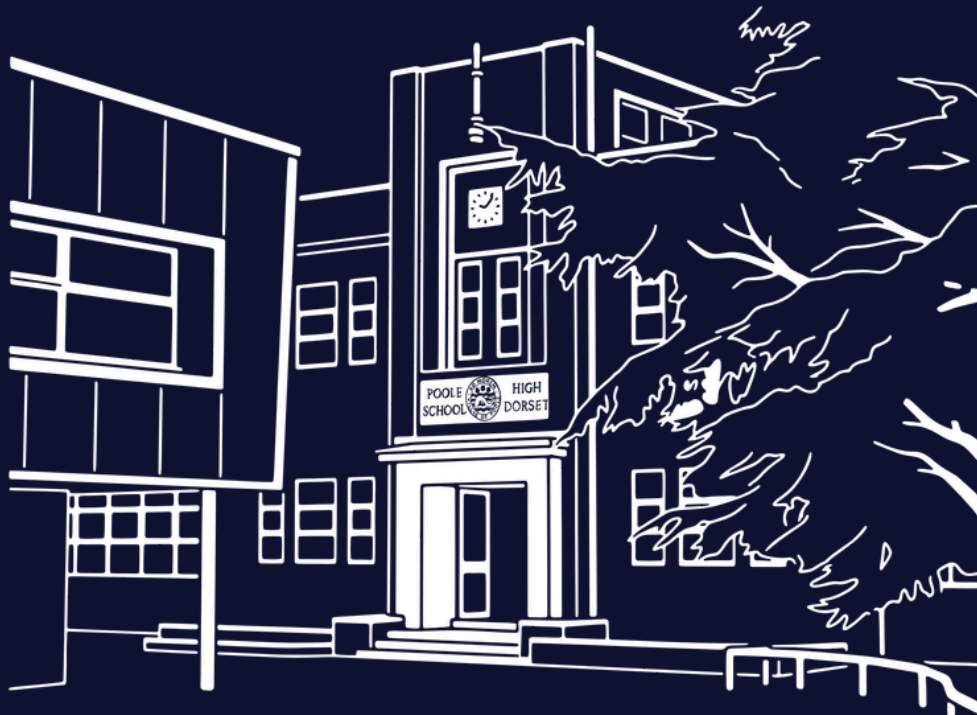




Sixth Form

Subject Information Booklet

September 2027
Entry

Option Blocks

At Poole High Sixth Form, A-Level subjects are grouped into option blocks.

Students select one subject from each block, which allows them to create a personalised combination of courses. This system is designed to give students flexibility and choice when planning their studies.

You should choose one subject per option block.

Students choose a minimum of three main subject courses and then either AS-Level Core Maths or AS-Level EPQ.

BTEC sport double covers A & D and BTEC Business double covers A and B

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
A-Level Chemistry	A-Level Biology	A-Level Biology	A-Level Art and Design
A-Level Maths	A-Level Business	A-Level Chemistry	A-Level French
A-Level Physics	A-Level English Language	A-Level Computer Science	A-Level Further Maths
A-Level Politics	A-Level English Literature	A-Level Geography	A-Level Maths
A-Level Product Design	A-Level Food and Nutrition	A-Level History	A-Level Physical Education
A-Level Psychology	A-Level Physics	A-Level Media Studies	A-Level Philosophy and Ethics
A-Level Sociology		A-Level Music	A-Level Psychology
			A-Level Sociology
BTEC Sport Double	BTEC Business Single	WJEC Criminology	V Level Digital Systems and Data
BTEC Business Double	BTEC Health and Social Care		BTEC Sport Single
AS-Level Core Maths	AS-Level Core Maths	AS-Level Core Maths	AS-Level Core Maths
AS-Level EPQ	AS-Level EPQ	AS-Level EPQ	AS-Level EPQ
	GCSE Maths Retake		GCSE English Retake

Please note if there are not enough applications for a subject, alternative courses will be discussed.

How to apply

To apply, just scan the QR code below and complete the Microsoft Form.

Applications open **October 1st 2026**

Internal (Current Poole High School) applicants



External applicants



As soon as we have your application we will be in touch with you for an academic discussion.

Academic discussion dates:

Internal applicants:

10th December 2026. 4-7pm

External applicants:

14 January 2027. 4-7pm



Subjects (page number)

5	A-Level Art
6	A-Level Biology
7	A-Level Business
8	A-Level Chemistry
9	A-Level Computer Science
10	A-Level Design Technology: Product Design
11	A-Level English Language
12	A-Level English Literature
13	A-Level French
14	A-Level Further Mathematics
15	A-Level Geography
16	A-Level History
17	A-Level Mathematics
18	A-Level Media Studies
19	A-Level Music
20	A-Level Philosophy and Ethics
21	A-Level Physical Education
22	A-Level Physics
23	A-Level Politics
24	A-Level Psychology
25	A-Level Sociology
26	AAQ Health and Social Care
27	BTEC Business
28	WJEC Applied Diploma Criminology
29	V Level Digital Systems and Data
30	WJEC Food Science and Nutrition
31	BTEC National Diploma in Sport
33	Level Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
34	Core Maths
35	Enrichment



A-Level Art

COURSE CONTENT

Year 12

The first year of the course is foundational and students learn to explore the formal elements of visual art in greater depth. They will also gain a stronger understanding of the ways in which artists draw upon the history of art and the work of contemporary artists for inspiration. During the first year we encourage our students to question their assumptions about what Art can be and to challenge their current ways of working in order to move beyond their comfort zone and develop new skills and approaches.

Year 13

During the second year of the course, students are asked to choose a subject that will form the basis of their 'Personal Investigation'. This unit challenges students to research, plan and manage their own coursework project and is a stepping stone to the skills required for higher education. The outcomes will include a 1000 to 3000 word written component and original artwork that shows the student's response to their chosen theme. The work in the second year of the A-Level should include the application of the skills, knowledge and understanding that were gained in the first year. The course ends with a 15 hour practical exam (conducted over 3 school days) that the students prepare for over a number of weeks.

Access and opportunities to your future

- Gateway to University Foundation course in Art, Design, Architecture, Graphic Design, Marketing, HR
- Careers/employment- Art is a constantly expanding industry providing a wide range of opportunities in areas such as a Design, Retail, Administration, Marketing, HR, PR, Careers of the future – Digital Marketing is a growth area
- Transferable skills – The knowledge gained and skills learnt, both practical and problem solving will also be transferrable to many other future opportunities.

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is Grade 4 in GCSE Art and Design or equivalent subject.

Skills required and developed

Critical thinking, enthusiasm, communication skills, a keen interest in the world around us, numerical skills

Assessment

Exam Board – AQA

Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%)

Component 2: Externally set assignment (40%)

Beyond the Classroom

Opportunities for trips/visiting art galleries in the local area and nationally

Further reading- Art journals and newspapers

Podcasts/lectures: Check out Two Teachers, TEDTalks, Tate podcasts

Clubs/extra-curricular- Young Enterprise, Student Investor Challenge and ICAEW

A-Level Biology

COURSE CONTENT

Biology involves the study of a wide range of topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems, and microorganisms to mammoths. Many areas of biology are at the cutting edge of science with vital innovations occurring every year.

Biology is also a well-recognised and respected course and is identified as a key facilitating subject by the Russell Group Universities. It can lead students on to study many different types of Science courses at University. Students from Poole High School have gone on to study Pure Biology, Biochemistry, Environmental Sciences, Forensics as well as medical related courses such as Physiotherapy, Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing.

Topics include:

1. Biological Molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of Gene Expression

Access and opportunities to your future

- Gateway to University courses – Biology, Biochemistry, Environmental Sciences, Forensics as well as medical related courses: Physiotherapy, Medicine, Dentistry etc.
- Apprenticeships – Technician Scientist, Dental Technician, Food Technologist
- Careers/employment – Biologist, Pharmacologist, Environmental Scientist, Forensic Scientist
- Transferable skills – practical work, problem solving, research, Mathematical skills

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is:
Grade 6 6 in GCSE Combined Science or Grade 6 in Biology, Grade 6 in Mathematics and Grade 5 in English

Skills required and developed

Safe and methodical practical skills
Scientific thinking
Organisation
Independence

Assessment

- Paper 1: 2 hours, topics 1-4
- Paper 2: 2 hours, topics 5-8
- Paper 3: 2 hours, topics 1-8, practical and data analysis

Beyond the Classroom

Field trip to Kimmeridge Bay to carry out ecological investigations
Visit to a local farm to see how biodiversity and food production can co-exist
<https://www.nature.com/nature/articles?type=nature-podcast>

A-Level Business

COURSE CONTENT

A-Level Business explores how organisations operate in a fast-changing global environment. Through four engaging themes, students develop a strong understanding of business concepts, decision-making and strategy.

Students will:

- Develop a holistic understanding of business
- Explore real-world business issues and case studies
- Examine the impact of globalisation and modern markets
- Build transferable skills for higher education and employment
- Progress naturally from GCSE Business studies

Topics include:

- Marketing and People
- Managing Business Activities
- Business Decisions and Strategy
- Global Business

Students who thrive in Business:

- Have an interest in business and current affairs
- Enjoy debating and analysing real-world issues
- Are confident working with data and evidence
- Think critically and solve problems effectively
- Want to explore topics such as digital technology, business ethics and globalisation

A-Level Business complements a wide range of other A-Level subjects, making it a versatile and valuable choice.

Access and opportunities to your future

- Gateway to University courses – Business Management, International Business, Marketing, HR, Law
- Apprenticeship opportunities - JP Morgan, PWC, Siemens, KPMG
- Careers/employment- Retail, Administration, Marketing, HR, PR, International Relations, Finance, Accounting
- Careers of the future – Digital Marketing is a growth area
- Transferable skills – research and analytical skills, numerical, planning and strategic understanding

Entry Requirements

We recommend that students will have a minimum of a GCSE Grade 5 in Mathematics and English and be able to comprehend information from unseen extracts and manipulate and interpret data.

Skills required and developed

Critical thinking, enthusiasm, communication skills, a keen interest in the world around us, numerical skills

Assessment

Exam Board: Edexcel

Students will take three external exams at the end of Year 13. Paper 1 focuses on Theme 1 & 4, Paper 2 focuses on Theme 2 & 3 and Paper 3 covers all content and is based on a pre-released research task.

Beyond the Classroom

Opportunities for trips/visits- Previous trips include; Chessington, Cadburys World, Longleat, overnight in London

Further reading- Business review magazine

Podcasts/lectures: Check out Two Teachers, TEDTalks

Clubs/extra-curricular- Young Enterprise, StudentInvestor Challenge and ICAEW

A-Level Chemistry

COURSE CONTENT

Physical Chemistry

- Atomic structure, bonding and energetics
- Kinetics, equilibrium and thermodynamics
- Redox reactions, acids and electrochemistry

Inorganic Chemistry

- Periodicity and the properties of Groups 2 and 7
- Period 3 elements and transition metals
- Reactions of ions in solution

Organic Chemistry

- Hydrocarbons, alcohols and halogenoalkanes
- Carbonyl compounds, carboxylic acids and aromatic chemistry
- Polymers, proteins, DNA and organic synthesis
- Analytical techniques including NMR spectroscopy and chromatography

Practical Work

- Completion of 12 required practical investigations.

Where could Chemistry take you?

- Progression to degrees in Chemistry, Medicine, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science, Engineering and related fields
- Careers in healthcare, research, forensic science and industry
- Development of highly valued skills in analysis, investigation, teamwork, communication and critical thinking

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is GCSE Grade 6 in Chemistry or 6 6 in Combined Science.

GCSE Grade 6 in Mathematics & Grade 5 in English Language

Skills required and developed

Independent logical thinking, application of Scientific knowledge. Use and application of Scientific methods and practices. Numeracy and the application of Mathematical concepts in a practical context. Risk assessment. Use of a wide range of apparatus and techniques. Hard work and self-motivation.

Assessment

Three 2 hour external exams

- Paper 1: 35% (105 marks; short & long answer)

Physical, Inorganic Chemistry & practical skills

- Paper 2: 35% (105 marks; short & long answer) Physical, Organic Chemistry & practical skills

- Paper 3: 30% (90 marks; includes 30 multiple choice) all content and practical skills.

Beyond the Classroom

Links with Southampton University and The Royal Society of Chemistry. www.chemguide.co.uk

Support is offered during after school sessions.

A-Level Computer Science

COURSE CONTENT

Building on GCSE knowledge, A-Level Computer Science introduces new concepts and develops advanced programming, computational thinking and problem-solving skills.

Paper 1 (40%)

- Programming
- Data Structures
- Algorithms
- Theory of Computation

Paper 2 (40%)

- Data Representation
- Computer Systems and Architecture
- Networks and Databases
- The impact of Computing
- Functional Programming
- Big Data

Non-Exam Assessment (20%)

- An independent programming project to solve a real-world problem, demonstrating design, development and evaluation skills.

Throughout the course, students extend their GCSE understanding through more advanced topics and gain valuable experience creating their own software solutions.

Where could Computer Science take you?

- University courses in Computer Science, AI and Software Engineering
- Degree apprenticeships in Cyber Security, Data Science and Digital Technology
- Careers in software, cyber security, data and IT
- Transferable skills in programming, analysis and problem-solving

Entry Requirements

GCSE Grade 6 in Computer Science, GCSE Grade 6 in Mathematics.

Skills required and developed

Programming (Object-oriented programming and Functional Programming using C# and Haskell)

Coursework – time management and project planning skills are developed over this course

Assessment

Assessment takes place at the end of Year 13 and consists of two exams – a practical Programming exam and a theory paper, alongside a programming project which consists of 20% of the final grade. The exam board is AQA.

Beyond the Classroom

We often run the National Cipher Challenge and have also started to enter the British Informatics Olympiad. Programming Club is also open to all year groups throughout the year.

Wider reading and an interest in Programming outside of lessons is extremely helpful in achieving top grades at A- Level.

A-Level Design Technology Product Design

COURSE CONTENT

Year 1

Students will study the principles of Design and Technology covering a range of topics including:

- 1: Materials
- 2: Performance characteristics of materials
- 3: Processes and techniques
- 4: Digital technologies
- 5: Factors influencing the development of products
- 6: Effects of technological developments
- 7: Potential hazards and risk assessment
- 8: Features of manufacturing industries
- 9: Designing for maintenance and the cleaner environment
- 10: Current Legislation
- 11: Information handling, modelling and forward planning
- 12: Further processes and techniques.

Alongside this they will work with a range of materials, to develop their practical skills using a range of tools, processes and equipment.

Year 2

Students will continue to study the principles of Design and Technology whilst working on their Independent Design and Make Project (Non-Examined Assessment).

Access and opportunities to your future:

- Gateway to University courses: Product Design at Nottingham Trent University, University of Edinburgh, Bournemouth University
- Apprenticeship opportunities: Sunseekers, Cobham Engineering
- Careers/employment: Design and Technology is a constantly expanding industry providing a wide range of opportunities such as a Buyer, Merchandiser, Designer or Product Developer. It also opens opportunities within the vast Technology sector as well as Engineering.

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is Grade 5 in GCSE Product Design or another Design & Technology subject.

Skills required and developed

The minimum entry requirement is good practical and design & communication skills, a desire to learn new techniques and processes of working with materials, and an interest in designing and technology.

Assessment Edexcel Design & Technology

Component 1: External
Written exam

50% of final grade - Principles of Design and Technology

Component 2: Independent
Design and Make Project
50% of final grade (NEA)

Beyond the Classroom

Visits to local manufacturing businesses including Sunseeker
Further reading – Design weekly

A-Level English Language

COURSE CONTENT

This course explores how language is used, developed and adapted in different contexts, helping students build analytical, creative and investigative skills.

Paper 1: Language Variation

- How language creates meaning, identity and representation
- Language diversity, dialects, sociolects and language change over time

Paper 2: Child Language

- How children acquire and develop spoken and written language

Paper 3: Language Investigation

- An independent study of a language topic of personal interest, such as media language, technology, language and gender, or language and power

NEA

- Original writing based on persuasion, storytelling or information writing, with an accompanying commentary

Access and opportunities to your future

- English Language can lead on to University courses such as: Law, Politics, Education, Marketing, Media, Social Media Management, Consultancy, Psychology, Administration Management, Publishing, Writing, Web-Content Design or Management, Business and Economics, Linguistics, Journalism, Sports Science, Anthropology and Philosophy.
- It can also lead to Apprenticeships in: Public Services, Teaching Assistant and Dental Nursing.

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is GCSE Grade 6 in English Language

Skills required and developed

How to communicate effectively
Critically assess information and ideas presented
Challenge assumptions and debates societal ideologies
Wider understanding of language in action

Assessment

Paper 1- Examination 2 hours and 15 minutes

Paper 2- Examination 1 Hour 15 minutes

Paper 3- Examination 1 hour 45 minutes

NEA: Crafting texts and using language for purpose

Beyond the Classroom

Opportunities for trips/visits to develop the understanding of language in use
Further reading and research around how we use the English language across the world
Podcasts/lectures
Journalism club
Workshops to support students in lower school

A-Level English Literature

COURSE CONTENT

Our A-Level English Literature specification engages learners in an extensive range of literature spanning from the established literary canon to esteemed contemporary writings of the 21st century. Components include: Drama, Prose and Poetry with the aim of encouraging students to explore a varied range of both set and self-selected texts.

Drama

- Othello by William Shakespeare
- A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

Prose

- The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde
- Beloved by Toni Morrison
- Explored through the theme of the supernatural

Poetry

- Romantic Poetry
- Poems of the Decade (post-2000 collection)

Non-Examined Assessment

Students will be assessed via two independently chosen texts. Texts may be drawn from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction, linked by theme, movement, author or period. Study includes the links and connections between texts, different interpretation and context.

Access and opportunities to your future

- English Literature can lead on to University courses such as: Law, Politics, Education, Journalism, History, Philosophy, Archaeology and Anthropology.
- It can also lead to Apprenticeships in: Public Services, Teaching Assistant, Banking and Human Resource Management.

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is: GCSE Grade 6 in English Language and English Literature.

Skills required and developed

Critical thinking
Critical writer
Discussion
Analytical skills
Creative expertise

Assessment: (Edexcel 9ET0)

There are three, 2 hour external written exams at the end of Year 13 – all open book
One non-exam assessment (coursework): where you have the freedom to study 2 texts of your own choice.

Beyond the Classroom

Opportunities for trips/visits
Further reading
Podcasts/lectures
Clubs/extra-curricular

To be successful on this course you should read widely and enjoy challenge.

A-Level French

COURSE CONTENT

In Year 12, French Learners will study:

- The changing nature of the family
- The use of new technologies
- The place of voluntary work
- Aspects of French heritage
- Aspects of contemporary music
- Aspects of French cinema
- The film *La Haine* by Matthieu Kassovitz

In Year 13, French Learners will study:

- The positive features of a diverse society
- Aspects of life for the marginalised
- How criminals are treated
- The political engagement of teenagers
- The power of governments, unions and the people
- Politics and immigration
- The book *Kiffe Kiffe Demain* by Faïza Guène

Access and opportunities to your future

- Degrees in Languages, International Relations, Law, Business and more
- Careers in journalism, diplomacy, education, law, international business and the Civil Service
- Valuable transferable skills including communication, problem-solving, cultural awareness and adaptability
- Excellent progression prospects, with the majority of language graduates moving into employment or further study

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is Grade 6 French.

Skills required and developed

The ability to write and speak using complex language

The ability to manipulate grammatical structures

The ability to express opinions on a wide range of topics

The ability to analyse a text and film

The ability to write an analytical essay on a text and film

The ability to conduct independent research

Assessment

AQA French

3 examination papers at the end of Year 13

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

Paper 2: Writing (essay writing)

Paper 3: Speaking (includes a conversation on a sub-theme studied in Year 12 or 13, plus an independent research project)

Beyond the Classroom

Reading books, watching the news and have conversations for pleasure in French will boost your progress.

Join us on a trip with KS3 in Normandy to explore such a beautiful part of France and put your French into practice!

A-Level Further Mathematics

COURSE CONTENT

A-Level Further Mathematics is for students who love Mathematics, not simply those who are good at it. We are proud to offer 11 hours of contact time per fortnight. You will have 22 hours of Mathematics a fortnight, plus additional hours of homework.

A-Level Further Mathematics is to be taken alongside A-Level Mathematics. As such, we offer it as a 4th A-Level in Year 12. At the end of Year 12, we enter all students for the AS qualification. We then strongly advise all students to drop to 3 A levels as they continue into Year 13.

Further Mathematics is the countries hardest A-Level course and as such demands a large commitment and focus, but rewards students with some truly beautiful Mathematics.

In the course we will explore new types of numbers (Complex Numbers), new Algebras (Matrices), and even New Coordinate systems (Polar Coordinates). The 'new' A-Level specification has a heavy emphasis on proof. In Further Mathematics we get to study one of the most elegant and powerful forms of proof – induction! We also get to meet new sequences and series, some of which are infinite, along with describing the equations of planes.

In our applied modules, we study Mechanics, Statistics, and Algorithms, giving students a broad exposure to new areas of study and setting students up to succeed.

Where could Further Mathematics take you?

- Highly valued for degrees in Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, Computer Science and related STEM subjects
- Develops advanced problem-solving, logical reasoning and analytical skills
- Builds resilience, organisation and independent learning skills highly sought after by employers and universities

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement for Further Mathematics is a Grade 8 at GCSE

Skills required and developed

Further Mathematics requires excellent Number and Algebraic manipulation, and a positive attitude when faced with a challenge.

We will build upon curiosity and hopefully develop a sense of wonder amongst some very advanced topics

Assessment

We use the OCR(MEI) exam board for Further Maths.

3 papers are sat for the AS at the end of Year 12:

Pure, Mechanics, and Modelling with Algorithms

4 papers are sat for the full A Level at the end of Year 13:

Pure, Mechanics, Statistics, and Modelling with Algorithms.

Beyond the Classroom

AMSP problem solving trip

Maths challenges both team and individual

Ritangle competition

Access to integral Maths

Lots of Maths every day!

A-Level Geography

COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1: Physical Geography

- Coastal Geography – coastal processes, management and the impacts of climate change on coastal communities.
- Hazards – natural hazards, including wildfires, and how people respond to and manage risk.
- Water and Carbon Cycles – the Earth's vital systems and the impact of environmental change on the future of our planet.

Paper 2:

- Changing Places – exploring identity, belonging and how people experience places differently.
- Population and the Environment – examining population growth, resource pressures and environmental challenges.
- Global Systems and Governance – investigating globalisation, geopolitics and the changing balance of power in the modern world.

Unit 3:

Non-Examined Assessment (NEA). Coursework written, designed and tested by you on a topic of your choice. Data is collected by you on fieldtrip, then analysed and assessed. A chance to research an area of geography that you love.

20% of final grade

Where could Geography take you?

- A respected facilitating subject that bridges the sciences and social sciences
- Progression to a wide range of university courses, including Geography, Environmental Science and Planning
- Careers in environmental management, sustainability, GIS, conservation, town planning and risk management
- Development of highly valued analytical, research and problem-solving skills

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is Grade 5 in GCSE Geography and a Grade 5 in English.

Skills required and developed

The ability to complete maths functions to a Grade 6 level is a benefit.

Reading skills are of utmost importance, so we provide a reading list.

Assessment

AQA exam board

Coursework (NEA) is worth 20% of the final grade and 2 external papers:

Paper 1 (Physical) is 40%

Paper 2 (Human) is 40%

Beyond the Classroom

Field trips include visiting Poole Museum, Boscombe, Swanage, Chesil Beach, the Isle of Portland and Weymouth. We also offer external trips to locations like Naples (2025) and Iceland (2023).

There is a reading list that we recommend all A Level students read as reading skills are of utmost importance.

Being a member of the Royal Geographical Society will help with further advancement of skills and knowledge

A-Level History

COURSE CONTENT

1C The Tudors in England 1485-1603

Part one: consolidation of the Tudor Dynasty:

England, 1485–1547

Henry VII, 1485–1509

Henry VIII, 1509–1547

Part Two: England: turmoil and triumph, 1547–1603

Instability and consolidation: 'the Mid-Tudor Crisis'

1547–1563 and The triumph of Elizabeth, 1563–1603

2Q American Dream: Reality and illusion, 1945-1980

Part one: prosperity, inequality and Superpower status, 1945–1963

Truman

Eisenhower

Kennedy

Part two: challenges to the American Dream, 1963–1980

Johnson

Nixon

Life after Nixon

Historical Investigation (NEA)

A personal study based on a question of the student's choice focused on Russia from 1855-1955.

This should take the form of a question in the context of approximately 100 years and completed within the word limit of 4500 words.

Access and opportunities to your future

- History is a highly respected A-Level and very popular at degree level. The analytical skills required for History A-Level also make it a natural foundation for anyone wishing to study Law.
- The following is just a small sample of jobs and careers that people with History degrees go on to: Academic Researcher, Archivist, Heritage Manager, Historic Buildings Inspector/Conservation Officer, Museum/Gallery Curator, Archaeologist, Teacher, Broadcast Journalist, Civil Service administration, Solicitor, Auditor

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is a Grade 5 in GCSE History and a Grade 5 in English.

Skills required and developed

An understanding of the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time.

Students will develop a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives.

Assessment

AQA Two external written exams (one for 1C and one for 2H):

each – 2h 30 min

3 questions (one compulsory)

Each worth 40% of final grade

NEA: personal study of 4500 words, 20% of final grade.

Beyond the Classroom

Further reading - I Dawson, The Tudor Century, Nelson Thornes, 1993; D Martin, The French Revolution, Hodder, 2013.

Access to the Historical Association and its Podcasts, lectures and resources

A-Level Mathematics

COURSE CONTENT

A-Level Mathematics builds on GCSE skills and develops students' understanding of advanced mathematical concepts and real-world problem solving.

Topics include:

- Algebra and Functions
- Calculus (Differentiation and Integration)
- Coordinate Geometry and Trigonometry
- Mathematical Modelling
- Statistics and Probability
- Mechanics and Forces

Students learn how mathematics can be used to model real-life situations, analyse data, make predictions and solve complex problems. The course develops logical thinking, resilience and analytical skills, providing excellent preparation for university, apprenticeships and a wide range of careers.

Access and opportunities to your future

- A key subject for Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, Computer Science, Chemistry, and so many other courses
- The problem solving skills developed in this A-Level can open doors to many other types of qualifications and apprenticeships
- Mathematical modelling and statistical analysis are two vital skills in today's modern world. Through both the mechanics and statistics sections of the course we will hone these skills
- Who knows what the future holds? Mathematics equips you with the skills to solve problems, not simply follow rules!

Entry Requirements

We expect A-Level Mathematicians to be able to achieve a Grade 7 at GCSE.

Skills required and developed

Strong Algebraic skills are required from the off at A-Level. We develop deeper Algebraic understanding and fluency, as well as Calculus and Trigonometry.

Assessment

We use the Edexcel exam board for A-Level Maths. There are 3 papers sat at the end of Year 13. Two 'Pure' papers, and one 'Applied' paper that has questions on both Mechanics and Statistics.

Beyond the Classroom

Problem solving trip with the AMSP
Checkout 'Stand-up Maths' or 'Numberphile' on YouTube!
We enter a team into the Senior Team Maths Challenge and we also enter the individual competition too!

A-Level Media Studies

COURSE CONTENT

Students explore a wide range of media forms, examining how media products are created, represented and consumed in contemporary society.

Areas of study include:

- Advertising and Marketing
- Newspapers and the Media Industry
- Music Videos and Star Representation
- Video Games and Media Franchises
- Radio and Podcasts
- Magazines and Changing Representations
- Online Media and Influencers
- Television Drama

Non-Exam Assessment

- Create an original media product for both print and online platforms, applying the skills and knowledge developed throughout the course.

This course encourages students to think critically about the media they consume while developing creative, analytical and production skills.

Access and opportunities to your future

- Gateway to University courses – Creative Media, Media Studies, TV/Film Production, Journalism and links well to Humanities based subjects
- Apprenticeship opportunities – Digital Marketer, Location Manager, Media Researcher
- Careers/employment – Social Media Manager, Web Content Manager, Broadcast Journalist, Film Director, Event Management, PR, Web and UX Design

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is Grade 5 in English Language.
The study of GCSE Media is preferable but not essential.

Skills required and developed

Analytical thinking
Analytical writing
Creative skills

Assessment: (Eduqas)

There are two External written exams at the end of Year 13 and one non-exam assessment (coursework).

Beyond the Classroom

Opportunities for trips/visits
Further reading
Podcasts/lectures
To be successful on this course you should have an inquisitive mind and enjoy writing analytical essays.

A-Level Music

COURSE CONTENT

Music A-Level develops performance, composition and listening skills through the study of a wide range of musical styles and genres.

Component 1: Appraising (40%)

- Study of the Western Classical Tradition (1650-1910)
- Two additional areas, including Pop, Jazz, Music for Media, Music for Theatre, Contemporary Traditional Music or Art Music since 1910

Component 2: Performing (35%)

- Solo and/or ensemble performance
- Performance using music technology
- Minimum performance time of 10 minutes

Component 3: Composing (25%)

- One composition to a brief
- One free composition

Where could Music take you?

- University courses and specialist conservatoire study
- Careers in performance, teaching, arts administration, music production, artist management, theatre and the creative industries
- Transferable skills including communication, teamwork, creativity, self-discipline and performance confidence

The course carries UCAS points and is recognised by universities as an excellent preparation for a wide range of higher education pathways.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 equivalent on an instrument/voice
BTEC/GCSE Music Level 2
M/Grade 5

Skills required and developed

To be able to play an instrument/sing to at least Grade 5 Level.

Skills will be developed in rehearsal, performance, ensemble playing, theory, composition and music analysis.

Assessment Exam Board - AQA

Externally assessed units:
Component 1: Appraising music (Assessment objectives AO3 and AO4).

Exam in three sections lasting two hours and thirty minutes
Component 2: Performance (Assessment objective AO1)
35% of the total marks for the qualification.

Component 3: Composition (Assessment objective AO2)
25% of the total marks for the qualification.

Beyond the Classroom

BSO, concerts, musicals, gigs
Clubs/extra-curricular -
choir/band/ Jazz band/guitar club/composing club/orchestra/music production and tech

A-Level Philosophy and Ethics

COURSE CONTENT

Philosophy of Religion Learners will study:

- ancient philosophical influences
- the nature of the soul, mind and body
- arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- the nature and impact of religious experience
- the challenge for religious beliefs of the problem of evil
- ideas about the nature of God
- issues in religious language.

Religion and Ethics Learners will study:

- normative ethical theories
- the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- ethical language and thought
- debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Developments in religious thought Learners will study:

- religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
- sources of religious wisdom and authority
- practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition
- significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
- key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

Access and opportunities to your future

- People who have studied Philosophy and Ethics have critical and analytical skills: a recognition that statements should be tested, that evidence and arguments are subject to assessment. The ability to employ a variety of methods of study in analysing material, to think independently, set tasks and solve problems. These skills are ideal for many degrees and central to so many careers such as Journalism, Law, Police, Military, Politics, Media and Management.

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is Grade 5 in Religious Studies.

Skills required and developed

An enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion, reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study.

Assessment

We subscribe to the OCR exam board. H573 specification. 3 x 2 hours External Exams at the end of year 13. These are split between Philosophy, Religion and Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought.

Beyond the Classroom

Visit Westminster Abbey. There are a large range of books that help the course, but our text books cover the core workload. Online lectures

A-Level Physical Education

COURSE CONTENT

A-Level PE combines scientific theory with the study of sport, performance and society, helping students understand what influences sporting success.

Year 1

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Skill Acquisition
- Sport and Society
- Globalisation, equality and participation in sport

Year 2

- Exercise Physiology and Training
- Nutrition, Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation
- Biomechanics
- Sports Psychology
- Leadership and Group Dynamics
- Technology, Ethics and the Commercialisation of Sport

The course develops knowledge of both the physical and psychological factors that influence performance, alongside a deeper understanding of sport's role in modern society.

Where could PE take you?

- Degrees in Sport, Sports Science, Exercise Science and Sport Management
- Apprenticeships in sport, fitness and leisure industries
- Careers in coaching, teaching, fitness, sport development, management and elite sport
- Transferable skills including independent learning, research, teamwork, communication and presentation skills

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE PE

Must be playing a sport on the specification competitively.

Skills required and developed

An interest in sport and how to enhance performance both physiologically and psychologically. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the role sport plays in society.

Assessment

Exam Board- AQA

2 written exams at the end of Year 13:

Each exam worth 35% of A-level

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport

Non Written Assessment 30% of A-Level

Assessment on practical performance or coaching of a sport

Beyond the Classroom

Opportunity to play in Sixth Form sports teams

Opportunity for trips to; Bath University Sports Science department, Canford School real tennis and cryotherapy chambers.

A-Level Physics

COURSE CONTENT

Physics explores the fundamental principles that govern our universe. Topics include particle physics, quantum mechanics, waves, mechanics, electricity, thermal physics, fields, magnetism and nuclear physics.

Widely recognised as one of the most respected and rewarding A-Level subjects, Physics develops analytical thinking, problem-solving skills and scientific understanding. As a Russell Group facilitating subject, it provides an excellent foundation for a wide range of university courses and careers.

Graduates of A-Level Physics from Poole High School have gone on to pursue a variety of prestigious courses at top universities. Whether your passion lies in Pure Physics, Mathematics, Engineering, Natural Sciences, or Computer Science, our program lays the foundation for your success. Our alumni have ventured into specialised fields, making remarkable contributions across various industries.

Where could Physics take you?

- Physics opens doors to degrees and apprenticeships in areas such as Engineering, Computer Science, Astrophysics, Aerospace Engineering, Environmental Science, Renewable Energy, Medical Physics, Cybersecurity, Statistics and Finance.
- By studying Physics, you will gain valuable skills and become part of a dynamic field that drives innovation and shapes the future.

Entry Requirements

GCSE Grade 6 Physics or 6-6 in Combined Science

Students should also have achieved Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 6 in GCSE English Language.

It is beneficial for students to take A-level Mathematics alongside A-level Physics

Skills required and developed

Hard work, organisation and self-motivation

Independent, logical thinking

Application of Scientific knowledge, methods and practices

Application of Mathematical concepts in a practical context

Risk assessment in practical settings,

Use of a wide range of apparatus and techniques.

Assessment at the end of Year 13

Paper 1: 85 marks, 2 hours, Sections 1-6.1, 25 multiple choice questions

Paper 2: 85 marks, 2 hours, Sections 6.2-8, 25 multiple choice questions

Paper 3: 80 marks, 2 hours, 3A - Practical Physics and Data Analysis, 3B - Turning Points in Physics

A-Level Politics

COURSE CONTENT

Politics explores how decisions are made, who holds power and how political systems shape our society. Students develop critical thinking, debate and analytical skills while examining contemporary political issues.

Year 1

- UK Politics – democracy, elections, political parties, voting behaviour and the media
- UK Government – the Constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and how government operates
- Political Ideologies – Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Feminism

Year 2

- US Government and Politics – exploring the American political system and comparing it with the UK

The course encourages students to question, analyse and evaluate political ideas and systems, helping them become informed and engaged citizens.

What jobs can I do with Politics?

- Politics
- Law
- Journalism
- International Relations (Politics with a more international view)
- Geopolitics (A link between Geography and Politics)
- Lawyer
- Member of Parliament or work in another body like the UN or NATO
- Journalist
- Diplomat (a person who works with other countries)
- Careers in Human Rights and charities

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is a Grade 5 in either History, Geography or English

Skills required and developed

Good writing ability

An interest in debating different ideas

A curiosity about the world we live in

Critical Thinking skills

Assessment

EDEXCEL: 3x 2 hour exams in May/June at the end of Year 13 based on a combination of the topic studied during the 2 year course.

Beyond the Classroom

Visit to Parliament and the Supreme Court

Politics Society – a group formed of Sixth Form students who debate topics

Politics Book Club – a group that discuss Politics books

Listen to Podcasts! Times Reb Box/NPRPolitics

A-Level Psychology

COURSE CONTENT

Psychology explores how people think, behave and interact, using scientific research to explain human behaviour and mental processes.

Paper 1: Introductory Topics

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology and Mental Health (including phobias, depression and OCD)

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

- Biopsychology
- Approaches to Psychology
- Research Methods

Paper 3: Issues and Options

- Issues and Debates in Psychology
- Schizophrenia
- Gender
- Forensic Psychology

Throughout the course, students develop critical thinking, research and analytical skills while exploring a range of fascinating topics relevant to everyday life and society.

Access and opportunities to your future

Psychology provides excellent job prospects to a wide range of careers, either by studying Psychology further, or training in fields such as Counselling, Mental health, Law, Criminology, Forensics, Education, Business and many areas of the Medical profession.

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 with a Grade 5 in English Language.

Skills required and developed

Students who are well suited to A-Level Psychology are those who have an interest in human behaviour and how the mind works.

Students who do well have good literacy skills and enjoy extended writing, a scientific methodological mindset and solid mathematical skills. They are hardworking, motivated, organised and have a resilience to succeed, do well in Psychology.

Assessment

3 x 2 hours External assessments as per the course content.
Exam board AQA

Beyond the Classroom

Opportunities for trips/visits to develop the understanding of Psychology in society.

Further reading and research around how Psychology underpins behaviour in society.

A-Level Sociology

COURSE CONTENT

Sociology explores how society shapes our lives, beliefs and opportunities. By examining key social issues and the experiences of different groups, students develop a deeper understanding of the modern world and the forces that drive social change.

Topics include:

- Families and Households – changing family structures, diversity and the impact of social change
- Education – how schools influence achievement, opportunities and life chances
- Theory and Methods – key sociological perspectives and research methods
- Beliefs in Society – the role of religion and belief systems in contemporary society
- Crime and Deviance – crime, social control and the impact of the criminal justice system

Sociology encourages critical thinking, debate and analysis, helping students understand the society they live in and preparing them for a wide range of university courses and careers.

Where could Sociology take you?

- University courses in Sociology, Social Sciences, Law, Education, Criminology and Social Work
- Apprenticeships across the public, private and voluntary sectors
- Careers in marketing, education, healthcare, social care, law, human resources and the Civil Service
- Transferable skills including research, critical thinking, communication, analysis and problem-solving

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is GCSE Grade 5 in English

Skills required and developed

Recalling and explaining
Sociological terms, concepts and ideas and the work of Sociologists.
Applying these to a range of scenarios, topics and issues and making links between them.
The ability to question the usefulness of the theories and studies that you are studying.

Assessment

Exam board - AQA

Paper 1 – Education with Theory and Methods

Paper 2 – Topics in Sociology

Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Beyond the Classroom

Watch, read, listen to the news
Listen to a good podcast, such as Thinking Allowed on the BBC
Your teacher can teach you what you need to know in order to get a good grade in the exam, but to reach that A- Level you need to go beyond what the textbook tells you and apply your learning to the world around you

Level 3 (AAQ) Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care

COURSE CONTENT

This course develops the knowledge and practical skills needed to support individuals across a range of health and social care settings.

Units include:

- Principles of Health and Social Care – equality, legislation, safety and best practice (F090)
- Anatomy and Physiology – how body systems are structured and function (F091)
- Person-Centred Care – planning and delivering individualised support (F092)
- Mental Health Support – understanding and supporting mental wellbeing (F093)
- Long-Term Health Conditions – causes, impact, monitoring and treatment (F094)
- Sexual, Pregnancy and Postnatal Health – relationships, consent, sexual health and support services (F096)

The course provides an excellent foundation for further study and careers in health, social care and related professions.

Access and opportunities to your future

- Gateway to university courses – BSc Nursing (Adult/Child/Learning disabilities/Mental health), BSc Midwifery, BSc Health and social care, BSc Healthcare and Health Science, BSc Health Sciences, BSc Paramedic Science, BSc Public Health and Wellbeing, BA Social Work
- Degree programmes in Midwifery and Nursing, Paramedic Science, Podiatry, Healthcare Science and NHS Practitioner Training Programme
- Careers/employment in the future in Health and Social Care settings, Nursing, Midwifery, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, care manager, support worker and a support worker

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is an average GCSE points score of at least 4.0 from their best 5 results

Skills required and developed

Communication, teamwork and collaboration

Independent learning and research

Problem-solving and critical thinking

Presentation and organisational skills

Analysing evidence and making informed recommendations

These skills support progression to higher education, employment and careers across the health and social care sector.

Assessment

Units F090 and F091 are externally assessed exams. All other units are coursework based and assessed internally.

Beyond the Classroom

Students are encouraged to undertake work experience and engage with visiting professionals from the health and social care sector, helping to develop practical skills and career awareness.

BTEC Business

COURSE CONTENT

BTEC Business provides a practical introduction to the world of business and supports progression to higher education, apprenticeships and employment. Students develop a broad understanding of how businesses operate, with a focus on areas such as finance, marketing, teamwork and responding to a changing global environment.

BTEC Level 3 Business Foundation Diploma (equivalent to 1.5 A-Levels)

Units include:

- Exploring Business (Coursework)
- Developing a Marketing Campaign (External Assessment)
- Personal and Business Finance (External Assessment)
- Visual Merchandising (Coursework)
- Managing an Event (Coursework)
- Recruitment and Selection Process (Coursework)

BTEC Level 3 Business Diploma (equivalent to 2 A-Levels)

Students study all Foundation Diploma units, plus:

- International Business (Coursework)
- Principles of Management (External Assessment)

As part of the Managing an Event unit, Year 13 students have the opportunity to plan and run a Year 7 disco.

Where could Business take you?

- Higher education in Business, Finance or International Business
- Apprenticeships with prestigious organisations
- Careers in financial services, compliance, insurance and risk
- Highly transferable analytical, numerical and planning skills

Entry Requirements

We recommend that students will have a minimum of GCSE Grade 4 in Mathematics and English in order to cope with the rigours of the course requirements

Skills required and developed

Critical thinking, enthusiasm, communication skills, a keen interest in the world around us and numerical skills

Assessment

Students will sit an external exam in the May of Year 12. Exam Board: Edexcel BTEC Foundation Diploma this is the equivalent of 1.5 A-Levels (67% coursework and 33% external assessment).

Beyond the Classroom

Opportunities for trips/visits- previous trips include; Chessington, Cadburys World, Longleat, overnight in London
Further reading- Business review magazine
Podcasts/lectures: Check out Two Teachers, TEDtalks
Clubs/extra-curricular- Student Investor Challenge and ICAEW

WJEC Applied Diploma Criminology

COURSE CONTENT

First introduced in 2015, the WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is proving an attractive and rapidly growing choice for post-16 students and their teachers.

The Diploma includes elements of Psychology, Law and Sociology, and it fits well with other humanities and social sciences subjects. Most students take the Diploma alongside A levels or vocational qualifications, for example in law, public services, or health and social care. It has the same UCAS points as an A-Level subject.

Students study four units:

1. Changing Awareness of Crime

The purpose of this unit is for learners to plan campaigns for change relating to crime.

2. Criminological Theories

The purpose of this unit is for learners to apply their understanding of the public perceptions of crime and campaigns for change studied in Unit 1 with criminological theories to examine how both are used to set policy.

3. Crime Scene to Courtroom

Through this unit, learners will develop the understanding and skills needed to examine information in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases.

4. Crime and Punishment

The purpose of this unit is for learners to develop skills in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the process of social control in delivering policy in practice.

The focus of the course is on students developing their skills and applying their learning in vocational contexts.

Access and opportunities to your future:

This course is the equivalent to an A-Level and is worth the same amount of UCAS points.

- Further study: BSc Criminology, LLB (Hons) Law, Apprenticeships
- Career Pathways: Youth and Social Work, The Prison Service, Law Enforcement, Legal Profession, Charities, Forensics

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is average point score of 4 in best 5 subjects

Skills required and developed

Independent learning and development

The ability to solve problems

The skills of project based research, development and presentation

The ability to apply learning in vocational contexts

Assessment

Two of the four units (Units 1 and 3) being internally assessed via controlled assessments. Units 2 and 4 are assessed by external exam.

Students are typically assessed on Units 1 and 2 in the first year, and Units 3 and 4 in the second year

Beyond the Classroom

Opportunities for trips/visits

Further reading

Podcasts/lectures

Clubs/extra-curricular

V-Level Digital Systems and Data

COURSE CONTENT

This practical course develops skills in data analysis, visualisation and digital technologies, preparing students for further study or careers in the growing data sector.

Units likely to include:

- Fundamentals of Data Analytics (Exam)
- Spreadsheet Data Modelling (Coursework)
- Big Data and Machine Learning (Exam)
- Data Visualisation (Coursework)
- Data and Digital Marketing (Coursework)

Future opportunities

- Gateway to University courses – Data Analytics, Computer Networking, IT Management for Business, Computer Science, Computer Systems Engineering, Data Engineering
- Apprenticeship opportunities – Many various IT Apprenticeships in Tech companies, as well as in Engineering, Finance, Healthcare, Media and Retail sectors
- Careers/employment - IT Infrastructure Technician, Application Developer, Data Analyst, Data Management, Digital Marketing, Project Management, Game Design, Network Security, Digital Forensics, Mobile App Development

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is GCSE Grade 4 in both English and Mathematics

Skills required and developed

Digital knowledge and skills for the workplace and for everyday life including: communication, critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, time management, organisation, teamwork and resilience.

Assessment

Two units of the course are assessed through exams and the remaining three units are assessed through coursework. The exam board is OCR.

Beyond the Classroom

Meet local employers
Visit a University
Investigate industry certificates (e.g. CompTia®, Cisco®) and professional bodies (e.g. BCS)
Free online courses in Data Science / Data Analytics

WJEC Food Science and Nutrition

COURSE CONTENT

Year 1

Students will study Unit 1 which is Meeting Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups, which includes basic nutrition as well as more in depth studies into the chemical structure, function, sources and deficiencies. This unit of Nutrition will also look at the nutritional needs of different age groups and people who suffer from dietary related illnesses. Students will then apply this nutritional knowledge to inform their controlled assessment which requires students to make a three course meal in a three hour time limit based on a brief issued by the exam board. Food Science and Nutrition supports subjects such as PE, Biology and Health and Social Care.

Year 2

Students will study two units which are ensuring Food is Safe to Eat and Experimenting to Solve Food Production Issues. Ensuring food is safe to eat unit will cover topics such as microorganisms, systems in place in different work areas in order produce safe food. Experimenting to solve food production issues unit will give students the opportunity to experiment with different ingredients in recipes to understand the function and purpose in different food products.

Future Opportunities

- Progression to degrees in Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Science
- Apprenticeships with leading employers in the food industry
- Careers as a Nutritionist, Dietitian, Food Scientist or Product Developer
- Development of transferable skills for higher education and employment

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is Grade 5 in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition or a Food based subject. Alternatively, a Grade 5 in Science is accepted if you have no Food background.

Skills required and developed

Good practical skills, a desire to learn new practical skills, an interest in all aspects of food including nutrition, product development and microbiology.

Assessment

Unit 1 is compulsory and worth 50% of the qualification. There is an exam, which is 90 minutes long and marked externally. There is a mixture of short and long response questions.

There is also a timed assessment (9.5 hours), which includes a practical exam based on a scenario given by the exam board. 3 course meal.

Beyond the Classroom

Opportunities for trips to Bath Spa University, Purbeck Ice Cream. Visits from environmental health officers, Head Chef from the Chewton Glen, chef from Rick Stein's restaurant, butchers and fishmongers. Further reading

BTEC National Diploma in Sport

COURSE CONTENT

This course combines practical and theoretical learning, helping students develop an understanding of sport, fitness, health and the sports industry.

Units include:

- Anatomy and Physiology – how the body systems work during sport and exercise
- Fitness Training and Programming – designing fitness programmes for health and performance
- Professional Development in Sport – exploring careers and planning future pathways
- Sports Leadership – developing coaching, officiating and leadership skills
- Application of Fitness Testing – conducting and evaluating fitness assessments
- Practical Sports Performance – improving performance in a range of sports
- Sports Event Organisation – planning, promoting and delivering sporting events
- Business in Sport and Active Leisure – understanding how sports organisations operate and succeed
- Skill Acquisition in Sport – exploring how skills are learned and developed

This course develops practical, leadership and analytical skills while providing excellent preparation for higher education, apprenticeships and careers in the sport and leisure industry.

Where could Sport take you?

- University courses in Sport, Sports Science, Exercise Science and Sport Management
- Apprenticeships in sport, fitness and leisure industries
- Careers in coaching, teaching, fitness, sport development and management
- Valuable skills in research, communication, teamwork and independent learning

Entry Requirements:

Average GCSE points score of at least 4.0 from their best 5 results

Skills required and developed:

Problem-solving and critical thinking

Communication, teamwork and leadership

Organisation, time management and presentation skills

Adaptability, resilience and self-management

Research, evaluation and reflective practice

Assessment

There is no formal assessment.

Students are encouraged to enhance their experience through volunteering, leadership opportunities and additional qualifications, such as First Aid.

Beyond the Classroom

Students have opportunities to volunteer within the local community through partnerships with schools, care homes, charities and sports clubs. They can also gain valuable experience through mentoring, supporting younger students and contributing to extracurricular activities.



Additional Subjects

Level Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Core Maths

Enrichment

Level Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

COURSE CONTENT

This is A-Level 3 qualification designed to extend and develop skills in independent research and project management. EPQ gives students ownership of the project as it is based on a topic that the student is interested in. The chosen topic could stem from a personal interest or an activity that is outside their main programme of study.

This qualification runs over one year and is started in Year 12. It is taken alongside 3 full A-Levels or BTEC equivalent and is worth up to 28 UCAS points. EPQ is valued by the Russell Group universities as students who have successfully completed one have demonstrated skills which are favourable to studying a university course.

Components of EPQ:

1. A written report based on the chosen topic (approx. 5000 words)
2. Detailed completion of an online journal detailing the process (Project Q)
3. A presentation to peers and supervisor on the EPQ project

EPQ is considered excellent preparation for university- acting as a bridge between A-Levels and undergraduate study and stretching students academically to support students' confidence and sense of achievement.

EPQ students are more likely to achieve higher A-Level results and progress to Higher Education. EPQ students are also less likely to drop out from HE in first/second year and more likely to receive at least an Upper Second Class degree compared to their non-EPQ peers.

Access and opportunities to your future:

- UCAS points towards University offers – EPQ qualification is worth up to 28 points.
- Transferable skills – organisation, time management, critical writing, analysis, evaluation of information and public speaking

Entry Requirements:

The minimum entry requirement is Grade 4 in GCSE English

Skills required and developed:

Critical thinking & writing , discussion, analytical skills, independence, organisation

Assessment:

The EPQ (AQA board) is a coursework-based qualification, where students submit their projects for marking and moderation towards the end of the first year

Beyond the Classroom:

To read a wide variety of literature pertinent to their area of interest
Encounter various sources of information which could be cited for their project. This could include podcasts, documentaries or journals.

Core Maths

COURSE CONTENT

Core Mathematics is studied alongside three A-Levels or equivalent qualifications and is completed in one year.

The course applies GCSE Mathematics to real-world situations, helping students develop practical problem-solving skills.

Topics include personal finance, taxes, interest rates, project management and estimation techniques used in business and science.

Students explore concepts such as:

- Personal finance and everyday calculations
- Project planning using tools such as Gantt charts
- Problem-solving through mathematical modelling and estimation
- Applying mathematics to real-life situations and decision-making

Core Mathematics develops confidence, logical thinking and analytical skills, providing excellent preparation for higher education, apprenticeships and future careers.

Access and opportunities to your future

- Further volunteering opportunities
- Transferable life skills to support you in both your personal and professional life

Entry Requirements

A Grade 5 in mathematics or above is required for Core Mathematics, this can be achieved on both Foundation and Higher papers

Skills required and developed

A good understanding of GCSE Mathematics is required – and we develop your real-world analysis skills

Assessment

We follow the AQA-Level 3 Mathematical studies specification for our Core Maths course.

You will have 2 papers to sit. One will have some preparation materials released in advance, which you will work through with your teachers, the other is unseen

Beyond the Classroom

Core Mathematics was created because both universities and employers were crying out for students with a better understanding of Mathematics.

Core Mathematics builds up understanding of crucial, every day, 'common sense' situations. This is vital for success in many degrees and jobs. This isn't abstract Algebra like A-Level Maths, this is the important, everyday Maths that makes the world turn!

Enrichment

Year 12:

The majority of our Year 12 students undertake a carousel of activities throughout the year which include the following:

- First Aid
- Sign Language
- Meals on a Budget
- Holiday Spanish
- Mindfulness
- Colouring
- Debating
- RSE

Year 13:

Our Year 13 students undertake MOOCs and Puzzles and Board Games to promote their career aspirations as well as social interactions.

Students in both Year 12 and Year 13 also have the opportunity to train and compete in different sporting teams.

We run a variety of sports, including, but not exclusively:

- Football – boys and girls
- Rugby
- Netball
- Basketball
- Fitness suite
- Multi Sports.

Some students undertake volunteering at a variety of places such as hospitals, charities and local primary schools.

Access and opportunities to your future:

- Further volunteering opportunities
- Transferable life skills to support you in both your personal and professional life.

Exempt Students

Please note that students involved in the Academic Sports Programme are exempt from Enrichment due to their training and fixtures taking place on a Wednesday afternoon.

Skills required and developed

High levels of enthusiasm and a willingness to learn! An awareness that this may not be relevant to you right now, but will likely be needed to support you and/or others in the future!

Assessment

There is no formal assessment, but we encourage students to take their experiences further. For example, gaining First Aid qualifications and participating in activities outside of school.

Beyond the Classroom

We encourage our students to volunteer, and have fantastic relationships with feeder schools, care homes, charity shops and sports teams to facilitate this

We facilitate mentoring, lower school lesson support as well as supporting extra-curricular opportunities.

Your Future Starts Here

Choosing your Post-16 pathway is an exciting decision, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

Take the next step

- Explore the subjects that interest you
- Speak to teachers and current students
- Attend Open Events and Taster Sessions
- Discuss your options with your family
- Submit your application

Whether you're planning to study A Levels, BTECs or a combination of qualifications, we look forward to helping you achieve your ambitions.



Questions?

Contact the Sixth Form Team:
sixthform@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk

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To build **Character**
To discover your **Passion**
To foster **Ambition**

