



BCS Sixth Form



Part of the

EMBARK
FEDERATION



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

www.buxton.derbyshire.sch.uk



Welcome!



At Buxton Community School Sixth Form, we believe that exceptional futures are built within strong communities. Set in the heart of the Peak District, our Sixth Form combines outstanding academic achievement with the warmth, support and sense of belonging that comes from being part of a close-knit school community.

Our students are known as individuals, challenged to achieve their very best and supported every step of the way as they prepare for university, apprenticeships and exciting careers beyond school.

We are proud of our record of success. Our students consistently make progress above national expectations and go on to an impressive range of destinations, including leading universities, degree apprenticeships and prestigious employment opportunities. Yet our greatest achievement is not measured solely in grades. It is the confident, resilient and ambitious young people who leave us ready to make a positive contribution to the world around them.

What makes Buxton Community School Sixth Form distinctive is the balance we offer between independence and support. Students enjoy the freedoms and opportunities expected of a modern sixth form while benefiting from expert teaching, exceptional pastoral care and small teaching groups where every individual matters. They develop the confidence to think independently, the skills to lead others and the character to thrive in an increasingly complex world.

Whether you are continuing your journey with us or joining from another school, you will find a welcoming, ambitious and inclusive community where learning extends beyond the classroom through enrichment, leadership, volunteering, work experience and unforgettable experiences at home and abroad.

Choosing a sixth form is one of the most important decisions you will make. We are proud to offer a place where ambition is encouraged, potential is realised and every student is inspired to become the very best version of themselves.

Simon Gort *Head of Sixth Form*

In the most recent OFSTED report our Sixth Form was described as “ambitious for all” and this sums up our ethos.



I am very proud of our Sixth Form provision and what our students achieve, both inside and outside of the classroom.

We develop the academic potential of our students but also the softer skills and experiences that will prepare them for life beyond BCS. The Sixth Form team understand the importance of getting to know the students really well to be able to tailor the necessary support and challenge needed to secure success. I hope you enjoy reading more about our Sixth Form and we look forward to seeing you at our Open Evening in October.

Mrs Sam Jones *Headteacher*



Preparing for life after Sixth Form



The majority of our students go on to traditional university courses and a key part of the guidance and support we give them goes into preparing for this. Every year we are proud to send students to a range of impressive universities. Students secure places to study all over the country including at elite institutions such as Oxford and Cambridge and also further afield at St Andrew's, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

BCS Sixth Formers have gone on to study medicine, professional policing, graphic design, art curation, politics, neuroscience to name a few degrees. We work hard with students to help them find a course that will fulfil their passions and interests.

However, a traditional university degree is only one pathway available to young people, and we work equally as hard to support those looking for apprenticeships or employment opportunities. All our students are strongly encouraged to engage in meaningful work experience and we enjoy good links with local employers and organisations in the town to help in this respect.

We work with local Rotarians and other professionals so that during their time at BCS students can experience mock interviews and are given invaluable advice in preparation for university, apprenticeship and employment applications.



Beyond the **classroom**



We seek to develop well-rounded students who leave us having broadened not only their horizons, but their skill sets. Being able to cook a decent meal on a budget; read a map; make good choices on a night out; administer CPR; apply for student finance and understand a wage slip are just some of the skills we teach our students.



Enrichment opportunities include the Duke of Edinburgh scheme (Bronze or Silver), sports activities, first aid qualifications, volunteering at local events such as the Buxton Fringe, mentoring schemes with lower school students and supporting other students with paired reading or similar schemes.



Students have the opportunity to broaden their academic interests too with the Extended Project Qualification. As well as counting towards university entrance points, this qualification allows students to follow personal interests that might support their chosen subjects but might equally be completely unrelated. Students following this programme get academic support and guidance from our Senior Learning Advisor but they still have to develop real initiative and independent motivation.



Looking after you

Coming to Sixth Form is an exciting new step but there will be times when you'll need extra support with your work or personal life. Students are grouped into small tutor groups. Our team of dedicated Sixth Form tutors is one of our greatest strengths. Highly experienced and deeply committed to student success, they go above and beyond to get to know each individual, providing outstanding guidance, support, and mentorship throughout their Sixth Form journey.



Activities are organised to ensure that all students, wherever they took their GCSEs, get to know each other and staff really well. Tutors have a programme to deliver in tutor time, but the experience of being in a Sixth Form tutor group is very different from what students have experienced so far

in school and we foster a strong sense of belonging through fun inter-form competitions, group discussions and debates often over a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Our sixth form Tutors, our Senior Learning Advisor Mrs Hall, our School Counsellor Debra McDonald-Webb, our dedicated sixth form Pastoral Manager Mrs Wheeldon and myself as Head of Sixth Form will work together to guide and help you through life's ups and downs and we are able to point you towards other services who can help if needed. We also offer a bursary for some of our students who might need financial help to buy school supplies, textbooks, pay for trips etc. Further details of this scheme can be found on our website.

Facilities & Welfare

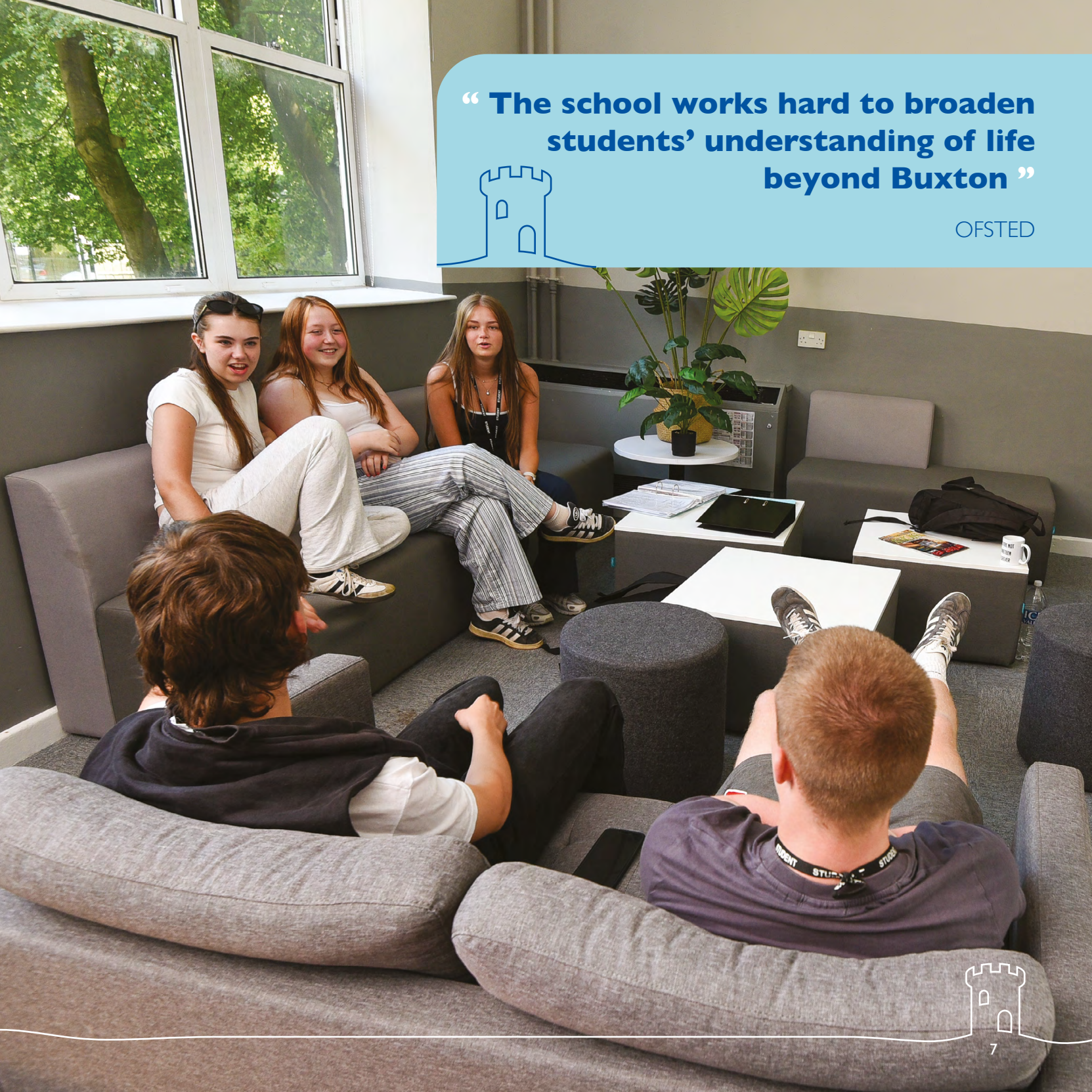
- Dedicated entrance to 6th form
- Specially selected team of Sixth Form Tutors – Providing enhanced support for students requiring additional guidance. Tutors work collaboratively with students, families, and teaching staff to promote academic progress, attendance, wellbeing, and successful transition to higher education, apprenticeships, or employment.
- Sixth form Centre – newly refurbished kitchen for 2026
newly refurbished common room for 2026
- Dedicated large study zone area within sixth form
- Dedicated Sixth form Pastoral Manager
- Dedicated sixth form Art Room
- Dedicated sixth form Design and Technology workshop
- Dedicated Sixth Form EPQ specialist teacher
- On site School Counsellor
- Small class sizes – which enable highly personalised teaching and support.
- Fully qualified Careers Advisor.



**“ The school works hard to broaden
students’ understanding of life
beyond Buxton ”**



OFSTED



inergia = Low
amine in the
ortex
ortex is
for thinking
n making,
negative



**“ Parents are positive and told us
‘teachers go above and beyond,
and inspire’ ”**

OFSTED



Admissions

Our minimum entry criteria is 5 GCSEs from grades 4 - 9 including English and Maths. In some circumstances, we do however offer students the opportunity to re-sit either English and Maths if they haven't achieved a standard pass in one of these subjects.

It is important that you choose subjects that you enjoy, have an aptitude for and will achieve success in. We will offer you advice about good subject combinations and what subjects you might need to study in order to pursue certain career pathways. Some subjects require you to have already studied the subject and achieved a certain grade. Please see the table below for further information:

Subject	Additional entry criteria
A level Art	GCSE grade 5
A level Biology	Grade 6 in Triple or 66 in Combined Science + grade 6 in Maths
A level Business	
A level Chemistry	GCSE grade 6 in Triple or 66 in Combined Science + grade 6 in Maths
A level Design & Technology	
A level Drama & Theatre	Grade 5 in English
A level English Language	GCSE grade 5
A level English Literature	GCSE grade 5
A level French	GCSE grade 5
A level Geography	GCSE grade 5
L3 Health & Social Care	
A level History	GCSE grade 5
L3 Information Technology	
A level Maths	GCSE grade 7
A level Further Maths	GCSE grade 8
L3 Medicinal Science	GCSE grade 5 in Biology or 55 in Combined Science
A level Music	At least grade 5 ABRSM and grade 5 instrument / voice
L3 Music	Ability to play an instrument
A level PE	
A level Philosophy & Ethics	Grade 5 in English
A level Physics	Grade 6 in Triple or 66 in Combined Science + grade 6 in Maths
A level Psychology	Grade 5 in Maths and Science
A level Sociology	Grade 5 in English
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	



What students and parents say:

“ The Sixth Form staff are amazing teachers who really look after their students, I can honestly say these are the best teachers I have ever come across. I know Lauren has not been the easiest person to teach but how they have been with her and encouraged her has been exceptional, they never gave up! Additionally, I really can't thank this team enough for the support they have given me as a parent – they are an absolute credit to school.” LAUREN'S MUM

“ One experience I'll never forget that BCS Sixth Form offered me was the opportunity to visit Auschwitz as part of the International Lessons from Auschwitz Programme. It really deepened my understanding and appreciation of the horrors of the Holocaust, and I was able to share that experience with staff and fellow students through a range of presentations which was just as much of an honour. I also completed an EPQ on the extent to which surveillance and terrorism in the UK & USA is justified after 9/11. I'm going to be studying computer science at university, and this was a chance to explore a topic I'm passionate about and develop valuable university skills like researching, essay-writing and referencing.” ETHAN

“ In Y12 I found sixth form brilliant - first of all the staff were all very supportive and willing to help with whatever issue any student was having, I also found it really easy to talk to them
We got Emails quite a few times a week offering extracurricular activities and opportunities regarding our futures some of which being related to work experience and workshops.
We have brilliant spaces for studying and chilling out during break and lunch with most of the students quietly studying most of the time, BI is a nice common room, the Sixth form study zone is almost always quiet and easy to focus in.” KIAN

“ I feel like I really developed as a person because of BCS Sixth Form. I came into year 12 very shy and lacking a lot of confidence in my abilities. My teachers helped me so much to reach my potential and motivate me to work harder than ever. All of the Sixth Form staff are lovely and make you feel so safe and secure. I was very conflicted about applying to university but Ms Cruse and the other teachers gave me tons of advice which led to me deciding on a degree that I now can't wait to start! I'd love to go back and do it all over again because the experiences I had here were so special & definitely ones I'll remember for a very long time.” RACHEL

“ The school is incredibly committed to catering to the interests and passions of those applying, with the staff going above and beyond to prioritise the students' choices for courses and working extremely hard to ensure they run. The whole atmosphere has been really welcoming, and the school is set up very well to guarantee every student is in the best place for their A-level journey.” FINN

“ Sixth Form for me was a bit of a roller coaster, there were ups and downs throughout, however the one constant was the unconditional support from the staff. Being a part of BCS Sixth Form was a really enjoyable experience, the atmosphere was wonderful and everyone, both staff and students, were lovely people who all helped each other on their journeys. The A Level lessons were always well planned, informative and enjoyable. However, this is also a place to learn about yourself and grow as a person. I feel my whole year group achieved this as a result of the incredible staff who put so much effort into making BCS Sixth Form a great experience for everyone who attends. Being part of this sixth form really changed me as a person, for the better, and I will always remember my time here.” OLIVIA

Fine Art A LEVEL - AQA

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

A-Level Art is primarily focused around Fine Art, building your skills in painting and drawing, however there is the freedom to build this course around your own particular interests and skills, such as sculpture, photography and digital art.

We would encourage anyone considering A-Level Fine Art to have a minimum of a grade 5 at GCSE, but more importantly, have the resilience and patience for a course of this nature.

The course is very similar to GCSE although provides more opportunity for choice and direction. The assessment is very similar, but does also include a written aspect.



Where this course could take you:

We have had students go on to study at some of the best Art institutions in the world including:

Lucy - UAL: Central St Martins

Abbie - UAL: Chelsea College of Art

Nina - University of Leeds

Annie - Manchester School of Art

Elliott - Oxford University

What our students say about Art:

"I have loved going to art lectures as a group and working around our big table collaborating on large scale pieces"

"It's what I'm passionate about and it's easy to get ideas flowing with the support of my teacher"

"I really enjoy the independence and being able to explore my own ideas and experiment with new materials and ways of working."



Biology A LEVEL - AQA

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

Biology A level builds on the animal and plant Biology studied at GCSE. You will study key biological areas in depth, such as Biological molecules, Cells, Immunology, Physiology, Genetics and Metabolism.

The course is externally assessed at the end of the course. Students sit three papers which contain a range of questions, including a synoptic essay.

You must achieve a Grade 6 in Triple or 66 in Combined Science + grade 6 in Maths.

Where this course could take you:

This course could lead you to study a range of Scientific based degree courses such as:

- Medicine
- Veterinary Science
- Pharmacy
- Biological Sciences
- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Radiology
- Natural Sciences
- Ecology
- Marine Conservation

What our students say about Biology:

"Teachers break down the content into manageable chunks - I rarely feel out of my depth or overwhelmed with the things we learn in lessons"

"It's challenging which means it's fulfilling when I finally understand something"

"We are given lots of feedback after doing exam style questions and I feel ready for the external exams."



Business A LEVEL - AQA

Are you curious about how businesses operate, make decisions and succeed in a competitive world? Our Business course will give you the opportunity to explore the dynamic world of business and develop the knowledge and skills needed to understand real-world organisations.

You will study businesses in a wide range of contexts, from small local enterprises to large multinational companies, and explore different sectors, markets and types of customers. You will consider how businesses respond to opportunities and challenges and how effective decision-making can influence their success.

Throughout the course, you will explore key areas of business, including:

- **Marketing** – understanding customers, markets and how businesses promote and sell their products and services.
- **Finance** – exploring financial information and how it supports effective business decision-making.
- **Operations** – examining how businesses produce goods and deliver services efficiently.
- **Human Resources** – investigating how businesses recruit, develop and motivate their employees.
- **Digital technology** – considering how technological developments are transforming the way businesses operate and compete.
- **Ethics and the environment** – exploring the growing influence of ethical, social and environmental considerations on business decisions.
- **The external business environment** – understanding how economic, political, social and technological changes can create opportunities and challenges.
- **Strategic planning and competitiveness** – investigating how businesses plan for the future and develop strategies to gain a competitive advantage.



A key feature of the course is understanding that business decisions are rarely made in isolation. You will explore the **interrelated nature of business activities** and consider how decisions in one area can affect the wider organisation.

You will also develop your ability to interpret and use both **quantitative and non-quantitative data** to make informed judgements. This includes working with percentages, ratios and index numbers, helping you develop valuable analytical and problem-solving skills.

By studying Business, you will gain a broader understanding of the organisations that shape our economy and society, while developing skills in **analysis, evaluation, decision-making and strategic thinking** that are valuable in further study, employment and everyday life.

What our students say about Business:

"Business teaches you transferable skills which you can then use in other subjects."

"Mr Ward will give you the time to understand concepts you don't understand."

"Business relates to any job you have in the future."

"Lessons are very varied; it is not always note taking."

"I feel well prepared for my exams."



Chemistry A LEVEL - AQA

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

Chemistry is a central science that combines Biology, Physics and Maths to explain the physical world around us. You will learn concepts from organic, inorganic and physical chemistry, such as the role of carbon in carbon-based lifeforms, chemical reactions and the fundamental role of atoms. It will teach you to analyse, theorise and apply concepts, allowing you to develop important critical skills for use in future learning.

The entry requirements are a minimum of a Grade 6 in Triple or 66 in Combined Science + grade 6 in Maths.

Where this course could take you:

- Analytical, Formulation, Medicinal or Process Chemist
- Biotechnologist
- Chemical Engineer
- Drug Discovery and Chemical Industries
- Environmental, Forensic or Materials Scientist
- Food Technologist
- Geochemical Engineer
- Medicine (Doctor)
- Nanotechnologist
- Pharmacologist
- Science Writer
- Scientific Laboratory Technician
- Teacher
- Toxicologist
- Veterinary Science



What our students say about Chemistry:

"It is a challenging and very interesting subject."

"Tests are marked quickly and content is taught well."

"I like how the content is split between two teachers."

"I have enjoyed completing lots of Chemistry practical lessons."



Design and Technology A LEVEL - AQA

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries.

Students investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing prototypes of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

The course is assessed as 50% design and make task/project and 50% written exam

The written exam is made up of:

Paper 1 Technical principles (30% of marks)

Paper 2 Design and make principles (20% of the marks)

Where this course could take you:

Our students have gone on to many exciting careers including:

- Engineering Apprenticeships
- Robotics Apprenticeship with Amazon
- Architecture
- Otter Control – Electrical Engineer
- Fibracore Apprenticeship
- Brunel Product Design
- Nottingham Trent – Product Design



- Loughborough – Industrial Design
- Interior Design
- Jewellery Design
- Tarmac Higher Level Apprenticeship
- Liverpool Music Production
- Armed Forces Engineer

What our students say about Design and Technology:

"Over the past two years I have developed a strong foundation in both traditional and contemporary design and manufacturing techniques, the free reign tutors provided when it came to our final projects."

"I enjoyed having the freedom to mix electronics into the design process to create something truly unique."

"I switched to Technology and it has been one of the best decisions I have made. The freedom to choose what you want to make suits me as a learner, and making mistakes and learning as you go is one of the best ways to learn."



Drama and Theatre

A LEVEL - WJEC EDUQAS

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

A Level Drama and Theatre is an exciting and inspiring course which will provide you with the opportunity to work as either a performer and/or designer and you will have the opportunity to learn and develop a range of transferable skills including analytical, problem-solving, organisation and time-management competencies.

Component 1: Theatre Workshop NEA - 20%

You create an original interpretation of an extract of a play text, applying a style of theatre that you have learnt. There is an accompanying written log.

Component 2: Text in Action External Visiting Examiner – 40%

You create 2 performances, one is devised from a stimulus the other is an extract from a play text. You apply different performance styles to each performance. There is an accompanying written process log and evaluation.

Component 3: Text in Performance – Written Exam – 40%

You answer a series of questions based on set texts you have studied. You will need to think about the texts from the point of view of designers, directors and performers.



Where this course could take you:

The possibilities are endless!

Drama will enable you to demonstrate many skills which employers, colleges and universities will be looking for. It can also give you opportunities to travel, meet people and get the most out of life.

Past students who have taken this course have gone on to study a wide range of different subjects at university such as: Theatre, Art, History, Law, Psychology, English, Film and Mathematics.

What our students say about Drama and Theatre:

"It's enjoyable, you get to know people and yourself!"

"You work on different ideas of stage craft, not just performing."

"It was brilliant – worked really well with English and Film A Level!"

"Fun, even though it is hard work and demanding"

"It was the best ever!"



English Language A LEVEL - OCR

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

English Language A Level allows you to immerse yourself in the beauty, complexity and intricacies of the English language. We grapple with modern day issues such as language and gender; explore how the media positions us daily, and how politicians exploit language and utilise power strategies in their campaigns. We also study how children acquire language, investigate how our language has changed over time, and the impact that technology has had on the way we communicate.

The A Level is assessed as follows:

Paper 1: Exam - Language, The Individual and Society (40%)

Paper 2: Exam - Language, Diversity and Change (40%)

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA): Language in action, Language investigation, Original Writing (20%)

We require a grade five in English Language at GCSE.

Where this course could take you:

Potential University Courses:

- BA (Hons) English Language
- BA (Hons) Linguistics
- PGCE Secondary English
- BA (Hons) Primary Education
- BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy
- BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations
- BA (Hons) Creative Writing
- BA (Hons) Journalism



Potential Careers:

- Teaching
- Writing (incl. journalism)
- Midwifery
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Editor
- Publishing
- Public Relations Manager
- Social Media Manager

What our students say about English Language:

“English language is an enjoyable subject to study as it gives us a wider understanding of the world around us, as well as showing the huge impact language has on our daily lives. The lessons are always fun and laid-back whilst being informative.”

“English Language allows for innovative ideas, as there are no limitations - you have freedom.”

“I really like English language as I find it super interesting. We get to look at how language affects the world around us and it makes you realise how everyone uses English in different ways. I find the subject very enjoyable and fun to learn about.”



English Literature A LEVEL - AQA

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

The course consists of two exam papers and a non-examined module (NEA). Each exam paper is worth 40% of the overall marks and the NEA makes up the other 20%.

The first exam paper, 'Love Through The Ages' asks you to explore the presentation of a diverse range of relationships through the study of a Shakespeare play, an anthology of poems, and a prose text.

The second paper, 'World War I and its aftermath' requires the study of one prose text, one drama text and an anthology of poetry, all of which explore the impact and aftermath of World War One.

In addition to these exam components, you will have the opportunity to conduct a comparative critical study of two texts, one of which must have been written pre-1900.

For entry on to this course, you are required to have gained at least a Grade 5 in Literature at GCSE.

Where this course could take you:

The results our students achieve in Literature have enabled them to study at a range of institutions including: Cambridge, Oxford, Glasgow, Leeds Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Cardiff and Central St Martin's.

English Literature is a highly regarded A Level both in terms of accessing higher education and also potential careers. Students who have studied Literature with us have gone on to post-graduate study and work in: Publishing, lecturing, teaching, local government and the public sector, law and the media.



What our students say about English Literature:

"Great for debate and consideration of opinions."

"The content is amazing – really varied and there's something for everyone."

"Teaching is engaging, provides well structured lessons and effective feedback."

"A really interesting range of texts studied for both exam papers and the NEA."

"Helps me improve essay writing skills which are of benefit across all subjects."

"Learning about the context and the impact on a text is fascinating."

"The opportunity to consider the world through the eyes of writers is really interesting."



French A LEVEL - AQA

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

A Level French will help you build your fluency and accuracy in the language to a very high level. You will acquire a broad vocabulary whilst you explore French grammar and culture through studying a range of topics and also analysing an original French film and novel.

Paper 1: Listening/ Reading/ Translations

Paper 2: One essay on the book and one essay on the film

Paper 3: Speaking: one stimulus and individual research project

Entry requirements: Grade 6 at GCSE French

Where this course could take you:

The highly respected ability to use multiple languages is beneficial for any route you take after Sixth Form.

French can lead to a wide range of opportunities at university and in employment, both in this country and abroad, even leading to study or work in a French-speaking country.

Former French students now work in Law, Travel and Tourism, Translation, Business, Marketing, and Education.

What our students say about French:

"I have loved expanding my knowledge not just of France and Francophone countries but of the world in general."

"I have gained so much confidence speaking the language and would now feel ok to have a conversation with a French person!"



Geography A LEVEL - PEARSON

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

The Guardian newspaper identified geography as the 'must have A-level' and this course covers both human and physical geography taught by two specialists who deliver the content equally. The following topics are taught: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity. The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security. Tectonic Processes and Hazards. Coastal Landscapes and Change. Globalisation. Regenerating Places. Superpowers and finally, Global Development and Connections with a focus on Health, Human Rights and Intervention.

There is an NEA requirement for the course which, when completed, is worth up to 20% of the final grade. In order to support the completion of this, students undertake a 5-x day residential at the start of Year 13. Fieldwork plays an integral part of the course but does come at a cost of approx. £300 which needs to be considered when choosing this as an option.



Where this course could take you:

Geography is a multidisciplinary A-Level covering topics such as climate change, urbanisation, changing demographics, GIS and weather systems. Geographers acquire and develop a range of skills that allow them to study and work across the range of physical and social sciences.

Ex BCS Geographers have gone on to study degrees in:

- Archaeology
- Geography
- Politics
- Business
- Marine Biology
- Law
- Environmental studies
- Engineering

What our students say about Geography:

"Relevant, topical, interesting content about the world we live in"

"The physical geography aspect of the course is fascinating"

"Going on out first ever fieldwork to Formby beach was a real highlight for me"

"Lessons are very interactive and we are encouraged to research widely and be independent learners"



Health and Social Care PEARSON BTEC AAQ

Why Choose This Course?

Develop the knowledge and practical skills needed for careers in health, social care, childcare and early years. This qualification combines academic study with real-world application and is valued by universities and employers.

What Will I Study?

- Human growth and development
- Health, wellbeing and care needs
- Professional practice, communication and safeguarding
- Human biology and health education

Year 12

- Lifespan Development (Exam)
- Principles of Health & Social Care Practice (NEA)

Year 13

- Human Biology & Health (Exam)
- The Role of Health Education (NEA)



Progression Opportunities:

Ideal preparation for:

- Nursing & Midwifery
- Social Work
- Occupational Therapy
- Education & Early Years
- Paramedicine and Allied Health Professions

Enrichment & Experience:

Students benefit from workshops and talks from healthcare professionals, plus opportunities for volunteering and work experience within health and social care settings.

Support:

Comprehensive support includes topic booklets, online resources, revision sessions, coursework guidance and one-to-one support..

Student Voice:

"The course has strengthened my ambition to become a nurse and helped me understand what it takes to work in healthcare."

"I have developed valuable research, time management and exam skills while learning about health and human development."



History A LEVEL - AQA

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

Studying A Level History will provide you with the opportunity to study how America developed into a Superpower, 1865 – 1975 alongside The Making of Modern Britain, 1951 – 2007. These two units will make up 80% of your overall grade and be assessed by a mixture of extended essays, source, and interpretation questions. Furthermore, students will complete an NEA on the witchcraft craze in Europe, 1560 – 1660.

To be successful at A Level History we advise students to achieve at least a grade 5 at GCSE. If you haven't studied GCSE history, then a grade 5 in English Language is preferable.

Where this course could take you:

As a facilitating subject, history equips students with the skills and attributes to succeed in a wide range of careers. In the last few years our students have gone on to study law, politics, international relations, business and economics and journalism.

Due to the communication skills, improved oracy, ability to interpret a range of evidence and write with confidence that our students gain, a history A Level opens many opportunities for the future.



What our students say about History:

"I have loved studying about the Making of Modern Britain and learning how our history has been shaped over the past 50 years."

"My political understanding has improved and I now have a far keener interest in how different countries are governed."

"I have found that I am able to use knowledge gained studying GCSE history but that we now study them in much more depth."

"It's not as hard as I thought!"



Information Technology

BTEC LEVEL 3 - PEARSON

Brief course overview:

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Information Technology (Extended Certificate) allows students to study the fundamental knowledge of Information Technology covering the role and implications of using Information Technology systems and cyber-security threats and how to manage attacks. Students will also develop important skills for creating websites to meet a specific purpose and to manage data through the development of a relational database solution. The qualification is designed to be taken alongside A levels as part of a study programme and can link to learning in A level Mathematics and A level Business Studies.

Unit 1: Information Systems (Year 12)

Explore how hardware, software and networks work together, and examine the impact of IT on individuals and organisations.

- Assessed by a 2-hour external examination.
- Opportunity to retake in Year 13.

Unit 2: Cyber Security & Incident Management (Year 13)

Investigate cyber threats, security measures, digital forensics and how organisations respond to cyber incidents.

- Assessed by a 2-hour external examination.
- Taken in January of Year 13, with a resit opportunity in June.

Unit 3: Website Development (Year 12)

Design and create a website to meet a specific client brief through practical coursework.

Unit 4: Database Development (Year 13)

Develop a relational database solution to manage and analyse data through coursework.



Why Choose Information Technology?

- Gain a broad understanding of modern IT systems and cyber security.
- Develop valuable technical, analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Create real-world website and database projects.
- Complements subjects such as Mathematics and Business Studies.
- Excellent preparation for university courses, apprenticeships and careers in technology.

What our students say about IT:

"It's a good course for people who enjoy technology and practical learning."

"The course gave me a clearer idea of which area of IT I want to pursue in the future."



Mathematics A LEVEL - AQA

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

A level Mathematics extends GCSE Maths and introduces new ideas

Pure maths underpins everything and you will be introduced to some of the big ideas in mathematics such as calculus (differentiation and integration).

Also you will look at two of the main applications of maths, Statistics and Mechanics.

Assessment: Three 2 hour examinations at the end of Year 13

Entry requirement: Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics

Where this course could take you:

Where Maths has taken our past students and could take you!

A-Level Mathematics is rigorous and is well-respected by employers and higher education institutions.

It will help you develop key employability skills e.g. problem solving, communication, logical reasoning and resilience.

What our students say about Mathematics:

"This year I have really enjoyed maths. I think it has been a challenge for me, which I needed. It has made me think more and more logically. I especially enjoyed Mechanics! Maths is a great subject choice and will help you further in life."

"I enjoy Pure maths and also learning about some of the maths behind simple things"



Further Mathematics A LEVEL - AQA

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

Entries in England for A-Level Further Mathematics have risen rapidly in recent years. Young people recognise that it's a highly desirable qualification that can help them achieve their aspirations for further study and their future career.

Studying A-Level Further Mathematics is excellent preparation for many degrees such as mathematics, physics or engineering. Many university maths departments encourage students to take Further Mathematics at A-Level as it introduces a wider range of pure and applied content, such as matrices and complex numbers. Students who have studied Further Mathematics often find the transition to university far more straightforward.

In Further Mathematics you will build on your learning in A-Level Mathematics.

You will study:

- Further Pure Mathematics
- Further Mechanics
- An introduction to Discrete Mathematics

Assessment: Three 2 hour examinations at the end of Year 13

Entry requirement: Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics and to be studying A-Level Mathematics



Where this course could take you:

Our past students have gone on to study rigorous courses at top universities or even higher level apprenticeships. These include:

- MORSE (Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics) at Warwick University
- Physics at The University of Bath
- Mathematics at The University of Lancaster
- Economics at The University of Oxford
- Robotic Engineering at The University of Liverpool
- Apprenticeship with Amazon

What our students say about Further Mathematics:

"Further Maths has been both challenging and incredibly rewarding. It has only made me like maths more"



Medicinal Science

BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL CERTIFICATE - PEARSON

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

Pearson's Level 3 BTEC in Medicinal Science, is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the scientific principles and practical skills essential for a career in the medicinal and pharmaceutical sectors.

Course Content:

The curriculum encompasses a range of topics, including:

- **Human Physiology and Pharmacology:** Exploration of how drugs interact with the human body, including mechanisms of action and therapeutic effects.
- **Laboratory Techniques:** Hands-on experience with modern laboratory equipment and methodologies used in medicinal research and quality control.
- **Clinical Trials and Regulatory Affairs:** Understanding the processes involved in testing new drugs and the regulatory frameworks governing their approval.
- **Ethics in Medicine:** Discussion of ethical considerations in drug development and patient care.

Assessment:

Students will be evaluated through a combination of practical laboratory work, written assignments, and examinations, ensuring a balanced assessment of theoretical knowledge and practical competencies.

Career Pathways:

Graduates of this course will be well-prepared for various roles in the medicinal and pharmaceutical industries, such as:

- **Pharmaceutical Researcher:** Conducting experiments to develop new drugs and therapies.



- **Quality Control Analyst:** Ensuring the safety and efficacy of pharmaceutical products through rigorous testing.
- **Regulatory Affairs Specialist:** Navigating the complex regulations to bring new medicinal products to market.
- **Clinical Trial Coordinator:** Managing the logistics and compliance of clinical studies.
- **Physiotherapy:** focused on restoring movement and function in individuals affected by injury, illness, or disability.
- **Nursing:** providing medical care, support, and education to patients across various healthcare settings.

Additionally, the course provides a solid foundation for further studies in fields such as pharmacology, biomedical sciences, and other medicinal science courses



Music

A LEVEL - AQA

Why Choose Music?

A Level Music is perfect for students who enjoy performing, composing and exploring a wide range of musical styles. The course develops creativity, confidence, analytical skills and musical understanding.

Entry requirement:

At least grade 5 ABRSM and grade 5 instrument / voice.

Course Structure:

Performing (25-35%)

- Solo and/or ensemble performances
- Assessed by a visiting examiner

Composing (25-35%)

- Create original compositions
- Develop songwriting, arranging and music technology skills

Appraising (40%)

- Written examination
- Study areas include:
 - Western Classical Music
 - Rock & Pop, Musical Theatre or Jazz
 - Twentieth Century Music
- Listening, analysis and comparison of music

What Will I Do?

- Perform individually and in groups
- Compose and arrange your own music
- Analyse music from different genres and periods
- Develop listening, critical thinking and creative skills

Progression Opportunities:

A Level Music develops skills valued by universities and employers, including creativity, communication, teamwork and self-discipline.

Possible pathways include:

- Music Performance
- Music Production and Technology
- Composition
- Teaching and Education
- Media and Creative Industries

Student Benefits:

- Develop advanced performance skills
- Create original music
- Explore diverse musical styles
- Build confidence, independence and creativity

A Level Music offers a rewarding balance of performing, composing and listening, helping students grow as musicians while preparing for higher education and future careers.



Music BTEC LEVEL 3 - NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

Mandatory Units (students complete all 3)

1. Practical Music Theory and Harmony: Internally Assessed:
Students study a comprehensive range of the standard musical vocabulary and through practical 'real industry style tasks demonstrate their understanding'
2. Professional Practice in the Music Industry: Externally Assessed
– Students study the expectations of someone involved in the Music Industry including financial planning and bid preparation. They sit a controlled assessment set by Pearson in the second year of the course.
3. Ensemble Music Performance: Externally Assessed: In groups of between three and eight students choose from a list of repertoire and prepare a live performance to an audience. This will be recorded and assessed by Pearson.

Optional Units (Pick at least 1)

- Composing Music, Music Performance Session Styles, Improvising Music, Solo Performance

Where this course could take you:

- A Level equivalent with progression to apprenticeships or university
- A course that is focused on real work in the Creative Arts Industry
- A choice of pathways through the course
- The development of skills which promote the independence necessary in the work place
- Working with Music Industry professionals
- Working with other young musicians
- Trips to Live Music events



Physical Education A LEVEL - OCR

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

The A Level in Physical Education develops knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to physical education. Students gain understanding of the scientific and socio-cultural factors that underpin physical activity, and demonstrate their ability as either performer or coach.

The course is assessed by 3 examinations; Physiological factors affecting performance (30% of total mark), Psychological factors affecting performance (20% of total mark) and Socio-Cultural issues in physical activity and sport (20% of total mark).

The remaining 30% is made up of practical performance in ONE sport (15% of total mark) and evaluating and analysing performance for improvement (15% of total mark).

Where this course could take you:

The OCR A-Level in Physical Education is an ideal progression route to study undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses in Sports Science, Physical Education and Coaching etc.

Careers like teaching, physiotherapy, sports scientists, personal trainers are common destinations for students studying the qualification at BCS.

Recent examples:

Alex - London School of Osteopathy.

Tess and Kieran - qualified and practising physiotherapists in Manchester.

Jamie - teacher of Physical Education.

Ben - USPGA Golf scholarship.

Sasha - USA Soccer scholarship.



What our students say about Physical Education:

"I like the cross over links to biology and feel like what I am learning will be useful for a career in physiotherapy."

"I really enjoy the analysis of sport as it helps to inform my own game."

"Teachers give us handy booklets to work from which makes it easier for us to revise and organise ourselves."



Philosophy & Ethics A LEVEL - OCR

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

A Level Philosophy & Ethics (Religious Studies) provides a coherent and thought-provoking study into the philosophy of religion, the theory and application of ethics and deeper understanding and appreciation of theology. Learners will develop their skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced, informed arguments and responses to philosophical, ethical and religious ideas.

The course is 100% exam-based assessment, with the final exam comprising of three 2-hour papers, each paper requiring you to write three essays on given topics.

It is required that A Level students of Philosophy have Grade 5 in English, due to the written demands of the course. Ideally, you will also have a GCSE in Religious Studies, though this is not essential.

Where this course could take you:

Studying Philosophy at university could open up many doors!

Philosophy careers include: Public Sector, such as NHS or police officer; Law, such as solicitor or barrister; Writing and Journalism; Humanitarian Work, such as UNICEF or United Nations; Politics, such as member of parliament, or Prime Minister... studying Philosophy teaches you the skills to excel in almost every field of study and work! In addition, approximately 90% of Philosophy graduates are in careers within 15 months of graduating, according to the Guardian online.

Employers say:

"If I need an employee who knows how to think, I'll look to the selection of Philosophy graduates."

"Good ethics is good business."



Famous Philosophy graduates include:

Moby (musician), Ricky Gervais (Comedian/Writer), General Sir Richard Barrons (Commander, Joint Forces Command), Martin Luther King Jr (Civil Rights Activist), David Cameron (Politician/PM)

What our students say about Philosophy & Ethics:

"To live is to think. Philosophy teaches you to do just this and more, to challenge ourselves in all our endeavours. If you like challenge, it's the subject for you. It is relevant to all other subjects and life in general. You won't regret it if you're keen on gaining some understanding of life and all that has been, is and will be. I am who I am today because of studying Philosophy... or am I just a brain in a vat?!" Justice

"Studying philosophy involved learning how to think critically, which transferred into both my other academic and creative subjects, and into life! I particularly enjoyed exploring debates about real world contemporary subjects and finding my own standpoint within essay writing, along with discovering the vast range of belief systems and ideologies both in the past and in today's world!" Nell



Physics A LEVEL - AQA

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

All aspects of the modern world depend upon the understanding, analysis and interpretation of numerical problems; studying A Level Physics develops these highly transferable skills and enables students of Physics to be able to thrive in a broad range of professional careers.

The course develops and extends the basic study of Physics undertaken at GCSE.

Year 12 focuses on particle physics, electricity, mechanics and waves.

Year 13 develops understanding of fields, nuclear and atomic physics, thermal physics, advanced mechanics and a selected option topic from: astrophysics, medical physics, modern physics, engineering physics and electronics. Year 13 also focuses on developing an ability to be able to tackle synoptic questions that integrate all parts of the syllabus.

Throughout the course practical and experimental skills and techniques are taught and assessed.

The entry requirements for the A Level Physics course are as follows:

- Maths GCSE: Minimum of a grade 6
 - Trilogy Science GCSE: Minimum of a grade 6-6,
- or
- Physics GCSE: Minimum of a grade 6

Where this course could take you:

The study of A Level Physics provides an essential foundation and support for a great range of University courses including: engineering, architecture, various science courses, medicine, economics and computer Science.

The numerical problem-solving nature of Physics A Level also provides a good foundation for an increasing range of Degree Apprenticeships which allow a direct route into paid industry employment whilst studying for a degree.

A Level Physics best suits students who have a curiosity and determination to understand how the world works. To be successful you need to enjoy complex problem solving and be able to use both logical thinking and mathematical tools and techniques.

Student Destinations:

In the last couple of years students completing A Level Physics have gone on to study degree courses and degree-level apprenticeships including:

- Physics degrees, including Astrophysics and Cosmology at top universities around the country including Lancaster, Leeds and Bath
- Maths degrees at top universities including Cambridge and Warwick
- A range of Engineering degrees including mechanical engineering, electronic engineering and mechatronics
- Degree apprenticeship in Robotics at Amazon
- Degree apprenticeship in Laboratory Science at AstraZeneca.



Psychology A LEVEL - AQA

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

Psychology is the study of the human mind and human behaviour. Students have the opportunity to study a wide range of topic areas such as, memory, psychopathology, biopsychology and approaches. In Year 13 students can further their knowledge through topics such as forensics and schizophrenia. This A Level is assessed through three, 2-hour exams at the end of Year 13.

Students do not have to have studied the GCSE to study A Level psychology, however it is important to note that 20% of the course is based on research methods which requires a secure mathematical and scientific understanding.

We require a grade 4 in Psychology at GCSE or a minimum of grade 5 in core subjects Maths and Science.

Where this course could take you:

Psychology prepares students for a range of degree options, from straight psychology to disciplines such as, clinical, educational, forensics, sports. Career pathways include many areas such as, mental health and counselling, social work, research, law, criminal justice, education, and business.

What our students say about Psychology:

"Some of the best and most interesting lessons I have had. My favourite subject by far!"

"Studying psychology at BCS has helped me realise my goal of becoming a psychotherapist and has prepared me for this journey in multiple ways."

"I find psychology very interesting, such as the human brain and how it functions and how it explains certain behaviour and mindsets we have fascinates me. I feel like it can help you to better understand yourself and others which can potentially help in day to day life."

Students enjoy the egg baby project to understand how attachments form with infants and caregivers.



Sociology A LEVEL - AQA

Brief course overview including entry requirements and how the course is assessed:

Sociology is the study of social groups and social life in modern society. You will study a range of institutions such as education, family, media and crime. Sociology enables students to explore that things are not always what they seem with key questions such as: Why are the rich so rich? Are women now free to choose a career over a family? Why are stop and search rates so high in BME groups?

Sociology is assessed by three 2-hour exams at the end of Year 13. Sociology is an essay-based subject which requires students to write at length during the exams, this is why we require a minimum of a grade 5 in English.

Where this course could take you:

Sociology A Level will enable students to study a degree in sociology or open pathways for other areas such as: social sciences, anthropology, law and criminal justice, education.

Sociology prepares students well for many careers such as probation services, rehabilitation, criminal justice, social work, education, research, public health, law and policy.

As well as this, it provides students with invaluable research skills for any other undergraduate degree.

What our students say about Sociology:

"The most interesting course I've studied in Sixth Form, it's really opened my eyes on society and institutions such as Education and Crime and how they are relevant to our lives. Anyone who doesn't choose A Level Sociology is missing out!"

"It offers explanations for why certain people act the way they do, why the world works the way it does, and who controls it!"

THE TASK IS NOT JUST TO UNDERSTAND
THE WORLD BUT TO CHANGE IT.



- KARL MARX



Extended Project Qualification

Studying an **EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)** in sixth form can be a great way to develop skills that universities and employers value.

Benefits of taking an EPQ:

Earn extra UCAS points

- An EPQ is worth up to 28 UCAS points (equivalent to half an A-level at A* grade).
- This can strengthen your university application.

Prepare for university

- You'll learn how to:
 - Conduct independent research
 - Evaluate sources
 - Write extended reports and essays
 - Manage your time effectively
- These are key skills needed for university-level study.

Study something you're passionate about

- You choose your own topic, often linked to a future degree or career.
- For example:
 - Medicine: investigate a medical issue
 - Engineering: design a prototype
 - Law: explore a legal question

Stand out in applications

- Universities often like applicants who have demonstrated independent learning and intellectual curiosity.
- An EPQ gives you something unique to discuss in your personal statement and interviews.

Develop transferable skills

You gain experience in:

- Research
- Critical thinking
- Project management
- Presentation skills
- Problem solving

Potential university offers

- Some universities may make a reduced offer to students who achieve a high grade in their EPQ, particularly if it is relevant to their chosen course.

Things to consider:

An EPQ requires:

- Good organisation
- Independent work
- Consistent effort over several months

If you already have a heavy workload, you should be confident you can balance it alongside your A-levels.

In one sentence:

An EPQ is worth doing if you want to deepen your knowledge of a subject you enjoy, develop university-level skills, strengthen your UCAS application, and potentially gain extra points or lower university offers.



Key Contacts in School

Headteacher:	Mrs S Jones
Deputy Headteacher:	Mrs A Garner - Designated Safeguard Lead
Deputy Headteacher:	Mrs C Warrington
Assistant Headteacher:	Mr S Gort
Assistant Headteacher:	Mr A Warrington
Assistant Headteacher:	Mr C Holman
Head of Sixth Form:	Mr S Gort
Assistant Head of Sixth Form:	Mrs R Hall
Sixth Form Pastoral Manager:	Miss E Wheeldon
School Business Manager:	Mr N Bondswell
Careers Advisor:	Mr P Nelson
SENDCo:	Mrs S Reddy
Headteacher's PA:	Mrs D Lowe
Family Resource Manager/Deputy DSL:	Mrs J Woods

E-mail: info@buxtoncommunityschool.co.uk

Website www.buxton.derbyshire.sch.uk



School have been very successful in obtaining First Class and 2:1 Honours Degrees from a wide variety of universities including: Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, Warwick, Bristol, Sheffield, Manchester, Nottingham, Birmingham, Leeds, York, University of Arts London and many more.



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