

Sutton Community Academy

Post 16 Prospectus



Welcome to Sutton Community Academy

Dear Parents/Carers,

Over the coming months you will be supporting your children as they consider the next stage of their education. You will be wanting them to gain the very best foundation for their chosen future, whether for university, further education or employment. A wide range of personal and academic skills, recognised by employers and universities, will be the strong foundation needed by all young people, to adapt to the flexibility of a rapidly changing world.

The Sixth Form at Sutton Community Academy provides a wide range of courses. We have a proven, and continually improving track record for the success of our students both in gaining academic success and gaining places at university and employment. Combined with this wide range of A-Level and vocational courses we have a very broad and challenging enrichment programme for our Sixth Form which includes: key skills for future study and employment, EPQ and finance courses, personal, social and health education, community action and enterprise business opportunities, and a sports and recreation facility. Students will also have the opportunity to further develop their character by involving themselves with The Edge as well as our efforts as a WE School.

We know students very well, and because of this we can guide them onto courses which suit their needs and offer them the best chance of success. We are also accepting more students from other schools within the local area due to our continued growing reputation within the community and nationally.

We want students who are well-organised, adaptable, hard-working, good team workers and who can think for themselves and communicate well with others.

The Sixth Form at Sutton Community Academy is very well placed to offer what students need. We are pleased that this was recognised by the Ofsted inspection in November 2016 as good - *"The teaching and support students receive enable them to achieve well so they are well prepared for their next stage of life"*.

The report also confirmed that - *"Achievement in the sixth form is good. In 2016, students' progress across most subjects improved and was close to the national average in both academic and vocational courses"*.

This year with the continuing improvements we are expecting results to be above national average.

The Sixth Form is growing every year and students are leaving having successfully gained places in universities and employment. However, we are not complacent about student success, and will be continuing to work hard to get the full potential from all our students. We continue to strive for the very best.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Head of Sixth Form, Neil Groves, if you have any queries.

May I wish you and your sons and daughters all the best for the next phase of their education.

Patrick Butterell

Principal

So what is life in the Sixth Form really like?



Independent learning

There is a huge emphasis on independent learning in the Sixth Form. You will be expected to organise your own time and actively support your studies by completing additional work outside of the classroom. You may be expected to research a topic and to present it to a small group of Post 16 students, a skill that is vital in work and university life. The role of a Post 16 teacher is for guidance and support throughout these transitional, independent years.

Post-16 Pastoral Care & Performance Monitoring

All Post-16 students will have a personal tutor. The tutor will register their form and mentor each student for a one-to-one session of around 20 minutes on a regular basis during a review period. The meeting will focus on reviewing data. From the meetings, targets will be set for the future. Any issues raised will be dealt with to ensure the student maintains good progress. We have a very clear system in the Sixth Form of monitoring and checking every student's progress to ensure that all students reach their full potential.

Enrichment

GCSE Maths and English RESIT

All students who have yet to pass GCSE English and/or Mathematics at a grade 4 or above will undertake re-sits in these subjects.

Leading Literacy

Students will be given the opportunity to support classes lower down in the academy; either supporting in the classroom or listening to students read. This experience is invaluable and shows employers/universities the confidence and ability to 'stick with something' that is so desirable when competing for places and jobs.

Work Experience

All vocational and Brickwork course students will complete a work placement for one day each week. Every Sixth Former is expected to complete some work experience throughout the year as this provides an abundance of experience and skills which are invaluable for applying for higher education or moving into a full time job. Students are expected to organise their own placements, with some support, and for the majority the work experience will take place towards the end of the Year 12.

Sixth Form Committee

Students form a committee who are responsible for the social activities that take part in the Sixth Form, such as The May Ball.

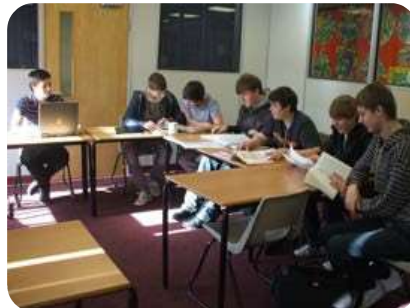


Homework Policy

Homework is set on a regular basis and is expected to be completed by all students. Careful monitoring by teachers, tutors and Heads of Year is in place. The LRC is available solely for the use of Sixth Formers to complete work in private study time. Homework is set via the academy portal.

Community Support and Charity Work

Students will be encouraged to participate in various community enterprises and collectively as a year group they will choose a charity in which to raise money for. The students will then organise a whole event in which they raise money for their chosen charity.



Sixth Form Ambassadors

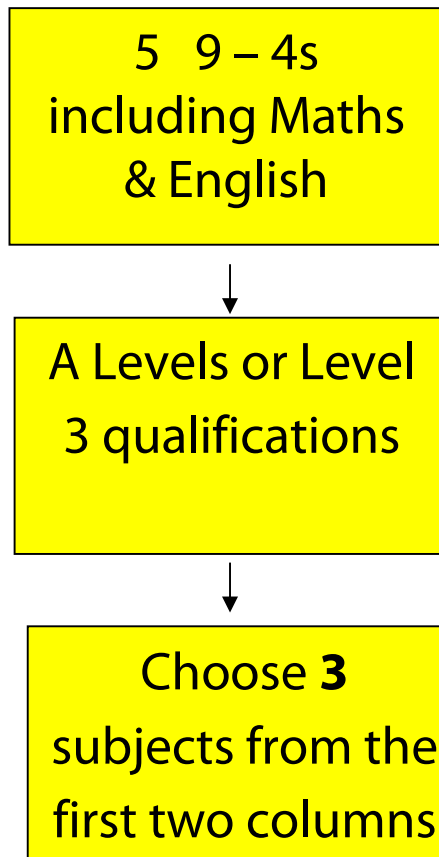
Two students from Years 12 and 13 will be voted in as the Sixth Form Ambassadors. Part of their role will be to assist the Sixth Form pastoral team and deliver Sixth Form (and occasional lower school) Year Meetings. These posts are very coveted and the students who undertake them are expected to represent the academy at various events; this accolade is excellent on application forms for employment, college or university.

Which path am I?

The table on the following page has been designed so that you can see which courses are available to you in the Sixth Form



Look at your predicted GCSE grades



Each level 3 course will have 4-5 hours of teaching time allocation in Year 12, increasing to 5 hours of teaching in Year 13.

You will also have a tutor session and your enrichment activities.
If you do not achieve a 4 or better in English or Maths you will resit one of those alongside your A levels.

If you are expecting to get **5 9 – 4** (including **Maths** and **English**) you should follow an academic route (A-Levels) or chose from the Level 3 courses. These courses are two years in length.

A Levels	Level 3	
Art and Design	Art and Design/Technology	
Biology	Food Science and Nutrition (Catering)	
Spanish	Forensic Science and criminal investigation.	
Chemistry	Health and Social Care	
Computer Science	Performing Arts – with a music element	
English Language	Performing Arts	
English Literature	Sport	
Business		
French or Spanish		
Geography		
History		
Law		
Mathematics		
Media		
Physics		
Government and Politics		
Photography		
Sociology		
Music		

A-Levels

Art and Design

What will I study?

Art, in all of its forms, inspires creativity, stirs emotion, sparks debate and reflects society.

On the OCR Art and Design A-Level, you can express your own creative flair within your specialisation through a broad based art, craft and design specification be it drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic design, textiles, illustration or printmaking. The programme will cover a wide variety of media, allowing you the opportunity to flex your creative muscles while learning new techniques and approaches. Producing creative, dynamic and exciting outcomes, they can inspire and challenge.

How the course is assessed:

Controlled assessment & 3000 personal study	60%
Externally set exam project resulting in a 15 hour final piece	40%

What does it combine with?

The art and design A-Level would complement courses in English literature, film studies, media studies and technology.

Where can it lead to?

Careers as an animator, illustrator, product designer or fashion designer are all possible pathways for art and design students.

Work in the media, film and television, marketing and the textile industry are further options. You can pursue art and design at university with a degree in fine art, visual culture, art history or illustration.

You may be interested to know...

Trips to art galleries are planned, along with life drawing lessons. We have a specialist bespoke A-Level suite.

Entry requirements

Art GCSE grade 6 above.



Biology

What will I study?

Understanding biology is the key to understanding the development of life. Finding cures for diseases, tackling environmental issues and solving crimes through forensics are just some of the important roles a biologist can play in society.

Topical issues such as disease, genetic engineering, DNA structure and the environment are all covered in A-Level biology. You can expect to develop a wealth of knowledge on cells, organs, the treatment of diseases and human evolution, to give just a small sample of the areas covered.

What does it combine with?

This A-Level would combine well with chemistry, psychology or geography.

Where can it lead to?

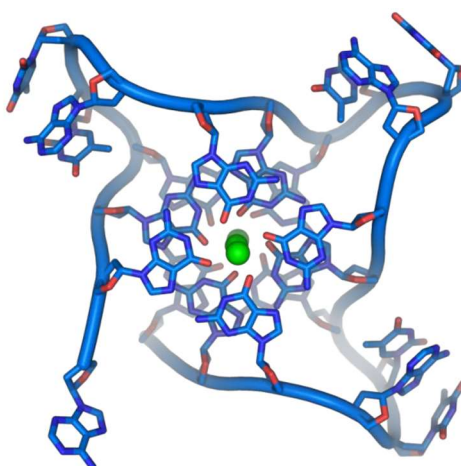
The A-Level in biology is a highly regarded qualification that can lead to further study for a degree in medicine, nursing, veterinary science and animal care at university. Careers in medical professions such as dentistry or physiotherapy are accessible, as is work in the environmental and pharmaceutical research fields.

You may be interested to know...

The teaching staff on this course come with many years of experience in teaching.

Entry requirements

Science GCSE grade 6 above.



Business Studies

What will I study?

Year 1	Year 2
• What is business? • Managers, leadership and decision making • Decision making to improve marketing performance • Decision making to improve operational performance • Decision making to improve financial performance • Decision making to improve human resource performance	Everything from year 1 and... • Analysing the strategic position of a business (A-Level only) • Choosing strategic direction (A-Level only) • Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies (A-Level only) • Managing strategic change (A-Level only)
Examinations: 3 exams worth 33.3% each sat at the end of Year 2	

What does it combine with?

There are a number of A-Levels that would complement business studies. A-Level mathematics, English language, law and history are all relevant in terms of content or skills used to succeed in these subjects.

Where can it lead?

Many students have continued their studies at university level on a wide range of courses. Degree options ranging from economics, finance and accounting to management, enterprise and e-business, are all possible routes into higher education. A-Level business studies students will be equipped to enter the real world of business in almost any occupation in the private sector. This course will give you an early taste of many possible careers (including accountancy, marketing and personnel management) as well as being a valuable precursor to university level courses in business-related fields.

Entry Requirements

There are no previous learning requirements. Any requirements for entry to this course are at the discretion of Sutton Community Academy.

Chemistry

What will I study?

Chemistry has a huge impact on our lives. This course links chemical theory to real life applications. From the development of new medicines and consumer goods to how we control levels of pollution, the study of chemistry plays an exciting and important role in the modern age and the future.

An A-Level in chemistry will help you build and develop your knowledge of chemical processes through a good mixture of both practical and theory based work. Core areas will include physical and organic chemistry, thermodynamics, atomic structure and experimental investigations.

We currently deliver the OCR A-Level course that covers the three areas of chemistry; physical chemistry, organic chemistry and inorganic chemistry over two years. The programme of study builds upon the studies from Year 10 and 11.

What does it combine with?

A-Level chemistry will complement biology, physics, maths and forensics.

Where can it lead to?

The chemistry A-Level can lead on to degree courses and further study of chemistry, biochemistry, chemical engineering, medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, pharmacy, pharmacology, food science, nursing and physiotherapy. A-Level chemistry is highly recommended for biology, forensic science, geology and various environmental science courses.

You may be interested to know...

An A-Level in chemistry is well regarded in general by universities when selecting candidates for more challenging degree courses.

Entry requirements

Science GCSE grade 6 or above.



Computer Science

What will I study?

Year 1	Year 2
• The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices • Software and software development • Programming • Exchanging data • Data types, data structures and algorithms • Legal, moral, ethical and cultural issues • Elements of computational thinking • Problem solving and programming • Algorithms	As Year 1 but to a deeper level including additional content. • The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices • Software and software development • Exchanging data • Data types, data structures and algorithms • Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues • Elements of computational thinking • Problem solving and programming • Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms • <i>The learner will choose a computing problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification.</i> • Analysis of the problem • Design of the solution • Developing the solution • Evaluation
Examinations: 2 exams sat at the end of Year 2 each worth 40% plus a programming project worth 20%.	

What does it combine with?

If you are interested in computer science at university then the following A-Level qualifications are also recommended... Computer science, maths, further maths, physics and philosophy.

Where can it lead?

This is an ideal course to complement further study in computing or a related area through a range of higher education/vocational courses (e.g. computer science, computing and software engineering) or direct entry into employment. It will also provide a basis for students wishing to follow a career in computer gaming, website design and in other IT related careers.

Entry Requirements

There are no previous learning requirements, however a good grade in GCSE mathematics and computer science experience is strongly recommended. Any requirements for entry to this course are at the discretion of Sutton Community Academy.

English Language

What will I study?

As the dominant language in the modern world, communication through English governs the media, advertising, law and business.

In working towards an English Language A-Level you'll learn about both the past, the present and the possibilities for the future of the language. You'll be encouraged to explore how it is used to communicate through spoken and written texts, ranging from chat shows and radio broadcasts to horoscopes and a wide range of genres in fiction. The different variations of the English language will be analysed, developing your understanding and appreciation of English in all its contexts. You'll look at accents and dialects, how language conveys prejudice, how we manipulate our audiences and how men and women may use language differently. Key topics will include, original writing, spoken language study and language and society. You can expect to develop your skills as a writer, take part in language research and analyse spoken and written texts as part of your A Level study. You will look at the way we speak and the language we use. You will also study how language has changed as well as the history of the English language. Further areas of study include, how we acquire language and how our language develops through childhood into adulthood.

What does it combine with?

A -Levels such as media, English literature, business studies, law, history, French and Psychology, would all complement an English language A-Level.

Where can it lead to?

An English language A-Level is highly regarded by universities, providing a solid grounding for continued study at degree level. Degree programmes in English language or literature, creative writing, history, politics, journalism and media and communications, are all possible routes into higher education. Your career options include work in publishing, advertising, law, media and teaching (with further study or teaching abroad).

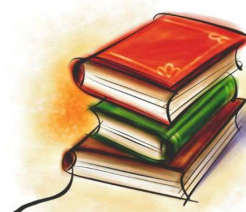
You may be interested to know...

It is the perfect combination of creativity **and** analysis as you have to produce your own fiction and non-fiction writing for coursework and also closely evaluate a range of texts – so English language suits every type of mind!

Each year we have high pass rates for students on the English AS and A Level courses. The teaching staff for this course have many years of experience working in education and teaching English.

Entry requirements

A grade 5 or above.



English Literature

What will I study?

Studying A-Level English literature at Sutton Community Academy will encourage you to develop your interest and enjoyment of the written word. By reading widely, and critically, across centuries, gender and genre, you will develop as an independent reader and critic. You will be taught to critically analyse a text according to its historical and cultural period and, as well as enjoying great works, you'll develop keen powers of analysis and an understanding of literature in all its forms. You will also study a range of texts including Shakespeare's Othello and Arthur Miller's Death of a salesman to explore how tragedy has changed across the ages. In Year 13, you will study novels, plays and poems which have been seen as making social and political statements. These will include The Handmaid's Tale and The Kite Runner.

What can it lead to?

Many students decide to continue their study of English literature at university. This A-Level can also be used to gain access to a degree in history, creative writing, politics, media and communications or journalism.

The skills taught on this course will equip you with the knowledge necessary for a working life in teaching, publishing, the media, social work, law and the public sector (defence, education or social security).

You may be interested to know...

Year after year the pass rate for this course is continuously high. The teachers have a passion and enthusiasm for the subject which they are keen to share!

The coursework element allows you to select which texts you are going to analyse.

Entry requirements

It is expected that you will have a grade 5 or above in GCSE English literature.



French

What will I study?

The A-Level course is designed to enhance your understanding of French and to advance your ability to understand and use the French language. Not only will you develop your linguistic abilities but you will also learn to explore a wide range of cultural topics. Throughout the course you will learn about current trends in French society, such as the changing nature of family life and the rise of the “cyber-society”.

What does it combine with?

A foreign language combines well with many subject areas such as English, business, travel and tourism, law and complements other subjects such as science and maths.

Where can it lead to?

Not only is an A-Level in a foreign language beneficial at a personal level, but it can also help with many career paths. For those who want to specialise in French, there's translation or teaching or you may want to work in the travel or tourism industry. In addition, if you want to become an engineer or a designer, for example, or work in business, being proficient in a language will give you broader career options or give you the option of working abroad.

You may be interested to know...

French A-Level is highly regarded by universities and it can be combined with many different subjects at degree level. You spend a year abroad as part of a languages degree course. French can also be studied as part of a combination degree such as French and business or French with European Studies. The exam is through AQA.

Entry requirements

GCSE level 9 - 6



Geography

What will I study?

In Year 12 you will study coasts, hazards and the geography of places. You will also learn about cartographic, statistical and ICT skills used in geography, as well as taking part in fieldwork days.

In Year 13 you will study water and carbon cycles, global systems and global governance and population and the environment. You will complete an individual project of between 3000-4000 words which is worth 20% of your A-Level. There will also be at least two days of fieldwork taking place.

What does it combine with?

Geography overlaps with many subjects. The 'human' side of the subject links well with English, media, business and travel & tourism, whilst the 'physical' side complements maths, physics, biology and chemistry.

Where can it lead to?

Environmental geography is now a huge subject at university and degrees in topics such as global warming can now be studied. Engineering, surveying, ecology and the travel industry are all areas suited for geography.

You might be interested to know...

There is a compulsory field trip in Year 12, and this will form a major part of the overall course. There are many famous people who have studied geography at university and these include Prince William, Chris Tarrant and Nick Hodgson (Kaiser Chiefs)

Entry requirements

There is no need to have studied this at GCSE level, but a grade 9 - 4 in maths and English would be an advantage.



Government and Politics

Why study Politics?

At the age of 18 everyone receives that fundamental societal right of being able to vote. It is your duty to therefore be as informed as possible when making such a big decision. This course will ensure that you are aware of what is going on in today's society, in today's world and more importantly why these things are happening. We will explore the ins and outs of the UK government in Year 12 and move on to politics in America in Year 13 how they came to be, what they consist of and whether or not they are the most effective political systems to be used.

AS Units

Unit 1: People and Politics

This unit introduces students to the key channels of communication between government and the people. Asking students to analyse some of the key systems already in place such as referendums, political parties and pressure groups.

Unit 2: Governing the UK

This unit introduces students to the major governmental processes within the UK. It encourages them to develop a critical understanding of the role and effectiveness of key institutions, and of the relationship between them.

A2 Units

Year 13 we will be looking at Government in the USA as well as exploring the relationship and differences between different political ideologies.

Entry requirements

Students need to achieve a level 5 in English.



History

What will I study?

Historian Arthur Marwick commented - '*History is to society as memory is to the individual*' and we feel at Sutton Community Academy that this explains the importance of history today. We encourage students to study a wide range of historical time periods in order for them to really get a sense of the importance of history and how it has impacts in every part of the world. In Year 12, students look at Germany 1919-1963 and the Early Tudors 106-60. Whilst in Year 13, we focus on an in-depth study of Russia 1855-1964 and on coursework based module on America between World War One and World War Two.

What can it combine with?

History is a diverse subject where you are taught to analyse and dissect information in order to present a hypothesis; therefore it combines well with most subjects. Our current students also study maths and the sciences as it gives them the opportunity to maintain an English based subject as well as other students who focus more on the English literature and law aspect in order to complement each of the subjects with the focus of writing skills and developed analysis.

Where can it lead?

Some of the most important people in the country today are history graduates. Previous Prime Minister for the Labour Party, Gordon Brown studied history as did the founder of The Body Shop, Dame Anita Roddick. Therefore history can lead you into all types of professions from public to business, from journalism to being a pop star (Shakira). History allows all students to challenge perceptions, propose and formulise a theory and to be able to back up that theory through knowledge which is essential for all professions.

You might be interested to know...

History is a very highly respected subject at Sutton Community Academy where students consistently achieve well. We also have a number of students who continue to study history at university including the Universities of Oxford and Chester. We also organise for two students to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland. Students are also given the opportunity to attend lectures by examiners in both Year 12 and 13 to help broaden their knowledge of the subject and develop their study skills.

Entry requirements

Students need to achieve at least a 4 in History and four other subjects.



Law

What will I study?

Throughout the A-Level course, you will study different areas of Law. In Year 12 Criminal Law, you will learn about different violent offences, ranging from assault and battery to GBH, as well as property offences such as theft and robbery. You will also look at areas of Tort Law, including negligence and nuisance. In Year 13, you will continue with Criminal Law, examining the law on murder and manslaughter, whilst in Tort you will gain a deeper understanding of Occupiers' Liability. You will also explore Human Rights Law, focussing on some key rights, such as the right to life and freedom of expression.

You will also look at different aspects of the English Legal System, to gain understanding of how laws are created and how the court systems operate. You will learn about the different sources of law as well as the people involved in the legal system, and the roles that they play. You will also study different legal concepts, such as the relationship between law and morality and law and justice.

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1: English Legal System and Criminal Law	33%
Paper 2: English Legal System and Tort Law	33%
Paper 1: English Legal System and Human Rights Law	33%

What does it combine with?

Law A-Level would complement courses in History, Sociology, Psychology, English Literature, and Media Studies.

What can it lead to?

Careers as a Solicitor, Barrister, legal advisor, probation worker, police officer, social worker and teacher are all possible pathways for Law students. The skills you gain studying Law are well-respected by all industries and can be transferred to a huge array of careers.

You may be interested to know...

Trips to visit the Houses of Parliament in London are likely, as well as the Supreme Court of Justice where possible. We also visit Nottingham Crown Court, the National Justice Museum and watch current cases be heard.

Entry requirements

Ideally, English GCSE grade 6 or above.



Mathematics

What will I study?

A-Level mathematics (7357) will be studied over two years. This course will enable you to demonstrate your recall of information, draw together information from different areas of the specification and apply your knowledge and understanding in practical and theoretical contexts. There will be three examinations of two hours each assessing coordinate geometry, trigonometry, logarithms, calculus, vectors, statistical measures and mechanics. All three examinations must be sat and are equally weighted towards the final grade. The examination board will be AQA.

What does it combine with?

The mathematical skills you learn in A-Level mathematics are of great benefit in other A-Level subjects such as physics, chemistry, biology, computing, geography, psychology, economics and business studies.

What can it lead to?

Studying mathematics helps you develop skills in logical thinking and statistical or strategic knowledge, which are valued by employers across many job sectors.

The mathematics A-Level can lead to work in many well-paid professions, including Doctor, Architect, Accountant and Engineer. An A-Level in mathematics is highly regarded by universities and potential employers.

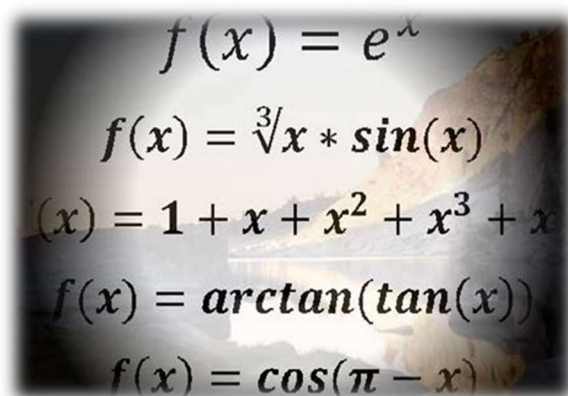
Some university courses require an A-Level in mathematics for you to be able to apply for the course.

You may be interested to know...

For progression to many courses at university it is important to have strong mathematics skills. For most science, technology, engineering and mathematics degree courses mathematics is a requirement.

Entry requirements

Grade 7 or above in mathematics. Grade 6 will mean there will be a trial period of four weeks before being accepted onto the course.


$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= e^x \\f(x) &= \sqrt[3]{x} * \sin(x) \\f(x) &= 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4 \\f(x) &= \arctan(\tan(x)) \\f(x) &= \cos(\pi - x)\end{aligned}$$

Media

What will I study?

In the media-dominated world of the 21st Century, wars are won and lost on television, celebrities seem more familiar to us than real life friends and our identities mirror popular figures from sport, music and fashion.

You will be taught how to analyse the various forms of media that we consume every day, developing the ability to deconstruct advertising, film, television, radio and the press.

You will also undertake a creative piece of coursework applying the skills you have learned to create your own media products.

What does it combine with?

The A-Levels in English literature, English language, art and design, photography, law, sociology and psychology would combine well with media studies.

Where can it lead to?

Careers in film, radio and television are all possible options for media studies students. Employment ranges from journalism and TV criticism to production and broadcasting as well as a host of other varied and interesting opportunities.

You can opt to study media at university or gain access to other courses that link in with the areas covered in the A-Level (film studies, sociology and public relations for example).

You may be interested to know...

Sutton Community Academy has a consistently high pass rate for the A-Level media studies year after year.

Entry requirements

Studying media at GCSE would be an advantage but it is not essential, however a grade 4 at English is essential.



A Level Photography

What will I study?

The OCR A-Level Photography course is designed to encourage learners to develop skills, creativity, imagination and independence based on personal experience, taught skills and critical understanding. Learners show this by studying in a range of areas including portraiture, landscape, documentary and creative photography. Students will also complete a personal investigation in this course developing their own ideas from artist influences.

How the course is assessed (AS Level)

Externally set exam project resulting in 10 hour final piece - 100%.

How the course is assessed (A Level)

Controlled assessment & Personal study essay - 60%.

Externally set exam project resulting in a 15 hour final piece - 40%.

What does it combine with?

Photography A-Level would complement courses in English literature, media studies and technology.

What can it lead to?

Careers as a photographer, Photoshop editor, animator, illustrator, designer or working in marketing.

You may be interested to know...

We have a specialist studio and computer suite along with enough cameras for you to rent out for projects such as the landscape project.

Entry requirements

Art, photography or English GCSE grade 5 or above.



Physics

What will I study?

Physics is a fundamental science subject and the key to understanding the world around us and the world beyond us. It's the study of matter, energy, force and motion, which can challenge our imagination and lead to world-changing discoveries such as lasers and computers. We currently deliver the OCR A-Level course that has two modules in Year 12 and two more in Year 13. The programme of study builds upon the studies from Year 10 and 11.

What does it combine with?

The Physics A-Level combines well with the A-Levels in biology, mathematics or chemistry.

Where can it lead to?

A-Level physics students are equipped with skills and knowledge that can transfer to a range of varied careers. You could choose to seek employment in engineering, medicine, forensics, sports science, geophysics, aeronautics, nanotechnology, research or teaching. Former students have gone into a range of careers including architecture, radiography and accountancy.

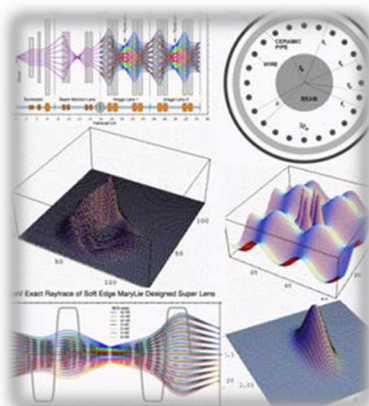
If you intend to continue studying at university level, the Physics A-Level can lead on to a whole range of degree courses such as photonics, engineering, information technology, and medicine.

You may be interested to know...

The physics teachers have a combined experience of teaching physics of over 23 years. One of our science teachers holds a doctorate in Physics.

Entry requirements

Science GCSE grade 6 above



Sociology

What will I study?

The main focus of AS/A Level Sociology is to look at human behaviour in a range of situations in society and to try and understand it. We look at these situations from a number of viewpoints and especially like to look beneath the obvious – ‘things are not what they seem’. Sociology is principally about asking questions. We ask questions about the family and households – such as who is in the family? What does it do for its members and what roles do they play? What happens in divorce/family breakdown? What about abuse/violence? Childhood – how has it changed? We also look at the state and its influence on family life. In education and methods we ask more questions on why do some students do better at school than others? What factors affect success, such as class/race/gender? What about home background or the teachers in school? What effect have legal changes made? We also look at the varieties of research methods – such as experiment/observation/questionnaires/interviews and others to see how they operate and their advantages and disadvantages.

What does it combine with?

Sociology studies people and their behaviour/motivations/responses/interactions and the effects of society so combines extremely well with a wide range of other subjects – such as psychology, media studies, English language or literature, history, law, business, performance studies and sport.

Where will it lead?

Sociology is a good general basis for further general and specific studies. Many professional careers require understanding human behaviour and a greater appreciation of people, their relationships and lives. Such study will be of great value to anyone who wishes to follow a career working with people e.g. the Law, Nursing, Police, Teacher, management, social work, Journalist, Prison/Probation and Criminology.

Students who have studied sociology at A-level have entered University to study social science based degrees such as applied social studies, psychology, media studies, criminology, journalism and education.

You may be interested to know...

The course will be delivered with a variety of teaching and learning strategies from small group work/team work and presentations to whole class discussions, role play, stimulus work research and games. Students who study sociology do achieve good results each year.

Entry requirements

There aren't any specific requirements as such – but it is useful if students like discussing and studying people. We like to have lively, enthusiastic students who like to argue and debate – so if you are interested in people, then A-Level could be the course for you!

Spanish

What will I study?

The A-Level course is designed to enhance your understanding of Spanish and progress your ability to understand and use the Spanish language. Topics covered are social issues and trends, multiculturalism and artistic culture in the Hispanic world.

What does it combine with?

A foreign language combines well with many subject areas such as English, business, travel and tourism, law and complements other subjects such as science and maths.

Where can it lead?

Not only is A-Level in a foreign language beneficial at a personal level, but it can also help with many career paths. For those who want to specialise in Spanish, there's translation or teaching, or you may want to work in the travel or tourism industry. In addition, if you want to become an engineer or a designer, for example, or work in business, being proficient in a language will give you broader career options, or give you the option of working abroad.

You may be interested to know...

Spanish A-Level is highly regarded by universities and it can be combined with many different subjects at degree level. You spend a year abroad as part of a languages degree course.

Entry requirements

GCSE level 9 - 6



Philosophy and Ethics

Why study Philosophy and Ethics at A-Level?

A-Level Philosophy and Ethics is going to give you an opportunity to gain a deep understanding into world religions and get you exploring not only philosophy of religion but also religion and ethics. These three topics are going to give you the chance to explore relevant issues but also make you have a critical understanding of major issues that are relevant to you in the twenty-first century. This course is suitable to students who have a religious commitment and those that don't have any.

"A-Level Philosophy and Ethics isn't going to get me a job."

Think again on that one. Religious Studies is going to give you an opportunity to develop skills that will become transferable not only into the world of work but also onto higher education. Whether that be going on to study Theology, Philosophy or Religious Studies at university or whether you're thinking of other undergraduate courses.

Content overview

Philosophy of Religion

You will study:

- Ancient philosophical influences
- The nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- The nature and impact of religious experience
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issues in religious language.

Religion and Ethics

You will study:

- Normative ethical theories
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- Ethical language and thought
- Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Developments in religious thought

You will study:

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition
- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society

This part of the course will all be done from a Christian perspective.

Psychology

What will I study?

Ever wondered if prison really does change criminal behaviour? Why some people conform or perhaps if the experiences you had before the age of five really do shape the person you are today? A-Level Psychology will give you an understanding of the way people think and why people behave in certain ways. You will learn a variety of skills including analytical thinking, improved communication, problem solving and many more that will prepare you for an exciting future with the possibility of a range of fantastic careers.

Within the first year of study you will cover topics such as:

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Approaches in psychology
- Biopsychology
- Psychopathology
- Research Methods.

What does it combine with?

Psychology combines well with forensic science, sociology, law, politics, history, health and social care, business studies and English studies, which could all be further options at degree level.

Where can it lead?

Career choices could come from: Forensic psychology, marketing, business development, accountancy, human resources, occupational therapy, clinical psychology, nursing and teaching.

You might be interested to know...

The award is examined at the end of two years with three exams, each one lasting 2 hours, and are worth 96 marks each. The exams consists of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions. Successful entrants will secure a traditional A* - E grade.

Entry Requirements

Science to a minimum of 5-5. Maths and English to a minimum of 5.



Level 3

Qualifications

Forensic Science and Criminal Investigation

What will I study?

The interest in TV programmes such as CSI and Bones have led to a rise in the popularity of Forensic Science. Our Forensic Science course is an applied science course so there is a lot of practical and hands-on science. We study the different methods of collecting evidence in our specially created crime scene rooms and how to analyse the evidence collected.

Students study anthropology, toxicology, blood testing and splatter analysis, ballistics, finger printing and hair/fibre testing. Alongside all the forensics we also cover some medical science, industrial espionage and photography.

What does it combine with?

This combines well with all other science subject as well as IT, business, psychology and sociology.

Where can it lead to?

Due to the practical aspects of the course, the skills are transferable at many levels. Students can use the award to continue their studies in forensics at degree level or the UCAS points can count towards a different degree.

You may be interested to know...

The awards are Pass, Merit and Distinction which compare to an E, C and A respectively at A-Level.

Entry Requirements

A grade 5 in English and maths would be an advantage.



Health and Social Care - Level 3

What will I study?

The course is over two years. You will have taught lessons as well as visits to local health & social care providers to help you understand the diverse needs of the community. You will learn about the human life span and what it means to work in health care. You will learn about the many reasons why children and adults have individual needs, how you can meet these and support them in many health and social care settings.

What does it combine with?

This course works well with most other subjects and in particular sociology and psychology. You will be applying theories to people in health & social care settings and therefore will need a good level of literacy. You may combine English with this qualification.

What can it lead on to?

You could follow this qualification by going into the world of work in the care sector with employment such as nursing homes or care home supporting people with learning disabilities. Other opportunities are in nursing, dentistry, counselling or social work. The work experience may help to show future courses or work places that you have had relevant experience in the work place. This course could also lead on to further study at university.

You may be interested to know...

There will be two exams (Unit 1 & 2) and two coursework assignments. All assessments must be passed in order to achieve the qualification.



Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

What will I study?

As part of this qualification you will use social media to advertise and increase web traffic to a real business (course work). You will create systems to manage information within a business (externally moderated practical). You will study IT systems, how they work and the impact they have in the real world (exam). You will have a choice to study either data modelling or website development in the second year of study to personalise the course for your own needs (course work).

What does it combine with?

When taken alongside other Level 3 qualifications, including BTEC Higher Nationals or A-Levels in complementary or contrasting subjects, such as mathematics, physics, science, arts or technology, the qualification gives learners the opportunity to progress to a degree in an information technology discipline or a degree where information technology related skills and knowledge may be advantageous.

Where can it lead to?

This qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. As the content is equivalent in size to one A-Level, higher education representatives have confirmed that it is appropriate to allow learners to choose their optional units so that they can explore areas for further study. The qualification supports entry to, for example:

- HND in Business
- BA (Hons) in Computer Arts
- BSc (Hons) in Fashion Buying Management
- BSc (Hons) in Software Development for Animation
- BA (Hons) in Accounting and Finance.

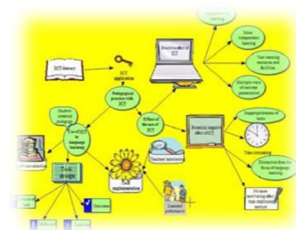
Some university courses may require the achievement of specific units and learners should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes with specific higher education providers.

You may be interested to know...

This is a brand new qualification first delivered in 2016, it is challenging and rewarding for those who want to work in IT or a related field.

Entry requirements

Learners are most likely to succeed if they have five GCSEs at grade B/C and above. Excellent Results in Cambridge Nationals ICT - Good Merit or Distinction preferred.



BTEC Music Technology

What will I study?

Music plays a huge part in our everyday lives, from a music alarm to wake us up, theme music for breakfast TV, personal mp3 listening and background music in shops. Then there's the whole world of media, films, theatre etc. We are surrounded by music everyday of our lives and this all has to be composed, performed, recorded, promoted, and produced. Music technology is an essential and integral part of this process and employs millions of people worldwide.

During this course you will study how to record in our music studio, and research recording Products. Alongside the practical work you will also study the impact that music technology has had in the twentieth century and its current place within the industry.

What does it combine with?

Music Technology combines well with many other subjects, particularly those with a technology or arts element. There is also a proven connection with mathematical based subjects.

Where can it lead?

There are many careers in the music and performing arts world which rely on an understanding of or skills in music technology including technical theatre, recording studios, multimedia, film and TV, games production etc.

You may be interested to know...

It is also a good basis for further study whether at diploma or degree level.

Entry requirements

Although not essential, studying music or ICT at BTEC/GCSE would be a distinct advantage.



Performing Arts

What will I study?

BTEC Performing Arts offers an approach to study dance, drama and music that affirms all three as valid and vital art forms in their own right. It seeks not to replace, but to broaden; to introduce students to a way of working that draws on existing skills & develops them further in a new context. In embarking on the course, students will develop skills in all three art forms, will study a broad range of practitioners, will perform to a range of audiences, and will be equipped to work effectively in a group where the decisions taken affect the outcomes for all the participants.

What does it combine with?

Performing Arts would combine well with a range of other subjects including media, art, business studies, English literature, history and/or sociology

Where can it lead?

Performing arts students are equipped with skills & knowledge that can be transferred to a range of careers including, acting, drama therapy, theatre in education, law, arts administration, stage management, workshop leadership & teaching. You could also pursue performing arts at university with a degree in dance, drama, music or a combination degree.

You may be interested to know...

You will have the opportunity to go and see a range of professional productions as well as gaining experience of taking part in public performances.

Entry requirements

It is not essential to have studied dance, drama or music at Key Stage 4 – although this would be an advantage.



Sport

What will I study?

Sport has never been more prevalent in the UK than it is today. With the legacy of the London

Olympics and the nation becoming more aware of the importance of fitness, opportunities to forge a rewarding and successful career in sport are increasing. The OCR Cambridge Technicals in sport covers a wide range of topics across the whole sporting spectrum in the UK. Compulsory topics enable you to understand and develop your knowledge about the sports industry, economic benefits, job opportunities and the influence of the public, private and voluntary sectors. You will also learn about the social impact of sport in the UK including topics centered around the history of sport, culture, gender, media influence and drugs. Learning and developing sports skills compliments units on coaching and leadership and provide the practical opportunities. The final compulsory unit examines the political shape of sport within the UK through investigation of Central Government, governing bodies, national organizations and provision for elite athletes. These topic areas enable students to build up a wide knowledge base and open up the opportunity for further study at a higher level.

What does it combine with?

The wide ranging nature of the course means that different units will compliment study in a range of other subjects including psychology, sociology, forensics and business studies.

Where can it lead to?

The Level 3 OCR Cambridge Technicals Introductory Diploma offers a variety of future opportunities. For those considering higher education, the UCAS tariff attached to the course opens up the possibility of further study on a variety of sports degree courses. A final exit route for the course is straight to employment within the sports industry in the retail sector, leisure centres, private health clubs or coaching roles.

You may be interested to know...

You will gain two qualifications for the price of one – all students will gain the 'Level 2 Award in Sports Leadership' as an additional qualification delivered as part of the coaching units. From September 2016 the Cambridge Technical will contain an examined unit but will remain predominantly portfolio based with external moderation of student coursework. This ensures you know whether you have gained a Pass (equivalent to an 'E' at A Level), Merit ('C' at A Level) or Distinction ('A' at A Level) by May of Year 13. There are numerous opportunities to get involved in leading, planning, organising and delivering sports events to primary school groups. Governing Body 'Bolt-On' days enable you to gain additional, sport specific coaching qualifications meaning you could leave with more than two qualifications from this course.

Entry requirements

There is no need to have studied OCR sport but this would be an advantage.

What next? ...

Complete the Sixth Form Application 2020 form and hand it to your tutor. You will be invited for a short interview to discuss your options for Post 16.

Following this interview you may be given a 'conditional offer' which means you will be offered a place depending on what your GCSE grades are.

