



ST EDWARD'S COLLEGE

SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

2025-2027

MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE

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INTRODUCTION

The Sixth Form at St Edward's College equips students with the qualifications, moral compass, mental agility and strength of character they will need to make a positive difference in the world.

St Edward's offers:

- Academic strength, one of the leading co-educational schools in the area at Key Stage 5 under the leadership of a uniquely talented and committed teaching team with high expectations.
- Strong pastoral care, so that students are never just a number or another statistic, but a person known, appreciated and valued; someone we will do all we can to help, with individual attention in the things that matter most, be they academic or personal problems, or the vital business of preparing a university application or other future pathway.
- A value-rich culture, drawing upon the College's strong Catholic ethos, its long and proud history and its unique links with Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral as the Cathedral choir school.
- Academia, pastoral care and extra-curricular breadth is delivered in the setting of the St Clare Sixth Form Centre on the College's attractive campus in Sandfield Park. Since the jump from GCSE to A Level/BTEC is so great, and then from A Level/BTEC to university, our Sixth Form aims to bridge the gap between being a schoolboy/girl and being an undergraduate, living independently and responsibly. We don't want to mould our students to any particular 'type', we just want them to do and to be their best, with strong values and vision, and with a passion to make the world a better place.
- Our staff team have extensive experience of Sixth Form teaching and include A Level examiners. They have helped hundreds of students into highly selective universities including Oxford and Cambridge, and have taught A Level/BTEC at a range of high-achieving academic schools. Above all they know what excellence looks like, and they have the leadership skills and vision to make good things happen here. This booklet sets out the details of what we are offering. I hope you will find it helpful.



Lee Fabia
Principal

WHY JOIN OUR SIXTH FORM?

ACADEMIC AND HIGHER EDUCATION SUCCESS

Our students are supported through a seamless transition taking them from A Level and BTEC to university entrance. The College has a dedicated member of staff who has responsibility for Higher Education, who will support you through the process of applying to university, as well as strong links with a number of universities.

The Sixth Form is ambitious for all, fostering ambitious choices through one-to-one tutorials and the Honours Programme, with students building the knowledge and skills to progress to the most prestigious universities. 93% have gone on to study, apprenticeship or employment. In 2024 80% progressed to degree level study, over a third to Russell Group institutions (39% of students and 49% of those going to university).

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT VIA THE TUTORIAL SYSTEM

You will be allocated a Sixth Form Tutor who will work closely with you throughout your time in Sixth Form. Your tutor will support you over the two years in Sixth Form through a programme of regular one-to-one meetings using the VESPA A Level mindset programme to ensure that you are fully prepared for the next stage in your professional or academic development. You will attend weekly Sixth Form meetings and weekly group tutorials in which you will look at topics such as Higher Education choices, study skills and employability.

EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

St Edward's College Sixth Form has a wealth of extra-curricular activities available to students to complement their studies. Students can participate in a wide variety of recreational and competitive sports including Rugby, Hockey, Football, Netball and Swimming. Music is a particular strength and there are many opportunities to take part in Senior Orchestra, College Consort, Chamber Choir, Senior Choir and Pop Choir. There are also many other diverse opportunities which range from Drama to Public Speaking and Debating and Duke of Edinburgh's Award to the Edmund Rice Advocacy Group.

A PERSONALISED CURRICULUM

Here at St Edward's College Sixth Form, we believe that each student deserves the best opportunity to reach their full potential. Whether you are looking to progress to Higher Education at a top university or secure an apprenticeship or employment, we offer you the help and advice you will need to choose the best combination of subjects to enable you realise your potential.

We offer a personalised approach to student choices and strive to match our curriculum offer to your interests and aspirations. You will be offered a free choice of subjects (without the constraints of option blocks) and the Year 12 timetable will be constructed to meet the greatest number of student preferences. Certain subjects and combinations are dependent on student demand, therefore completing the application form as early as possible may help to ensure students are able to study their chosen courses.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Unlike in some Sixth Forms, there is no overall entry requirement for the St Edward's College Sixth Form. Instead, students must simply achieve the grades they need for each of the courses they wish to study (see details on page 7).

* Any student who meets the requirements to enter Year 12, but has failed to achieve at least a grade 4 in English and/or Mathematics is required to re-sit the GCSE as necessary.

THE HONOURS PROGRAMME

Students with seven or more GCSEs graded at 7 or higher (or same points equivalent) join our Honours Programme. This delivers the bespoke advice students need as they apply for the most competitive university courses and challenges them to be ambitious and aspirational. It is not an exclusive club – whenever possible all Honours Programme events are made available to any interested student.

SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

All students attend the following Enrichment Activities:

- Core Religious Education (weekly)
- Sixth Form Meeting

Students also select A Level and BTEC courses from the list below:

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business (BTEC Level 3)
- Chemistry
- English Literature
- Environmental Science
- Film Studies
- French
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- Government & Politics
- History
- Information Technology (BTEC Level 3)
- Mathematics
- Music
- Philosophy, Ethics & Theology (Religious Studies)
- Physics
- Psychology
- Spanish
- Sport (Cambridge Technical Level 3)



At St Edward's, we use Firefly and MS Teams to support your online learning. We have a subscription to A Level and BTEC subject-based magazines and a well-stocked main LRC with books to use for research, class preparation and general reading.

THE ENRICHMENT CURRICULUM

The purpose of the enrichment curriculum is to broaden opportunities for all students and support them in the study of their A Level and BTEC option subjects. In doing so, students will leave the College better prepared to meet the demands of higher education and / or employment.

The enrichment curriculum is made up of the following components:

CORE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LESSONS

Students study a non-examined course in General Religious Education. This course is taught for one period per week across Years 12 and 13. The course gives students the opportunity to explore a range of issues relevant to the Catholic Church and religion more widely through completing a series of assignments, group discussion and presentations by visiting speakers.

OPTIONAL ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

During these lessons students will be able to choose from a range of activities, including those outlined below:

- Recreational PE
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme
- College Orchestra, Senior Choir, Pop Choir
- Service Through Faith (Edmund Rice Advocacy Group)
- Drama

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

Students in the Sixth Form will have the opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which is a Level 3 qualification taken as an extension to their studies. The EPQ is highly regarded by universities and attracts UCAS points. Students who decide to embark on this qualification will be required to choose, plan and complete an individual project on a subject which is of interest to them. Completed during the last months of Year 12 and the Autumn term of Year 13, the final written project will be approximately 5000 words in length.

SETTLING IN AT ST EDWARD'S

Beginning your Sixth Form studies is a major change, and it can take time to get used to everything. There are new faces on the staff and in your classrooms, so all students need some help to find their feet. The below are features of Sixth Form life during the first term of Year 12. Some are formal events, some are practical, some are just for fun. All are designed to support Sixth Formers and their parents so that they can make the academic progress they are hoping for and enjoy the St Edward's Sixth Form experience.

GETTING TO KNOW PEOPLE

- Sixth Form team-building social
- Enrichment activities, Wed lesson 5
- Ice-breaker activities in forms on Year 12 Induction Day
- Meet with the Principal breaktimes in Sep/Oct
- Dedicated Sixth Form social space in the St Clare building

CURRICULUM AND STUDY SKILLS

- The need for an A Level mind-set VESPA in Group tutorials
- Study skills advice in Tutorial sessions every Monday
- A set of assessments to flag up any major problems in the First Four Weeks, with a review process led by Form tutors
- Dedicated Sixth Form ICT and study area with staff supervision
- EduLink; one app to access your timetable, homework and lots of resources about all aspects of St Edward's life

PRACTICAL HELP

- Introduction to using our ICT facilities, including email, Wi-Fi use, remote access to school networks, printing etc.
- Introduction to EduLink (our portal for homework and resources)
- A tour of the school site (obvious but vital!)
- Taster Day
- Meet the House Captains and Prefects; your voice on the Student Council

FOR PARENTS

- Parents' Virtual welcome and Information Evening
- Parental access to EduLink to view timetable, resources, view homework information and view the positive and negative contributions our students make to Sixth Form life
- The Learning Agreement; a clear guide to the contribution parents can make and what they can expect from St Edward's

BEYOND YOUR STUDIES

- Sign up for extra-curricular activities
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Choirs and orchestra begin
- Advocacy/Fund-Raising - part of the College's Edmund Rice ethos
- Sixth Form Meeting and Values lessons
- Sixth Form Welcome

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS BY COURSE

Art & Design	Grade 6 in GCSE Art & Design
Biology	Two x grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science Trilogy AND grade 6 in Biology component of GCSE; or grade 6 in Biology component; or grade 6 in GCSE Biology. Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.
Business	Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics AND grade 4 in GCSE English
Chemistry	Two x grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science Trilogy AND grade 6 in Chemistry component of GCSE; or grade 6 in Chemistry component; or grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry. Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.
English Literature	Grade 6 in GCSE English
Environmental Science	Grade 5 or higher in GCSE sciences (whether double award or separate sciences) and Grade 5 or higher in GCSE Mathematics
Film Studies	Grade 5 in GCSE English
French	Grade 6 in GCSE French
Further Mathematics	Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics
Geography	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography *
Government & Politics	Grade 6 in GCSE English
History	Grade 6 in GCSE History **
ICT (BTEC)	Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics AND grade 4 in GCSE English
Mathematics	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Music	Grade 6 in GCSE Music AND performing skills at grade 6 or above (ABRSM, Trinity or Rock School). You must also be able to read treble and bass clefs fluently ***
Philosophy, Ethics and Theology (Religious Studies)	Grade 5 in GCSE Religious Studies
Physics	Two x grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science Trilogy AND grade 6 in Physics component of GCSE; or grade 6 in Physics component; or grade 6 in GCSE Physics. Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.
Psychology	Two x grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science Trilogy AND grade 6 in GCSE English. Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.
Spanish	Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish
Sport & Physical Activity (Cambridge Technical)	GCSE in PE grade 5 or Level 2 BTEC in Sport grade Distinction. Including the ability to coach in at least one sport.

* We will accept applications from students who do not have GCSE Geography if they have a grade 7 or higher in GCSE English

** We will accept applications from students who do not have GCSE History if they have a grade 7 or higher in GCSE English

*** We will accept applications from students who have ABRSM Grade 5 Theory and performance skills at grade 6 (ABRSM, Trinity or Rock School)

A LEVEL | ART & DESIGN



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE ART & DESIGN?

Do you wish to acquire a deeper understanding of Art and Design and engage in the work of Historical and Contemporary Artists? Are you prepared to work independently with a high degree of personal response? Do you want to develop your creative talent and produce original, unique and personal work? If the answer to these questions is 'yes', then A Level Art and Design at St Edward's College Sixth Form is for you!

HOW WILL I LEARN?

With the direction of committed and experienced staff, you will visit both local and national galleries in order to gather visual and written information in your resource book. Your teachers will keep you focused with advice and personal monitoring and they will give you support so that you will learn in a vibrant and caring environment.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed by your teachers and moderated externally. There will be regular assessment throughout the course and both units of work will be marked and standardised at the end of the course in Year 13. The personal investigation, ie your portfolio of work, is worth 60% of your overall mark with the remaining 40% accrued through your externally set task.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The A Level specification is a linear course spread across two years and involves two components, one of which is an externally set assignment completed towards the latter part of Year 13. In Year 12, students will be expected to build up a portfolio of work which develops their skills in drawing, painting, 3D, print, digital and mixed media. Students will then identify areas of interest to pursue for their personal investigation. They will realise their intentions in Year 13 and support their practical work with an informed and analytical written response of between 1000 and 3000 words.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will develop your practical skills and creative responses with both traditional and new media, in a challenging, rewarding and enjoyable way. Analysis, problem solving and independent research are all qualities required for any person considering higher education and Art and Design promotes all three.

WHAT COULD A QUALIFICATION IN A LEVEL ART & DESIGN LEAD TO?

Whilst being primarily Fine Art, a qualification in this field complements many other subjects. As a higher qualification it can lead you into Architecture, Photography, Product Design, Stage Lighting, Set Design, Fashion, Interior and Graphic Design.

A LEVEL | BIOLOGY



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE BIOLOGY?

Since Science and Technology are fast becoming an integral part of our lives, the choice of Biology at A Level is a forward-thinking decision. Cloning, Biotechnology, DNA Finger Printing, Gene Therapy and IVF seem to be in the headlines every day. If you want to find out more about these contemporary topics and learn about human physiology and the relationships between living organisms and their environment then you will enjoy A Level Biology.

WHAT SKILLS COULD I DEVELOP?

You will develop your skills in areas such as communication, both written and oral, collaboration, self-organisation and observation as well as planning and designing investigations. You will build your confidence through group work and you will develop your analytical techniques through statistical calculations. Your evaluation techniques should develop through the scrutinising of data, whilst you will also refine your research skills, technical proficiency, initiative and independence.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will be taught A Level Biology through both theory and practical lessons. This will be further supported by the use of ICT and your own background reading (using a multitude of resources available within the College as well as

your own researched materials) to extend and enrich your biological knowledge and understanding.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be three examinations at the end of the A Level course.

Paper 1: Two hours. Short structured questions plus 15 mark extended response question. Assessment of practical skills. 35% of the total A Level.

Paper 2: Two hours. Short answer questions and some longer questions and a 15 mark comprehension. 35% of the total A Level.

Paper 3: Two hours. 38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques, 15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data, 25 marks: synoptic essay. 30% of the total A Level.

Throughout the course, students must perform 12 essential practical investigations which can be assessed in the written papers.

WHAT COULD A QUALIFICATION IN A LEVEL BIOLOGY LEAD TO?

A Level Biology is a specific requirement for certain careers – such as Medicine, Physiotherapy and Veterinary Science but is also recommended for a wide range of careers such as Dentistry, Agriculture, Forestry, Farming, Fisheries, Food Manufacture and Preservation, Genetic Engineering, Pharmacy and Nursing.

BTEC | BUSINESS STUDIES



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE BUSINESS STUDIES?

Business Studies is a demanding and diverse subject that challenges your numerical skills, your ability to handle data, and how well you are able to construct balanced and convincing written arguments. These are essential qualities that universities and employers look for.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

You will study how business operates in the world today, and how it impacts upon our daily lives. This covers leadership and management, decision making and strategy. To do this, you will engage in wider reading on business case studies, keep a key eye on current business news, and be able to communicate your opinions in a clear and persuasive manner.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will learn how to analyse individual businesses, their history, their future plans and their accounts. Also, you will be able to communicate your ideas and opinions concisely and effectively. You will learn how to assess a wide range of information in order to find the solutions to business problems and you will develop your literacy and mathematical skills.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Activities vary from lesson to lesson and topic to topic. You will read, sort and manipulate written information, assess financial data and accounts to perform calculations, conduct independent research, be involved in group work, deliver presentations and engage in debates.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment ranges from short questions where you must provide definitions to key terms, to using financial data to perform calculations, up to extended essay-style questions where you will analyse and evaluate two sides of an argument. There are three written papers for BTEC. Each paper is worth one third of the overall grade, is two hours long and each paper covers all syllabus material: Paper 1 – Multiple choice questions, short answer questions and two essay questions Paper 2 – Three data response questions Paper 3 – Six questions based on a case study.

A LEVEL | CHEMISTRY



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE CHEMISTRY?

First of all, because you love it! As a subject, Chemistry is interesting and stimulating in its own right. However, Chemistry also complements many other subject combinations, leading to improved life choices beyond school. Modern applications of Chemistry are all around us, whether it be a new treatment for cancer, “self-cleaning windows” or the latest shade of lipstick! Chemistry is very much a “hands on” subject with many opportunities for experimental work.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

There will be a seamless transition from GCSE to Advanced Level. The specification is arranged into the traditional three branches of physical, inorganic and organic Chemistry. The first year of A Level will cover Physical chemistry (atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, chemical equilibria); Inorganic chemistry (periodicity, Groups 2 and 7 of the Periodic Table) and Organic chemistry (alkanes, haloalkanes, alkenes, alcohols and organic analysis). The second year of A Level will further develop these three areas, and will include such modern developments as electrochemical cells, NMR spectroscopy and chromatography. Complex calculations can play a part too and the mathematical demand of the A Level course is substantial!

Practical activity is an integral part of the new course, reflecting its importance.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Although coursework has been removed, there is a list of practical activities that students must carry out, and examination questions will be based on these practicals. These questions will form about 20% of the total assessment.

There will be three examination papers at the end of the A Level course (each of two hours):

Paper 1: Two hours of a mixture of short and long answer questions, covering inorganic chemistry, with relevant physical chemistry and relevant practical skills; 35% of the A Level

Paper 2: Two hours of a mixture of short and long answer questions, covering organic chemistry with relevant physical chemistry and relevant practical skills; 35% of the A Level

Paper 3: Two hours, covering all practical skills (covering practical techniques and data analysis) and all content specified in the syllabus. This section will include some multiple choice questions; 30% of the A Level

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will be taught Chemistry through both theory and practical lessons. You will answer problems and prepare answers for class work tutorials. You will complete end of topic tests and examination style questions. You will also take part in experiments throughout the course.

A LEVEL | ENGLISH LITERATURE



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE ENGLISH LITERATURE?

English Literature has always been a well-established A Level, respected by universities and employers alike. It continues to be a very popular choice for Sixth Form students.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course marks a real progression and is very different to GCSE English Literature. It involves the study of both the old and modern texts written in the English language. It involves close and analytical reading of texts and the contexts in which they were written.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will develop the ability to analyse texts using critical theory. You will learn to make your own critical judgements about texts and to evaluate judgements made by others. The onus is on you to engage with the texts you will be reading and formulate your own opinions and interpretations. Furthermore, you will be expected to communicate these ideas effectively, not just in essays and exams, but also during verbal discussions, which tend to make up a large part of the teaching structure.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn in a variety of styles. Often this will involve whole class teaching. Sometimes small groups will be given a task to complete.

At other times you will be asked to work independently on coursework tasks. Wider reading around the subject is also essential.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

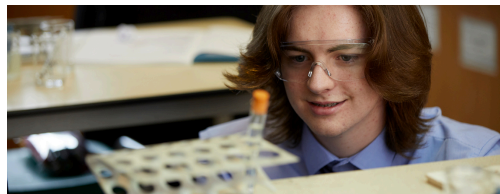
The examining body is AQA. You will be assessed mainly by terminal examinations at the end of Year 13 but there will also be an internally assessed coursework element that will also be completed in Year 13. The exact choice of text changes from year to year and are selected by the staff teaching each specific class.

WHAT COULD A QUALIFICATION IN ENGLISH LITERATURE LEAD TO?

Students who take English Literature go on to do all sorts of interesting things such as Journalism, Science, Mathematics or Law.

Some go on to write professionally, work in broadcasting or even teach!

A LEVEL | ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE?

If you have a keen interest in the sustainability of our planet and want a subject that complements other Science A Levels as well as the Humanities then Environmental Science has the perfect balance. The subject has a lot in common with Biology, Geography and Psychology with overlap in the mathematical tests used to evaluate data. It also shares skills with Politics, English and Film where discussion and debate is very important.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course covers a variety of areas; pollution, renewable energy, and sustainability to name a few. 15% of the course covers practical skills some of which will involve fieldwork. 10% of the course covers mathematical skills allowing calculations to be used to help evaluate data.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Environmental Science will develop both your numeracy and literacy skills. You will work on your problem solving skills as well as communicating and collaboration with others.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Due to the diverse nature of the course, you will learn in a variety of ways, from teaching modelling statistical tests to proof or disproof a hypothesis, to debating the positive and negative effects that technical advancements have had on the earth's atmosphere. Some learning will take place whilst on fieldwork drawing conclusions from your own results.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

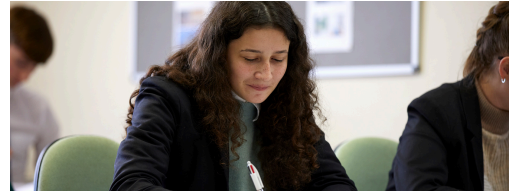
There are two papers at the end of Year 13, each out of 120 marks and 3 hours in length.

There is a combination of written and multiple-choice questions as well as each paper containing a 25 mark essay which can be selected from a choice of two.

WHAT COULD A QUALIFICATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE LEAD TO?

Environmental Science would support a wide range of career choices. You could continue to study Environmental Science at university or use it to complement other degrees in Science or Geography. It can also be used to give you a wider skill set to support careers outside of scientific field.

A LEVEL | FILM STUDIES



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE FILM STUDIES?

Over the last century, film has become a global art form as well as a major vehicle for popular culture. Most of us have ‘grown up’ with film and can readily identify (and identify with) its defining images, stars and genres. But is there more to film than Hollywood? This exciting and deeply satisfying course will help you find out.

If you enjoy cinema, then you are already, to a significant extent, ‘film literate’. The A Level course aims to build on the knowledge and experiences you already have to increase your understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film and develop your critical, analytical and research skills. Film Studies is both demanding and richly rewarding – it is by no means an easy option, but its challenges can be highly enjoyable!

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

30% coursework, 70% written exam

Coursework involves creating and commenting on a practical project ie making your own 4-5 min short film. You will study 11 films in total and a collection of short films to help you in the creation of your own. The two written exam cover a range of topics in US, UK and World Cinema.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The modules you will study for the AS Level in Year 12 cover film narrative and film genre; the art or ‘aesthetics’ of cinema and how a film is put together; how we respond to film and create meaning from it as spectators; British Cinema and the ways in which it reflects British society; Hollywood Cinema and US Independent Cinema; European Cinema. Additional modules for the A2 course in Year 13 involve: in-depth studies of ‘auteur’ directors and social and political contexts of film; World Cinema; a range of topics which include Early Cinema, Documentary, Short film, Experimental film and a variety of critical approaches to film interpretation.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

The earlier stages of the course focus on your experiences of film to date. This, for many students, probably means the most popular mainstream movies and genres from Hollywood. You will be encouraged to reflect on what you already know and then to assess critically and confidently an ever-widening range of films. In class you will be presented with a combination of extracts as well as whole films for discussion, but viewing outside of the classroom is essential. Throughout the course, the emphasis is on the student’s personal response. It is important to remember that you will be taught how to think rather than what to think.

A LEVEL | FRENCH



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE FRENCH?

Studying French at A Level can improve your career prospects and marketability in this increasingly global economy. More and more companies are looking to recruit people with advanced language skills and becoming fluent in French will allow you potentially to communicate with another 77 million people! France is our nearest neighbour, it is the largest country in Western Europe and is a country with which many British companies do business.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

You will develop and extend the language skills you have acquired at GCSE Level. Equal emphasis will be placed on the four skills within the themes of aspects of French speaking society such as family, cyber society, cinema, music and aspects of political life. In the second year of the course, you will begin study of a French film and a novel.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Lessons will be delivered in the target language and smaller groups will ensure that each student has an opportunity to participate fully in lessons and use their French as much as possible. You will also spend one hour per week with a native French speaker in groups of three or four which will ensure that you become a confident communicator.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

As well as continuing the practice of language skills you have been taught at GCSE, particular emphasis will be placed on speaking French and the ability to communicate with accuracy and confidence on a variety of issues. Communication skills will help you get more from life, whatever career you choose, as linguistic competence and intercultural understanding are attributes which are highly sought after by employers. Continued study of French grammar will allow you to acquire more sophisticated translation and essay writing skills.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed in all four skills at A Level. This is a linear qualification where formal examinations take place at the end of the second year. Examinations will test your knowledge of the topics covered as well as knowledge of grammar. Paper 1 will assess competence in reading, writing and listening. Paper 2 is a writing paper based on the study of the book or film, whilst a visiting examiner assesses your oral ability in Paper 3.

A LEVEL | GEOGRAPHY



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE GEOGRAPHY?

Geography aims to provide you with an understanding of the dynamics that shape the physical, economic and social aspects of the world in which you live. If you are curious about the world, you will enjoy Geography. It is one of the few subjects at this level that bridges the gap between arts and science subjects, so fits in with any combination. Geography is highly valued by universities and is one of the eight facilitating subjects which open up more university options.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course is mainly designed around the study of physical and human Geography, covering topics as diverse as water and carbon cycles, hazards, global systems and contemporary urban environments. Students will study six topics over the two years and complete a Geographical Investigation.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Class based work will provide the basis for learning. Given the nature of the subject, a great amount of teaching and learning will involve research and the development of interpretative and analytical skills. Students will learn to interpret data involving graphical, cartographic (map) and statistical information. Over the two years, students will also complete four days of fieldwork investigations.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Geography is unusual in that it develops both literacy and numeracy skills to a high level. Candidates will develop interpretative and analytical skills related to data in cartographic, graphical and statistical format. There will be an emphasis on the use and interpretation of more advanced statistical techniques such as correlation, Chi squared and descriptive statistics. In addition, students will develop the ability to write full essay length, synoptic answers to questions on physical and human Geography topics.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The assessment will be split up into two examination papers and a piece of coursework. Each paper will last 2 hours 30 minutes and will account for 40% of the final A Level. The questions will vary between multiple choice, short answers and extended prose. The individual investigation is a 3000-4000 word assignment, worth 20%, based on a question or issue defined by them.

A LEVEL | GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS?

Ask yourself: How can you understand how the world works without understanding who and how it is controlled? An understanding of government will help to ensure that you are participating in the day to day life of your country! It is an interesting, relevant and exciting course that can lead to a fantastic future.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

You will study A Level Government and Politics. This will include the internal workings of the United Kingdom, from the role of the Queen to that of the Government and Parliament. You will understand how the laws of the country are made and how they are implemented by the government. You will enhance your knowledge of the powers of each branch of the British Government, such as that of the Prime Minister and Parliament. You will also study the workings of the US government and its three branches, the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary and the power each one of these has, such as the right of the President to issue Executive Orders and those of Congress to declare war and peace.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will develop your communication skills and be able to form an argument about many different topics. You will learn about how the

world works and the complexities of government. Verbal and written communication are equally as important in this course as you debate and discuss current political issues. Politics is everywhere and understanding it is key to anybody's future.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn through a variety of methods; reading, research, presentations, group and paired work, discussions, hearing university speakers and meeting historians. This is a modern politics course and, as such, modern media and news broadcasting will also feature greatly.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be three written examinations, equally split. These examinations will be two hours each. Paper 1 covers the Politics of the UK; Paper 2 covers the Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics; Paper 3 covers Political Ideologies.

A LEVEL | HISTORY



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE HISTORY?

Ask yourself: How can you make sense of the present unless you have a good understanding of the past? How else can you understand why the place where you live, looks the way it does?

How are you going to participate in society if you don't know how it works?

Answer: By taking History A Level!

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

In short, this course will involve you! You will study A Level History over three modules. Your studies will include Tudor England, Twentieth Century American History and an independent investigation. You will need to be able to read all about these events, produce summarised notes, present your work to the class, talk about your thoughts and write it all down in clear, logical and well balanced arguments.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will develop your communication skills and be able to express yourself verbally and on paper. You will learn how to research and gather information from a variety of sources. You will learn that there are very few right or wrong answers but there are different sides to every argument. Finally, you will gain a greater understanding of the past and learn that History repeats itself time and time again. The focus of the course is source and interpretation analysis.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn through a variety of methods; reading, research, presentations, group and paired work, discussions, hearing university speakers and meeting historians.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component One: The Tudors- England, 1485-1603 (2 hours and 30 minutes exam)

Component Two: The American Dream- Reality and Illusion, 1945-1980 (2 hours and 30 minutes exam)

Component Three: Historical Investigation of 4000 words based on the investigation of a historical issue over a hundred year period.

WHAT COULD A QUALIFICATION IN HISTORY LEAD TO?

On this question, the world really is your oyster! Employers and universities like to see that you have followed a balanced course, History is certainly an important part of keeping that balance. History is recognised as an important academic subject as you can express yourself, research and offer balanced logical arguments.



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE BTEC IT?

Regardless of your higher education or career aspirations you cannot escape the fact that Information Technology will play an integral role in your life. If you are considering a future in the IT/Computing industry then Information Technology (IT) is the course for you.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The vocational nature of the course means that there is emphasis on developing practical skills in key areas of IT and Computing.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Students will expand skills they already possess in areas of Publishing, Databases and Spreadsheets and will gain knowledge and expertise in new areas of creating industry-standard documents, websites and ICT systems and applications used in various organisations. Students will expand skills such as web development and data handling, creating systems to manage information.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Coursework lessons will be based around a PC and students will be taught the BTEC Level 3 syllabus.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students will study four discreet units, two of which are externally assessed under examination conditions and two via internally assessed and externally moderated coursework.

Units 1 and 2 are mandatory examination units; unit 1 explores the role of computer systems and the implications of their use in personal and professional situations, whilst unit 2 allows students to study the design, creation, testing and evaluation of a relational database system to manage information.

Unit 3 is a mandatory coursework unit. Students produce a portfolio of coursework that explores how businesses use social media to promote their products and services. Students also implement social media activities in a business to meet requirements.

Unit 4 is the selected optional coursework unit. Students investigate website development principles and will design and develop a website

WHAT COULD A QUALIFICATION IN BTEC IT LEAD TO?

Students who study this subject will be eligible to apply for most ICT-related university courses but in addition, it is a qualification that is recognised by most course providers in the areas of business and finance. The vast majority of employers now require that prospective employees possess a competent level of IT skill.

A LEVEL | MATHEMATICS



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE MATHEMATICS?

Mathematics at A Level is a course worth studying for its own sake and is both challenging and interesting. It builds on work covered at Higher Level GCSE, but also involves new ideas. It serves as a very useful support for many other subjects as well as being a much sought-after qualification in its own right.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Students follow the Edexcel GCE Mathematics A Level specifications. Students will study Pure and Applied content (Mechanics and Statistics) over the course of the two years – two-thirds of the content will be Pure and one-third will be Applied.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

In Year 12, students have ten lessons per fortnight plus two homeworks. During this time students complete the AS Level Mathematics content. In Year 13, students have nine lessons per fortnight plus two homeworks. In this year students complete the A2 content that completes the A Level.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

3 × 2 hour examinations:

- 1 Pure AS content at A Level standard.
- 1 Pure additional A Level content.
- 1 Statistics and Mechanics.

WHAT COULD A QUALIFICATION IN MATHEMATICS LEAD TO?

Mathematical ability is very highly regarded by both universities and employers. An A Level in Mathematics is essential for many degree courses (including Physics, Engineering, Computer Science, Economics, Finance and of course Mathematics itself) and is highly desirable in a wide range of other subjects such as Chemistry, Natural Sciences, Architecture, Accountancy, Medicine, in which there is a certain amount of mathematical content (even a Geography degree will involve the use of statistics).

The problem solving skills you will acquire during the course, coupled with the ability to approach problems systematically and analytically mean that there are very few degree subjects for which Mathematics A Level would not be useful. There is currently a national shortage of Mathematicians, so employment prospects could not be better!

A few possible career opportunities are: Accountant, Archaeologist, Architect, Barrister, Business Analyst, Computer Games Developer, Defence Analyst, Doctor, Engineer, Forensic Scientist, Meteorologist, Research and Development Statistician and Teacher.

For more information:

www.mathscareers.org.uk.

A LEVEL | MATHEMATICS & FURTHER MATHS



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE MATHEMATICS & FURTHER MATHS?

Choosing Mathematics and Further Mathematics necessarily takes up two options. Students who study Mathematics and Further Mathematics will have the option to study four subjects to A Level, if they wish to do so. Students who are thinking of reading Mathematics, Computer Science, Engineering or a related subject degree are strongly advised to take Further Mathematics at A Level as are candidates considering entry to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge to study a scientific/engineering discipline.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Students follow the Edexcel GCE Mathematics and Further Mathematics A Level specifications. Students will study A Level Mathematics in Year 12 and A Level Further Mathematics in Year 13. The compulsory topics for Further Mathematics are: Proof, Complex Numbers, Matrices, Further Algebra and Functions, Further Calculus, Further Vectors, Polar Coordinates, Hyperbolic Functions and Differential Equations.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Year 12 Mathematics students have 18 one hour lessons over two weeks plus homework. During this time students complete both the AS level

Mathematics content and the non-AS Level content that completes the A Level. $\frac{2}{3}$ of the content will be Pure and $\frac{1}{3}$ will be Applied.

Year 13 Further Mathematics students have 17 one hour lessons over two weeks plus homework. In this year students complete the compulsory Further Pure Topics and 2 optional units, from: Further Pure 3, Further Pure 4, Mechanics 1, Mechanics 2, Statistics 1, Statistics 2, Decision 1 and Decision 2

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Mathematics

3 × 2 hour examinations:

- 1 Pure AS content at A Level standard
- 1 Pure additional A Level content
- 1 Statistics and Mechanics

Further Mathematics

4 × 1 hour 30 minute examinations:

- 2 Compulsory Pure
- 2 Optional Units

A LEVEL | MUSIC



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE MUSIC?

Many of you who enjoy music and allow it to play an important role in your life already have the necessary skills to succeed at this level. These skills are performing at grade 6+ level and the ability to read music fluently in at least two different clefs. The course enables students to set their own agenda rather than follow set topics as in other subjects. Music helps to develop the broader dimensions of the human being – mind, body and soul and can express the inexpressible. This can be very fulfilling and helps us function as human beings – which can only be good for society as a whole.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Extend and develop your performing skills through increasing your familiarity and knowledge of the repertoire for your chosen instrument(s). Learn how to write for instrument(s) and/or voices efficiently and how to develop musical ideas within chosen forms and structures. To encourage the development of listening and analysing skills, you will study scores which enable you to understand and appreciate aspects of music related to the Areas of Study.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This is a full linear course so the assessment of your knowledge and understanding of the whole course takes place at the end of two years of study.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

By practising and rehearsing different types of music and composing a piece of coursework. Also, by studying a group of set pieces and listening to a wide range of musical styles.

WHAT COULD A QUALIFICATION IN MUSIC LEAD TO?

Many of our students progress onto a Music degree at prestigious music colleges such as: The Royal Northern College of Music, Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Trinity College of Music, Leeds College of Music and The Birmingham Conservatoire. Music is a useful subject for a variety of different careers, not just for those wishing to pursue a career in music, and many of our students also go on to study a wide range of other courses at university. Many employers now actively seek those who have studied the arts.

A LEVEL | PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND THEOLOGY

(RELIGIOUS STUDIES)



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

Are you interested in questions like: “Why are we here?” “How can Jesus be human and divine?” “What makes something good?” and “Does God exist?” If so, then this is the subject for you! Religious Studies is not only fascinating but it also develops critical thinking skills, which are high on the list of requirements for prospective employers.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course begins by introducing the foundations of theological, philosophical and ethical thought through examining the work of key thinkers such as Aquinas. You then go on to look at issues that are significant in society; for example the rise of secularism, how God can allow evil to exist and whether goodness exists as an objective reality. The course also considers ethical theories such as Natural Law, Utilitarianism and Situation ethics as well as assessing whether human beings genuinely make free choices. The nature and significance of religious texts and concepts is discussed and the influence they have on the life of a religious believer is assessed. You will also examine the nature of religious experience and religious language.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

The great virtue of Religious Studies is that it teaches not what to think, but how to think. It is the study of meaning, of the principles underlying conduct, thought and knowledge. The skills it encourages are the ability to analyse, to question orthodoxies and to express things clearly. Essay writing, critical evaluation and presenting your ideas to others in a coherent and persuasive way are at the core of the subject.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Learning is through reading, discussion and essay writing guided by the teacher. You will learn through a variety of activities including group work, presenting to the class and debates. Independent work is essential for success in this subject.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are three exams one on each of the three components studies (Christian Theology, Philosophy of Religion, Religious Ethics), these are taken at the end of the second year of study. Within lessons, students will be assessed through the submission of essays and by completing mock examinations.

A LEVEL | PHYSICS



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE PHYSICS?

Do you want to investigate the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between? Physics is an intriguing and stimulating subject for anyone with a desire to understand the world around them.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

A Level Physics involves studying major topics of Particles, Forces, Motion, Gases, Electricity, Elasticity, Waves, Fields, Nuclear Energy and Radioactivity. You must be committed to sustained hard work.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will develop your skills in areas such as problem solving and logical thinking and will gain practical hands on experience.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will be taught A Level Physics through both theory and practical lessons. This will be further supported by the use of ICT and your own independent learning to extend and enrich your knowledge and understanding.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be three examinations at the end of the A Level course.

Paper One: Two hours. Mixture of short and long answer questions plus multiple choice on certain topics. 34% of the total A Level

Paper Two: Two hours. Mixture of short and long answer questions plus multiple choice on certain topics. 34% of the total

A Level

Paper Three: Two hours. Questions on practical experiments and data analysis plus questions on an optional topic. 32% of the total A Level

WHAT COULD A QUALIFICATION IN PHYSICS LEAD TO?

Typically, studying for a degree in Physics at university, which should assist with entry into careers in Electronics, Communications, Meteorology, Renewable energy, Astronomy and Earth Science industries. Many Physics graduates also work for City financial institutions.

A LEVEL | PSYCHOLOGY



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is best described as the ‘science of mind and behaviour’ and is officially accepted as a science by all universities. The main aim of the discipline is to create testable theories about human and non-human animals and apply these theories to a range of behaviours. The hope is that results from research will enable psychologists to cure, or hopefully prevent, a range of disorders as well as finding ways to improve behaviour.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Component One – Psychology Past to Present

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes, 33.3% of qualification

The purpose of this component is to allow students, through the study of classic evidence spanning the last one hundred years, to gain an appreciation that Psychology continues to develop and evolve. Students will be asked to consider contemporary debates using their knowledge and understanding of five approaches: Biological, Psychodynamic, Behaviourist, Cognitive and Positive.

For each of the five psychological approaches it will be necessary for students to know the assumptions of each approach, how these assumptions explain a range of behaviours, therapy used by the approach and ground-breaking classic evidence related to each approach.

Component Two – Investigating Behaviour

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes, 33.3% of qualification

There are two aspects to this component:

Students complete two independent, scientific research investigations from the initial planning stages through to the final stage of analysis and evaluation. It is designed to introduce students to the methodologies used by psychologists and to appreciate the limitations of scientific research, especially when dealing with the complexities of humans as test material.

Component Three – Implications in the Real World

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes, 33.3% of qualification

Having learnt about the various psychological approaches in Component One, students are expected to apply this knowledge and understanding to specific human behaviours. They will explore five controversies that continue to pose challenges for psychology, for example, Genetics versus Environment and Free Will versus Determinism. Students will also study Forensic Psychology, Addictive Behaviour and Schizophrenia.

A LEVEL | SPANISH



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE SPANISH?

Studying languages at A Level really can impact positively on your future career prospects. It is a multicultural world and companies have long been aware of the advantages of recruiting people with competence in a foreign language. According to recent estimates almost 430 million people speak Spanish and this number is increasing rapidly. With so many Spanish-speaking countries, there are countless opportunities for your Spanish skills to pay dividends. Speaking the language can open up a whole new world!

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

You will develop and reinforce the language skills already acquired at GCSE: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Topics include Leisure, Education and Healthy Living within the context of the Spanish speaking world. It also focuses on social and political issues relevant to today's society. In addition, the 'Cultural Studies' element of the course introduces you to the world of Hispanic film and literature, and includes the study of Hispanic history and politics, such as Latin-America dictatorships.

By the end of the course, you will be able to converse at a high level and possess a greater awareness of the Spanish speaking world.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Spanish lessons will take place in a stimulating and exciting environment where you will be challenged to improve your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills to an impressive level. In addition, small-group classes with a dedicated Spanish conversation tutor take place on a weekly basis to ensure that you become a confident communicator while extra support is available within the department. Independent learning is vital if you are to succeed at A Level and the department provides a wealth of extra materials and ICT support to help you fulfil your potential.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed in all four skills at A Level. Formal examinations test your competence in reading, writing and listening whilst a visiting examiner assesses your oral ability.

Listening, reading and writing exam: 2 hours 30 minutes; 100 marks; 50% of A Level

Writing exam: 2 hours; 80 marks; 20% of A Level

Oral exam: 21-23 minutes; 60 marks; 30% of A Level.

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL | SPORT & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE CTEC SPORT?

It is for students who are interested in learning about the sports sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of HE courses, but not necessarily in sport.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

There are four key areas of study:

Anatomy & Physiology: You will explore the structure and function of the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems and also to learn the fundamentals of the energy systems. You will investigate the body's response to acute exercise and how the body adapts to long-term exercise participation.

Fitness Training & Programming for Health, Sport & Wellbeing: You will explore client screening and lifestyle assessment, fitness training methods and fitness programming to support improvements in a client's health and wellbeing.

Professional Development in the Sports Industry: You will explore the knowledge and skills required for different career pathways in the sports industry. Learners will take part in, and reflect on, a personal skills audit, career action plan and practical interview assessment activities.

Professional Development in the Sports Industry: You will explore the knowledge and skills required for different career pathways in the sports industry. Learners will take part in, and reflect on, a personal skills audit, career action plan and practical interview assessment activities.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

It is a vocational qualification, which involves sports participation in a variety of units. However, the practical elements of the qualification will be supported by class tasks, logbooks and assignments to demonstrate your understanding of the topics.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is assessed through a wide variety of assessment methods. Two units will be externally assessed, including one written exam and one pre-release task, which will be set and marked by Pearson. The remaining units will be internally assessed using assessment methods such as written reports, logbooks, presentations, lab reports and practical performance.

We hope you enjoyed reading about the opportunities for study in St Edward's College Sixth Form and that it has helped in making the important decisions for your next steps into further education.

Please visit the Sixth Form section of our website to apply online to join us in September 2025.

Applications close on 31 January 2025. Once we have received your form we will invite you for an interview and full tour of the campus.

For any queries, please get in touch via:
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