



The John Fisher School

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

2021 – 2023

For entry into Year 12 in September 2021



The John Fisher School
Peaks Hill
Purley
CR8 3YP

Tel: 020 8660 4555
Fax: 020 8763 1837
<http://www.johnfisherschool.org/>

Headteacher's Welcome

Founded in 1929, John Fisher is a school with a proud history. Its motto is 'Fortuna Favente' – by the favour of fortune. The school is outward looking and has a proven track record in providing high quality education for Sixth Form students. The school currently caters for 1,165 boys of

which there are 235 in the Sixth Form. There is a strong pastoral system which aims to instil the Christian values of Service, Integrity, Respect and Selflessness. Great teaching is at the core of our mission. Our students have access to a wide curriculum offer to include a range of additional learning opportunities, which gives our young people inspiration and the confidence to achieve. We offer a range of subjects at A-level and there is an extension pathway available for students in the Sixth Form in Maths and Science. The school also offers successful BTEC courses in Sports, Business and ICT in the Sixth Form. There is also a strong emphasis on cultural enrichment and the school encourages its students to be sportsmen, debaters and artists. Sport at The John Fisher School is fantastic. We offer a variety of sports at all levels with highly successful school teams in football, rugby, cricket, basketball and athletics. Nationally, we are in the Top 100 schools for Cricket, Top 10 schools for Athletics (2 x National school boy champions in 2017) and we are now the No. 1 school in the country for Rugby. Our Debating group, Choir and Science club are examples of how we stretch our students - Year 13 students won the prestigious UNA Debating Competition for Sutton, Surrey and Croydon schools in 2017.

We never waiver in our view that leadership is crucial to success at whatever level it is exercised. In our most recent Ofsted inspection the Sixth Form was described as "Very successful and well led with the students achieving highly at A level". Last year's results were again very strong and once more amongst the very best in the local area. Progress to the full range of university courses from our Sixth Form is well established, with the vast majority of students progressing to university, including many to a Russell Group University, some of the UK's most prestigious universities. Whether the next destination is to the University of Oxford or the Royal College of Music, like some of our Year 13 students in the past, we will value each student equally and make sure we do everything we can to support their aspirations. Our links with universities, local businesses and our accomplished alumni put our students in a great position. Most recently, we had a representative from Cambridge University speak to our students. Former students often return to the school as guest speakers, such as Dr Robert Berkeley, Bill Dodwell and Julian Howard.

We aim to foster leadership capacity and our Sixth Form student led 'Talk Easy Trust' supports the students' mental health and provides a wonderful leadership opportunity for those involved. We provide a range of opportunities which support the curriculum such as overseas trips. We have an annual Sixth Form ski trip to the USA, tours to South Africa every two years and we are also planning a Geography trip to Iceland. We are now also part of the 'World Challenge Expedition', taking students further afield. A group of students travelled to Borneo in the summer which broadened their cultural horizons.

I hope that you will find this prospectus useful in deciding which courses you would like to study at our high performing Sixth Form.

Mr P E McCullagh

Headteacher



Contents

What Our Students Say	4
Destinations	5
Next Steps	6
Choosing Subjects	7
Careers	8
Sixth Form Life & Tutor Support	9
Tutor Support	9
PSHE & Talk Easy Trust	10
Home School Partnership	11
Enrichment	12
Sports	13
Music	14
Subject Option Blocks	15
General Entry Requirements	16
Subject Pages	17-47



Welcome to The John Fisher School Sixth Form. We offer a broad provision of subjects allowing choice and specialisation for all students, yet maintaining a personalised and supportive structure

We are very proud of the achievements and the development of our students. With a 3-year average ALPs score of 3, our students consistently achieve high and leave us with the qualifications and skill set required for future success in the next stages of their lives. Our Sixth Form is underpinned by our core values of Acceptance, Service, Perseverance, Integrity, Respect, Enjoyment and Selflessness. These provide the foundation of our Sixth Form and underpin our positive pastoral system and supportive environment. We welcome students of all faiths or none and aim to ensure that all our students leave with fond memories and positive experiences.

We aim to develop the whole student, enabling students to maximise their potential and develop into well rounded young people. We offer a broad range of high quality courses; allowing choice and specialisation for all students rooted in a personalised environment. Our outstanding teaching and supportive atmosphere ensures students are able to flourish and achieve, and alongside our RSHE and Careers curriculum, our students are prepared for their next steps. Many of our students continue their studies at top universities including Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell group institutions, whilst others have found success in apprenticeship programmes or paid employment.

The Sixth Form Centre is the hub of the Sixth Form and has a dedicated food and drinks servery, study area and computer facilities. It is a vibrant and busy place, which encourages students to learn independence and focus. Our teachers are passionate about their subjects and we supplement academic studies through project work and outside speakers. We offer opportunities for students to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) with dedicated staff who are able to mentor and support students in developing their academic interests beyond the curriculum. Extra-curricular activities are an important part of our Sixth Form life. We have nationally recognised Rugby, athletics and cross-country programmes and students have the opportunity to participate in a range of other activities including music, drama and debating.

There are opportunities for students to develop leadership skills within our active Student Leadership team and our student charity, the 'Talk Easy Trust'. Here students have the opportunity to reinforce our community values and help foster the positive environment in which our school thrives.

We believe we offer an all-round education and are convinced you will be very happy during your time at The John Fisher School.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Mr B Woolford

Director of Sixth Form

What our students say

The sense of community at the John Fisher School is wonderful. I feel supported and have enjoyed my studies here

OW Y13

The staff are passionate about our futures and want to support us to allow us to reach our potential

JB Y13

The John Fisher school provides opportunity, joy and a close knit community

AK Y13

The teachers are excellent at pushing you to the best of your abilities without making you feel pressurised

SL Y13

Sixth Form has enabled me to think critically about my opinions within a diverse environment that celebrates discussion and thoughtfulness.

SA Y13

I enjoy the complexity of my courses, where I get to explore my interests at a deeper level and I feel challenged to reach my potential.

PB Y13

I really enjoy the positive relationships I have developed with my peers and my teachers. Sixth Form allows me to study the subjects I enjoy in an environment where I feel engaged.

CD Y12

As a new student to the school, I have felt welcomed and part of the wider community.

OB Y12



Destinations

Students are well supported in determining the next stage of their academic or working life. A comprehensive programme of preparation to support UCAS applications, is undertaken. With guided research, conferences, personal statement workshops, personalised tutor support and subject guidance, students wishing to pursue higher education are well informed to make this important decision. Through using the support provided by the Sixth Form pastoral team our Sixth Form students feel confident in making these decisions.

In addition to UCAS support we have worked hard at broadening the scope of our careers support. Students choosing to leave full time education or undertaking apprentices, benefit from our growing network of contacts for apprenticeships and school leavers programme. Organised visits to careers conferences and employment events are a key part of this.

We are developing our careers education to reflect modern interview and assessment requirements and all students will be given an opportunity to have a Careers Interview with the Personal Advisor linked to the School.

University of Southampton	Law with Psychology
Loughborough University	Aeronautical Engineering
University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
University of York	Physics
University of Birmingham	Economics
University of Nottingham	Mechanical Engineering including an Industrial Year
Loughborough University	Mathematics
UCL (University College London)	Mathematics and Statistical Science
University of Warwick	History
University of Nottingham	Industrial Economics
University of Nottingham	Management
University of Nottingham	Economics
King's College London, University of London	Biomedical Science
University of Nottingham	Industrial Economics
University of Birmingham	Economics
University of Oxford	Engineering
University of Warwick	History and Politics
University of Bath	Sport Management and Coaching
University of Nottingham	Engineering and Physical Sciences with foundation year
University of Nottingham	Economics
University of Bath	Economics
University of Liverpool	Computer Science
University of Nottingham	Finance, Accounting and Management
University of Warwick	Mechanical Engineering

Electrical Installation Apprenticeship
--

Apprentice in Cyber Security

Next steps

This prospectus is aimed both at students currently studying GCSEs in our Year 11 and students attending other schools who are considering courses of study in The John Fisher Sixth Form. There are obvious advantages in selecting your subjects and courses well before September 2021, as this will give you targets for the year's study and allow you to think more clearly toward the future. You need to think carefully about the various options and discuss them with both your parents/carers and teachers, reflecting carefully on the entry requirements for each course. You should consider your future career goals as well as academic performance and of course enjoyment.

We will be asking you to apply by **Friday 11th December 2020** which will then be followed by a meeting in late January/early February. Do please read the information on the following pages carefully, then complete and return the application form either to the School's Sixth Form Office or by email it to c.cooney@johnfisherschool.org as soon as possible. Application forms are available for download from the school website on the Sixth Form [Admissions Page](#).

We look forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form in September 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Cooney at c.cooney@johnfisherschool.org



Choosing your subjects

Where do you start?

Deciding what to do in the Sixth Form is not easy. There are so many possibilities and you want to be sure to make the right choices. Important decisions like this must not be rushed and demand a great deal of thought based on accurate information.

Before you make any choices, you need to focus on two key areas.

Firstly: What do you enjoy? Students that are most successful love the courses they are taking and are willing to develop their understanding beyond the curriculum structures. Our students have noted that, this is a key factor in influencing option choices, as you will be required to dedicate significant time to your studies, and if you do not enjoy a subject, you will be less motivated to want to further your understanding.

Secondly: Where are you going? Whilst you may not have a clear career plan at this stage, you must be aware of how your option choices affect your future. You may be aiming for university or a higher level apprenticeship or vocational qualification and it is important you develop the knowledge and skills required to access your chosen pathway. Certain careers such as Medicine or Engineering have specific requirements for entry that may determine some of your choices. Many careers require you to demonstrate certain skills and interests and some courses may be more suitable for developing these than others. Ultimately, all careers require you to gain the best qualifications possible, and so it is important to consider which subjects are necessary and which will enable you to succeed.

It is worth discussing your choices with your subject teachers and your parents/**carers** and considering your predicted GCSE grades. We want you to be on courses that will allow you to succeed and recognise that you may require support. It is important you choose the right subjects for you and so we recommend you invest time researching future options and courses carefully. As a school we make use of the platform 'Unifrog', which allows you to research these in more detail as well as complete wider reading and research into areas of interests.

We place all of our subjects in option blocks, based upon potential combinations of subjects. Certain subjects can lend themselves to each other but ultimately, the best subject combinations are dependent on the individual, and we recommend that for those uncertain about their choices, they choose a range of subjects that suit their interests. Certain subjects may be taught in combined classes of Year 12 and Year 13 students. Further Mathematics is taught out of option block, but requires students to select this in Option Block C. EPQ is available in all Option Blocks, and will be available to select at the start of the academic year. All courses are dependent on student numbers and it is expected that students meet the entrance criteria for each subject to ensure they are able to access the course material and reach their potential.



Careers

We place great importance on supporting and guiding our Sixth Form students as they transition into the working world and promote a growth mind set for successful futures.

We believe our Sixth Form students receive the highest quality in career guidance which sets us apart from other schools and colleges.

Each Sixth Form student has access to our career platform 'Unifrog' where they are able to develop their bespoke career maps as well as access resources for further information on their specified interest. In addition to the platform, student activities on 'Unifrog' are monitored by their tutors as well as the Careers Coordinator in order to identify areas of support. Sixth Form students are able to contact the Careers Coordinator and book an appointment to discuss queries, advice and support.

We are able to support with the preparation of university applications, CVs and other processes that our students need to follow to secure the next stage of their education or training. We thrive at supporting students in school so that they are able to have the skills and mind set to support themselves outside of it.

In Years 12 and 13, we run a 'Speed Careers' event. This event brings together over 40 different professions in one place, allowing students the chance to speak to Old Boys and other professionals about their career choices. Guest speakers and CV workshops are also undertaken to help boost the employability of our students.

We aim to educate and support students as they start making some very important decisions. We use a range of parental talks and external organisations to bring in fresh perspectives and give impartial advice.



Sixth Form life & tutor support

If you are already a student at John Fisher you will find a natural transition from Year 11 into Sixth Form life. You already 'belong' here and will soon enjoy the greater personal responsibility and flexibility. If you are not already at John Fisher you will find the school a welcoming environment where you too can benefit from the excellent teaching, a range of courses and the variety of opportunities available for personal development. By playing a full part in our school community, via our mentoring, community programmes or as Prefects, our Sixth Form students play a vital role in supporting our whole school community and have excellent opportunities to develop leadership and transferable skills. We welcome students with a range of views and beliefs as long as they respect the Christian values on which John Fisher is built. The John Fisher community is a highly supportive one, eager to welcome new members that can enjoy the benefit of our excellent teaching staff and personal development opportunities.

"It has only taken me a couple of weeks to turn a bunch of strangers into friends in this warm and friendly environment"

Year 12 Joiner 2019



All Sixth Form students enjoy membership of a tutor group and meet with their tutor every day. During this time you will benefit from study skills support, problem solving and thinking skills, discussion and oracy development. Our tutors place a high value on supporting and monitoring work and progress, as well as encouraging students to participate in a full range of activities. Our students benefit from excellent relationships with their teaching and pastoral staff and relish the encouragement and guidance offered by them.

The John Fisher School prides itself on strong pastoral care and firmly believe in educating the whole person. We strive to develop young men ready to take their place in the world as productive, well balanced individuals. The development of good communication and people skills whilst nurturing some valuable qualities such as confidence, flexibility, self discipline, optimism and the ability to remain good humoured under pressure, are part of our core values.



RSHE

All Sixth Form students receive dedicated RSHE time each week during which our specialist Sixth Form tutors cover a wide range of topics, skills and activities. This is designed to supplement our academic curriculum and provide students with opportunities to develop, discuss and reflect. We seek to prepare students to manage their current lives and lay the foundations for managing future experiences.

Our RSHE and Careers curriculum is underpinned by the RSHE

standards, focusing on Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Learning opportunities in the wider world.

The programme aims to:

- promote students' moral, social, spiritual and cultural development, increasing their self-confidence.
- support every student to become a confident, healthy, considerate and responsible young adult.
- help equip each student with the knowledge and skills to make informed choices about their next steps.
- provide opportunities for students to reflect on their achievements and develop personalised targets.
- encourage a spirit of enquiry and communication.

All our Sixth Form students benefit from a range of speakers and guests to help inform and inspire them to achieve their potential.

Talk Easy Trust

With all the pressures of modern life and the drive to always improve, there is a rise nationally in mental health issues amongst the young. The John Fisher School is striving to break down mental health stigma through a continuous effort to support our own mental health trust called 'The Talk Easy Trust'. Founded in 2012, The Talk Easy Trust is run by our Sixth Form students to support their peers and other students in the school who may be struggling with various aspects of their lives. Each year we have a number of Sixth Form students who are selected and trained as mentors and ambassadors. Once trained these students are available to support and guide students throughout the school and to help raise awareness of the issues surrounding mental health.



Home school partnership

In The John Fisher School Sixth Form we believe that an effective partnership between school, home and the student is key for the students to flourish. To this end we run a variety of parent/carer sessions, events and regularly report home during the year to enable parents/carers to best support the students through the Sixth Form.

Information sessions for parents/carers

In September our Information Evening covers academic, pastoral and social issues. In addition to providing general information, parents/carers are invited to attend workshop sessions on issues such as 'How to best support your son', 'Higher Education', 'Careers Advice', 'Managing Stress', 'Student Finances and Study Skills'. These sessions are a platform for discussion and support. We also host an annual Higher Education and Apprenticeship Evening in the Easter term.

Monitoring, Reporting and Assessment

At the start of the academic year, students are given an aspirational grade for each subject. This grade is based on GCSE scores and is therefore statistically attainable for the student and used as their target grade. Each year, students undertake formal assessments. Data from assessments is sent home in the form of Interim Monitoring, which teachers then use to support students and to ensure continued progress. Both year groups have a Parent/Teacher Meeting in the first school term. From each round of monitoring the academic and pastoral teams arrange interventions for specific students in conjunction with their parents/carers as required.

Clearly, the most important months of the year are May and June when all students will be sitting either AS or A Level Examinations. At these times, students are offered extra support and specialist sessions on time management and exam technique as well as revision sessions based on their progress throughout the year.



Enrichment

Enrichment within our Sixth Form plays a vital role in fully developing mature, rounded and independent young adults. All students have access to a range of enrichment opportunities. We have developed a wide reaching programme focussing on a broad array of experiences and opportunities. Through this programme we aim to develop independent, student leaders with academic curiosity. Other than sporting opportunities the programme can be broken down into four main areas, Academic, Leadership, Community and Careers. We organise our activities into the following areas: curriculum, skills development, personal development and community development. We believe that all students should have the opportunity to participate in the wider curriculum and we aim to provide the opportunities for them to thrive. Our enrichment programme covers:

Academic

Study Skills Seminars
Thinking Skills
Oxbridge Events
University Lecture Programme
Mock Trial
Question Time
Range of Subject Trips & Clubs
Debating Team
Maths Challenge
STEM

Careers

UCAS Advice and Convention
HE & Apprentice Evening
Speed Careers Event
Employability Workshops
Post-18 Careers Events
Professional Apprentice Talks
& Seminars
University Talks / Visits
Work Experience

Leadership & Mentoring

Prefect System
Mental Health Charity
Paired Reading with Yr7
Sixth Form Senate
School Council
Subject & Pastoral Mentors
NCS "The Challenge"
Sport & Language Leader Awards

Community

Charity Events & Fundraising
Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Ambassadors
Retirement Home Visits
Primary Schools Outreach & Coaching
Talk Easy Trust

We engage a number of external organisations to support us in providing a wide range of opportunities to ensure students have the best chance of success. We have an established debating team, this year's winner of the UN debating competition. We participate in Mock Trials and host a question time with local and parliamentary politicians. Our Sixth Form also organised a mock election last year which proved very successful. There is also an organised work experience programme, STEM activities and a very well-received enrichment week to end the year.

With sport coaching courses, rugby tours to South Africa, spiritual retreats, a ski trip, NCS challenge, trip to Borneo and access to subject-specific enrichment lectures and competitions, there is something for everyone.



The sporting life



The school holds a national reputation for its sporting achievements across a number of sports. In recent years, several former students have gone on to make a career in Premiership Rugby and the school is currently The National Rugby School of the Year 2017 following an awards ceremony at Twickenham stadium. The school is also fortunate to boast two national Athletics Champions in 100m and 800m. There are few, if any, state schools who are able to consistently achieve this level of success across a range of sports.

Our Sixth Form students have opportunities to take coaching awards in a variety of sports as well as to become community sports leaders. The school's major extra-curricular sports are rugby and cross-country in the winter and cricket and athletics in the summer. There are three rugby teams run in the Sixth Form as well as two football teams and a cross-country team. The rugby squads have an outstanding fixture list of schools in the private sector, including Eton. The teams compete at the highest national level, and enjoy a tour every other year, for example in 2019 the tour went to South Africa. Our Senior rugby sides have enjoyed many successes over the years, particularly in 7's, which have resulted in sides playing in front of a packed Twickenham stadium on a number of occasions.



We are one of the leading schools in Surrey for cricket. Most fixtures are played against schools in the private sector, such as The Royal Grammar School Guildford, Hampton and St John's, Leatherhead. We employ a qualified coach to assist with the development of all the teams.



Music

Music is taught throughout the school up to A Level. There is a lively musical life at the school with various extra-curricular groups including an SATB Choir, Wind Band and String Ensemble which perform regularly. There are five major public events throughout the year. At Christmas the annual Carol Service held in the Chapel is one of the most popular events of the year. In November and May, we perform sacred repertoire and March sees the popular '20th century' concert. We conclude the year with our summer concert where soloists are given the chance to perform. Instrumentalists have the opportunity to perform termly during recitals for each instrumental group. The JFS Choir, consisting of about 40 singers from years 7-13 leads all the worship in the school and participates in concerts for the local community. They are regularly invited to sing at prestigious venues and have won both local and national festivals.



What do we offer?

A Level

Art & Design
 Applied Science
 Biology
 Business Studies
 Chemistry
 Computer Science
 Economics
 English Language & Literature
 English Literature

Geography
 Government & Politics
 History
 Mathematics
 Further Mathematics
 Media Studies
 Music
 Physics
 Product Design
 Psychology
 Religious Studies
 Sociology

BTEC

Applied Science - Single Award
 IT for Practitioners - Single Award
 Computing - Single Award

Below is the subject list and the provisional option blocks for 2020-2021. Students should only select a **single subject from each option block**. If you are unable to select the subjects you would like due to the option blocks please indicate this on your application, as we may be able to accommodate some changes. Please note the running of some courses are dependent on student numbers

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C	Option Block D
Biology	Chemistry	Maths (must choose this option if doing FM)	Physics
Art	BTEC Sports Single	BTEC Sports Single	BTEC Business Double
BTEC Business Single	Maths	Business	Psychology
Economics	Media	BTEC IT	Economics
Geography	Politics	Religious Education	History
English Literature	Sociology	English Language/ Literature	Geography
Computer Science	History	Btec Applied Science	Biology
	Design Technology		Btec Sports Double
	Btec Sports Double		

Sports Studies - Extended Diploma (triple), Diploma (double) and Extended Certificate (single)

Business - Diploma (double) and Extended Certificate (single)

Entry requirements

Depending on results, there will be five options available to students:

Option	Attainment	Recommended Course
1	5 or more GCSEs at grades 7-9 (including at least 7 in English/Maths)	3 or 4 subjects at A Level and or EPQ. All students taking Further Mathematics will be expected to take 4 A levels .
2	5 or more GCSEs at grade 6 and above (including 6s in English and Maths)	3 subjects at A Level (one can be single BTEC) plus EPQ Triple BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport
3	5 GCSEs with 3 or more at grade 6 (including 5s in English and Maths)	3 subjects at A Level (one could be single BTEC) or Double BTEC Diploma and an A Level combination. Triple BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport
4	5 GCSEs at grade 5 (including 5s in English and Maths)	Double BTEC Diploma in Sport or Business and 1 A level Triple BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport
5	4 GCSEs at grade 4 or higher (one must be in English or Maths at Level 4 or above)	Triple BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport

BTEC

For those currently studying a BTEC course, a Level 2 pass is the equivalent to a single GCSE grade 4 in that subject.



Please note that a resit in GCSE English and/or Maths is compulsory if grades are below a Grade 4.

EXTERNAL CANDIDATES

We welcome applications from students not currently at The John Fisher School. External applicants are offered places subject to meeting the academic entry requirements and a reference will be required from their current school.

Our Sixth Form is non-denominational. External candidates do not need to be Catholic or of any faith, but must be willing to accept and respect the Catholic ethos of the school.

ART

Entry Criteria	A portfolio of work showing the love of the subject (and if following a GCSE in Art a level 5 and above)
Qualification Type:	A Level
What is the Art?	Art and Design
What type of students succeed at Art?	Open minded, creative, problem solvers, those with desire to express ideas and emotions and understand the world around them.
What skills does Art develop?	Problem solving, Oracy, record experiences and observations, in a variety of ways; undertake research and organise information • explore relevant resources; analyse, discuss, evaluate and record independent judgements • use knowledge and understanding of the work of others to develop and extend thinking to inform work • generate and explore potential lines of enquiry using appropriate media and techniques • apply knowledge and understanding in making images and artefacts; review and modify work.
Where can Art lead me: University Courses	Fine Art, Animation, Theatre Design, Industrial Design, Illustration, Graphic Design, Sculpture, Fashion Design
Where can Art lead me: Career Opportunities	Illustrator, Animator, Film-maker, Fashion Designer, Graphic Designer, Set Designer, Games Designer.
Structure of the Course:	Component 01: Personal investigation 60% Element 1: Practical portfolio Element 2: Related study Component 02: Externally set task 40%
Assessment Structure:	Ongoing portfolio assessment and critique of outcomes.
Student Testimony:	<i>'A Level art is a fun but challenging experience. The freedom given to you allows you to head in the direction you want so that you can enjoy every minute of work you do. The teachers are excellent at pushing you to the best of your abilities and getting the very best out of you without putting you under any pressure'.</i>

BIOLOGY

Entry Criteria	7-7 in Combined Science. 7 in separate science.
Qualification Type:	A Level
What is Biology?	Biology is a continuously evolving and developing subject at the forefront of current issues such as genetic modification, microbiology, environmental science, medicine and epidemiology. It is essential for understanding the world now and our impact on the future
What type of students succeed at Biology?	There is a wealth of content and new terminology in Biology. Students with strong maths and technical chemistry skills tend to excel in this subject. Due to the volume of the content, there are high expectations in terms of independent learning.
What skills does Biology develop?	Analytical, investigative, mathematical, chromatography.
Where can Biology lead me: University Courses	It can be used for biology based courses such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, agriculture, veterinary surgery. There are also more core biology courses such as biotechnology, natural sciences, biomedicine, zoology, and microbiology.
Where can Biology lead me: Career Opportunities	There are vocations such as dentistry, medicine, veterinary surgery and pharmacy. Biology can also take you into the fields of natural sciences and environmental science. With the changing future of fuels and energy, there are careers in biofuels, renewable energy and bioplastics. With growing understanding of the human genome with the completion of the human genome project, there are more careers within genetic modification of plants and animals to explore.
Structure of the Course:	<p>The A level syllabus is OCR A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical and mathematical skills • Biological molecules • Exchange and transport • Biodiversity and evolution and disease • Communication • Genetics and ecosystems
Assessment Structure:	<p>The final examinations for the 2 year A level Biology course consists of: Two 2 hour 15 minutes exams and one 1 hour 30 minute exam</p> <p>Each Module has up to 7 topics, each of which is assessed in the form of a 40 minute in class assessment</p>

APPLIED SCIENCE

Entry Criteria	6 in a Single Science or 66 in Combined Science
Qualification Type:	BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science
What is the Applied Science?	Applied Science covers many practical and academic elements of Science at advanced level. All students study Principles and applications of science, Practical scientific procedures and techniques, Science investigation skills as well as another area of science under Biology, Chemistry or Physics.
What type of students succeed at Applied Science?	Students have to be motivated and able to work consistently well throughout the two years. They have to have an interest in the practical applications of science along with the academic study of an area in more depth.
What skills does Applied Science develop?	Skills developed include how to plan investigations, collecting, analysing, and presenting data and communicating results.
Where can Applied Science lead me: University Courses	BTEC science is the equivalent to 1 A level and can be used in combination with other courses to lead onto engineering, sports, or environmental courses.
Where can Applied Science lead me: Career Opportunities	A wide range of jobs within the science sector.
Structure of the Course:	This is a 2 year course, worth 1 A level. 4 units will be studied: Principles and applications of science, Practical scientific procedures and techniques, Science investigation skills as well as another area of science under Biology, Chemistry or Physics.
Assessment Structure:	2 year course, with 4 units. These will be internally and externally assessed, with write ups, practical's and examinations.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Entry Criteria	Grade 6+ in either Business or/and English
Qualification Type:	A Level
What is Business Studies?	Business is subject that takes a holistic approach, by helping you demonstrate the interrelated nature of business using business models, theories and techniques to support analysis of contemporary business issues and situations to provide a dynamic specification. The subject is designed to engage students through topics and issues that are relevant in today's society – allowing you to study the key contemporary developments such as digital technology business ethics and globalisation.
What type of students succeed at Business Studies?	Pro-active and dedicated
What skills does Business Studies develop?	Analysis and Evaluation
Where can Business Studies lead me: University Courses	Business Management; International Business; Marketing Management; Human Resources; Accounting and Finance etc.
Where can Business Studies lead me: Career Opportunities	Marketing; Operations; Investment banking; Retail management; Human Resources etc.
Structure of the Course:	<p>Year One: 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.</p> <p>Year Two: 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)</p>
Assessment Structure:	<p>Year 1: Exam: Paper 1 and Paper 2 What's assessed: Unit 1 – 6 Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes • 80 marks in total • 50% of AS</p> <p>Year 2: Exam: Paper 1, Paper 2 and Paper 3 What's assessed: Unit 1 – 10 Written exam: 2 hours • 100 marks in total • 33.3% of A-level</p>

BTEC BUSINESS SINGLE

Entry Criteria	Grade 5 in either Business or/and English
Qualification Type:	BTEC Single
What is Business Studies?	<p>Business is subject that takes a holistic approach, by helping you demonstrate the interrelated nature of business using business models, theories and techniques to support analysis of contemporary business issues and situations to provide a dynamic specification.</p> <p>This course is designed to be the substantive part of a 16–19 study programme for learners who want a strong core of sector study. This programme may include other BTEC Nationals or A Levels to support progression to higher education courses in business areas before entering employment. The additional qualification(s) studied allow learners either to give breadth to their study programme by choosing a contrasting subject, or to give it more focus by choosing a complementary subject.</p>
What type of students succeed at Business Studies?	Pro-active and dedicated
What skills does Business Studies develop?	Analysis , Research and Evaluation
Where can Business Studies lead me: University Courses	Business Management; International Business; Marketing Management; Human Resources; Accounting and Finance etc. The qualification is recognised by higher education institutions as fully meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses in a variety of areas in the business sector, as single or joint programmes at degree, foundation degree or HND level.
Where can Business Studies lead me: Career Opportunities	Apprenticeships Marketing; Operations; Investment banking; Retail management; Human Resources etc.
Structure of the Course:	360 GLH (480 TQT) Equivalent in size to one A Level. 4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external
Assessment Structure:	Mandatory content (83%). External assessment (58%). 2 External assessment 2 Internal assessment

BTEC BUSINESS DOUBLE

Entry Criteria	Grade 5 in either Business or/and English
Qualification Type:	BTEC Single
What is Business Studies?	<p>Business is subject that takes a holistic approach, by helping you demonstrate the interrelated nature of business using business models, theories and techniques to support analysis of contemporary business issues and situations to provide a dynamic specification.</p> <p>This course is designed to be the substantive part of a 16–19 study programme for learners who want a strong core of sector study. This programme may include other BTEC Nationals or A Levels to support progression to higher education courses in business areas before entering employment. The additional qualification(s) studied allow learners either to give breadth to their study programme by choosing a contrasting subject, or to give it more focus by choosing a complementary subject.</p>
What type of students succeed at Business Studies?	Pro-active and dedicated
What skills does Business Studies develop?	Analysis , Research and Evaluation
Where can Business Studies lead me: University Courses	<p>Business Management; International Business; Marketing Management; Human Resources; Accounting and Finance etc.</p> <p>The qualification is recognised by higher education institutions as fully meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses in a variety of areas in the business sector, as single or joint programmes at degree, foundation degree or HND level.</p>
Where can Business Studies lead me: Career Opportunities	Apprenticeships Marketing; Operations; Investment banking; Retail management; Human Resources etc.
Structure of the Course:	<p>720 GLH (950 TQT) Equivalent in size to two A Levels.</p> <p>8 units of which 6 are mandatory and 3 are external.</p>
Assessment Structure:	<p>Mandatory content (83%) External assessment (45%).</p> <p>3 External assessment</p> <p>5 Internal assessment</p>

CHEMISTRY

Entry Criteria	Grade 7 at GCSE Chemistry Or a grade 7(in both papers) of the Chemistry aspect of the combined science and a grade 6 in maths
Qualification Type:	A Level
What is Chemistry?	Chemistry makes you think about why things happen. It is an enjoyable practical subject. As well as being fundamental in our daily lives, chemistry is a fundamental subject in science. In different areas it overlaps with biology and medicine, with physics and engineering, and with geology and earth science.
What type of students succeed at Chemistry?	Students that enjoy developing their understanding of the world and are keen to use logic and enquiry to answer complex questions.
What skills does Chemistry develop?	The skills assessed through the Practical Endorsement cover the areas of Planning and Implementing, specifically the following: Independent thinking, Use and application of scientific methods and practices, Research and referencing, Use of Instruments and equipment.
Where can Chemistry lead me: University Courses	Chemistry opens many doors and is essential for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Chemical Engineering, Biochemistry, Pharmacy and Geochemistry just to mention a few. It is also useful for courses such as Physiotherapy and Environmental Sciences.
Where can Chemistry lead me: Career Opportunities	Less than a third of chemistry degree graduates get a job working in the laboratory or have jobs that are closely related to their studies. If you decide not to pursue a career in a chemistry graduate scheme, there is still a realm of different opportunities that are open to you.
Structure of the Course:	A Level Chemistry covers aspects of inorganic, organic and physical chemistry and expands on the practical skills developed at GCSE. The work is covered in 6 modules. Module1 Development of practical skills in chemistry. Module2 Foundations in chemistry. Module3 Periodic table and energy. Module4 Core organic chemistry. Module 5 Physical chemistry and transition elements. Module 6 Organic chemistry and analysis
Assessment Structure:	A Level has 3 Papers Paper 1: Periodic Table, elements and physical chemistry 2 Hours 15 minutes, Paper 2 Synthesis and Analytical techniques, 2 hours and 15 minutes, Paper 3 Unified chemistry,90 minutes. This covers content of all 6 modules.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Entry Criteria	'Grade 6' in Maths and a Science
Qualification Type:	OCR A Level
What is Computer Science	Computer Science is the study of the mathematics and science behind computers and coding.
What type of students succeed at Computer Science?	Students who enjoy Maths and an interest in coding and problem solving.
What skills does Computer Science develop?	It will provide insight into, and experience of how computer science works, stimulating learners' curiosity and encouraging you to engage with computer science in their everyday lives.
Where can Computer Science lead me: University Courses	Software Engineering, Computer Science and Information Systems.
Where can Computer Science lead me: Career Opportunities	Computer Science will lead on to Computer Scientist, Cyber Security, Computer Games Developer, Robotics programmer , artificial intelligence and machine learning.
Structure of the Course:	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. Programming Project. The learner will choose a computing problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification..
Assessment Structure:	2 Exams , 40 % weighting each. 20% Programming Project
Student Testimony:	Alfonso - Studying Computing at John Fisher gave me the opportunity to explore IT security threats and participate in competitions such as the UK Bebras Computing Challenge. These enabled me to develop my computational thinking skills and knowledge in the principles of cryptography; know-how that I can now apply in the workplace having recently joined the Government as a Cyber Security Apprentice.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN

Entry Criteria	A GCSE pass at minimum Grade 6 in Product Design. You must have been taught Product Design at GCSE level.
Qualification Type:	A Level
What is DT?	Design and Technology: Product Design
What type of students succeed at DT?	Students with a desire to develop their understanding of design and who thrive at creating and developing an individual project.
What skills does DT develop?	50% NEA- Have the opportunity of designing and making one product which has been requested by a client. The client will be chosen by you. The Non-exam assessment element represents 50% of the total marks for the examination. 50% Exam - The written exam consists of two papers which covers all aspects of the subject. Paper 1 Technical principles written exam will last for 2 hours 30 minutes 120 marks 30% of A-level. Paper 2 Designing and making principles written exam will last for 1 hour and 30 minutes 80 marks 20% of A-level.
Where can DT lead me: University Courses	Design and Engineering, Manufacturing, Games Design, AI, Interior Design, Product and Industrial Design, Exhibition Design, Graphic Design, Illustration, Animation and Digital Design.
Where can DT lead me: Career Opportunities	There are many degree courses open to Design and Technology students including: Architecture, Graphic Design, Engineering and Manufacturing, including cars, furniture and all manner of everyday products.
Structure of the Course:	2 Year course - 50% Exam - 50% NEA Project 12 lesson a fortnight. You will learn the following: Technical principles, Classification of materials, methods for investigating and testing materials, performance characteristics of materials, forming, redistribution and addition processes, modern industrial and commercial practice, digital design and manufacture, The requirements for product design and development, health and safety, protecting designs and intellectual property, design for manufacturing, maintenance, repair and disposal, designing and making principles.
Assessment Structure:	PPE several each year. Plus ongoing assessment in small chunks. NEA throughout the first year and stops in February the second year.
Student Testimony:	Students have left the course and won several competitions at degree level. Worked for a range of project such as Design and build Qatar football stadium, design planning of ports and swimming pool theme parks .

ECONOMICS

Entry Criteria	Grade 6 GCSE in Economics and minimum Grade 6 in Maths and English. If you have not studied Economics at GCSE, minimum grade 7 in Maths and 6 in English.
Qualification Type:	A Level
What is Economics?	Economists investigate economic relationships with mathematics-based theory. They also collect, compile and analyse data. Economists provide information for decision-makers on how we got into a particular situation. What would happen if we did certain things? What are the costs and benefits of an action (or simply, what happens if we fail to act)? What is the best way to accomplish a particular goal? Essentially, economists use theory, data, maths and statistics to help solve real-world problems.
What type of students succeed at Economics?	The students that succeed in Economics are those who are socially aware, they have an interest in the world around them. A good economist will not accept things at “face value”. They want to question, discuss and debate the issues. They have strongly-held opinions. They believe their opinions are correct and that everyone else is wrong. However, they will also listen to others who have alternative views. You may not be that student yet, but you will be if you choose A’ level Economics.
What skills does Economics develop?	The most important skills you will develop in Economics are the “soft skills” that universities and employers crave. Communication, self-motivation, leadership, responsibility, teamwork, problem-solving, decisiveness, the ability to work under pressure and time management, flexibility, negotiation and conflict resolution. You will develop the ability to reason, to analyse (truly analyse), to make judgements and to critically evaluate problems, alternative solutions and potential outcomes.
Where can Economics lead me: University Courses	Aside from studying for a BA or BSc in Economics, A’ level Economics can help you gain a place studying: Mathematics (if done alongside Mathematics and/ or Further Mathematics A’ level), Politics, Psychology, Law, Accounting, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Journalism and any Business-related discipline, such as Finance or Marketing.
Where can Economics lead me: Career Opportunities	Career opportunities are endless. However, careers that are particularly suited to someone with A’ level Economics include: accounting, banking, insurance, political analysis, stockbroking, business development management, management consultancy, civil service/ government office, data analysis and quantity surveying.
Structure of the Course:	A level Economics has two strands – microeconomics and macroeconomics. Microeconomics looks at how individuals, firms and markets behave. Macroeconomics looks at the national and international economy and how governments try to influence how the economy works. You will study both strands simultaneously, usually with one teacher delivering microeconomics and one teacher macroeconomics.
Assessment Structure:	You will sit three 2-hour papers at the end of the two year course. These are: Paper 1 – Markets and Market Failure (microeconomics) Paper 2 – National and International Economy (macroeconomics) Paper 3 – Economic Principles and Issues (both microeconomics and macroeconomics) You will be assessed on your ability to answer questions that include multiple-choice, data response, essays and case studies.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Entry Criteria	Grade 6s in English Literature & Language
Qualification Type:	A Level
What is English Literature?	From the 12 th century to the present day, this course enables you to study an exciting range of some of Literature's most important and beautifully crafted texts. Broadening and deepening your understanding from GCSE, we look at the interpretations behind texts: how have they been received (or performed) by different audiences? What might Feminist or Marxist responses be?
What type of students succeed at English Literature?	First and foremost, students curious about the world around them and who want to understand how the human experience has been interpreted by writers. You should enjoy reading and be interested in debating and exploring different ways of thinking about a text: there is not always a right answer!
What skills does English Literature develop?	The ability to formulate coherent, detailed arguments in both spoken and written form; reading stamina, perfect for studying a Humanities subject at university; strong research skills; the ability to psychoanalyse different texts.
Where can English Literature lead me: University Courses	All essay writing or Humanities subjects such as English, Law, History or Politics. Artistic degrees: Creative writing, Media, Art, Journalism <i>Universities are particularly attracted to students who have taken English as you can show an impressive variety of skills.</i>
Where can English Literature lead me: Career Opportunities	Extensive: Law, Journalism, Advertising, Business, Education, Media, Politics, Theatre, PR.
Structure of the Course:	Year 12: The Great Gatsby, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Merchant's prologue, The Canterbury Tales Year 13: Comparative Coursework, The Grapes of Wrath, Critical essay coursework, A Doll's House
Assessment Structure:	Component 1: Exam (40%) Component 2: Exam (40%) Component 3: Coursework (20%)
Student Testimony:	"I chose English Literature to gain a greater understanding of wider literature and to develop my own interpretation as well as discussing other people's. I am really enjoying analyzing different sorts of texts and learning how pieces of writing are influenced the time in which they were written." – Liam B, Year 12.

ENGLISH LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE

Entry Criteria	Grade 5s in English Literature & Language
Qualification Type:	A Level
What is English Language & Literature?	From abdication speeches to graphic novels and rapper's tweets, this course offers you the opportunity to understand how and why our Language has developed over the past few centuries. We look forensically at the different parts of our language and apply modern authors' contexts to these: why have they written or spoken the way they have?
What type of students succeed at English Language & Literature?	Students who are interested in the world around them and intrigued by how we communicate with each other. You should enjoy reading but also have your own voice in creative writing: we encourage creativity and imagination!
What skills does English Language & Literature develop?	The ability to formulate coherent, detailed arguments in both spoken and written form; reading stamina, perfect for studying a Humanities subject at university; strong research skills; imaginative writing; understanding of words' etymologies.
Where can English Language & Literature lead me: University Courses	All essay writing or Humanities subjects such as English, Law, History or Politics. Artistic degrees: Creative writing, Graphic Design, Journalism, Business
Where can English Language & Literature lead me: Career Opportunities	Extensive: Law, Journalism, Advertising, Business, Education, Media, Politics, Theatre, PR.
Structure of the Course:	Year 12: The Great Gatsby, Written Anthology, Blake Anthology, Spoken Word Anthology Year 13: Comparative Coursework, A Streetcar Named Desire, Non-Fiction Coursework, Creative Writing exam component
Assessment Structure:	Component 1: Exam (16%) Component 2: Exam (32%) Component 3: Exam (32%) Component 4: Coursework (20%)
Student Testimony:	"I chose Eng Lang / Lit because I was attracted to the sheer variety of texts that we would study, including Dizzee Rascal! In the lessons it has been interesting to explore the intricacies of how language works and why people choose the words they do. Studying this has helped refine my essay writing skills too which has helped my other subjects, like History."

GEOGRAPHY

Entry Criteria	GCSE Geography at least a grade 6 overall and a grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics is recommended.
Qualification Type:	A-Level
What is Geography?	Studying Geography is about the understanding of the people, places and environments of our world, the processes by which they are changing and the interconnections between them - both locally and globally. The concepts of sustainability are important as is the management and mismanagement of the environment in different global contexts.
What skills does Geography develop?	No matter what direction you choose within the subject, you will gain a wide range of very employable and transferrable skills and attributes. These include: Subject knowledge that is highly relevant to many of the challenges facing society and the environment today; Specialist and transferable skills including statistical, spatial and environmental analysis alongside other quantitative and qualitative skills; Strong analytical and research skills, critical analysis, ability to judge evidence and work across the social and natural sciences; An ability to collect, understand and interpret complex data and communicate it to a variety of audiences; Tackling problems and examining big issues at a variety of scales and from different perspectives; The experience of working in a team, including through field research; An interest in how the world works, contemporary issues and other cultures.
Where can Geography lead me: University Courses	With about 80 universities offering geography degrees across the UK, there is a wide range of choice. Universities generally provide courses in both physical (BSc) and human (BA) geography. Most first year courses will be a mixture of human, physical and integrated geography and during your second and third year you might select mainly physical, human or integrated options or a mixture of them.
Where can Geography lead me: Career Opportunities	The job-market has become increasingly competitive and international. Around 75% of businesses think the UK is in danger of being left behind unless young people learn to think more globally. However, the transferable knowledge and skills developed by studying geography are actively sought out by employers allowing graduate geographers to consistently experience lower than average levels of unemployment. Geography graduates are currently less likely to be unemployed than graduates who have studied other degrees such as English, history, mathematics, finance and accountancy or computer science. It is a myth that geographers can only do certain types of jobs. In fact there are a wealth of jobs geographers do spanning almost every sector.
Structure of the Course:	<p>Component 1 – Physical geography: Water & carbon cycles/ Coastal systems & landscapes/ Lithospheric & atmospheric hazards.</p> <p>Component 2 – Human geography: Global systems and global governance/ Changing places/ Contemporary urban environments.</p> <p>Component 3 – Geographical investigation: Students complete an individual investigation which much include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.</p>
Assessment Structure:	<p>Component 1 – Physical geography: 2 ½ hour examination (96 marks) – 40% of A-Level</p> <p>Component 2 – Human geography: 2 ½ hour examination (96 marks) – 40% of A-Level</p> <p>Component 3 – Geographical investigation: 3000-4000 words, marked by teachers (35 marks) – 20% of A-level</p>

HISTORY

Entry Criteria	6 at GCSE History (or 5 in History with a 6 in English Language)
Qualification Type:	A Level
What is History?	By studying A-Level History, you will develop skills that you will carry through life: to research topics, to organise your thoughts rationally, to prioritise arguments, to create and to sustain a line of reasoning; the ability to analyse evidence and the skill of sustaining a persuasive line of argument. You will also learn to solve problems in discussion, develop confidence in expressing opinions and arguing in their defence.
What skills does History develop?	History is so much more than just dates and key events. To pass an A-Level at History you will need to be able to take large amounts of data (dates, events, key periods, etc.) and then analyse it all in order to spot trends and changes. You will also be required to scrutinise the source of the data and must identify any conscious or unconscious bias within it. Furthermore, you will need to be able to form balanced and reasoned opinions based upon your analysis of the data. In doing so you must also be able to listen to, support and challenge the views of others. To be a successful historian you will not only develop all of these subject-specific skills, but enhance them. Finally, you will also develop your ability to communicate effectively and professionally in the written form. All of the above are desired skills in a vast range of workplaces across a range of industries.
Where can History lead me: University Courses	An A-Level in History will offer a route into university to study at degree level. The options are wide ranging and include courses such as International Studies, Media, Journalism, Art History, Ancient History and of course, History itself. In a modern world, where more questions are being asked of our past than ever before, all universities would see the study of A-Level History as beneficial to a student regardless of their future pathway.
Where can History lead me: Career Opportunities	In 2017 the Confederation of British Industry conducted a survey that found; 46% of employers were dissatisfied with the communication skills of UK school leavers, 51% were dissatisfaction with their analytical abilities and 56% were not satisfied with their international-cultural awareness. An A-Level In History will demonstrate to any employer that you are not a “typical” UK school leaver.
Structure of the Course:	History comprises of four different units, with two covered each year: <u>Y12</u> Unit 1—Conflict, Revolution and Settlement; Britain c.1625-1701 Unit 2—France in Revolution c.1774-1799 <u>Y13</u> Unit 3—Germany: United, Divided and Reunited 1871-1990 Unit 4 – Coursework Option; “To what extent was Stalin responsible for starting the Cold War?”
Assessment Structure:	Unit 1 – Exam* – 2 hour 15 minutes: Unit 2 – Exam* – 1 hour 30 minutes: Unit 3 – Exam* – 2 hour 15 minutes: Unit 4 – Coursework
Student Testimony:	<i>The JFS History department was brilliant in aiding the transition between GCSE and A-Level History. A-Level is without a doubt a step up, but the level of organisation in how the course is taught, as well as quality of one-to-one essay feedback was key in helping me achieve the A* grade I did.”</i>

IT

Entry Criteria	Five GCSEs at least to grade 5
Qualification Type:	BTEC equivalent to 1 A level
What is IT?	L3 Extended Certificate in Information Technology
What type of students succeed at BTEC IT?	Student who enjoying learning about hardware and software and want to learn more about Databases and Web Development. Our learners enjoy this independent approach and have achieved well over the years.
What skills does IT develop?	Transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, research and analysis, which are valued in both higher education and the workplace.
Where can IT lead me: University Courses	Opportunity to progress to a degree in an Information Technology discipline
Where can IT lead me: Career Opportunities	A career in Information Technology, Social Media , Database Management or Web Developer.
Structure of the Course:	Unit 1 - Information Technology Systems (externally assessed exam) Unit 2 - Creating Systems to Manage Information (externally assessed exam) Unit 3 - Using Social Media in Business (internally assessed exam) Unit 6 - Website Development (internally assessed exam)
Assessment Structure:	50% coursework and 50% exam
Student Testimony:	Alfonso - Studying Computing at John Fisher gave me the opportunity to explore IT security threats and participate in competitions such as the UK Bebras Computing Challenge. These enabled me to develop my computational thinking skills and knowledge in the principles of cryptography; know-how that I can now apply in the workplace having recently joined the Government as a Cyber Security Apprentice.

MATHS/FURTHER MATHS

Entry Criteria	Minimum grade of a level 7 is required at GCSE, Further Maths requires a Grade 8 at GCSE Maths or a Grade A in Further Maths GCSE
Qualification Type:	A-Level (AS Level available at the end of the first year if required)
What is Mathematics?	The science of number, quantity and space in both the abstract form and in application to other disciplines.
What type of students succeed at Mathematics?	To fully reach your potential in this subject at A-level an intrinsic interest and enjoyment in the subject is required. A student should appreciate the resilience needed to solve problems and have a strong methodical and logical approach to presenting solutions to these.
What skills does Mathematics develop?	A strong sense of logical and methodical approaches especially through the application of elements of mathematics in modelling real life situations.
Where can Mathematics lead me: University Courses	Mathematics is a highly sought after A-level and is classed as a facilitating subject to many university courses. It has specific ties to analytical degrees in subjects like Engineering, Economics, Finance and Science related fields.
Where can Mathematics lead me: Career Opportunities	Mathematics is a highly sought after A-level and is classed as a facilitating subject to many university courses. It has specific ties to analytical degrees in subjects like Engineering, Economics, Finance and Science related fields.
Structure of the Course:	<p>The A-Level course is broadly split into two main areas Pure and Applied Mathematics with overarching themes linking the two sections.</p> <p>In Pure Maths you will complete further study in algebraic techniques, trigonometry and its applications and coordinate geometry. In depth study of Calculus and Series will also take place.</p> <p>Applied Maths covers Statistics and Mechanics. In Statistics you will study further statistical measure and probability and will be introduced to distributions, random variables and hypothesis testing. In Mechanics you will look at the physics side of Mathematics covering forces, vectors, kinetics, statics and dynamics.</p> <p>Further Maths will cover broader range of topics including imaginary numbers, matrices, decision maths and further statistical analysis</p>
Assessment Structure:	3 Exams completed at the end of the course, each equally waited. (Pure 1, Pure 2, Statistics and Mechanics)

MEDIA

Entry Criteria	Grade 5 in English Language
Qualification Type:	A Level
What is Media	Media Studies is a discipline that deals with the content, history and effects of various media formats.
What type of students succeed at Media?	Those who are open to challenging their perceptions of the media and the ideas behind media product construction. Creative, collaborative and analytical.
What skills does Media develop?	Here at Revolution Media we want our students to leave the course with a more critical eye for the media, we want you to question the world around you and be active in your interaction with media products. Through a balance of theoretical and practical work you will investigate different media products and produce your own.
Where can Media lead me: University Courses	Warwick, St Andrews, Southampton, Exeter, Swansea, Cardiff, Loughborough, Newcastle, Leeds, Goldsmiths, Liverpool John Moores, Westminster (London), Media City UK/Uni of Salford (Manchester)
Where can Media lead me: Career Opportunities	Performing arts, Broadcast & media, publishing and journalism, advertising and marketing, arts, crafts & design, information technology, travel and tourism, Business related PR and communications, Marketing executive, Media researcher. Photographer...
Structure of the Course:	Year 1: Introduction to Media analysis through key concepts of Media Language, Representation, Industries and Audiences. Begin coursework. Year 2: In depth studies and final coursework.
Assessment Structure:	Paper 1, Media Messages: 2hrs- Two in depth studies for News and Online Media (Section A) and Media Language/Representation (Section B) Paper 2, Evolving Media: 2hrs- Media Industries/Audiences and one in depth study of long form TV Drama Coursework: 30% - choice of 4 media briefs and creation of two media products.

PHYSICS

Entry Criteria	Entry requirements: GCSE Physics 7 and GCSE Mathematics 7. If taking GCSE Combined Science, then 7 is required overall as well as grade 7 in both Physics 1 (paper 5) & Physics 2 (paper 6). It is a requirement that in order to take A Level Physics, A level Mathematics must also be studied.
Qualification Type:	A Level
What is Physics?	Physics is the branch of science that deals with the structure of matter and how the fundamental constituents of the universe interact. It studies objects ranging from the very small using quantum mechanics to the entire universe using general relativity.
What type of students succeed at Physics	Physics Students who can demonstrate advanced mathematical skills usually do well at Physics. In addition it is helpful for the prospective Physics student to have a more general knowledge of how to tackle a problem and apply logical reasoning to arrive at a solution. Among other things, you should be familiar with the scientific method and the other tools Physicists use.
What skills does Physics develop	Problem solving - with a pragmatic and analytical approach, Reasoning - constructing logical arguments and grasping complex problems, research and data analysis - undertaking research and applying analytical skills, numeracy - skills in using mathematics to find solutions to scientific, mathematical modelling and interpreting and presenting information graphically, practical skills - planning, executing and reporting experiments, using technical equipment and paying attention to detail, communication - conveying complex ideas and using technical language correctly, discussing ideas and taking on other viewpoints.
Where can Physics lead me: University Courses	Physics A Level is useful/essential for further study in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Physics, Cosmology, Astrophysics, Engineering, Natural Sciences, Electronics and Biophysics
Where can Physics lead me: Career Opportunities	Jobs directly related to your degree include: Academic researcher Acoustic consultant, Astronomer, Clinical scientist, medical physics, Geophysicist, Higher education lecturer, Metallurgist, Meteorologist Nanotechnologist Radiation protection practitioner, Secondary school teacher, Sound engineer, Technical author.
Structure of the Course:	<i>During the course you will study:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 1 – Development of practical skills in physics • Module 2 – Foundations of physics • Module 3 – Forces and motion • Module 4 – Electrons, waves and photons • Module 5 – Newtonian world and astrophysics • Module 6 – Particles and medical physics.
Assessment Structure:	Paper 1: Modelling Physics (01) 100 marks 2 hours 15 mins 37% Paper 2: Exploring Physics (02) 100 marks 2 hours 15 mins 37% Paper 3: Unified Physics (03) 70 marks 1 hour 30 mins 26% Paper 4: Practical endorsement in physics (04)
Student Testimony:	Physics is not a subject for the faint of heart, but nevertheless a worthwhile challenge for those who are passionate about the subject. The physics course tackles many different aspects of more advanced physics and builds on the fundamentals that you learned in GCSE. It offers the ability to explore the fundamentals of our material world.

POLITICS

Entry Criteria	Grade 5 English Language or History
Qualification Type:	A Level
What is Politics?	Politics is the study of Political ideas, institutions and processes to allow students to understand, explain and evaluate contemporary society.
What type of students succeed at Politics?	Students who are enthusiastic about current affairs and have a willingness to understand how the world works enjoy Politics. For those who like debating key issues, Politics gives the opportunity to develop your ability to reach a reasoned judgement and to consider alternate perspectives
What skills does Politics develop?	Politics develops the ability to describe, explain, analyse and evaluate complex material. Politics develops your ability to undertake extended reading and research and use this to create sustained conclusions. Politics develops an understanding and appreciation of alternate perspectives and helps create a life long interest in understanding the developments of the modern world.
Where can Politics lead me: University Courses	Politics is directly useful for those pursuing essay based subjects, such as those pursuing a humanities or arts based degree. The understanding of the contemporary political developments can be applied to subjects such as Economics and Business. The ability to analyse complex material and create meaningful judgement is useful for all undergraduate studies.
Where can Politics lead me: Career Opportunities	The jobs that directly link to Politics include working within local government or the Civil Service or any public service. The ability to create sustained conclusions and consider alternate perspectives are essential for those looking to work in the legal profession. An understanding of the structures of the modern world are also useful for those seeking to work in business.
Structure of the Course:	<p>Unit 1 UK Politics: Democracy and political participation, political parties, electoral systems and voting behaviour and the media. Core political ideas: Liberalism, conservatism and socialism.</p> <p>Unit 2 UK Government: The constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and the executive and relationships between branches. Non-core political ideas: nationalism</p> <p>Unit 3 Global Politics: sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories.</p>
Assessment Structure:	<p>3 x 2 hour exams</p> <p>Unit 1 and 2: 30 mark source question, 30 mark essay question, 24 mark Ideology question</p> <p>Unit 3: 12 mark examine question, 12 mark analyse question, two 30 mark essay question.</p>

PSYCHOLOGY

Entry Criteria	Level 6 in GCSE English, Maths and Double Science
Qualification Type:	A Level (AQA Psychology)
What is Psychology?	Psychology is defined as the scientific study of the mind, brain and behaviour. Meaning that students will explore the inner workings of our minds and the motivations behind our behaviour. The course covers a range of human behaviour and the different explanations that scientists have provided for them. This includes explanations relating to childhood trauma, biology and neurology, learnt behaviours, faulty thinking patterns and many others.
What type of students succeed at Psychology?	Psychology is a scientific subject that requires students to have an enquiring mind and an ability to analyse data as well as question theoretical ideas and come up with counter arguments rather than taking explanations of behavior for granted. The extended essays also require students to be able to generate effective arguments in their writing.
What skills does Psychology develop?	Psychology's status as a science means it teaches research skills including how to carry out effective experiments and analysis of statistical data to test hypothesis. As well as academic skills such as the ability to critically evaluate and analyse theoretical concepts. The
Where can Psychology lead me: University Courses	Asides from studying Psychology as a degree by itself students could also opt for a range of courses such as Cognitive Neuroscience (the study of the brains influence on behavior), Counselling and Psychotherapy, Sports Psychology, Mental Health Nursing. Psychology is also considered a facilitating as the skills above can be applied to a broad range of higher education courses. Its scientific status means that the research methods and statistical components are desired in many university courses. Whilst the academic nature of essay writing also makes it a popular choice for those looking to study the humanities or other academic degrees.
Where can Psychology lead me: Career Opportunities	Psychology is a growing field in which job opportunities are always evolving. Popular career options include Psychiatry, Counselling and Psychotherapy, Business Psychology and Marketing, Ergonomics, Cognitive Neuroscience and Rehabilitation, Sports Coaching and Motivational Careers, Criminal Profiling and Forensic Psychology. Furthermore those with a psychology degree and an understanding of human behavior may also be interested in careers in Teaching, Policing, Healthcare, Film and Media, Advertising and other jobs working
Structure of the Course:	The course begins with an introduction to key Psychological Theories that have been used to explain human behavior. The following units then use each of these theories to analyse specific behaviors including Attachment, Memory, Social Influence, Psychopathology, Aggression, Stress and Gender. Along side this students will also learn about the research methods that Psychologists have used to study these topics.
Assessment Structure:	The course is split into 3 exam papers: Paper 1 "Introductory Topics In Psychology", Paper 2: "Psychology in Context" and Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology". Each paper is 2 hours and is worth one third of the overall grade.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Entry Criteria	RE: Grade 5, English: Grade 6.
Qualification Type:	A-Level
What is Religious Studies?	This A Level will prepare you well for both university and beyond. It directly provides a foundation for courses in Philosophy, Law, Religious Studies & Theology, PPE. However, the skills and challenges involved in studying this subject are highly relevant to a wide range of courses in the humanities and social sciences as it provides analytical and reasoning skills which are highly valued by employers.
What type of students succeed at Religious Studies?	Students who question ideas around the way the world is and how it can be improved. Critical thinkers and students who can challenge the ideas of others have done very well in this subject.
What skills does Religious Studies develop?	Critical thinking, soft skills, debating, moral courage, wisdom attainment, and summative skills. This course allows you to answer many of those 'big' questions! From 'Are we truly free?' to 'Does God really exist?' It allows us to explore the plausibility of a 'Creator God' whilst recognising the problem of evil and suffering. Lessons are lively and informative and allow you to explore the world of philosophical thought and consider how to decide whether something is morally right or wrong
Where can Religious Studies lead me: University Courses	Physics and Philosophy, Natural Science, Law, Politics, Medicine, PPE (Politics, Philosophy, and Economics), Arts, and Religious Studies.
Where can Religious Studies lead me: Career Opportunities	Students can enjoy a career as a solicitor, journalist travelling the world, or a scientist. Teaching or active in the political world are also real opportunities. There are no limits for students who take this subject.
Structure of the Course:	This A Level will prepare you well for both university and beyond. It directly provides a foundation for courses in Philosophy, Law, Religious Studies & Theology, PPE. However, the skills and challenges involved in studying this subject are highly relevant to a wide range of courses in the humanities and social sciences as it provides analytical and reasoning skills which are highly valued by employers.
Assessment Structure:	Three examinations take place. All assessments are essay based. The papers include Philosophy, Ethics, and Christian Thought. Each paper give a student four essay titles and students pick three.
Student Testimony:	"Studying philosophy and ethics has been an amazing experience for me. It has allowed be to expand my thinking and thought process in many different situations."

SOCIOLOGY

Entry Criteria	Level 6 in GCSE English.
Qualification Type:	A Level (AQA Sociology)
What is Sociology?	Sociology aims to study the influence of culture, powerful institutions and social policy on our lives. Sociology allows students to explore the impact of culture and society on our every day behaviours. By focusing on different groups (like race, wealth and gender) you will uncover the powers that some have to shape the lives of others. By investigating society you will learn about the way these groups interact and effect each other. The subject will give you a better understanding of important issues like racism, poverty, globalisation and the influence of new technology which will shape the future of your society.
What type of students succeed at Sociology?	Sociology requires students to be willing to engage in discussions about the nature of society. This means that students who enjoy forming thoughtful arguments and willing to involve themselves in a debate will generally do well in the subject. You will also need to be able to see social situations from different points of view and understand how someone's background may influence their thoughts. Sociology also requires students to write analytically in extended essays and be able to interpret patterns through the analysis of data and graphs that represent statistics about society.
What skills does Sociology develop?	Sociology is defined as a humanity, so like history it teaches academic skills such as; the ability to interpret sources of information about society, to critically evaluate and analyse concepts, and assess the validity of arguments proposed by others. However because it involves the study of current events, it is also a research based subject that teaches you how to carry out experiments, questionnaires, interviews and data analysis using techniques from the social sciences.
Where can Sociology lead me: University Courses	Asides from studying Sociology as a degree by itself students could also opt for a range of courses such as; Anthropology (the study of human life in different cultures), Criminology (the social and psychological factors that make crime more likely and how to prevent it), International Relations and Global Security Studies (studying the ways countries work with and against each others interests) Social Justice (the study of equality). Sociology is also considered a facilitating as the skills above can be applied to a broad range of higher education courses. Its use of research methods and data analysis are skills desired in many university courses. Whilst the academic nature of essay writing also makes it a popular choice for those looking to study the humanities or other academic degrees.
Where can Sociology lead me: Career Opportunities	Like society itself the job opportunities associated with this subject are always evolving. Popular career options include; Organising campaigns for social change, Working with the Civil Service and Politicians to develop new social policies, Researching the effects of social policy on society, Working with and representing vulnerable members of society. Those with a sociology may also be interested in careers in Teaching, Policing, Healthcare, Social Work, The travel industry, International Research, Diplomacy, Politics and Economics
Structure of the Course:	The course begins with an introduction to key Sociological Theories that have been used to explain society. The following units then use these to analyse certain aspects of our society. For each topic students will study social trends and patterns of data in society, then apply theoretical ideas to explain these trends. For example, in the Crime unit we will look at official statistics on who commits more crime and then try to explain this using sociological theories. Students will also study research methods, which will allow them to question how sociologists gather this data. For instance the problem with using official statistics is that they only record crimes that have been reported.
Assessment Structure:	The course is split into 3 exam papers: Paper 1 "Education and Methods in Context", Paper 2: "Beliefs in Society & Work, Poverty and Welfare" and Paper 3: "Crime and Deviance & Theory and Methods". Each paper is 2 hours and is worth one third of the overall grade.

BTEC SPORTS SINGLE/DOUBLE

Entry Criteria	5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above Including PE and/or Science or Level 2 Merit at BTEC First Sport
Qualification Type:	Btec (Either One or Two A Level equivalency)
What is BTEC Sports?	The structure of the assessment – a mixture of coursework, examinations, presentations, and group work – make BTEC courses an ideal preparation for university. However, the BTEC courses are vocational in nature and are therefore an excellent qualification to have for those looking to apply for an apprenticeship after Sixth Form or for those wishing to go straight in to employment.
What type of students succeed at BTEC Sports	Students who are interested in furthering their understanding of sports and the understanding of different aspects of Sport.
What skills does BTEC Sports develop?	Students develop their ability to compose extended research tasks, presentation and communication skills as well as group work and leadership skills.
Where can Sports lead me: University Courses	Students in previous years have enrolled onto a variety of sports courses including, Sports Therapy, Sport Science and Conditioning.
Where can Sports lead me: Career Opportunities	Students have pursued a variety of careers including coaching, teaching and coniditoning training.
Structure of the Course:	Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate in Sports coaching and development 33% of the qualification is made up of coursework. 33% of this is a piece of Controlled Assessment Two external exams totalling 67% of the qualification

BTEC SPORTS TRIPLE

Entry Criteria	4 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above Including PE or Core Science or Level 2 Pass on BTEC 1st Sport
Qualification Type:	Btec (Either One or Two A Level equivalency)
What is BTEC Sports?	The structure of the assessment is entirely coursework and suits those who prefer individual research tasks. Whilst, , the BTEC courses are vocational in nature and are therefore an excellent qualification to have for those looking to apply for an apprenticeship after Sixth Form or for those wishing to go straight in to employment.
What type of students succeed at BTEC Sports	Students who are interested in furthering their understanding of sports and the understanding of different aspects of Sport and suit a course that enables individual research.
What skills does BTEC Sports develop?	Students develop their ability to compose extended research tasks, presentation and communication skills as well as group work and leadership skills.
Where can BTEC Sports lead me: University Courses	Students in previous years have enrolled onto a variety of sports courses including, Sports Therapy, Sport Science and Conditioning.
Where can BTEC Sports lead me: Career Opportunities	Students have pursued a variety of careers including coaching, teaching and conditioning training.
Structure of the Course:	Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate in Sports coaching and development This course is entirely coursework based.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

Entry Criteria	Available to all Sixth Form Students
Qualification Type:	Level 3 Extended Project Qualification
What is EPQ?	The Extended Project is an additional enrichment opportunity designed to allow students to take on an extra project outside of their 3 subject choices. It allows students to carry out a project of their own choosing on a subject that may be but does not have to be related to their studies. It is designed to provide an opportunity for independent study and a chance to develop skills that will aid them when completing projects at university and in future careers
What type of students succeed at EPQ	The nature of EPQ means that it requires students to be willing to work independently, and organise their own learning effectively. They will need to be self motivated and have a passion for their chosen subject. However students might opt for 1 of the 4 types of projects below to suit their learning styles -Dissertations are best suited to academic students who enjoy wider reading, extended writing and research. -Investigations are best suited to those with a scientific mind who enjoy carrying out experiments, collecting and analyzing data. -Performances are best suited to those with a particular talent such as sport or music who enjoy learning new techniques and practicing these skills. -Artefacts are best suited to practical students who enjoy the creative process such as art, design technology or even computer programming.
What skills does EPQ develop?	Because every EPQ is unique students will decide exactly which skills they want to develop throughout the project. However every EPQ teaches students how to research effectively. The project also teaches the importance of time management, independent learning and taking a pro-active approach to their work. Students will also be asked to self evaluate their projects by developing the ability to self-reflect. Lastly students will need to present their project, developing the ability to speak confidently about their own work and many other important life skills.
Where can EPQ lead me: University Courses	Ultimately the choice of courses will depend on the scope of your chosen topic for the project. However the EPQ is a great project that showcases skills that universities desire in students who will need to be more independent and self regulating at university. It is often the case that students with exceptional EPQs will receive a reduced offer on their chosen university course.
Where can EPQ lead me: Career Opportunities	Students with a specific career in mind will often complete an EPQ that suits this long term ambition, giving them a taste for the sort of work they may be looking to do in the future. By becoming an expert in a chosen topic, it is often the case the EPQ students have the advantage of being able to discuss their project at the interview stage making them a more interesting candidate for universities and employers alike.
Structure of the Course:	Whilst every project is different, all students will benefit from a mixture of taught lessons which will focus on developing their research skills and workshop sessions in which they have time to complete the project in the presence of their EPQ supervisor.
Assessment Structure:	Projects are assessed on 4 different areas; AO1 Management and Planning, AO2 Use of Resources, AO3 Development of Ideas and AO4 Reviewing and Evaluating your project.

