare students for life after sixth form, whether that's an apprenticeship, further education, or work. Each week, for one day, students will be out of school and in a work placement of their choice.

If students know what placement or area of work they would like, we will support them to secure this. Alternatively, we have a work experience carousel which enables students to experience various placements: early years and primary education, special needs, retail, charity, customer services, food preparation, and service.

Certificate in Personal Development & Employability Skills (PDE)

*"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out."
– Robert Collier*

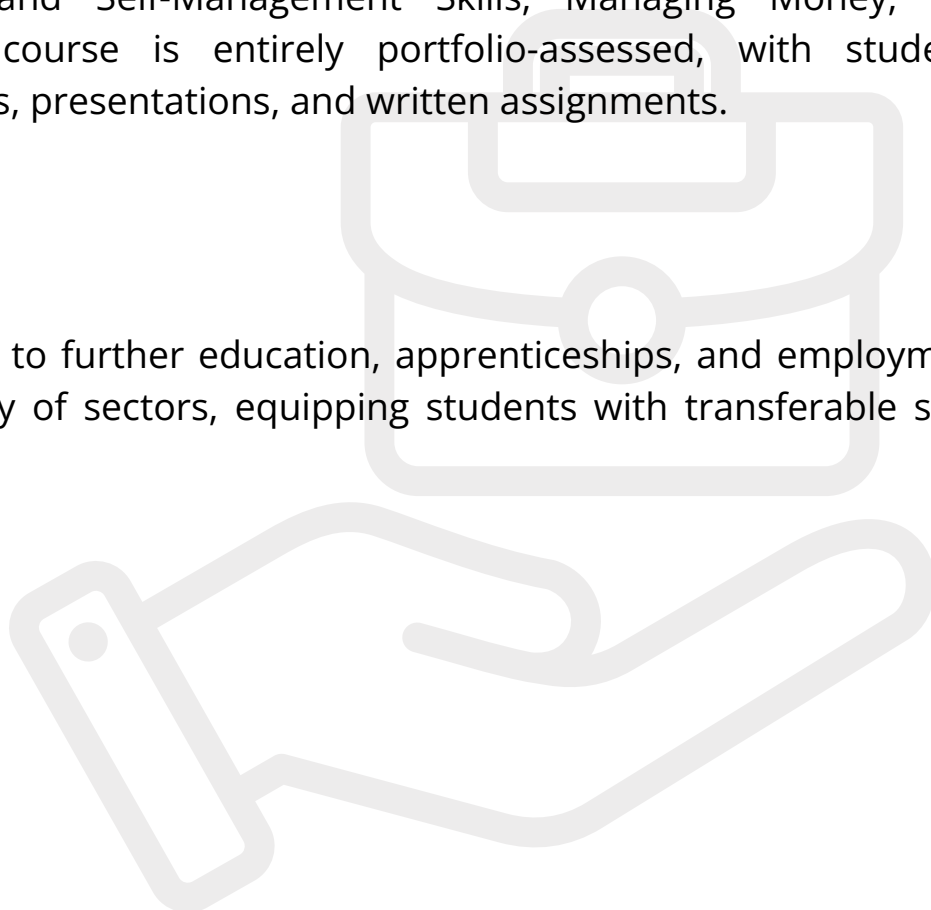
The PDE Certificate, run through The King's Trust, helps students develop essential skills for further education or employment. This Level 2 qualification focuses on building personal growth, improving employability, and preparing for future progression.

What will I learn?

Students will engage in a variety of units such as Career Planning, Customer Service, Interpersonal and Self-Management Skills, Managing Money, and Teamwork Skills. The course is entirely portfolio-assessed, with students completing practical tasks, presentations, and written assignments.

Progression

This course opens doors to further education, apprenticeships, and employment opportunities in a variety of sectors, equipping students with transferable skills valued by employers.



Culinary Skills for Life and Work Level 2

"Cooking gives people confidence and independence — and that's life-changing." – Jamie Oliver

This practical, hands-on course helps students develop essential cooking and food preparation skills that support future study, employment, and independent living. Alongside the BTEC Level 2 qualification, students also work towards a Level 3 Food Hygiene Certificate, giving them a valuable, industry-recognised award.

What will I learn?

- Safe food preparation and hygiene
- Planning and cooking a range of dishes
- Basic nutrition and healthy eating
- Budgeting and meal planning
- Working safely in a kitchen environment

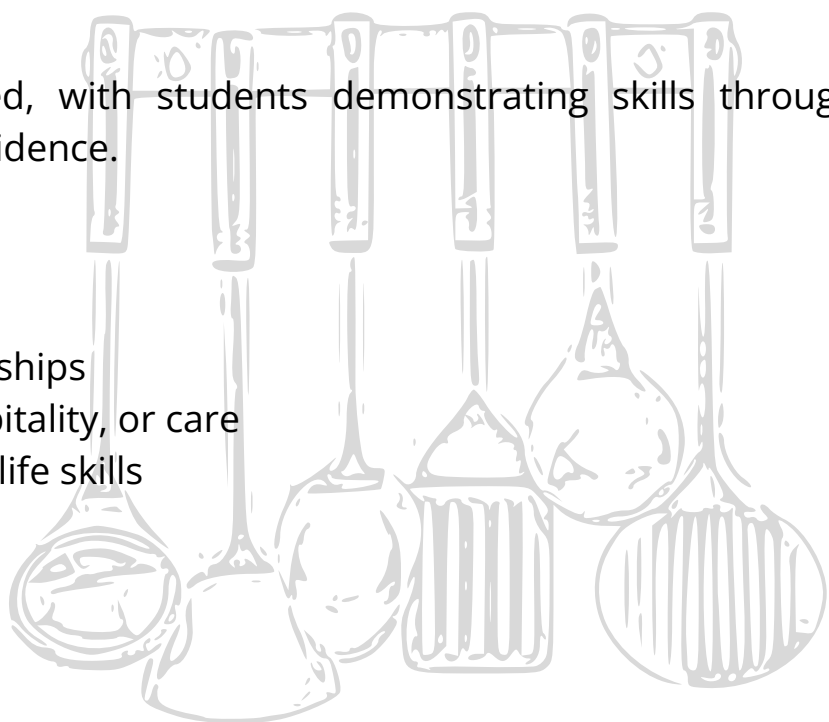
Assessment

Assessment is coursework-based, with students demonstrating skills through practical tasks and supporting evidence.

There are no written exams.

Progression

- Level 3 courses or apprenticeships
- Employment in catering, hospitality, or care
- Improved independence and life skills



Additional Qualifications

Students on the Level 3 pathway have the opportunity to take additional qualifications as part of their studies. This allows students to extend their learning beyond just the courses available, leading to improved outcomes and a more well-rounded experience.

Core Maths

Core Maths is designed for students who do not take A level Maths but still need strong mathematical skills to succeed in their studies and beyond. It focuses on practical, applied mathematics that directly supports other subjects and everyday problem-solving.

Who is Core Maths for?

Core Maths is an expected part of the programme for students studying:

- Psychology, Business, Sciences, Social sciences and other numerate courses

What will students learn?

Core Maths develops confidence in:

- Data handling, statistics, and interpretation
- Percentages, rates of change, and financial maths
- Using maths in real-world contexts such as research, business decisions, and scientific analysis

The course is designed to directly support coursework, exams, and independent study in other subjects.

Qualification and outcomes

- Students work towards an AS qualification in Core Maths
- Students are expected to complete the course successfully by the end of Sixth Form
- Builds confidence with numbers without the pressure of a full A level Maths course

Why Core Maths matters

- Improves performance across multiple subjects
- Strengthens employability and life skills
- Highly valued by universities and employers
- Keeps mathematical thinking active post-GCSE

Core Maths ensures students are numerate, confident, and well-prepared for further study, work, and everyday decision-making.

Extended Project Qualification 'EPQ'

The EPQ allows students to explore a subject they are passionate about in depth, while developing skills universities value highly, including independent research, critical thinking, academic writing, and project management. It can also act as a strong alternative to subjects not currently offered within the curriculum.

A flexible and personalised programme

Students choose a topic that genuinely interests them and, with the support of a supervisor, will:

- Develop a focused research question or project
- Carry out independent research or practical work
- Produce a substantial final outcome
- Deliver a formal presentation on their work

Subject-linked opportunities

To enrich the EPQ experience, students may access:

- **Geography & Environmental Science:** Opportunity to join Year 13 fieldwork during the winter term
- **Performing Arts:** Involvement in productions and concerts, with timetabled rehearsal and practice space

Why choose EPQ?

- Widely recognised by universities
- Strong preparation for undergraduate study
- Allows academic or creative specialism
- Builds independence and confidence

Ideal for students who are curious, self-motivated, and keen to shape part of their own curriculum.

Our Learning Pathways

For many students, sixth form is a stepping stone towards a vocation they want to pursue as their next step. A levels and BTECs form a fantastic foundation, but at Sturminster Sixth Form we focus on how we can support you beyond the classroom.

Health Pathway

We have a strong track record of supporting students into health professions, such as nursing, medical, and dental careers. We know that guidance, experience, and support make all the difference. Our Health Pathway students will have access to the following:

- A flexible timetable to enable access to work placements (essential for next steps)
- Guidance on finding work placements from previous students who have followed the same pathway
- Our Health Network of ex-students and current practitioners to mentor and provide guidance and support for your journey into the healthcare sector
- Regular development sessions with a school-wide network for health students

Education Pathway

If you're looking to go into education (nursery, primary, secondary, or special), it's important to have a strong foundation in your academic subjects, but it's experience in real settings that will develop your skills early and unlock key opportunities. For students on our education pathway, you'll be involved in the following:

- Taking a core set of three A levels for the university route, with the option of two to three subjects for the non-university or apprenticeship route post-16
- A work placement rotation allowing you to experience primary, secondary, and special educational settings. This will give you confidence in your next steps and is a key requirement for future education courses.

Language Pathway - French

A distinctive pathway for linguists, communicators, and global citizens

Our French Programme is a unique and ambitious offer designed for students who want to pursue languages beyond GCSE. It combines structured language learning, independent research, and real-world application to develop confident, capable linguists with strong academic and interpersonal skills.

What does the programme include?

Students follow a carefully designed pathway that brings together:

- Weekly small-group French tutorials focused on grammar, vocabulary, speaking, and listening
- An AS French qualification, providing formal recognition of advanced language study
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), allowing students to explore a French-related topic in depth (language, culture, history, politics, literature, or global issues)

This combination offers both academic rigour and flexibility, while keeping students competitive for university applications.

Learning through practice

Students on the programme are encouraged to actively use and develop their French through:

- Supporting French lessons in the lower school, building confidence, fluency, and leadership through teaching and mentoring
- Involvement in the annual French trip, helping to support younger students and apply language skills in authentic contexts

These opportunities help students move from learning a language to living it.

Why choose the French Programme?

- Keeps languages open as a future degree or career pathway
- Builds outstanding communication, cultural awareness, and independence
- Highly attractive to universities, particularly for humanities, languages, international relations, education, and global careers, business, economics, law.
- Develops leadership and confidence through real responsibility

This programme is ideal for students who enjoy languages, independent thinking, and stepping beyond the classroom and discovering world culture.

Sixth Form Support

THE TEAM



Sturminster Sixth Form

Mr Ling and Mrs Privett are highly experienced in pastoral, safeguarding, and academic support to help guide you through your time in Sixth Form. They are always here for you and will always find the time to listen and support you.

Shaftesbury Sixth Form

If you chose a Shaftesbury based subject Mr Almond and Mrs Botterill will be on hand if you have any problems or questions when attending lessons at Shaftesbury school.

COUNSELLOR

Our dedicated Sixth Form Counsellor visits the school every week for pre-arranged appointments with students. Support is offered for a wide range of issues, including anxiety, stress, family, depression, and grief.



Speak to a member of the Sixth Form Team to arrange an appointment.

TUTORS

You will see your Sixth Form Tutor each day in morning and afternoon tutor time. They will write your reference in Year 13 and can provide guidance and support throughout your time in Sixth Form.





Financial Support

What is available?

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is used to support students remaining in post-16 education when financial issues might impact on their time in the Sixth Form.

Apply via the Sixth Form website.

The bursary can help with funding for school transport, trip costs and other educational resources.

All students in receipt of Free School Meals should apply.



The Charity of William Williams is a fund that can support students with a Sturminster DT10 postal code, in the past we have accessed this money to support educational trips costs.

Individual students can apply to support costs that will enable or enrich their learning.

What's going on this evening ?

Talks in the meeting room next to school entrance (Back of school hall)

5:10 Joanne Small Post 18 Apprenticeship opportunities

5:45 Head of Sixth Form Mr S Ling

6:15 University student life, UCAS admission process
and student finance

6:40 Drop in with Mr Ling & Mrs Privett

Main Hall Destinations Fair

Ask Apprenticeships

Merck Life Science

Tentors

SAST - Sherborne Area Schools Trust

Army

Volunteer Centre

Careers advisor - Steve Martin

Weldmar Hospice Care

Thales Group

NHS - Health Care Science

RAF

Screwfix

Bournemouth University

Arts University Plymouth

Bath Spa University

Falmouth University

Exeter University

Arts University Bournemouth

Solent University

The London College UCK

Sixth Form Centre

A level/BTEC's:

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

Maths

Criminology

Psychology

History

Religious Studies

Sport

Extra Enrichment

French, EPQ,

Core Maths

Transition year

GCSE Maths, English,

Kings Trust Personal

Development

Culinary Skills for Life
and Work

The Arches & Studio

A level/BTEC's:

Business

Sociology

Computer Science

Health & Social Care

Media

English Literature

Art & Photography

Open for Applications

