‘The outstanding care and guidance experienced by students at Brentside continues into the Sixth Form’

OFSTED

Our new building including specialist Sixth Form facilities

SCHOOL VISION

Brentside High School challenges all to achieve excellence as lifelong learners with the highest expectations of themselves and others.

No exceptions, no excuses.
Welcome from the Headteacher

Now that Year 11 is well under way it is very important to start planning the next step. Below I have outlined some of the reasons why I think that the move into the Brentside Sixth Form will be the clear and right choice for many of you:

- In April 2018 we moved into our new purpose built Sixth Form Learning Centre with improved post 16 study facilities including specialist science, PE and IT rooms. There is also a fitness suite that you will be able to use and a new improved Sixth Form study area.
- For the last two years we have had a pass rate of more than 99% in Year 13, placing the school in the top 10% of all schools in England in both 2017 and 2018. Although final rankings are not yet available for 2018 I am delighted to say that in 2017 we were actually in the top 2% of schools. I firmly believe that our individual targeting and support procedures do much to realise such a high level of success.
- The quality of teaching and learning in Sixth Form lessons is very good and the outstanding care and guidance experienced by students at Brentside continues into the Sixth Form (Ofsted 2016).
- Students report that they feel well supported by their tutors and highly value the relationships they have with their teachers.
- We accept and welcome your increasing maturity and we will celebrate your many achievements. However, we will still support and challenge you to work hard and achieve grades that you are proud of.
- We provide a Sixth Form of approximately 280 students - big enough for you to have a variety of people to mix with but small enough to ensure that you still feel part of the Brentside community.
- We will consult you over aspects of your studies – for example, options within examination courses.
- We offer you excellent accommodation and study facilities which will include easy access to computers with high speed internet connection to support you with independent study.

These are very exciting times for Brentside High School. Our reputation is growing both locally and nationally. These achievements have been identified and celebrated in many ways:
- Ofsted said that progress of sixth form students is very good and often outstanding.
- Consistently in the top 10% of all schools for student progress.
- Designated as a 'National Support School' by the department of education (DfE), a high achieving school that supports other schools across London and nationally.

We look forward to your application to the Sixth Form at Brentside and welcoming you to be a part of our continued success.

Yours faithfully,

Arwel Jones (Headteacher)
Message from the Sixth Form Team

Brentside High School offers an exciting range of academic, vocational and extra-curricular opportunities in a unique environment that will suit all students whatever your learning style, ambitions and interests.

As well as being high achieving, Brentside’s Sixth Form has a vibrant yet personalised and friendly atmosphere where every student is made to feel special and is given the opportunity to flourish.

Brentside students are confident, independent learners who are academically successful and are encouraged to develop many other interests. As a member of the Sixth Form you will be challenged to achieve excellence at all times. You will be guided towards increasing academic and personal independence.

We work hard to ensure students benefit fully from Sixth Form life by developing links with top universities, companies and other prestigious organisations. We aim to provide students with access to the industries that interest them and outstanding opportunities to enhance their curriculum vitae and UCAS applications.

If you join the Brentside High School Sixth Form we will ensure that you have the best experience and achieve the highest qualifications ready for a bright future ahead.

The Sixth Form Team

- Dr J. Bosher, Head of Sixth Form
- Ms C. Drewett, Sixth Form Student and Family Education Worker
- Mr H. Mahdi, Assistant Headteacher/Director of Sixth Form

Please talk to your teachers about the courses on offer and if in doubt consult any of the above staff. If you are not currently studying at Brentside then email your questions to 6thformadmissions@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk. We aim to run all courses advertised, however at times it is possible that a course may not run if low numbers mean that the course is not financially viable.

What can you expect from us to help you achieve your educational aims?

- A well-qualified and committed staff
- Individual support from the Sixth Form Team and tutors
- New Sixth Form Study Area with excellent IT facilities
- Equipment and facilities to help you with your studies
- Designated study area in the library with IT facilities
- Careers and higher education information, advice and guidance
ADMISSIONS CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE FOR ENTRY 2019

Brentside High School Sixth Form is committed to working in partnership with you to enable you to reach your potential. In order to be successful you must be able to work independently. **Every week you will be expected to undertake a minimum of 20 hours of study outside of the classroom.** This approach may be different from your previous experience, and it requires maturity and self-motivation. We have high expectations about your role in school. We expect you to set an example to younger students and help them to succeed. They will admire you and hope to be like you one day, so we ask you to be a good role model. For this reason you are expected to wear smart dress and a photographic ID badge.

### Sixth Form Programme of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme of Study</th>
<th>GCSE entry required for study programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 A levels + Level 3 extended project</td>
<td>8+ Grade 9-7 at GCSE including English language or literature and mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 x A levels + Level 3 extended project</td>
<td>5+ Grade 9-5 at GCSE including English language or literature and mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3 BTEC/CTEC course(s) + Level 3 extended project</td>
<td>5+ Grade 9-4, including English language or literature and mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x Level 2 course</td>
<td>5+ Grade 9-3 at GCSE including English language or literature and mathematics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**All Level 3 (advanced) courses** are suited to students who enjoy academic study and have proved their high academic ability by their GCSE results. Universities use a combination of GCSE grades, Level 3 predicted grades, personal statements and references to select students who will be offered a place at their institution.

**Level 2 courses** are one year courses. A high merit grade is equivalent to four GCSE passes at Grade 5 and will allow students to progress to Level 3 courses the following year.

**GCSE re-take courses in English language and mathematics**

These are compulsory for students if they have yet to achieve a Grade 4 in English and/or mathematics.

**Level 3 Extended Project Qualification**

Students taking advanced courses will be required to take the Level 3 extended project which is a qualification designed by universities to ensure that students have the skills required for higher education. Students will develop a project of their own choosing in a topic that interests them. Students will be supported in a weekly lesson. In employment, there is an increasing trend towards management through the use of projects of various sizes and duration making the extended project relevant to all career paths.
### ACADEMIC CRITERIA FOR SIXTH FORM STUDY

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR A LEVEL STUDY

Minimum entry requirements: five Grade 9-5 at GCSE plus subject specific requirements (see below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>SPECIFIC MINIMUM GCSE (or equivalent) REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art (all subjects)</td>
<td>Grade 5 in the relevant GCSE art subject or Merit in Level 2 BTEC art &amp; design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Grade 6-6 in combined science or 6 in biology, plus 6 in mathematics and 5 in English language or literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Grade 6-6 in combined science or 6 in chemistry, plus 6 in mathematics and 5 in English language or literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer science</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE computing or Distinction in ICT Cambridge Nationals, plus 6 in mathematics and 5 in English language or literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Grade 6 in mathematics and 5 in English language or literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English language</td>
<td>Grade 6 in English language and literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English literature</td>
<td>Grade 6 in English language and literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further mathematics</td>
<td>Grade 8 in mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Grade 6 in geography and 5 in English language or literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government and politics</td>
<td>Grade 5 in history or geography and 5 in GCSE English language or literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Grade 5 in history and 5 in English language or literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>High Grade 6 in mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media studies</td>
<td>Grade 5 in English language or literature and grade 5 in GCSE media studies (if taken)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern foreign languages (French or Spanish)</td>
<td>Grade 6 in French or 6 in Spanish and 5 in English language or literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE music and grade 4 Associated Board of the Royal School of Music practice (or equivalent) or grade 5 Associated Board of the Royal School of Music theory and practice (or equivalent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music technology</td>
<td>Grade 5 in GCSE music and Grade 4-4 in GCSE combined science or Grade 4 in GCSE mathematics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Grade 6-6 in combined science or 6 in physics, plus 6 in mathematics and 5 in English language or literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Grade 6-6 in combined science (biology units) or 6 in biology, plus 5 in mathematics and 5 in English language or literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious studies: philosophy and ethics</td>
<td>Grade 5 in religious studies or history and 5 in English language or literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Grade 5 in English language or literature and 6 in any GCSE humanities subject</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR LEVEL 3 BTEC/CTEC STUDY

Minimum entry requirements: five Grade 9-4 at GCSE plus subject specific requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>SPECIFIC MINIMUM GCSE (or equivalent) REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 3 BTEC art &amp; design (triple award only)</td>
<td>Grade 5 in art and design or merit in Level 2 BTEC art and design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3 BTEC business (single, double or triple award)</td>
<td>Grade 5 in mathematics and English language or literature or a high merit in Level 2 BTEC business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3 BTEC drama- performing arts (single award)</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE drama (if taken) and Grade 5 in GCSE English language or literature (applicants who have not taken GCSE drama will need to pass an audition with the subject leader)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3 BTEC sport (single award)</td>
<td>Grade 4 in mathematics, English language or literature and Grade 5 in additional science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3 BTEC science (single or double award)</td>
<td>Grade 5-5 in GCSE combined science or 5 in triple science or distinction in Level 2 BTEC science and Grade 5 in mathematics and English language or literature</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR LEVEL 2 BTEC/CTEC STUDY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>SPECIFIC MINIMUM GCSE (or equivalent) REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 BTEC art &amp; design</td>
<td>Grade 9-3 in five GCSE subjects including English language or literature, mathematics and art or design technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 CTEC business</td>
<td>Grade 9-3 in five GCSE subjects including English language or literature and mathematics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ART: FINE ART A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE fine art or merit in Level 2 BTEC art and design

What will I be doing?

You will create a lot of practical pieces, including drawing, painting, printmaking, graphic design and sculpture in a variety of media. In practical work, specific skills are taught in all the disciplines in order to encourage confidence and creativity with a broad range of materials and processes. You will also be studying aspects of nineteenth and twentieth century art, craft and design. This will involve a number of visits to art galleries, museums and studios of practising artists.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

An A level in art will qualify you to follow a range of higher education courses. Our art and design students often progress to degree courses in art and design, specialising in one or more of the following areas: fine art, fashion, graphic design, interior design, textiles. Fine art is a requirement for those wishing to study architecture.

How is the course assessed?

A level is assessed in two parts: personal study and externally set assignment. The personal study assessment is completed over the duration of the course. The externally set assignment is assessed in practical examination.

Examination board: Edexcel
ART: GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: Grade 5 in any GCSE art and design subject or merit in Level 2 BTEC art and design

What will I be doing?

You will do a lot of practical work where you will learn skills in illustration, computer graphics, digital imaging and multimedia. Projects are based around the design and production of advertising and publicity material, including packaging and advertising for publications and TV. You will visit professional studios and collections and work with professional practitioners in this field.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

An A level in graphic communication will qualify you to follow a range of higher education courses involving graphic communication, graphic design and games design.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed in two parts: personal study and externally set assignment. The personal study assessment is completed over the duration of the course. The externally set assignment is assessed in practical examination.

Examination board: Edexcel
ART: PHOTOGRAPHY A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: Grade 5 in any GCSE art and design subject or merit in Level 2 BTEC art and design

What will I be doing?

Photography is both a practical and a theoretical subject. You will be studying photography as a means of personal enquiry and expression. You will learn techniques of 35mm and digital photography. These will include taking photographs, processing film and developing prints in black and white. You will also learn how to use computers to edit and manipulate photographs. The subject matter for the course includes landscape and portrait photography and how environmental and social issues affect images.

An important component of the course is digital imaging, both still and video. You will be working with state of the art equipment in this area to produce colour photography and multimedia projects.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

An A level in photography will enable you to follow a range of courses at university. Students often progress to degree courses in photography or many related specialist fields including: media studies; fashion; graphic design and interior design. Some students choose to apply for other degree courses or enter employment in photography-related work.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed in two parts: personal study and externally set assignment. The personal study assessment is completed over the duration of the course. The externally set assignment is assessed in practical examination.

Examination board: Edexcel
ART: PRODUCT DESIGN A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: Grade 5 in any GCSE art and design subject or merit in Level 2 BTEC art and design

What will I be doing?

Product design is both a practical and a theoretical subject. It seeks to develop your knowledge, understanding, skills and application for designing products. Product design encompasses a wide range of design disciplines but is firmly rooted in the skills required to design and make high quality products. You will be given the opportunity to develop your creative, technical and practical skills through a series of product investigation, design and manufacturing activities. You will also develop your knowledge and understanding of materials and processes used in design and technology.

The modern designer must have a good working knowledge of the use of ICT and systems and control technology in the design and manufacture of products. You will become aware of the important contributions of designers from the past which may provide inspiration for future design.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

This course aims to develop your creativity, capability and entrepreneurial skills; to apply knowledge and understanding to a range of technological activities and to develop your critical thinking and collaborative skills. Product design combines well with mathematics and physics where further study in engineering is the aim. Other subjects that complement product design are art, English, business studies and ICT.

Product design students often go on to take degree courses in the following areas: 3D product design; industrial design; architecture; model making; systems design; graphical design; packaging design; exhibition/display design; engineering (mechanical, structural and electronic); furniture design and manufacture; cabinet making; interior design and antique restoration.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed by internally assessed design and make projects and an externally set examination.

Examination board: AQA
**ART: TEXTILES A LEVEL**

**Specific entry requirements:** Grade 5 in any GCSE art and design subject or merit in Level 2 BTEC art and design

**What will I be doing?**

In A Level textiles you will create many practical pieces where you will learn skills in fabric printing and weaving and garment construction. Projects are based on the design of fabrics and products for the fashion and textile industry. You will visit professional fashion and textiles collections and work with professional practitioners in this field.

**How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?**

An A level in textiles will qualify you to follow a range of higher education courses. Our art and design students often progress to degree courses in art & design, specialising in one or more of the following areas: fine art; fashion; graphic design; interior design or textiles. You can also use what you have learnt in art and design to help you in other degree courses. Both courses might lead you to consider employment in design studios, exhibitions, the printing trade or any career which requires your creative skills and talents.

**How is the course assessed?**

This course is assessed by an externally set assignment with a timed practical examination judged by an external moderator. The examination is effectively the completion of the final practical project, without help.

Examination board: Edexcel
Specific entry requirements: Grade 6-6 in GCSE combined science or Grade 6 in GCSE biology, plus Grade 6 in GCSE mathematics and Grade 5 in GCSE English language or literature

What will I be doing?

A level biology covers a broad range of topics chosen to allow progression to a wider range of biological courses at higher education: biochemistry and molecular biology; animal and plant physiology; genetics or microbiology. The specification combines more traditional elements, such as the kidney, with more modern biological ideas such as epigenetics. Students also develop their practical skills through the core practical component of the course.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

An A level in biology will enable you to follow a range of courses at university, such as biological sciences, biochemistry, ecology, pharmacy and medicine.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed by three written examinations at the end of Year 13. There are also compulsory core practicals which students must pass in order to qualify to sit their written examinations. Please note that this course includes a compulsory field trip, during the second year, which students are expected to fund.

Examination board: Edexcel Biology B
CHEMISTRY A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: Grade 6-6 in GCSE combined science or Grade 6 in GCSE chemistry, plus Grade 6 in GCSE mathematics and Grade 5 in GCSE English language or literature

What will I be doing?

The first year of the course covers the three main strands of chemistry: inorganic, organic and physical, with a focus on practical work which teaches the use of chemicals and their related hazards. Topics covered include atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding and structure, the fundamentals of organic chemistry, energetic and chemical kinetics and the part they all play in industrial chemistry.

The second year of the course covers the three main strands of chemistry: inorganic, organic and physical, with a focus on practical work which teaches the use of chemicals and their related hazards. Topics covered include atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding and structure, organic chemistry, transition metal chemistry, energetics, chemical kinetics and equilibria.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

An A level in chemistry will enable you to follow a range of courses at university, such as pure chemistry, biochemistry, biomedical sciences and pharmacy. Students wishing to study medicine must pass chemistry A level, usually with a Grade A.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed by three written examinations at the end of Year 13. There are also compulsory core practicals which students must pass in order to qualify to sit their written examinations.

Examination board: Edexcel
COMPUTER SCIENCE A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE computing or distinction in ICT Cambridge Nationals, plus Grade 6 in mathematics and Grade 5 in English language or literature

What will I be doing?

You will develop the ability to think systematically, logically and creatively. This will greatly enhance your analytical skills to develop solutions to real life problems and give you the opportunity to analyse key features and trends in the development of technology and computer science.

The purpose of this course is to develop your programming skills and theoretical knowledge of computer science. You will be required to use the knowledge and skills gained throughout the course to solve or investigate a practical real-life problem.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

This course enables students to develop computational thinking/problem solving skills, which are essential for workplace or further studies beyond the scope of computer science.

An A level in computer science will equip you with key skills to access a wide range of courses at university or apprenticeship programmes or work opportunities. Students get a good foundation to progress to degree courses in computing, software engineering, information technology, media and the internet, business, consulting and management.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed by two written examinations and one piece of coursework.

Examination board: AQA
ECONOMICS A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE mathematics and Grade 5 in GCSE English language or literature

What will I be doing?

This course is designed to allow you to develop an understanding of economics by examining current economic issues, problems and institutions that effect everyday life. Your work will focus on developing your knowledge and skills to explain and evaluate the important factors involved within an economy. You will be learning about the working of individual product markets, the reasons why markets fail, the theory of market structure and the working of national economies. There is a focus on decision making and how government can improve the outcomes in individual markets and for the whole economy.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

An A level in economics will enable you to follow a range of degree courses at university. Students enrol onto a number of economics related courses, such as marketing, finance, economics, European business and public relations. If you have studied economics, employers appreciate that you understand the environment in which a business is run. The skills and knowledge you will acquire on the course are well regarded by future employers.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed by three written examinations at the end of Year 13.

Examination board: OCR
ENGLISH LANGUAGE A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE English language and Grade 6 in English literature

What will I be doing?

English language offers you the challenge of examining how language works in fiction and non-fiction texts. You will learn about the devices writers use in order to have an effect upon their readers and develop your knowledge about the technical aspects of language.

You will develop your own skills as a writer and have the opportunity to write creatively in a variety of genres. You will also learn how to adapt a piece of writing for a different purpose or readership. You will write your own stories, novel openings, plays, poems and other pieces of fiction and non-fiction.

As a reader, you will learn how to analyse and appreciate literary and non-fiction texts, looking specifically at how language is used to create effects. You will be able to explore a wider range of texts and expand the skills you developed at GCSE.

How will this help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

An A level in English language will enable you to follow a range of courses at university. It also serves as an excellent foundation for linguistics based courses. Employers recognise that you have advanced and sophisticated language skills, including the ability to analyse texts and to express yourself clearly in writing. It is a good subject for those intending to follow a variety of careers in journalism, media, law, social sciences, teaching, business or management.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed by three written examinations and one piece of coursework.

Examination board: Eduqas
ENGLISH LITERATURE A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE English language and Grade 6 in GCSE English literature

What will I be doing?

English literature offers you the challenge of reading and studying a wide range of literature written at various periods of time and in different styles. These will include: novels, short stories, plays and poems. As well as studying specific texts for the examination, you will gain knowledge about the social, historical and cultural contexts of certain writers and their works. In total, you are expected to study twelve texts over two years.

You will learn how to analyse texts and to write about them critically. You will develop your own responses to literature and combine this with knowledge of how literature ‘works’—how writers achieve effects in their writing, and how effectively they ‘shape’ their works or create characters and settings.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

It is usually necessary to have English literature A level for entry to an English literature (single or joint honours) degree course. Employers recognise that you have advanced and sophisticated language skills, including the ability to analyse texts and to express yourself clearly in writing. It is a good subject for those intending to follow careers in law, social sciences, business or management, journalism, media or teaching.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed by two written examinations as well as one piece of coursework.

Examination board: Edexcel
Specific entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE geography and Grade 5 in GCSE English language or literature

What will I be doing?

This course will give you an extensive knowledge and understanding of the two main themes of the subject: human geography and physical geography. Human geography deals with how people and the environment interact. Physical geography is all about scientific aspects of the world’s changing environment. As well as giving you a better understanding of how mankind and the earth impact on each other. You will also study places of geographical interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1:</th>
<th>Year 2:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tectonic Processes and Hazards</td>
<td>The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Landscapes and Change</td>
<td>The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Globalisation</td>
<td>Superpowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regenerating Places</td>
<td>Global Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

Geography is a very well regarded A level and will enable you to follow a range of courses at university. Geography has links with both the sciences and the arts and is a good preparation for jobs which involve planning and decision-making in the business and industrial world as well as for jobs which require an understanding of current affairs.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed by three written examinations: physical geography; human geography and a synoptic paper.

Examination board: Edexcel
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE history or geography and Grade 5 in GCSE English language or literature

What will I be doing?

This course gives you the knowledge to understand how government works, particularly in the UK, but also in other countries. In the first year you will study how people participate in politics, and how the UK government works. In the second year you will specialise in subjects such as the politics of the USA or political ideologies. You will learn about undertaking research, gain a deeper understanding of governments and find out about careers in politics.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

Government and politics A level will prepare you for a range of courses at university. A degree in politics might lead to you becoming a researcher, joining local or national government, or even becoming a politician. It also supports careers in journalism, education, media and law.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed by three written examinations at the end of Year 13.

Examination board: AQA
HISTORY A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE history and Grade 5 in GCSE English language or literature

What will I be doing?

In the first year, you will study two units. The first is The Making of a Superpower USA: Part One from Civil War to World War, 1865-1920. This will look at how the USA developed politically, socially, economically and ideologically. The other is The Making of Modern Britain: Part One Building a New Britain, 1951-1979, an in depth study which focuses on key ideas, events and developments in Britain at this time.

In the second year, you will build on your previous work. You continue with The Making of a Superpower USA: Part Two Crisis and the Rise to World Power, 1920-1975 and also The Making of Modern Britain: Part Two Modern Britain, 1979-2007. Students also undertake the historical investigation; The Tudor Century 1485-1603.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

An A level in history will enable you to follow a range of courses at university. History is recognised by universities and employers as a subject requiring discipline and hard work. The course develops advanced skills in information acquisition and selection, forming sound judgements and formulating a plan of action. Many teachers, lawyers, civil servants, managers and people in positions of leadership have studied history at advanced level.

How is the course assessed?

Students are assessed by two written examinations and one piece of coursework.

Examination Board: AQA
MATHEMATICS A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: High Grade 6 in GCSE mathematics

What will I be doing?

You will study pure mathematics and applied mathematics.

In pure mathematics, you will learn how to construct rigorous mathematical arguments through the appropriate use of precise statements, logical deductions and inferences, and manipulation of mathematical expressions.

It is in applied mathematics (which covers mechanics and statistics) that we take your pure mathematical knowledge and use it to model and explain physical processes and machines around us, ranging from ball games and roller coasters to the entire solar system.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

A good mathematical training offers many opportunities and is seen as an asset not just by universities, but also by a wide range of employers. They recognise that the logical thinking and problem-solving skills gained through mathematics can be applied throughout the workplace, even where little or no mathematics itself occurs. Mathematics is essential for careers in engineering.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics

What will I be doing?

Students who are appropriately qualified will be given the opportunity to study further mathematics at A level. This counts as a separate subject. This means that when you pass A level mathematics and A level further mathematics you have two A levels.

In taking this course you will study additional pure and applied mathematics including decision mathematics.

How are the courses assessed?

This course is assessed by examination only.

Examination board: Edexcel
MEDIA STUDIES A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE English language or literature and grade 5 GCSE media studies (if taken)

What will I be doing?

AQA's A level Media Studies specification is designed to encourage you to;

- enhance your enjoyment and appreciation of the media and its role in daily life
- develop critical understanding of the media through engagement with media products and concepts and through the creative application of practical skills
- explore production processes, technologies and other relevant contexts
- become independent in research skills with opportunities for you to apply your knowledge to your practical work and in developing your own views and interpretations

In year one you will investigate the media in order to understand and evaluate how meanings and responses are created. The contemporary media landscape and its changing contexts are studied in terms of products, platforms and technologies.

In year two you are encouraged to demonstrate, develop and formulate your understanding of the media and its influential role in today's society as well as debating major contemporary media issues.

This course includes the exploration of the key concepts and ideas through the study of 18 set media texts including print advertisements, TV programmes, radio and newspapers. All texts are accompanied by the study and application of high level academic theory.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good job?

This qualification will allow you to follow a wide range of courses at university, both theoretical and practical in nature. If you chose to embark on a media career and enter employment in that field, the practical experience you will have gained and your knowledge and familiarity with real world production strategies will be highly valued by employers.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed two written examinations and an advanced production portfolio.

Examination board: AQA
MODERN LANGUAGES A LEVEL

Courses: FRENCH or SPANISH

Specific entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE French or Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish and Grade 5 in GCSE English language or literature

What will I be doing?

The aim of both courses in these subjects is for you to be able to communicate fluently in French or Spanish. All of your lessons will be conducted in the target language and through the topics studied you will develop a high level of competency in speaking, listening, reading and writing. You will study the language through a variety of stimuli, using authentic materials, such as newspapers, magazines, radio, television programmes and the internet. You will learn how to speak colloquially, organise discussions and present arguments and information. In addition you will be able to write accurately in the target language. Grammar will be studied through a systematic programme relevant to the topic studied and the skills required. A foreign language is essential to giving you a well-rounded knowledge of the world we live in and a competitive edge when applying for jobs and universities. It is also a good complement to other A level subjects, such as English and mathematics.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

Success at A level in a modern foreign language shows employers and college admissions tutors that not only are you intelligent, but also you have acquired good study skills. Even if you do not study the language as your main degree course, you can often follow a subsidiary course at university. Your ability to communicate in that language will be highly valued by employers. The ability to speak, write well in and understand a foreign language is often the deciding factor when employers are choosing potential employees.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed by three examinations including a speaking examination.

Examination board: AQA
Specific entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE music and Grade 4 Associated Board of the Royal School of Music practice (or equivalent) or Grade 5 Associated Board of the Royal School of Music Theory and practice (or equivalent)

What will I be doing?

If you enjoy listening to music of many styles and traditions, playing a musical instrument as a soloist and in groups and have the desire to create your own original music compositions, then you will find this course both challenging and enjoyable.

Performing – you will be expected to take part in a range of solo and ensemble performances during the two years. There will be the opportunity to develop your performance skills, including sight-reading and improvisation. In the second year of the course, you will present an eight minute recital which will be composed of pieces that are grade 7 or above.

Composing – You will compose two pieces over the two year course, one which is a free composition and one in response to a brief assessing compositional technique. The compositional technique that you will study is Bach Chorale.

Appraising – There are six areas of study, each containing three set works. The areas of study include vocal music, instrumental music, film music, popular music and jazz, fusions and twentieth century music. By developing listening and analysing skills students will be assessed on musical elements, musical contexts and musical language. You will sit a two hour examination which will include multiple-choice, short open question and extended writing essay style questions.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

An A level in music will enable students to follow a range of music or performing arts courses at university or music college. Music is recognised by universities (including the research-intensive Russell Group universities) and employers as a subject requiring self-discipline, demonstrating skills of analysis, dexterity and commitment. It will be particularly useful if you are considering a career in sound engineering, radio and media work, recording or teaching.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed by two written examinations and a piece of coursework.

Examination board: Edexcel
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE music and Grade 4-4 in GCSE combined science or Grade 4 in GCSE mathematics. Good keyboard skills would be advantageous

What will I be doing?

If you enjoy listening to a wide variety of different styles and genres of music and you have the desire to gain a more indepth view of the skills needed for the music technology industry then you will find this course both challenging and enjoyable.

**Component 1: Recording.** The examination board will provide a list of artists that you will choose to record a song by. You will be responsible for organising musicians and for carrying out the entire production process from recording to mixing and mastering.

**Component 2: Technology-based composition.** The examination board will provide three briefs and you will select one of these to create, edit, manipulate and structure sounds to produce a technology-based composition using Logic Pro X.

**Component 3: Listening and analysing.** This is an examination paper where students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques in the context of commercial recordings,

**Component 4: Producing and analysing.** This is an examination paper where students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques. This knowledge is then applied to practical tasks using Logic Pro X.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

An A level in music technology will enable students to follow a range of music technology courses at University. Employers see music-based subjects as a subject requiring self-discipline, demonstrating skills of analysis, dexterity and commitment. It will be particularly useful if you are considering a career in sound engineering, radio and media work, recording or teaching.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed by two written examinations and a piece of coursework.

Examination board: Edexcel
Specific entry requirements: Grade 6-6 in GCSE combined science or Grade 6 in GCSE physics and Grade 6 in GCSE mathematics and 5 in English language or literature

What will I be doing?

The first year of the course covers mechanics, electrical circuits, materials and the wave and particle nature of light. Year 1 physics is essentially a practical subject and during the course you will carry out many practical activities.

In the second year, the course covers further mechanics, fields, nuclear and particle physics, thermodynamics and space, nuclear radiation and oscillations. The course continues to develop the practical skills covered in Year 1.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

An A level in physics will enable you to follow a range of courses at university, including medicine and most engineering courses. It is recognised by universities and employers as a subject requiring discipline and hard work, which develops advanced skills in abstract reasoning, applying knowledge to new situations, solving problems logically and communicating clearly.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed by three written examinations at the end of Year 13. There are also compulsory core practicals which students must pass in order to qualify to sit their written examinations.

Examination board: Edexcel
PSYCHOLOGY A LEVEL

Specific entry requirements: Grade 6-6 in GCSE combined science (biology units) or Grade 6 in GCSE biology, plus Grade 5 in GCSE mathematics and Grade 5 in GCSE English language or literature

What will I be doing?

You will be introduced to six core areas of psychology during Year 1 and then cover these in greater depth in Year 2.

The areas of study are:

Social Psychology: you will research the influence of others on your everyday behaviour. Topics include why you conform to others and those in positions of authority and how your personality influences obedience.

Cognitive Psychology: involves investigating how the human memory works. This includes learning about why we forget and factors that affect the accuracy of eyewitness testimonies.

Developmental Psychology: looks into changes that take place over our lifetime, especially childhood. You will learn about how early attachments impact on your later relationships.

Approaches in Psychology: you will debate whether our behaviour is made up from our social environment or whether it is the result of our biological makeup or cognitive processing.

Psychopathology: this topic identifies the different ways of diagnosing and treating OCD, depression and phobias.

Research Methods: you will review the variety of scientific methods and techniques used in psychological research, such as experimental designs and sampling techniques. You will handle and analyse data.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

This course lays an appropriate foundation for further studies in psychology or related subjects in higher education, such as criminology and consumer psychology (advertising). In addition, psychology is a respected subject and, as it impacts our everyday lives, is unique in its nature.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed by three written examinations.

Examination board: AQA
Specific entry requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE religious studies or history and Grade 5 in GCSE English language or literature

What will I be doing?

There are three components to the course: philosophy of religion, religion and ethics and development in religious thought.

Philosophy of religion involves studying arguments about whether God exists, analysing the idea of religious experience, questioning why God allows evil to happen, analysing the nature of the soul and exploring the possibility of life after death.

Religion and ethics involves studying the meaning of ethical language, by questioning for example, what it means to call something “good” or “right.” In addition to this, we will explore the concepts of free will and conscience, for example by questioning what makes us decide to act in a particular way. We will also explore ethical issues such as sex and euthanasia.

Developments in religious thought is a chance to learn the history and traditions of one particular religion, we will focus on Buddhism. This will involve studying the life of the Buddha and key Buddhist concepts and analysing the purpose and practice of meditation. We will also explore modern developments to Buddhism, for example the authority and status of the Dalai Lama.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

Religious Studies is an academic subject which develops skills in critical thinking, debate and analysis. A previous student from Brentside, who went on to study law at Cambridge, commented that A level religious studies was the most useful preparation for the course. The skills developed in religious studies are transferable and applicable to various university courses and careers.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed by three written examinations.

Examination board: OCR
What will I be doing?

Sociology is about making sense of the society we live in. It helps us to understand why people behave in the way that they do. It unpicks the thread of our experiences throughout life and shapes our way of thinking. You will form new perspectives of society whilst studying the following topics:

**Education:** This unit allows you to critically analyse the education system and question a social institution you are actively a member of. Students will investigate the educational differences in achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society.

**Families and households:** You will compare the contemporary household to the traditional family and how changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation and gender roles have impacted the various family roles.

**Crime and deviance:** In this topic, you will cover the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class. Students will also research crime in contemporary society, the media and crime, green crime, human rights and state crimes.

**Beliefs in society:** Involves researching into religious ideologies and the relationship between science and religion, including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions. You will learn about the changes in religion and social stability and the emergence of new religious organisations, including cults, sects and denominations.

**Theory and methods:** You will debate whether the study of sociology is subjective or objective and if it can ever be value free. You will gain a deeper insight into the different sociological perspectives and the relationship between sociology and social policy.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

All of the content that is covered and the skills that are developed help with success in a range of careers such as politics, teaching, journalism, social work, marketing, public relations, counselling and advertising.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed by three written examinations.

Examination board: AQA
Specific entry requirements: Grade 4 in art and design or merit in Level 2 BTEC art and design

What will I be doing?

This qualification is equivalent to three A levels. The qualification is designed for post-16 students who want to study art and design related degree courses in higher education. You will gain knowledge and understanding of visual communication and the creative process to develop your creative voice. You will develop an understanding of the importance and influence of the work of artists and designers to develop and realise their creative intentions. You will produce a portfolio of art and design work to support progression to higher education. Optional units allow you to gain knowledge in areas such as fashion, textiles, graphics, photography, 3D studies and fine art.

The qualification is intended to be studied over two years as the substantial qualification in your programme of study.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

The qualification has been designed to provide progression onto a wide range of related courses in higher education. Taking this qualification will develop your analytical skills. You will also develop and realise your creative intentions. You will develop a portfolio of art and design projects to support progression to a wide range of related degree courses in art and design.

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses, for example a range of degrees including: art and design; interior design; fashion design; textiles; graphic design; photography and fine art.

How is the course assessed?

This course is composed of practical work which is assessed by an external moderator and written work to accompany. There are no written examinations.

Examination board: Edexcel
BUSINESS LEVEL 3 BTEC (single, double or triple award)

Specific entry requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE English language or literature and mathematics or a high merit in Level 2 BTEC business

What will I be doing?

This practical course consists of a combination of core units and specialist units. Core units studied in single business will include: exploring business; personal and business finance; market research and developing a marketing campaign.

For those studying the double award the units studied will also include: investigating customer service; international business; principals of management and managing an event. Finally for those who study the triple award, the additional units will include: training and development; employment law; investigating retail business; business decision making and creative promotion.

You will gain an extensive range of skills in presentation, communication, team working, report writing and business related skills such as customer service, merchandising and interviewing throughout the assessment of the course.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

Studying business at level 3 will enable you to follow many business-related courses at university. The course is designed to be both vocational and academic. If you have studied BTEC business employers appreciate that you understand how a business is run. The skills and knowledge you will acquire on the course are well regarded by future employers.

How is the course assessed?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extended Certificate (single award)</td>
<td>Coursework – 2 units</td>
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<td>Written exam – 1 unit</td>
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<td>Controlled assessment – 1 unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diploma (double award)</td>
<td>Coursework – 5 units</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Written exam – 1 unit</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Controlled assessment – 2 units</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extended Diploma (triple award)</td>
<td>Coursework – 9 units</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Written exam – 1 unit</td>
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<td>Controlled assessment – 3 units</td>
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Examination board: Edexcel
Specific entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE drama (if taken) and Grade 5 in GCSE English language or literature (applicants who have not taken GCSE drama will need to pass an audition with the subject leader)

How is the course assessed?

Performing Arts BTEC embodies a fundamentally learner-centred approach to the curriculum, with a flexible, unit-based structure and knowledge applied in project-based assessments. They focus on the holistic development of the practical, interpersonal and thinking skills required to be able to succeed in employment and higher education. You will have to choose and complete a range of units, be organised, take some assessments that we will set and mark, and keep a portfolio of your assignments.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

Supports progression to further education, higher education or employment (when studied alongside other level 3 qualifications.)

How is the course assessed?

Total: 4 Units (3 Mandatory Units, 1 Optional Unit)

Mandatory Units:
- Investigating Practitioners' work
- Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance
- Group Performance Workshop

Optional Units:
- Interpreting Classical Text for Performance
- Acting Styles
- Developing the voice for performance
- Improvisation
- Movement in Performance
- Physical Theatre Techniques
- Musical Theatre Techniques
- Variety Performance

Examination board: Edexcel
Specific entry requirements: Grade 5-5 in GCSE combined science or 5 in triple science or distinction in L2 BTEC science and Grade 5 in mathematics and English language or literature

What will I be doing?

You will learn by completing laboratory-based practical assignments, supported self-study assignments, presentations and discussions that are based on real workplace situations, activities and demands. The course covers a wide range of subjects including physiology and industrial applications, as well as using statistical and mathematical tools required for science.

BTECs offer practical experience that is often lacking in more traditional routes such as A levels.

This course allows students to:
- develop their vocational practical skills
- follow scientific procedures in a logical and safe manner
- observe and record data accurately and present information concisely.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

Students who study the course can access a wide range of higher education and work opportunities. The topics studied and methods of study used enable students to organise their own work and make their own decisions which are much sought after skills. Combined with other A level subjects the course will enable students to gain entry to a range of science and science related subjects such as health, nursing and pharmaceutical sciences. The course is also an excellent entry path into a range of scientifically related work opportunities where further training will be available.

How is the course assessed?

The course consists of three mandatory units plus one optional unit completed over two years. Two of the units are assessed through coursework which is internally assessed and externally moderated. One unit is an external examination. The remaining synoptic unit is a task set and marked externally but completed under supervised conditions.

Examination board: Edexcel
What will I be doing?

This qualification is equivalent to one A level. The qualification is designed for post-16 students who may want to study a sport related degree course in higher education. The course focuses on a wide range of aspects of sport including physiology, psychology, sociology, biomechanics and performance analysis.

You will produce two portfolios of detailed written assignments and videos of your own presentations concerned with aspects of the course. There are two, two hour written examinations that cover the physiology of the human body. There is an element of practical work that involves fitness testing and the body’s adaption to exercise both long and short term.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

The qualification has been designed to provide progression onto a wide range of related courses in higher education. Taking this qualification will develop your analytical, written, presentational and problem solving skills. Potential careers that can be accessed by taking this course include teaching, physiotherapy, sports science, psychology and coaching.

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses including sports science, psychology and physiology.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed by two written examinations and two written assignments.

Examination board: Edexcel
Specific entry requirements: Grade 3 in five GCSE subjects (or equivalent) including English language or literature, mathematics and art or design technology

What will I be doing?

The emphasis throughout this course of study is to give you the technical and creative skills that will prepare you for the world of work, professional practice or entry to higher education. The work involved will be mainly practical and student centred (i.e. related to the goals and ambitions you have). This practical course will teach transferable skills (i.e. those skills that will transfer to any area of employment) such as IT, group work, and communication and presentation skills.

In addition to the core elements of art and design, the units covered will also include: digital manipulation; photography; professional studio practice in traditional media such as drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture and 3-dimensional imaging.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

If you achieve a merit or distinction, you may decide to study art and design on an advanced vocational course (this could be our level 3 BTEC art & design course) or A level courses such as photography, graphic communication, textiles or computer aided design.

How is the course assessed?

This course is composed of practical work assessed by an external moderator and written work to accompany. There are no written examinations.

Examination board: Edexcel
BUSINESS LEVEL 2 CTEC DIPLOMA

Specific entry requirements: Grade 3 in five GCSE subjects including English language or literature and mathematics

What will I be doing?

Studying business will give you an insight into how organisations make important choices. This course enables you to find out how businesses operate and what makes a business successful. It is suitable for you if you have a genuine interest and enthusiasm for retail. You will carry out research into a number of businesses to learn how they operate.

The course covers basic business practice and operations such as business activity, exploring key business pressures and investigating business finance. Units covered include: business purposes; business organisations; financial forecasting in business; people in organisations; the marketing plan; verbal and non-verbal communication in business contexts; business communication through documentation; personal selling in business; customer relations in business and business online.

How will success help me to continue with my education or secure a good career?

Successful completion of the CTEC diploma in business provides you with a valuable and highly regarded qualification in its own right. The course is designed to be both vocational and academic, so upon completion, you have the opportunity to go into the world of work or continue with your studies. The skills and knowledge you will acquire on the course are well regarded by future employers.

If you achieve a distinction, you may decide to study the level 3 BTEC business.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed through the completion of coursework projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations and activities.

Examination board: OCR
Our new building including specialist Sixth Form facilities