

SIDMOUTH COLLEGE

believe • inspire • succeed



Sixth Form Prospectus 2026/2027



Welcome to Sidmouth College Sixth Form

A great location

Sidmouth College enjoys an unrivalled position at the heart of a thriving community. We occupy a prime spot at Primley Road, just a mile from the sea front and nestled in the Sid Valley, overlooked by Sidmouth's Peak, Trow and Salcombe Hills.



Selena Burroughs
Head of Sixth Form

Why choose Sidmouth College?

Our commitment and focus is to create a learning environment that fosters and encourages young people to become creative and technical intellectuals, equipped with the skills needed to thrive at undergraduate level and in employment.

The teachers and tutors are a key element for every student's success and we are proud of the outstanding teaching and learning that is delivered at Sidmouth. Staff will take time in developing the individual need so every student becomes the independent higher level learner for their next steps.

Students choose to study at Sidmouth for the:

- Small class sizes providing outstanding teaching to meet the students' individual needs
- Excellent support with a personal tutoring system
- Personalised 16-19 Study Programmes with a broad range of A level and Applied Qualifications
- Personal Development Programme including 1:1 career guidance and work placement
- Enrichment programme including Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Ten Tors, volunteering and community based projects.
- Dedicated Sixth Form Centre including Café 6 for Independent Study

Our commitment to you

Teaching and Learning.

We will :

- Provide a high quality learning environment and lessons with teaching matched to the individual need
- Listen and respond to students' and parents' comments and feedback
- Provide rigorous assessments and feedback to ensure students have confidence in their ability and preparation for examinations.

Support

We will provide you with:

- A Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) who will monitor the academic progress and personal well-being
- Advice and guidance for your future career pathway
- Specialist support and advice with UCAS university, apprenticeship and interview applications.
- Regular reviews on progress with feedback to students and families.

"I chose Sidmouth College Sixth Form because of the way it prepares students for the future. Not only does the Sixth Form encourage independent learning, but they also provides countless opportunities to embed yourself into the sociable and supportive community of students and teachers."

(Sixth Form Student)

"The reason that established my choice to remain at Sidmouth College is the overall sense of community. This expands from the great relationships I have with the teachers and that the learning experience is better with smaller classes. The mentoring support from my teachers is stupendous, allowing for me to strive beyond what I thought I was capable of."

(Sixth Form Student)

A - Level Performance

Sidmouth College has a history of producing strong exam results and final destinations. Despite the challenges that our students have faced over the last few years, their results have enabled them to successfully move on to the next stage of their journey with the support of the staff at Sidmouth.



Student Destinations

Our team of highly skilled tutors, teachers and support staff work closely with our students to ensure they are fully aware of the range of future opportunities available to them and receive the necessary support to achieve their goals.

A significant number of our Sixth Form students move onto Higher Education. In recent years, many of our students have taken up places at top universities, including:

- Oxford
- Cambridge
- Warwick
- Loughborough
- Birmingham
- Bristol
- Newcastle
- Exeter
- Bath
- Cardiff

The Colyton Foundation

Working in collaboration with Colyton Grammar School, students who wish to apply for Oxbridge universities, Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine have the opportunity to complete a supportive programme giving them enhanced advice and guidance in making a competitive application.

Extra Curricular Activities



Regular Activities

- Duke of Edinburgh
- Inter-Tutor Sports Matches
- Social Activities
- Community Visits
- Theatre Visits
- Tutorial Programme
- Duck Derby Volunteering

Events

- Charitable Fundraising
- Christmas Tree Carry
- Political Speed Dating
- Ten Tors Event
- Work Experience Week

Trips

- Barcelona
- Iceland
- Paris
- London
- Cambodia *
- Costa Rica*
- Kenya*
- *through Camps International

Bursaries and Financial Support

16 - 19 Educational Bursary

We are able to offer financial support to eligible students in order for them to afford transport, course materials, equipment, local and overseas educational visits and many other items which will enhance learning.

Any student whose family can demonstrate a household income of less than £30,000 may receive some degree of financial assistance. For more details of the scheme please visit our website at www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk to download a copy of the Bursary Policy, which is under the heading of Financial Support.

Our Facilities



As a Sixth Form we are pleased that we can offer our students the following:

- Sixth Form Centre & ICT Suite
- Subject study areas
- Resource Centre & Library

- Sports Centre
- Dance & Drama Studios
- Photography , Dark Room & Media Suite
- Sixth Form Café 6 serving Costa Coffee and a wide range of hot and cold snacks.



Courses Explained

A-Levels

A-Levels are academic courses that involve: theory; clear, well-thought out essays; identification and expression of different points of view; analysis of concepts; and the testing of generalisations. Independent study is very important and background reading and research is expected through our super curricular offer. On completion , all A –levels earn UCAS points that are required to apply for university.

Applied

AAQ and BTEC qualifications are recognised by employers and universities as being equal value to A-levels. These courses can involve a more practical focus on learning and have a combination of coursework and exams. On completion , all level 3 Applied courses earn UCAS points that are required to apply for university.



Sixth Form Extend Programme

Students will be given the opportunity take one of the extend qualifications alongside the three core subjects that will greatly enhance the chance of success in qualifications and in applications to competitive universities.

16–19 Study Programme at Sidmouth College

Students are able to study a combination of A levels and Applied qualifications. Advice on choosing the right course can be gained from the careers team and the Head of Sixth Form with equal consideration being given to all students.

Subjects will run if there are sufficient numbers showing interest after the progression meetings. Courses may be withdrawn from our provision in the event of numbers dropping at enrolment with students being updated at the earliest opportunity of any changes made.

Entry Requirements

All students are required to achieve 34 points or above to study at Sixth Form. This must include a Grade 4 or above in English Language and Mathematics.

All students will aim to study three core subjects to make up their study programme.

Students who achieve 40 points or above will be given the opportunity to study one of the Extend Programme subjects. Individual grade requirements are often required for each subject area which are detailed on the subject pages.

All GCSE subjects

GCSE GRADE	POINTS
9	9
8	8
7	7
6	6
5	5
4	4
3	3
2	2
1	1

Students can only begin a two year course if they are under 19 years of age on 1st September in the academic year of admission.

Apply/Contact Us

Disclaimer

All courses are offered subject to sufficient numbers of students enrolling.

As a consequence of recent and future changes made by the Department for Education, course requirements may be subject to change. As illustrated in the prospectus, requirements vary between subjects, with most currently asking for GCSE grades 4, 5, or 6 as a minimum. However, these could change if government policy dictates. If you have any queries about please contact Head of Sixth Form Mrs Selena Burroughs on the email below.

To Apply

Online application forms will be open for completion on **Monday 19th January 2026**. Paper copies will also be available from the Sixth Form office.

Application Submission - **Friday 30th January 2026**

On receipt of your form, we will consider your application and contact you to arrange a progression meeting with the Head of Sixth Form.

Contact Us

Address:

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Head of Sixth Form
Sidmouth College
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Sidmouth
EX10 9LG

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Courses for 2026/2027

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Art and Design



Introduction

In Art and Design we try to develop a sense of excitement and fun in the selection and handling of a wide range of materials, and use this to relate our own feelings to the visual and tactile elements of the external world.

What will I study?

Drawing is central to our work, being a good way of collecting information, as well as helping us to understand what we see around us and develop our responses to it. We also study the work of artists from all periods and cultures so we can better understand their techniques, how it expresses both their own individuality and the context in which it was made. To this end, we arrange visits to art galleries. We have visited London, Barcelona, Berlin and local galleries as well as inviting international artists into school to run workshops with students.

We like to encourage students to work in as individual a way as possible, so the work from any one group will cover a whole range of approaches and styles. No-one is forced to be a traditional painter if they would rather aspire to be a future Turner Prize winner!

How will I be assessed?

Your work will be assessed using four assessment objectives. The course involves both portfolio work and practically set assignments to be carried out under examination conditions.

You will have regular reviews with your teacher to help and guide your learning.

Component 1 Portfolio 60%

Component 2 Externally set assignment 40%

What are the entry requirements?

Art and Design is a demanding course requiring a great deal of independent learning. You will be expected to use study periods to develop your work with greater independence.

To take Art and Design as an A-Level you will be required to have Art GCSE grade 5 or above. If you achieved a GCSE grade 4 in Art, you may be able to take the A-Level on the condition of a consultation with a member of the department.



Introduction

Biology is the study of living things, from cells to ecosystems. If you are fascinated by the huge variety of life on Earth, and wish to gain an insight into how organisms work and interact, then Biology could be for you.

What will I study?

At Sidmouth College we follow the AQA level qualification. A-Level Biology lasts two years with all examinations taking place at the end of two years. Practical investigations are an essential part of the course.

Core Content

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchanging substances and energy with each other and their environment
- Organisms responding to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems and the control of gene expression

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is carried out through examinations only. Students will study modules over the two years, with three exams leading to an A-Level qualification in this subject.

Practical investigations are an essential part of the course.

What are the entry requirements?

A minimum of 2 Science GCSEs at grade 6. This can be either double Science or separate Sciences, which must include Biology. If you achieved a GCSE grade 5 in either of these subjects, you may be able to take the A-Level on the condition of a consultation with a member of the department.



Introduction

The Business Studies A-Level is designed to help students understand how businesses operate and make decisions. The course is divided into four themes and assessed through three exam papers.

In Themes 1 and 2, students build a foundation in key business concepts and apply them to real-world situations, gaining a broad understanding of how businesses work. In Themes 3 and 4, students develop a deeper and more strategic understanding of business issues, analysing complex information and considering business opportunities from different perspectives.

Throughout the course, students are encouraged to think critically and question assumptions, developing the skills to evaluate and make informed business decisions.

Who is this for?

A-Level Business is ideal for students who are curious about how organisations operate and succeed. It's suited to those who:

- Enjoy problem-solving and analysing real business scenarios; like understanding how people, finance, marketing, and operations interact in companies; are interested in developing leadership, decision-making, and strategic thinking skills.

This subject is valuable for students aiming for careers in:

- Business Management, Marketing and Advertising, Finance and Accounting, Entrepreneurship or Start-ups, Human Resources, Consulting, Economics and Public Policy

How will I be assessed

The A-Level is made up of three externally assessed exams. Exams consist of short and medium responses as well as case study and essay type questions. All exams are expected to be completed in the second year of study.

What are the entry requirements?

To take Business Studies as an A-Level you will be required to have GCSE grade 5 or above. If you achieved a GCSE grade 4 in Business Studies, you may be able to take the A-Level on the condition of a consultation with a member of the department.



Introduction

Chemistry is all around us; from our sinks to our medicine cabinets, from our cosmetics to the colour of our clothing, and from our fuels, metals, plastics and polymers to the silicon, vital to the computer hardware that we use every day.

What will I study?

At Sidmouth College, we follow the AQA A-Level Chemistry course. Many chemical molecules and materials are studied in depth at A-Level because of their importance in our increasingly diverse and technological world. The core content that you will study is listed below.

Core Content

- Physical chemistry— including atomic structure, reaction kinetics and thermodynamics
- Organic chemistry— alkanes, alkenes, amines and organic synthesis
- Inorganic chemistry— group 1 and 7, transition metals and ionic bonding and systems

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is carried out through examinations only. Students will study modules over the two years, leading to an A-Level qualification in this subject.

Practical investigations are an essential part of the course.

What are the entry requirements?

A minimum of 2 Science GCSEs at grade 6. This can be either double Science or separate Sciences, which must include Chemistry. If you achieved a GCSE grade 5 in either of these subjects, you may be able to take the A-Level on the condition of a consultation with a member of the department.

Computer Studies

Introduction

Computer Science is a hands-on, creative subject that helps students apply what they learn in the classroom to real-world systems. It is about using logic, problem-solving, and innovation to understand and shape the digital world.

Students will:

- Gain a strong understanding of key computer science principles
- Learn to design and write programs to solve real problems.
- Develop creative, logical, and analytical thinking skills.
- Understand how different parts of computer science connect and work together.
- Build strong mathematical and computational skills.

Who is this for?

Computer Science is for anyone who enjoys problem-solving, logical thinking, and creativity.

This subject is ideal for students who:

- Want to learn how to design and build real-world computer systems.
- Enjoy maths, science, or design and technology.
- Like tackling challenges through logic, creativity, and analysis.

Computer Science also opens doors to a wide range of careers where technology plays a key role, including:

- Software Developer or Programmer, Cybersecurity Analyst, Data Scientist
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Engineer, Game Designer or Developer, IT Consultant
- Web or App Developer, Systems Analyst and Network Engineer

How will I be assessed

The A-Level is made up of two externally assessed exams worth 40% each and an internally assessed piece of coursework worth 20%. Examinations will consist of short and medium answers as well as programming questions. Exams and coursework are expected to be completed in the second year of study. Students who have not studied Computer Science previously will be considered on merit.

What are the entry requirements?

To take Computer Science as an A-Level you will be required to have GCSE grade 5 or above. If you achieved a GCSE grade 4 in Computer Science, you may be able to take the A-Level on the condition of a consultation with a member of the department.

Design Technology



Introduction

If you enjoy the freedom of design and how you can use that to create fantastic products then this course is for you. You will already have some strong knowledge of materials and how to use them to create exciting designs.

The Eduqas A level in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for learners to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. Design and technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. This specification encourages learners to use creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs, and to design and make prototypes that solve real world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values.

You might choose to study design technology simply because you enjoy the subject. You may choose it because you know this academic subject will help lead you into the design industry for example architecture and many engineering sectors. Either way you will benefit from time in our excellent work shop facilities. Our department boasts all the traditional equipment and the most up to date 3D printing technology.

What will I study?

We will study the design process from making a one off product all the way through to mass production in industry and its implications on society.

We will teach you about properties of materials along with new processes that you have not been taught before. The A Level Design and Technology specification is designed to develop learners' subject knowledge, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture. We will build your knowledge in the first year with mini 'Sketch Book Projects' designed to give you a strong foundation knowledge of what is possible in DT.

How will I be assessed?

50% Coursework - Non Examined Assessment.

50% Written Exam - Design Process in 21st Century.

What are the entry requirements?

DT GCSE Level 6 or above.

If you have not studied DT at GCSE then a collection of five subjects including maths and English at a level 5/6 and above.

Drama



Introduction

Drama is a challenging and exciting A-Level that provides opportunities for progression to many different courses in Higher Education. It is a distinct subject, complementary to all other subjects, and is a useful qualification for a career in the media, entertainment and leisure industries. These industries generate £104.4 billion per year to the UK economy—generating £11 Million per hour. Drama is also an asset in all areas of employment where people matter, eg, Law, Teaching, Police Service, Social Work, Caring, Journalism, Politics, Sales and Management.

What will I study?

- You will develop skills in a range of practical elements
- You will work in groups to create original theatre and perform extracts from scripted plays
- You will research the work of an influential director, designer, theatre company or theatre practitioner
- You will study chosen set texts from different periods and genres
- You will experience live productions to develop the ability to make critical and evaluative judgements.

How will I be assessed?

A-Level Drama & Theatre : 3 Components

Component 1: Drama & Theatre 40% of A-Level

Written exam paper 3 Hours - Study of 2 set texts 80 marks

Section A & B - Answer a question based on the study of a play from list A & B. [55 marks]

Section C- Answer a question about a piece of live theatre seen. [25 marks]

Component 2: Creating Original Drama [Practical] 30% of A-Level

Devised Performance 60 marks

- As a group you will devise and perform an original piece of theatre using the specific methodologies of a prescribed practitioner. [20 marks]
- You will produce a working notebook outlining the devising process. [40marks]

Component 3 : Making Theatre Performance [practical] 30% of A-Level

Presentation of an extract from a play 60 marks

- Practical exploration and theatrical interpretation of three extracts each taken from a different play. Extract 3 is to be performed to an external examiner. [40 marks]
- You will produce a reflective report analysing and interpreting all three extracts.

What are the entry requirements?

To take Drama at A-Level you will be required to have Drama GCSE grade 5 or above. Or if you did not study Drama at GCSE a minimum grade 5 in English Literature. You may be able to take the A-Level following a consultation with a Mrs Davey

English Literature



Introduction

English Literature A-Level is about reading and appreciating literature. If you enjoyed GCSE literature, you will undoubtedly enjoy A-Level, but expect to find A-Level more challenging and thought-provoking. We spend time discussing texts in detail, sharing our opinions with our peers, writing, giving presentations and sometimes even acting! You will enjoy this subject if you take pleasure in reading, writing and developing your own ideas and opinions.

What will I study?

You will study a number of different novels, plays and poems from the last four centuries. These texts include a Shakespeare play (*Othello*); an anthology of pre-20th century poetry; 20th century literature, including *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams and *Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier; as well as modern prose and poetry (*The Help* by Kathryn Stockett – an American novel – and *Feminine Gospels* – a collection of poetry by Carol Ann Duffy). You will learn about the characters and settings within these texts, as well as the contexts that led to their production and the broader ideas that the writers explore.

In addition to the set texts, you will also be expected to complete wider reading around your current topic of study in your free periods and spare time. This wider reading will also be of benefit to you when you choose the texts you decide to write about for your coursework. Expect to read a lot if you decide to take English Literature!

How will I be assessed?

There are two exam papers which, together, account for 80% of the overall qualification. The remaining 20% is assessed through a non-examined piece of coursework where you compare the themes and ideas of two texts of your choice, one pre- and one post-1900.

What are the entry requirements?

A love of reading and stories and the ability to read extensively is essential. To take English Literature as an A-Level you will be required to have English Literature and English Language GCSEs at grade 5 or above. If you achieved a GCSE grade 4 in English, you may be able to take the A-Level on the condition of a consultation with a member of the department.

EPQ Extended Project

Why Should I Study This Subject?

The AQA Extended Project allows students to undertake an extensive research project of an area of their choice. It gives the students a valuable insight into study skills for higher education or the workplace as well as allowing the student to explore in depth a topic that they are curious and interested in.

Course Outline

All Students have to:

- Choose a subject to study
- Complete a production log to document the production process
- Plan, research and carry out their project
- Prepare a presentation on the outcome

Students are assessed on the following Criteria:

- Ability to manage the project
- Use of resources/research
- Ability to develop and realise
- Review & evaluation skills

Assessment

100% coursework

Career Opportunities

Students can complete this project alongside their main Level 3 course, whether that is the A Level or BTEC qualification. Many Universities offer a reduced offer to students who successfully complete an Extended Project.

What are the entry requirements?

EPQ is a demanding course requiring a great deal of independent learning. You will be expected to use study periods to develop your work with greater independence.

To undertake an Extended Project you will be expected to have five GCSEs including a grade 5 or above in English Language.



Introduction

Geography A-Level provides a diverse and in-depth insight into geographical issues of our times. It develops research and communication skills and enables you to understand more about the world in which we live.

What will I study?

In Geography A-Level you will study a variety of topics which will take place in the classroom and out on field trips. The topics include:

- Coastal Landforms and their management
- Tectonic processes
- Regenerating places
- Globalisation
- Superpowers
- Migration and Sovereignty
- The Carbon Cycle and Climate Change
- The Water Cycle and water issues

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is carried out through examinations and a non-examination assessment (N.E.A) . Students will study a number of areas over the two years, leading to an A-Level qualification in this area. Four areas to study will include: physical and human geography, along with contemporary themes and resources, alongside sustainability issues.

What are the entry requirements?

To take Geography as an A-Level you will be required to have Geography GCSE grade 5 or above. If you achieved a GCSE grade 4 in Geography, you may be able to take the A-Level on the condition of a consultation with a member of the department.



Introduction

History is a challenging, exciting and relevant A-Level subject, which can help make sense of current issues and ideas. The strands of the subject include; the story of events in the past, an appreciation of how historians have interpreted these events, the evaluation of sources, weighing up arguments, using analysis and reaching a conclusion. A variety of approaches to study are involved to help to develop this understanding.

By the end of the course students will have developed their critical and analytical skills plus their ability to produce well directed written answers. History is a respected qualification and future employers recognise what it represents.

What will I study?

The course involves the study of both British, European and World History.

- **Paper 1:** is the breadth study of democracy, protest and reform c1785-c1870. It also includes a depth study of historical interpretations of the abolition of the Slave trade.
- **Paper 2:** is a depth study of the unification of Germany c1840-1871.
- **Paper 3:** is a breadth and in depth focus upon the Civil rights and race relations in the USA, 1850 – 2009. This includes a study which focuses upon the changing geography of civil rights issues, changing portrayal of civil rights issues in fiction and film.
- **N.E.A:** is a piece of coursework that focused upon the Origins of the First World War and the views that different historians have about this topic.

How will I be assessed?

Papers 1 to 3 are examined externally. The coursework (NEA) is set internally and then examined internally then moderated by the exam board, Edexcel.

What are the entry requirements?

To take History as an A-Level you will be required to have History GCSE grade 5 or above. If you achieved a GCSE grade 4 in History, you may be able to take the A-Level on the condition of a consultation with the Head of History.



Introduction

Continuing to study Mathematics beyond GCSE will open many doors to you. The skills you will develop are in high demand from employers and universities. Studying Mathematics develops your ability to: solve problems, think logically, work in a team, develop resilience, communicate complex ideas and use your own initiative.

Mathematics is needed for a wide range of future careers options. It underpins science, technology and engineering. It also has wide applications in business, law, nutrition, sports science, psychology and finance.

There are three options of courses for you to take:

- **Level 3 Core Maths** (equivalent to AS Level) builds on topics covered at GCSE and introduces some new content. Core Maths develops your skills in using this maths to solve real world problems. It is designed for students who do not intend to take A level Mathematics. It would suit students who are also studying A Level or BTEC courses which include a Maths element, for example, Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Biology, Business and Applied Science.
- **A Level Mathematics** also builds on topics covered at GCSE but extends to a greater depth of topics, as well as introducing new ideas too. The qualification supports a wide range of other A Levels including Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Psychology, Business, Computer Science and Geography.

The A Levels in Mathematics are demanding and challenging, but it can be extremely rewarding if you are prepared to put in the time and effort.



What will I study?

- **Level 3 Core Maths:** analysing data, using spreadsheets, using percentages, statistics, financial maths and interpreting graphs. You will use these topics to solve problems arising from everyday life, business or scientific contexts.
- **A Level Mathematics:** three broad areas (Pure Maths, Mechanics and Statistics) covering familiar topics such as algebra, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, probability and new topics such as sequences and series, differentiation and integration (calculus), Newton's laws of motion and statistical hypothesis testing. Throughout the course, you will use technology such as graphical calculators, graphing software and spreadsheets.

How will I be assessed?

- **Level 3 Core Maths:** two papers at the end of the course.
- **A Level Mathematics:** three papers at the end of the course.

What are the entry requirements?

- **Level 3 Core Maths:** GCSE Mathematics Grade 5 or above.
- **A Level Mathematics:** GCSE Mathematics Grade 7 or above.



Introduction

Media surrounds us everywhere we go: it's in our phones, our **TVs, on social media, films, magazines, newspapers and the posters** you see on the side of a bus. Most of it has been created with an agenda in mind: to **appeal to you and make money. In a world driven by Media and technology, it is vital that we understand and are critical of the products that are shaping our world.**

What will I study?

You will study a range of media (television, film, newspapers, magazines, advertisements, video games, radio and online media). You will analyse key features of these media forms and media theories and then apply these, creating your own practical productions which will culminate in an individual portfolio of work.

The exams are about the wider media industry, how texts are produced, how they are understood by audiences and how historical context impacts on the reading of these. You will never consume media in the same way again!

How will I be assessed?

The course involves one piece of non-examined assessment completed in Year 12 (internally assessed and externally moderated) and two external examinations (at the end of Year 13). You will have regular reviews with your teacher to help and guide your learning.

What are the entry requirements?

Media is a demanding course requiring a great deal of independent learning. You will be expected to use study periods to develop your work with greater independence.

To study Media Studies at A-Level you will be expected to have five GCSEs including a grade 4 or above in English Language.

Photography



Introduction

Students will be introduced to photographic & film media and also techniques such as composition, lighting, colour and black and white images. They will get to experiment with state of the art technology such as Adobe creative cloud (Photoshop). Our darkroom facility offers the opportunity to create photography using the traditional darkroom and chemical techniques including making your own cameras and processing your own photographs and film as well as other mixed media techniques.

In addition, students will explore relevant images and resources relating to Photography as well as a wide range of Art and Design, both from the past and more recent times. This will all be part of the investigating and making process and will culminate in the production of original photographic works of their own.

We will also go to London and on an international trip (such as Berlin or Barcelona) to better understand the work of leading artists and cement the students understanding of the subject.

What can this lead to?

This can lead to a career in the UK's world leading creative industries including careers in film, television, animation, graphics, design, web design, new media, marketing, advertising, lighting backstage careers and many other opportunities.

What will I study?

- portraiture
- landscape photography (working from urban, rural and/or coastal environments)
- still life photography (working from objects or from the natural world)
- documentary photography, photojournalism
- fashion photography
- experimental imagery
- multimedia
- photographic installation
- moving image (video, film, animation)

How will I be assessed?

Your work will be assessed using four assessment objectives. The A-Level consists of personal study and an externally set assignment of which 15 hours are carried out under examination conditions.

What are the entry requirements?

To study Photography at A-Level you will be expected to have five GCSEs at grade 4 or above. A passion for Photography is also essential. Although it is advantageous to have Art or Photography GCSE, a passion for the subject is more valuable.



Introduction

Physicists explore the fundamental nature of almost everything we know. They probe the furthest reaches of the Earth to study the smallest pieces of matter. Join them to enter a world deep beneath the surface of normal human experience.

What will I study?

Throughout Physics A-Level you will study a variety of topics including:

- Particles and quantum effects
- Wave properties and behaviour
- Mechanics and materials
- Electricity
- Thermal Physics and gas laws
- Gravitational, electric, and magnetic fields
- Nuclear Physics

Students have the choice to study one of the following topics:

Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Engineering, Electronics, or Turning points.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is carried out through examinations only. Students will study modules over the two years, with three exams leading to an A-Level qualification in this subject.

Practical investigations are an essential part of the course.

What are the entry requirements?

A minimum of 2 Science GCSEs at grade 6. This can be either double Science or separate Sciences, which must include Physics. If you achieved a GCSE grade 5 in either of these subjects, you may be able to take the A-Level on the condition of a consultation with a member of the department.

A grade 6 or above in maths is also preferred.



Introduction

Politics A-Level will give you a good understanding of the factors that are driving change all around us and how to make a difference yourself. Unless we understand how the government works, we will never be able to play a full and active part in society. We will always be on the receiving end of other people's wisdom, rather than being in a position to advance our own agenda. The study of politics takes in grand issues of government and of justice, but also takes you behind these formal facades and seeks to understand the crucial questions of where power lies and helps you to understand 'who gets what, how and why'.

What will I study?

The course involves studying political ideology as well as British and Global politics.

- **Paper 1 Political Participation:** students will study; democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media. As well as core political ideas of conservatism, liberalism, socialism.
- **Paper 2 UK Government:** students will study; the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches. As well as the non-core political idea of nationalism.
- **Paper 3 Global Politics:** students will study; sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories.

How will I be assessed?

The A- Level consists of three externally-examined papers set by the exam board, Edexcel.

What are the Entry Requirements?

To take Politics as an A-Level you will ideally have achieved Geography or History GCSE grade 5 or above. If you achieved a GCSE grade 4 in Geography or History, or not taken these subjects you may be able to take the A-Level on the condition of a consultation with the Head of Politics.



Introduction

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. A Level Psychology (AQA) helps you make sense of human behaviour — in yourself and others. It's an ideal subject if you are curious, analytical, and interested in people. Psychology contributes to many different disciplines and is valuable in many different careers and academic pathways.

What will I study?

- **Social Influence** – why people conform and obey or resist authority.
- **Memory** – how memory works, why we forget, and the reliability of eyewitness testimony.
- **Attachment** – how early relationships shape development and later life.
- **Clinical Psychology and Mental Health** – understanding mental health issues such as depression, phobias, Schizophrenia and OCD.
- **Approaches** -key psychological perspectives.
- **Biopsychology** - the biological basis of behaviour.
- **Issues and Debates** – explore big questions like nature vs nurture and free will vs determinism.
- **Cognition and Development** – how humans think and learn
- **Forensic Psychology** – Criminology and forensic methodology

You'll also study research methods, learning how psychologists design experiments, collect data, and interpret results.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is entirely through written examinations at the end of Year 13.

Three exams, each lasting two hours, worth 33.3% of the A Level.

What are the entry requirements?

A minimum of English Language Grade 6 and Maths or Science at Grade 6 are needed to cope with the scientific and written nature of the subject.

Religion , Philosophy & Ethics



Introduction

Religious Studies at A-Level invites you to explore some of the deepest questions about human existence, morality, and belief. You will engage with philosophical ideas about truth and knowledge, ethical debates about how we should live, and theological questions about the nature of God and Religion Belief. The course develops skills in critical thinking, analysis, and argument – ideal preparation for degrees in humanities, law, politics, or philosophy, and for anyone interested in understanding how religious ideas shape the world.

What will I study?

You will study three fascinating areas:

- **Philosophy of Religion** – arguments for and against God’s existence, the problem of evil, and how we can know religious truth.
- **Religion and Ethics** – key moral theories like Natural Law and Utilitarianism, and how they apply to real-world issues such as euthanasia and war.
- **Christianity** – explores the nature of God, Jesus’ life and teachings, and how Christian beliefs respond to modern challenges.

How will I be assessed?

You will take three written exams at the end of Year 13 – one each for Philosophy, Ethics, and Christianity – all equally weighted.

What are the entry requirements?

You are required to have a grade 5 for GCSE English, however a grade 4 would be considered. A keen interest in the subject is essential if you are considering this course.



Introduction

One of the most important reasons for studying Sociology today is that it helps make sense of our rapidly changing world. Every year about 31,000 students start A-Level Sociology courses. About 22,000 start a university degree in the subject. It is clearly popular, so what is it? Sociology is the study of society and the social behaviour of the people in it. Everyone knows something about society – they are part of it. However, sociologists look beyond “common sense views” to study society and its structures in a reasoned and disciplined way, trying to explain what lies beneath the surface.

What will I study?

A large part of our Sociology syllabus involves studying our society, both local and global, through news and current affairs. Some of the topics we cover are:

- Socialisation– how do we learn and become who we are?
- Culture– what ways of living are there?
- Identity– who are we and how do others see us?
- Families and relationships– what structures exist and how are these evolving?
- Social research– how can we find out about society?
- Social inequalities– is our society fair and are people treated equally?
- Globalisation and the digital social world– how is technology impacting us?
- Crime and Deviance– how should society define, monitor and react to crime?

How will I be assessed?

The assessment is made up of written examinations, which include source material, short answer and extended writing.

There are three papers, all sat at the end of Year 13

- Socialisation, culture and identity
- Researching and understanding social inequalities
- Debates in contemporary society

What are the entry requirements?

You are required to have at least a grade 5 for English GCSE, however a grade 4 would be considered. An enjoyment of reading and an interest in current events in the media are useful.

Textiles

Introduction

In Textiles we try to develop a sense of excitement and fun in the selection and handling of a wide range of materials, and use this to relate our own feelings to the visual and tactile elements of the external world. Students will be introduced to a wide range of surface and construction techniques used within the Fashion and Textiles industry.

What will I study?

Experimentation with materials, process and techniques is central to our work. Students will take inspiration from Textile artists and designers and will learn a wide range of processes including:

- Surface printing techniques
- Heat transfer techniques
- Fabric dyeing
- Machine stitching and construction techniques
- Embroidery
- Fabric manipulation
- Product design
- Digital design processes

How will I be assessed?

Your work will be assessed using four assessment objectives. The course involves both portfolio work and practically set assignments to be carried out under examination conditions.

Component 1 Portfolio 60%

Component 2 Externally set assignment 40%

What are the entry requirements?

Textiles is a demanding course requiring a great deal of independent learning. You will be expected to use study periods to develop your work with greater independence.

To take Textiles as an A-Level you will be required to have Art/ Photography GCSE grade 5 or above. If you achieved a GCSE grade 4 in Art, you may be able to take the A-Level on the condition of a consultation with a member of the department.



Introduction

A fantastic stand alone course or complementary to many other A levels (not just within Science), Applied Science is for those with a passion for the subject. It covers a wide range of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics topics and includes coursework, practical assessment, and exams, taking a holistic approach to your study.

What will I study?

Topics studied include: cell ultrastructure, biochemical reactions, ecology, the Periodic Table, chemical analyses, motion and energy, medical Physics and radioactivity.

The course is divided into units, which are split over two years.

Unit 1: *Fundamentals of Science*

Unit 2: *Science in Society*

Unit 3: *Investigating Science*

Optional units: *Various, based on students' interests*

How will I be assessed?

You will complete lab-based practical work, written assignments, presentations, discussions, and external exams. There are two externally assessed units, and three internally assessed units. Assignments are based on real workplace situations, activities, and demands.

What are the entry requirements?

Entrance requirements: Level 3 qualifications.

In all cases, students should have a minimum of 5 GCSE subjects, at level 4 or above. English Language and Mathematics are preferred.

For Applied Science, we ask for a minimum of grade 5 in Science, whether you studied combined or separate Sciences.

AAQ Health & Social Care



Introduction

Want a career that makes a real difference? The Pearson Level 3 AAQ in Health and Social Care is your gateway to exciting opportunities in healthcare, social work, and beyond.

What will I study?

- Hands-On Learning: Not just theory—get practical skills that employers and universities value.
- Explore What Matters: Dive into topics like:
 - Human Lifespan Development
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Real-world Care Practices
- Shape Your Career: Perfect for paths in nursing, midwifery, social care, psychology, and more.
- Flexible & Recognised: Earn UCAS points, progress to uni, or step straight into the sector.

What's Different?

- Designed with input from universities and employers.
- Balanced assessments—no endless exams!
- Builds confidence, communication, and critical thinking.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is a combination of internally assessed portfolio work and externally assessed exams. You are supported with the opportunity to resubmit work and resit exams where improvement could be made.

Grades are awarded on the basis of Pass, Merit and Distinction Level.

What are the entry requirements?

Entrance requirements: Level 3 qualifications.

In all cases, students should have a minimum of 5 GCSE subjects, at level 4 or above. English Language, Science and Mathematics are preferred.

AAQ–ICT Data Analytics

Introduction

The Extended Certificate in ICT: Data Analytics is a practical and career-focused qualification designed for students aged 16–19. It combines theory with hands-on experience to help you understand how data is used to solve real-world problems. Students will explore how data is collected, analysed, visualised, and used to make informed business and technological decisions. The course provides an excellent foundation for further study or careers in marketing, IT, business, and data-driven industries.

Who is this for?

This course is ideal for students who enjoy working with technology, problem-solving, and analysing information. It suits those who want to apply what they learn to real-world situations and develop practical digital skills.

You'll enjoy this qualification if you want to:

- Build skills in communication, project management, creativity, and independent learning.
- Develop solutions for digital marketing projects.
- Create and analyse spreadsheets, databases, and data visualisations.

This course also supports progression into careers such as:

- Digital Marketing Specialist
- Data Analyst
- IT or Systems Technician
- Business Analyst
- Software Developer
- Cybersecurity Specialist

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed through a mixture of externally assessed examination and internally assessed coursework. There are two examinations consisting of a mixture of multiple choice, short format and extended answers. There will be three pieces of coursework to complete.

What are the entry requirements?

To take the Extended Certificate in ICT: Data Analytics you will be required to have a GCSE grade 5 in both Maths and English Language or a Grade 5 in Computer Science. If you have achieved a grade 4 in both of these subjects, you may be able to take the Certificate in ICT: Data Analytics on the condition of a consultation with a member of staff.



Introduction

The BTEC Level 3 Nationals Sport courses offer qualifications that can be studied alongside other A levels or as the main focus of study.

The BTEC Sport offers students the opportunity to complete the Extended Certificate in Sport (1 A-Level equivalent), the National Diploma in Sport (2 A-Level equivalent) or Extended Diploma in Sport (3 A-Level equivalent).

Students can progress on to University to study courses in sport, leisure and physical education. The course is also an excellent pathway towards careers in teaching/ education, leisure management, coaching, physiotherapy and sport psychology.

What will I study?

All students will study anatomy and physiology, fitness and training, careers in the sports industry, sports leadership and coaching, research methods, business in sport, skill acquisition, fitness testing, sport psychology and injury management.

Students on the Extended Diploma also study units in practical sport, the development and provision of sport and a second practical unit in sports officiating.

How will I be assessed?

All students will have formal examinations in anatomy and physiology, fitness and training and an additional exam in business in sport for the National and Extended Diplomas. The remaining units are assessed through coursework. This can include written reports, presentations, practical performance in sport and officiating as well as other methods of learning. Students also support PE lessons and extra curricular as part of their sports leadership and coaching development.

What are the entry requirements?

In all cases, students should have a minimum of 5 GCSE subjects, at grade 5 or above. English Language and Mathematics are preferred. It would also be advantageous to have studied Physical Education at GCSE.

Students must have an interest in sport and/ or fitness training.

SIDMOUTH COLLEGE

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