ALEC REED ACADEMY

Sixth Form

Prospectus 2025-26

CONTENTS

WELCOME TO SIXTH FORM

Message from the Principal

Dear Year 11 Student,

Welcome to the Sixth Form prospectus for Alec Reed Academy.

Choosing a Sixth Form is one of the most challenging decisions you can make, as you must choose the place where you can be happy over the next couple of years whilst preparing for what you would like to do next. Whether you are undecided about what that next step is, have set your mind on an apprenticeship, want to earn money as soon as possible or indeed go to university, we will support you in making the right decision. You all have various gifts and talents; our role is to help you recognise them and extend and build upon them. We aim to provide you with the direction and drive to achieve your goals so that you can confidently walk your pathway to success.

At Alec Reed Academy, we offer a range of courses to help you achieve your chosen goal. The demands of Sixth Form are rigorous, and expectations are high. We expect our students to work hard, take advice, and take the necessary actions to improve continuously. It can take some time to settle in as the 'jump' from GCSE to A- level (and their equivalents) is extensive. This is why we support students well in transition through a bridging programme so that they can manage an increased, challenging workload alongside the crucial independent study time that students must adopt to succeed. The teaching staff in the Sixth Form are well versed in meeting these needs and ensure close monitoring of students to keep them on track. Recent results show that our teaching staff in all departments can provide educational provisions that facilitate students achieving the best possible grades.

Alongside academic study, there are also opportunities for Sixth Form students to participate in extracurricular activities, visit universities and hear from invited speakers on a range of topics. In addition, students are encouraged to demonstrate their leadership skills as volunteers, mentors or as part of the student leadership team in the Sixth Form. We recognise that we have a duty to not only help you achieve academic success but also to ensure that you have the life skills that will help you develop and grow as an individual; most importantly, we want our students to positively impact society.

Best wishes

Mr. Phil Cosby

Executive Principal and CEO

WELCOME TO SIXTH FORM

Message from Mr Raja, Assistant Principal- KS5

Thank you for your interest in Sixth Form study at Alec Reed Academy. We are pleased you are considering studying with us and are positive that you will find this a friendly place to study, with supportive staff dedicated to helping you make the most of your time here, both academically and outside the classroom.

You will join us at an exciting time in our development with the Sixth Form growing and dedicated facilities to provide additional study and recreational areas for our students. We hope this will provide the space and resources to develop your independent study skills and a place to spend time with other Sixth Form students distinct from the rest of the academy.

Our excellent facilities accommodate many new and exciting courses and opportunities for Sixth Form learning. ARA offers a wide variety of BTEC courses at level 3 alongside traditional A Levels, so we are sure you will find something interesting in our prospectus. You must continue to work hard throughout Year 11 and achieve the best results to give you the broadest range of options for Sixth Form study.

Our Admissions criteria and the application and interview process ensure that you will follow courses that are a suitable challenge and provide the best chance of success in moving on to further study or the world of work. This prospectus has information about the wide range of academic and vocational courses we offer to help you choose the best pathway for your future aspirations.

Should you wish to apply to continue your education at ARA or join us from another school, you must complete all relevant sections of the application form if you are an internal student; applicants from other schools must complete the Applicaa Form.
All sections of the form must be completed. If you are an external applicant, please include your full address and telephone number, as we will need to contact you for an interview. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss your application by telephone or email. I can be reached directly by email: wajid.raja@alecreedacademy.co.uk
We look forward to welcoming you to Sixth Form and helping you shape your future.

Wajid Raja

Assistant Principal- KS5

We aim to offer students a true partnership with staff, parents, industry, and the community to help them achieve their highest standards in a technology-rich environment. At Sixth Form, we will prepare you for higher education and the world of work by:

- Providing you with a high quality, broad and balanced Sixth Form programme of study.
- Harnessing your energies to establish a good working environment and to develop positive relationships with staff.
- Having high expectations which will be reflected in targets set for staff and students alike.
- Establishing a business-like ethos.
- Providing quality enrichment opportunities.

Sixth Form education at Alec Reed Academy is more than just qualifications; it is about equipping you with the life skills necessary to succeed in the outside world, to encourage you to work independently whilst at the same time encouraging you to work as part of a team and helping you develop your powers of analysis, reflection and review.

Why choose ARA?

We offer a wide range of qualifications and subjects to suit all needs and interests:

- Advanced Levels
- BTEC Level 3 qualifications
- GCSE English and Maths resits
- A large number of workplace visits and work experiences, as well as university summer schools
- Opportunities to take on responsibility in the Academy to further develop personal, organisational, social and technological skills
- A business-like, supportive and enjoyable working atmosphere which fully involves our students
- Pastoral support from your tutor, providing clear guidance in your programme of study
- Exciting experiences including foreign and UK wide trips, community work, sporting events etc.

HOW IT ALL STARTS

We are pleased to welcome students from all schools and colleges who meet our entry requirements. It is essential that you read through this brochure carefully as this will help you to make informed decisions about your Sixth Form education so we can give you the best advice on your programme of study here at Alec Reed Academy.

Stage 1 – Online Application Form

We ask all ARA students to apply via an online form, which can be found here. External applicants must use the following link. The application form is released in October of each academic year. Your application will be read through carefully by a member of the P16 leadership team. Judging by the evidence on the form, if it is likely that you will meet the entry requirements you will receive a letter thanking you for your application and inviting you to interview. If evidence on the form suggests you are unlikely to meet the entry requirements, you will receive a letter thanking you for your application and suggesting an alternative pathway.

Stage 2 - Interview

If you are an external applicant, you should bring a copy of your latest school report. This will help us better understand your interests and abilities and enable us to advise you on an appropriate programme of Sixth Form study here. Internal applicants do not need their report, as we will already have a copy. The interview is a two-way process; you can find out more about us and us about you. The interview will focus on your aspirations, interests and needs and how well we can match them. Students from other schools or colleges will also have a guided tour of relevant curriculum areas by our Sixth Form students. At the end of your interview, you may receive a conditional offer to study at ARA.

Stage 3 – Sixth Form Induction Day

Students will visit Year 12 & 13 classes and take academic and/or vocational courses. This gives students first-hand experience of the expectations of Sixth Form students at the academy and the chance to identify the requirements for subjects they have chosen. This will give all students a chance to evaluate their planned programme of study and to start to get a feel for what it will be like to study here.

Stage 4 - Enrolment

Once you have your GCSE results, you will register as a Sixth Form student at ARA and we will have another meeting with you to confirm the most appropriate programme of Sixth Form study, and you will start your courses.

Once your courses have started in September this is not the end of the process as your form tutor, Head of Year, and the Sixth Form Leadership team will monitor your progress academically and pastorally to ensure that you are given all of the advice and support you need to be successful in your Sixth Form studies.

KEY DATES

Sixth Form Open Evening

This is your first opportunity to meet with staff and students at the Alec Reed Academy and discuss the different subjects on offer. It allows you to discuss possible career paths and the expectations of each course offered at the academy.

All subject areas will be available, and information on the specific nature of each course will be made available. The event begins at 5 pm on Tuesday 15th of October.

Sixth Form Interviews 2026

All students at the Alec Reed Academy will be interviewed by senior members of staff and supported throughout their application stage. This is a great chance to look at the different combinations of A Level and BTEC level 3 courses offered to students. Staff will have the opportunity to set clear goals and advise students on how to plan their revision for their GCSE exams and what grades will be required for their choices.

External Application

Any student who intends to join the Academy will be invited to visit the site and tour our extensive facilities, which will provide an opportunity to experience the learning environment and specialist areas.

During the interview, a senior member of staff at the academy will discuss subject combinations, alongside UCAS and employment opportunities. This will be the first stage for external candidates and allow them to understand the expectations of students whilst at the academy.

ARA Sixth Form Taster Day (Internal students only)

These days are set up to allow students to meet the staff that will be teaching the subjects they will be studying in Year 12. Lessons are taken to explain the course content of the students' choices. Students will also have the opportunity to meet mentors and be involved in several enrichment activities.

Sixth Form Registrations

Thursday 20th August 2026

On GCSE results day, members of staff will be available at the academy to help students enrol in their new courses or support students with new choices they may well be making. These supportive conversations allow students to start Year 12 prepared for the new challenge ahead.

Pathways

In order to ensure that all students are on a course that not only offers an appropriate pathway to future aspirations but the best chance of academic success, we offer a range of different suites of courses depending on your GCSE results:

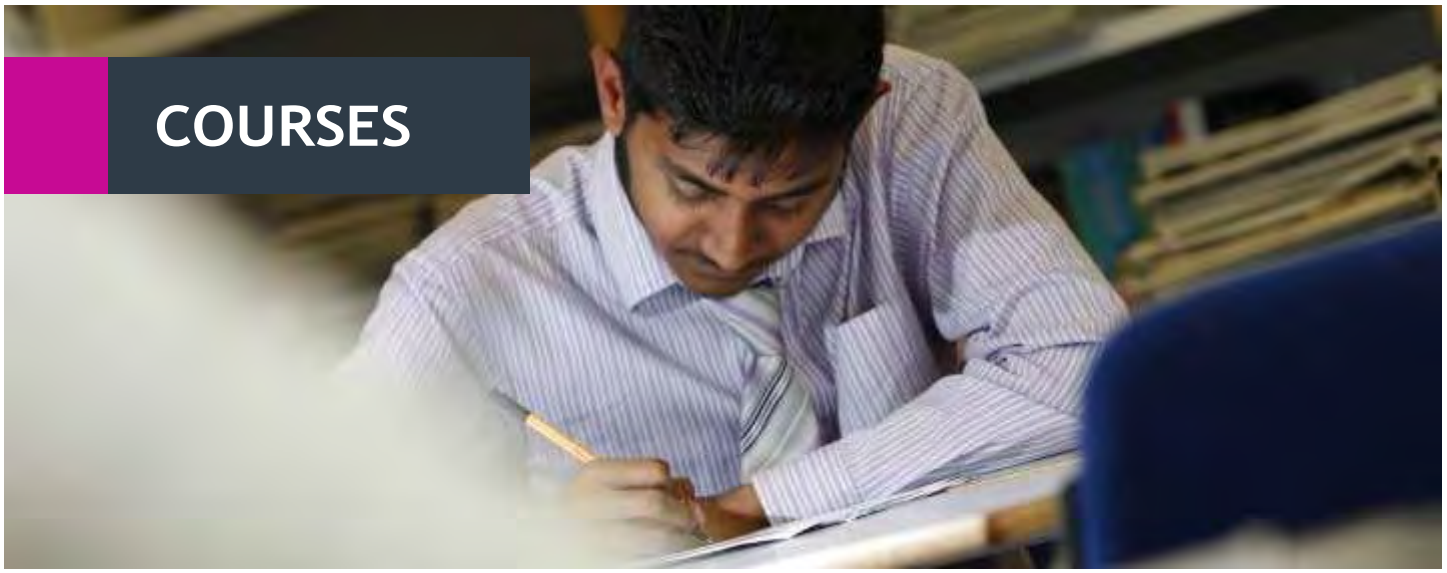
Sixth Form Courses	GCSE Requirements
3 Advanced Level courses	5 x Grades 9-5 (plus individual subject requirements) If you are choosing 2 or more STEM subjects, you must achieve a minimum average of 6.6 in Maths and Science GCSE's.
Advanced Level courses and BTEC Level 3 courses	5 x Grades 9-5 (plus individual subject requirements)
BTEC Level 3 courses	4 x Grades 9-5 (plus individual subject requirements)

What course suits you?

Advanced Level ("A levels") – These are traditional academic qualifications that offer the best choice for a broader range of university courses, whether you are clear about the area you would like to study, or want to keep as many options open as possible. The A-level courses are linear, meaning these are all 2-year courses, with all external examinations at the end of year 13.

BTEC Level 3 – These are vocational qualifications which allow students to study a particular subject in a vocational context. They are assessed through external examinations and coursework units, which will be assessed at various points throughout the 2 years. This makes them ideal for students who have a strong interest in a particular vocation or who think that they are suited to a modular approach to assessment. Level 3 BTEC courses are of the same equivalency to A levels and are accepted for entry to almost all universities and courses.

COURSES



Advanced Level	BTEC Level 3
Art & Design	*Business Studies*
Biology	*Health & Social Care*
Business Studies	*ICT*
Chemistry	*Performing Arts*
Computer Science	*Science*
Design Technology	*Sports Studies*
Economics	*Travel & Tourism*
English Literature	
Geography	
History	
Maths	
Further Maths	
Music Technology	
Philosophy & Ethics	
Physics	
Psychology	
Sociology	

All courses are susceptible to change with the on-going changes to the Key Stage 5 National Curriculum and depending upon demand.

Other courses that are running include;

- GCSE English (resit)
- GCSE Maths (resit)
- EPQ

Art and Design Advanced Level

Key information

Subject Leaders :
Ms Taberner & Mr Smith

Examining Body:
AQA

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9 - 5 including a grade 5 Art & Design/Art Graphics/Textiles/ Photography

External students will need evidence of a portfolio of work at the required level

Course Description

A broad-based course exploring practical and critical/contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and media associated with art.

Year 1: Bridging Project | Personal Thematic Enquiry

Working in a creative studio environment you will be encouraged to experiment with a wide range of 2D and 3D media. Skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, 3D, graphic communication, photography and textiles applications will be explored to develop independence and foster confidence within your chosen areas of expertise. Workshops, presentations, whole class discussions and one-to-one critiques support the communication of ideas. Contextual studies focused on the work of others inspire outcomes.

Year2: Personal Investigation | Externally Set Assignment

The Personal Investigation is the exploration of a theme focused within a specific specialist area of Art & Design (see below). Further in-depth contextual studies drive a deeper understanding of the work of others. Skills are further expanded upon, refined and developed, resulting in creative and ambitious outcomes demonstrating the ability to research through sustained investigation.

Scheme of Assessment

AO1- Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigation informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.

AO2- Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.

AO3- Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress.

AO4- Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.

Career Progression

Art and Design offers many different career opportunities in the creative arts including illustration, animation, graphic design, film, web design, fashion, textiles, 3D design and architecture.

Biology Advanced Level

Key information

Curriculum Leader:

Ms Wilson

Examining Body:
OCR A Specification

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9 - 5 including a grade 6 in Biology Triple Science GCSE or Grade 6 in Core and Additional. Minimum grade 6 in both Maths GCSE and English Language

Course Description

Studying AS/A-Level Biology will enable you to develop deep knowledge and understanding of the subject and how its different areas are interconnected. The course will also allow you to build and apply practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills and further your understanding of the scientific method.

Scheme of Assessment

(Please note that the AS is now a standalone qualification which does not count towards the A-Level).

Year 1 (AS)

Module 1 – Development of Practical Skills in Biology

Module 2 – Foundations in Biology

Module 3 – Exchange and Transport

Module 4 – Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease

Year 2 (A-Level)

Module 5 – Communication, Homeostasis and Energy

Module 6 – Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems

Biological Processes Exam (2hr15m - Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 – 37% of A-Level)

Biological Diversity Exam (2hr15m - Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 – 37% of A-Level)

Unified Biology Exam (1hr30m -Modules 1-6 – 26% of A-Level)

Practical Endorsement in Biology Assessment

Career Progression

Having an A-level in Biology opens up a variety of degree and career opportunities. Universities that offer courses in Biology, Zoology, Marine Biology, Biochemistry, Psychology, Dentistry and Medicine (to name a few) state A-level Biology as a requirement or advantage.

Business Studies Advanced Level

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Ms Dussard

Examining Body:
WJEC

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9 - 5 including a GCSE Maths grade 5 and English Language GCSE minimum grade 5. Grade 6 in Business GCSE or a similar subject

Course Description

This course focuses on learning about different types of organisations - large and small; local, regional, national and multi-nationals - who operate for-profit and not-for-profit and compete in various business sectors and environments. You will investigate problems which are of current interest and importance in the domestic and international context of the UK economy. By the end of the course you should be able to make justifiable decisions and offer solutions to problems within the business environment.

Scheme of Assessment

AS Component 1-Business Opportunities:
(40% of Advanced Level, 1 hour written exam)

Structured questions to assess business opportunities, business start-ups, small and medium-sized enterprises and other types of business organisations and the markets in which they operate.

Total Marks: 50

AS Component 2-Business Functions:
(60% of Advanced Level, 2 hour written exam)

Section A – Compulsory data response questions

Section B – one essay form a choice of three

Total Marks: 80

A2 Component 1 - Business Opportunities and Functions (combination of AS Components 1 and 2)
(33 1/3% of qualification, 2 hrs 15 mins written exam)

Section A - Compulsory short answer questions

Section B - Compulsory data response questions

To assess Business opportunities and functions

Total marks: 80

A2 Component 2 - Business Analysis and Strategy
(33 1/3% of qualification, 2 hrs 15 mins written exam)

To assess business strategy and analytical techniques used in the business decision-making process. The subject content in Component 1 will underpin the context for Business Analysis and strategy.

Total marks: 80

A2 Component 3 - Business in the Changing World
(33 1/3% of qualification, 2 hrs 15 mins written exam)

Section A - Compulsory questions based on case study

Section B - One synoptic essay from a choice of 3

To assess all of the A level subject content

Total marks: 80

Career Progression

There are many career opportunities if you choose to pursue a career related to the study of business as you can see from the list of examples below:

- Promotion and Advertising
- Sales and marketing
- Buying and merchandising
- Distribution
- Retailing
- Product technology
- Business consultancy
- Trading
- Banking and Finance
- New Product Development
- Telecommunications
- Teaching
- Personnel Management
- Quality Management
- Public Relations and Journalism

"Business Studies allows you to gain many valuable and transferable skills such as strong communication skills, decision making and project and time management. These skills are essential to everyday life and any career path"

Chemistry Advanced Level

Key information

Curriculum Leader:

Ms Wilson

Examining Body:
OCR A Specification

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9 - 5 including a grade 6 in Double and Triple Science. Minimum grade 6 in Maths and English Language GCSE

Course Description

Studying AS/A-Level Chemistry will enable you to develop deep knowledge and understanding of the subject and how it's different areas are interconnected. The course will also allow you to build and apply practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills and further your understanding of the scientific method.

Scheme of Assessment

(Please note that the AS is now a standalone qualification which does not count towards the A-Level)

Year 1 (AS)

Module 1 – Development of Practical Skills in Chemistry

Module 2 – Foundations in Chemistry

Module 3 – Periodic Table and Energy

Module 4 – Core Organic Chemistry

Year 2 (A-Level)

Module 5 – Physical Chemistry and Transition Element

Module 6 – Organic Chemistry and Analysis

Periodic Table, Elements and Physical Chemistry (2hr 15m - Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 – 37% of A-Level)

Synthesis and Analytical Techniques Exam (2hr 15m - Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 – 37% of A-Level)

Unified Chemistry Exam (1hr 30m -Modules 1-6 – 26% of A-Level)

Practical Endorsement in Chemistry Assessment

Career Progression

Having an A-level in Chemistry opens up a variety of degree and career opportunities. Chemistry is an A Level which is highly respected by universities and employers alike. The types of career paths you could follow include fighting diseases by discovering new medicines, protecting the environment, inventing new materials, solving crimes using forensic analysis or inspiring others by teaching chemistry. There are also many other areas outside of traditional Science careers such as law, banking and accountancy which an A Level in Chemistry could help you into.

"Chemistry is involved in everyday life, great opportunities exist both inside and outside the lab"

Computer Science Advanced Level

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Mr Au

Examining Body:
OCR A Specification

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9 - 5 including a GCSE ICT (or equivalent) with a grade 6 or above. Minimum grade of 6 in Maths and 5 in English Language GCSE

Course Description

This course encourages students to develop an understanding of, and the ability to apply, the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation. It gives the students the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so and the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. It also focuses on the relationships between different aspects of computer science and mathematical skills as well as the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology.

Course Content

AS

1. Fundamentals of programming
2. Fundamentals of data structures
3. Systematic approach to problem solving
4. Theory of computation
5. Fundamentals of data representation
6. Fundamentals of computer systems
7. Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
8. Consequences of uses of computing
9. Fundamentals of communication and networking

A2

1. Fundamentals of programming
2. Fundamentals of data structures
3. Fundamentals of algorithms
4. Theory of computation
5. Fundamentals of data representation
6. Fundamentals of computer systems
7. Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
8. Consequences of uses of computing
9. Fundamentals of communication and networking
10. Fundamentals of databases
11. Fundamentals of functional programming
12. Systematic approaches to problem solving
13. Non-exam assessment – the computing practical project

Scheme of Assessment

AS Level

Paper 1:

50% of AS

1 hour 30 minutes – On-Screen (Computer based) Exam

Paper 2:

50% of AS

1 hour 30 minutes – Written Exam

A2 Level

Paper 1:

40% of A-Level

2 hours 30 minutes – On-Screen (Computer based Exam)

Paper 2:

40% of A-Level

2 hours 30 minutes – Written Exam

Non – Exam Assessment:

20% of A-Level

Career Progression

Computing builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for progression into further learning and/or employment. It provides a good foundation for careers in software/hardware development and technical support. This course is beneficial for students wishing to study computing in Higher Education which could lead to jobs in areas such as computer programming, internet computing or network engineering. It is particularly useful if you intend to choose a course at the university with a strong computing component, but the emphasis on computational thinking would be welcome on many other courses, as it demonstrates high level academic skills.

> “ Computational thinking demonstrates high level academic skills ”

Design and Technology Advanced Level

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Mr Flynn

Examining Body:
WJEC

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9 - 5 including a grade 6 in D&T

Course Description

AS/Advanced Level Design and Technology Product Design at ARA aims to give students a broad view of design and manufacturing by developing your capability to design and make products and understand the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

It provides students with the opportunity to design and make a product using the department's outstanding facilities including fully equipped metal and wood working workshops and a state-of-the-art CAD/CAM suite.

Results are consistently above the national average, and the department have enjoyed a 100% pass rate since establishing the course over 8 years ago. This year we received an unprecedented number of applicants, both ARA students and those from other boroughs or local schools, undoubtedly as a result of our enviable reputation and unparalleled facilities.

The structure of the course is both practical and theoretical and allows students a huge degree of flexibility and choice in deciding what to design and make. Furniture, children's toys, disability aids and electronic products have all been produced in the past; your final product is only limited by your imagination!

The D&T Product Design will help you to develop a number of skills:

- How to think creatively and logically
- How to investigate and deduce
- How to discuss and talk about complex issues clearly
- How to work as a team to achieve results
- How to take responsibility for your own learning

Scheme of Assessment

Practical assessment accounts for 50% of the overall grade, with the remaining 50% attained through an exam at the end of the course. The AS component accounts for 40% of the overall A Level grade.

Career Progression

Product Design could take you into a number of exciting career paths, for example product or automotive design, architecture or engineering.

"Design and Technology provides you with the opportunity to be creative whilst simultaneously improving your problem solving skills"

Economics Advanced Level

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Ms Dussard

Examining Body:
OCR

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9 - 5 including a grade 6 in English Language and Maths

Course Description

The study of Economics study is broken down into two main:

• **Component 1 - Microeconomics:** This component enables learners to discuss and evaluate how well theories explain our observations of economic agents in the real world. It focuses on how individuals and producers make their decision. Ranging from trade with one another to how processes are affected by the supply and demand of goods.

• **Component 2 - Macroeconomics:** - This component provides learners with the technical and analytical tools required to understand how the macroeconomy functions on both a domestic and global level. Topics studied include government policies, unemployment, economic growth and international trade.

Scheme of Assessment

Students must complete all components (01, 02 and 03) to be awarded the OCR A Level in Economics.

Unit 1 – Microeconomics (01) 80 marks – 2 hour written paper; 33.33% of total A level

Unit 2 – Macroeconomics (02) 80 marks – 2 hour written paper; 33.33% of total A level

Unit 3 –Themes in economics (03) 80 marks – 2 hour written paper; 33.33% of total A level (synoptic assessment)

Career Progression

Economics provides you with many transferable skills which can be put in use as an actuarial analyst, forensic accountant, data analyst, economist, financial risk analyst, quantity surveyor and many more.

"Economics is about studying the world around us from a social, financial and cultural perspective"

English Literature Advanced Level

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Ms Kazi

Examining Body:
Edexcel

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9 - 5 including a grade 6 in both English Language and English Literature GCSE

Course Description

English Literature is a two-year linear course. The examination texts studied over the two years are: Hamlet and Dr Faustus which are examined in Paper 1. Paper 2 requires a comparative essay on Tess of the D'Urbervilles and A Thousand Splendid Suns. Finally Paper 3 explores the poetry of Christina Rossetti and an anthology of Post-2000 poetry.

There is also a coursework unit exploring gothic literature such as The Picture of Dorian Gray and modern adaptations of traditional folklore tales which will be promoted as a more independent unit of study.

Scheme of Assessment

A2

External examination:

Paper 1: Drama

Paper 2: Prose

Paper 3: Poetry

Paper 4: Coursework

Career Progression

All professions value the ability to read and understand the explicit ideas in a text and more importantly the implicit ideas. Whether it is a science or humanities-based career all professions value someone who can read, understand and communicate the ideas of others as well as their own. Careers such as Law, Journalism, Teaching, the Police and other public sector areas, Media or the Medical profession all welcome English Literature as a high quality Advanced Level.

Geography Advanced Level

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Ms Braban

Examining Body:
AQA

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9-5 including a grade 5 in Geography and a minimum grade of 5 in English Language

Course Description

There has never been a better or more important time to study A level Geography. Dealing with vital issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation, social issues and natural hazards, A level Geography is one of the most relevant subjects you could choose to study. Students enjoy the scope of the material they cover in geography, the insights it can provide into the world around us and the highly contemporary nature of the issues it tackles.

The A level Geography course is often split into human and physical geography even though geography is a very fluid subject with some of the issues overlapping. Human topics such as urbanisation and globalisation are very good for generating debate and allowing students to apply their knowledge to a worldwide context.

Scheme of Assessment

Physical Geography:

Section A: Water and Carbon Cycle

Section B: Coastal Systems and Landscapes

Section C: Hazards

Human Geography:

Section A: Global Systems and Governance

Section B: Changing Places

Section C: Population and the Environment

Fieldwork:

Students will complete an independent investigation and write up their findings as coursework. Students will have the opportunity to collect their own primary and secondary data to investigate a hypothesis of their choice.

Career Progression

Besides teaching, A-level geography is required for a number of careers, including, but not limited to, research, science-based careers and environmental-based careers. Having a geography A-level can be advantageous when applying for jobs in a variety of sectors, including environment and sustainability, physical systems, society, business, geographical techniques, development and global issues, settlement and travel, tourism, leisure and culture.

History Advanced Level

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Ms Braban

Examining Body:
AQA

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9-5 including a grade 5 in History and a minimum grade of 5 in English Language

Course Description

Studying history at A-Level is challenging and rewarding as you get to unwrap more complex layers of history. You will delve deeper into historical evidence and debate issues that inform your understanding of the present. History compliments any other choice of A Levels whether it is as part of a combination of largely Humanities subjects, or a broadening subject to compliment the sciences. It will give you the ability to understand the context in subject such as English, Psychology or Philosophy.

Scheme of Assessment

Component 1: Breadth study
This component looks at change and continuity over one hundred years of history. It explores significant developments and historians' interpretations of these developments.

Challenge and transformation: Britain 1851- 1964

Year 12: Victorian and Edwardian Britain, 1851- 1914

Year 13: The World Wars and their legacies: Britain, 1914–1964

Component 2: Depth study
This component looks at a period of major change in depth by exploring the interrelationship of a variety of perspectives with reference to contemporary evidence.

Revolution and dictatorship: Russia, 1917–1953

Year 12 The Russian Revolution and the Rise of Stalin, 1917–1929

Year 13 - Stalin's Rule, 1929–1953

Component 3: Historical investigation

Non-Examined Assessment – Coursework essay
This component is an historical investigation which gives the student an opportunity to research a topic and to produce an independent piece of extended writing.

Career Progression

Whatever you are planning to do next, history is an excellent choice. Not only does history work in harmony with most other subjects, but the transferable skills, such as learning how to write analytical essays, will help to prepare you for the world beyond your formal education. This might be a history degree, a degree in a different subject, an apprenticeship or a job. Your 6th form study of history will enable you to evaluate, make complex judgments, understand how historical interpretations are constructed and communicate an argument effectively. History teaches you how to think critically rather than simply accept what you are told. It teaches you how to debate and argue logically which is a useful skill at university, in the world of work and in life. As a result of this History is widely respected by universities and employers.

History is a useful and often necessary subject for a wide range of careers – not just the obvious ones. History is a highly desirable qualification for:

- Media and Journalism
- Charity Work
- Law and the Police and Armed Forces
- Teaching in Schools
- Museums and Galleries
- Archives, Record Offices, Libraries and Universities
- Archaeology and Architecture, Conservation and Horticulture
- National and Local Government, Civil Service and Diplomatic Service

Maths Advanced Level

Key information

Head of Department:
Ms Phillips

Examining Body:
Edexcel

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9 - 5 including a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics

Course Description

Mathematics at Advanced Level continues the study of number, algebra, shape and data as begun at GCSE level. New ideas introduced include calculus and solving trigonometric equations. The idea and use of algebra and more complex mathematical proof also becomes increasingly important.

Course Content
The Advanced level course covers three key areas of Mathematics namely: Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics. Candidates must pass all 3 of the units to qualify for an award.

Scheme of Assessment

The Advanced GCE in Mathematics consists of three externally examined papers. Students must complete all assessments in May/June.

Paper 1 and paper 2 assess topics from the Pure Mathematics content. Each of the two papers is a 2-hour written examination and accounts for 33.33%of the qualification. The maximum mark achievable per paper is 100.

Paper 3 is a 2-hour written examination and accounts for 33.33% of the qualification. Paper 3 will contain questions on topics from the Statistics content and Mechanics content of the specification. The maximum marks achievable in paper 3 is 100.

Career Progression

Advanced Level Mathematics is very useful as a supporting subject to many courses at Advanced level and degree level, especially in the Sciences, Geography, Psychology, Sociology and medical courses.

"Maths develops your analytical and problem solving skills, helping you to enhance your logical thinking to tackle everyday issues"

Maths (Further Maths) Advanced Level

Key information

Head of Department:

Ms Phillips

Examining Body:
Edexcel

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs A-C including a grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics

Course Description

Advanced Level Further Mathematics builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding set out in the whole GCSE subject content for Mathematics and the subject content for the Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced level GCE Mathematics qualifications.

Course Content

Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Groups, Further matrix algebra, Inequalities, Number theory, Further sequences and series, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Further vectors, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations, Discrete probability distributions, Poisson & binomial distributions, Geometric and negative binomial distributions, Hypothesis Testing, Central Limit Theorem, Chi Squared Tests, Probability generating functions, Quality of tests, Linear Regression, Continuous probability distributions, Estimation, confidence intervals and tests using a normal distribution, Combinations of random variables, Momentum and impulse, Elastic strings and springs and elastic energy, Elastic collisions in one dimension, Elastic collisions in two dimensions, Motion in a circle, centres of mass of plane figures, Further centres of mass, Further dynamics, Algorithms and graph theory, Algorithms on graphs, Critical path analysis, linear programming, Transportation problems, Allocation (assignment) problems, Flows in networks, Dynamic programming and Game theory.

Scheme of Assessment

Assessments are designed to reward students for demonstrating the ability to provide responses that draw together different areas of their knowledge, skills and understanding from across the full course of study for the AS Further Mathematics qualification and from across the AS Mathematics qualification. Problem solving, proof and mathematical modelling will be assessed in further mathematics in the context of the wider knowledge which students taking A level further mathematics will have studied.
The Advanced Level Further Mathematics consists of four externally examined written papers. These are:
Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1
Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2
Paper 3: Further Pure Mathematics Option 1
Paper 4: Further Pure Mathematics Option 2

Each paper accounts for 25% of the total assessment, is 1 hour 30 minutes in length and the maximum marks possible is 75. The two options allowed can be chosen from the following:

For option 1, students take one of the following four options:

A: Further Pure Mathematics 1

B: Further Statistics 1
C: Further Mechanics1
D: Decision Mathematics 1

For option 2, students take one of the following seven options:

A: Further Pure Mathematics 2

B: Further Statistics 1
C: Further Mechanics 1

D: Decision Mathematics 1

E: Further Statistics 2
F: Further Mechanics 2
G: Decision Mathematics 2

Students must complete all assessments in May/June.

Career Progression

Advanced level Further Mathematics is very useful as a supporting subject to many courses at Advanced level and degree level, especially subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computing, Geography, Psychology, Economics and Business Studies, Sociology and medical courses.

Taking the course enhances your employability skills as well. Many employers highly value mathematics qualifications because mathematics students become better at thinking logically and analytically. Through solving problems, you develop resilience and are able to think creatively and strategically. The writing of structured solutions, proof and justification of results help you to formulate reasoned arguments. And importantly you will have excellent numeracy skills and the ability to process and interpret data.

Philosophy and Ethics Advanced Level

Key information

Subject Leader:
Ms Dee

Examining Body:
AQA

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9 - 5 including a GCSE grade 5 in English Language and GCSE Grade 5 in RS

Course Description

This is a thought provoking subject and the contemporary themes will help inspire engaging classroom discussion.

Component 1: Philosophy of religion and ethics

Section A: Philosophy of religion

- Arguments for the existence of God
- Evil and suffering
- Religious experience
- Religious language
- Miracles
- Self and life after death

Section B: Ethics and religion

- Ethical theories
- Issues of human life and death
- Issues of animal life and death
- Introduction to meta ethics
- Free will and moral responsibility
- Conscience
- Bentham and Kant

Component 2: Study of religion and dialogues

Section A: Study of religion - for each faith option (2A - 2E) the following topics are covered

- Sources of wisdom and authority
- God/Gods/ultimate reality
- Self, death and the afterlife
- Good conduct and key moral principles
- Expression of religious identity
- Religion, gender and sexuality
- Religion and science
- Religion and secularisation
- Religion and religious pluralism

Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion

- How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studies

Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion

- How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on ethical studies in relation to the issues studies

Scheme of Assessment

- Two written exams of 3 hours
- 100 marks each
- 50% of A-Level

Career Progression

You will gain a thorough understanding of diverse philosophical and ethical viewpoints as well as critical and evaluative skills sought by higher education and employers - particularly in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration and the media.

"Philosophy and Ethics allows you to open your mind and use critical thinking and analytical skills to solve problems"

Physics Advanced Level

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Ms Wilson

5 GCSEs 9 - 5 including a grade 6 in Double and Triple Science. Minimum grade 6 in Maths and English Language GCSE

Course Description

Studying AS/A-Level Physics course will prepare students for a career or further study in physics, engineering, one of the other sciences or related areas. Key concepts are treated separately at AS; important links between different areas of physics are largely assessed at A2. Practical skills are integrated with the theoretical topics and this enables students to develop skills suitably to individual topics and needs.

Scheme of Assessment

(Please note that the AS is now a standalone qualification which does not count towards the A-Level)

Year 1 (AS)

Module 1 – Development of Practical Skills in Physics

Module 2 – Foundations in Physics

Module 3 – Forces and Motion

Module 4 – Electrons, Waves and Photons

Year 2 (A-Level)

Module 5 – Newtonian world and Astrophysics

Module 6 – Particles and Medical Physics

Modelling Physics Exam (2hr15m - Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 – 37% of A-Level)

Exploring Physics Exam (2hr15m - Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 – 37% of A-Level)

Unified Physics Exam (1hr30m -Modules 1-6 – 26% of A-Level)

Practical Endorsement in Physics Assessment

Career Progression

Studying Physics at the A 'level can open up opportunities in further education courses and careers in several fields. The subject provides a passport to a huge range of career routes like: Architecture, Engineering, Actuarial science, Optoelectronics, Computing Nanotechnology, Astrophysics, Medical physics, Meteorology, Geophysics, Teaching, and direct route to employment!

Psychology Advanced Level

Key information

Subject Leader:
Ms Hemat

Examining Body:
AQA

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9 - 5 including a grade 6 in English. GCSE grade 5 in Maths and Combined Science

Course Description

Psychology will provide exciting opportunities for learners to study human and animal behaviour.

Psychologists attempt to explain:

- Why people think, act, and feel the way they do
- Whether experiences you had before the age of five really do shape the person you are today.
- Why people blindly obey those in authority even when it means torturing other humans.
- How human memory works and why it often fails.
- Why some people suffer from mental illness and what can be done to help them
- How much of our behaviour is influenced by our biology, environment, or unconscious forces?
- How different approaches within psychology explain the human mind and behaviour.

Students learn research methods used for research in the social sciences and have the opportunity to conduct their own piece of research at the end of Year 12.

Scheme of Assessment

Paper 1 (33.3% of A Level): Introductory topics in Psychology. Topics of: "social influence", "memory", "attachment" and "psychopathology".

Paper 2 (33.3% of A Level): Psychology in Context. Topics of: "approaches in psychology", "biopsychology" and "research methods".

Paper 3 (33.3% of A Level): Issues and Options in Psychology. Topics of: "issues and debates in psychology", "relationships", "Schizophrenia and "forensic psychology".

Career Progression

An A level in psychology would prepare you to study degree courses in Psychology, a good A Level grade in this subject will be accepted as part of the qualification for most degree courses.

Universities and employers view qualifications in psychology very favourably as this indicates good communication skills and confidence, which are important to any career.

Useful links:

https://www.simplypsychology.org

www.tutor2u.net/psychology

www.psychologytoday.com

www.bbc.com/future/tags/psychology

www.learningscientists.org
https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/specifications/AQA-7181-7182-SP-2015.PDF

Sociology Advanced Level

Key information

Subject Leader:
Ms Hemat

Examining Body:
AQA

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9 - 5 including a grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE. GCSE grade 5 in Combined Science

Course Description

Sociology is the study of human social relationships and institutions. Sociology's subject matter is diverse, ranging from crime to religion, from the family to the state, from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture, and from social stability to radical change in whole societies. Unifying the study of these diverse subjects of study is sociology's purpose of understanding how human action and consciousness both shape and are shaped by surrounding cultural and social structures.

You will investigate the social causes and consequences of such things as romantic love, racial and gender identity, family conflict, deviant behaviour, aging, and religious faith. At the societal level, sociology examines and explains matters like crime and law, poverty and wealth, prejudice and discrimination, schools and education, business firms, urban community, and social movements. At the global level, sociology studies such phenomena as population growth and migration, war and peace, and economic development.

What will I learn?

Year 12 teaching units

- Families and households
- Research methods
- Education with Methods in Context
- Theory

Year 13 teaching units

- Media
- Crime and deviance

Scheme of Assessment

Paper 1 (33.3% of total): Education with Methods in Context
(1 hour 30 minutes, 60 marks)

Paper 2 (33.3% of total): Topics in Sociology
("Families and Households" and "Media"

Paper 3 (33.3% of total): Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Career Progression

A GCE in Sociology will enhance your chances of being accepted into university, either to take a sociology degree or any other course of study. Many pupils who complete the course will pursue social science degrees. But many pupils also use the skills developed and progress onto courses such as journalism or geography.

Sociology careers are varied, with common ones being in human resources, social work, policing, education, health and welfare, personnel management, public relations, advertising, political research, the media industry, teaching, market analysis and law. More and more employers see sociology as a highly desirable as the subject develops communication and interpersonal and analytical skills as well as tolerance and cross-cultural understanding.

Useful links:

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/specifications/AQA-7191-7192-SP-2015.PDF

https://www.britsoc.co.uk/what-is-sociology/sociology-links/

https://www.top20sociology.com/

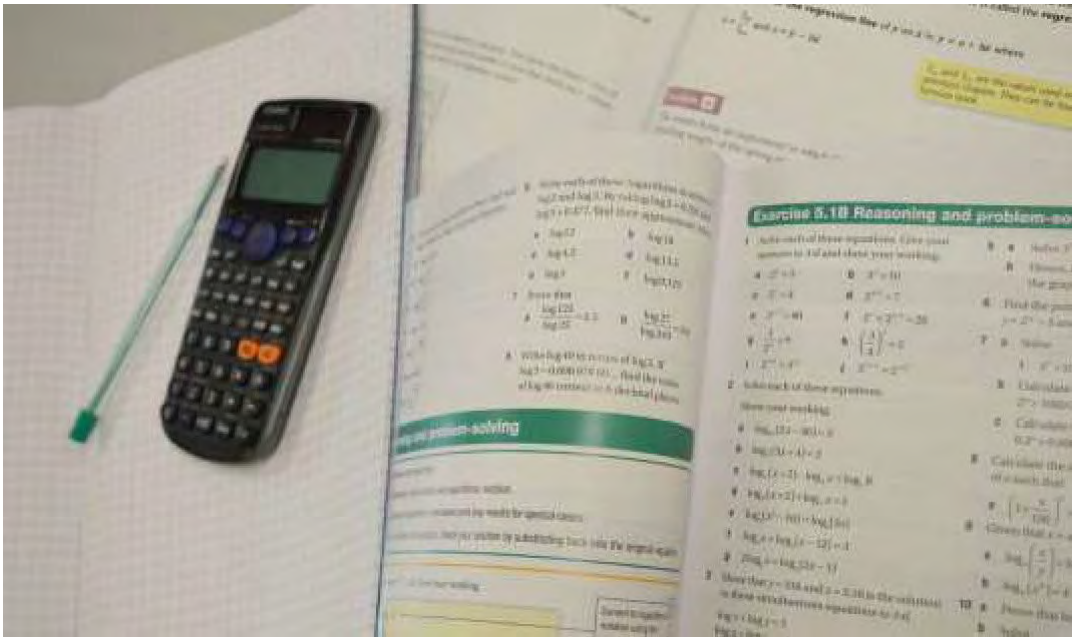
Maths (Core) Level 3 Certificate in Mathematics in Context

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Ms Phillips

Examining Body:
Edexcel

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9 - 5 including a grade 5 in Maths at GCSE



Course Description

Core Mathematics is about students doing meaningful mathematical problems to increase their confidence in using mathematics to be better equipped for the mathematical demands of other courses, higher education and employment.

Core Mathematics has been designed to maintain and develop real-life mathematical skills. What students study is not purely theoretical or abstract; it can be applied on a day-to-day basis, whether in work, study or life.

Course Content

The content areas covered in this qualification (across both papers) are:

- Applications of Statistics
- Probability
- Linear programming
- Sequences and growth

Scheme of Assessment

Each of these content areas can be assessed in either Paper 1 or Paper 2 or in both Papers 1 and 2. Students should be prepared in all four content areas for both papers. Content The content of this qualification is drawn from a range of GCSE content areas predominantly: statistics, probability, algebra and ratio, proportion and rates of change, together with 20% of the content drawn from beyond and above GCSE content.

Paper 1 accounts for 40% of the total qualification. There is a written examination paper with two sections, A and B and a source booklet. The source booklet will detail two real-life contexts. These contexts will be assessed in the written paper which requires students to comprehend, interpret and analyse the content in order to answer the questions. One context will be assessed in Section A and the other context will be assessed in Section B. Students will need to refer to the source booklet when answering the questions.

Paper 2 accounts for 60% of the total qualification. The source booklet will detail one themed task in Section A – this will be the same as one of the contexts provided in Paper 1. Students will need to refer to the source booklet when answering the question. Section B will contain three tasks, each of which has a separate theme. The four themes will be assessed in the written paper, which requires students to apply their problem-solving skills in order to answer the questions.

Career Progression

Most Core Maths courses will include a financial mathematics element and can help with other Advanced level subjects, in particular with Science, Geography, Business Studies, Economics and Psychology.

Mathematical skills are becoming increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education - studying Core Mathematics will help students to keep up these essential skills.

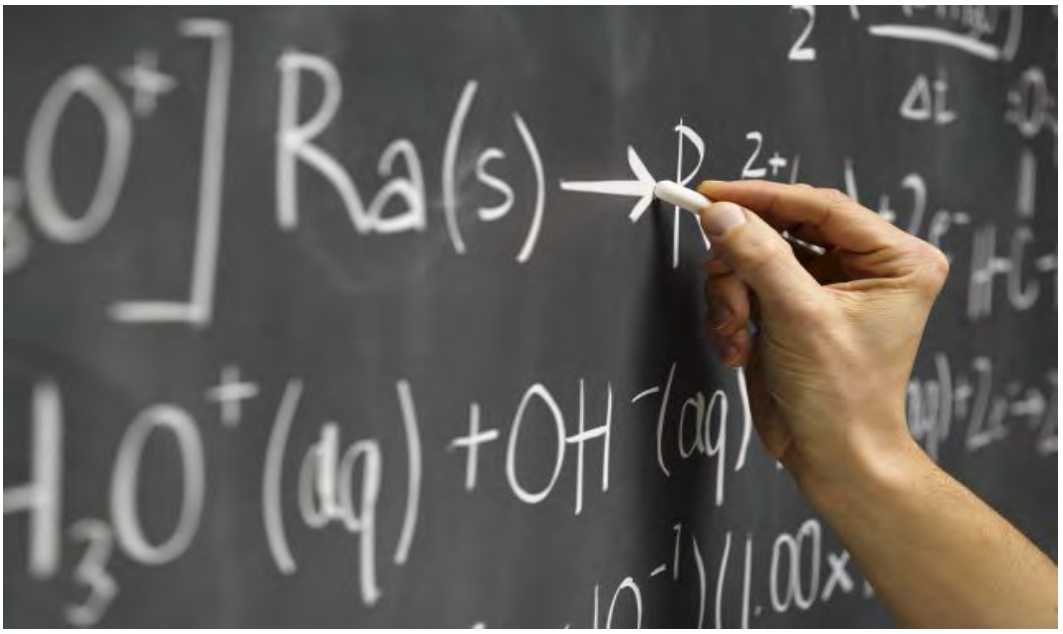
Applied Science BTEC Level 3 National

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Ms Wilson

Examining Body:
Edexcel

Entry Requirements:
4 GCSEs grade 9 - 4 including grade 4 in English and Maths



Course Description

This is a 2-year full time course for students with an interest in science. Applied Science is the study of Biology, Chemistry and Physics but with a greater focus on how skills in each are used and applied in various real-world scenarios, job sectors and industries. You will be assessed in a variety of ways and the Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Science is the equivalent of a full A level.

Course Content

This qualification provides the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin study of the applied science sector, and gives you the opportunity to focus on different aspects of applied science. You will study seven mandatory units:

Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I

Unit 2: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques

Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills

Unit 4: Laboratory Techniques and their Application

Unit 5: Principles and Applications of Science II

Unit 6: Investigative Project

Unit 7: Contemporary Issues in Science.

You will be given the opportunity to explore, through the optional units, a particular area of science if you wish, to support progression to applied science courses in higher education, and to link with relevant occupational areas. The particular scientific areas covered are:

(Biomedical Science) – optional units cover topics such as physiology, microbiology, and diseases and infections.

(Analytical and Forensic Science) – optional units cover topics such as chemical analysis, applications of organic chemistry, and forensic evidence collection and analysis.

(Physical Science) – optional units cover topics such as materials science, astronomy and electrical circuits. Learners can also choose options across the disciplines, rather than focus on a particular one, and achieve the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Applied Science.

Scheme of Assessment

BTEC Nationals are assessed using a combination of internal assessments, which are set and marked by teachers, and external assessments which are set and marked by Pearson.

The styles of assessment are a real strength of the programme, with the emphasis on coursework rather than exams, allowing students to achieve their full potential. There are a diverse range of methods used including written assignments, group work, laboratory reports, presentations, practical tests and simulations. Grades are awarded on a Pass, Merit or Distinction basis.

Applied Science BTEC Level 3 National

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Ms Wilson

Examining Body:
Edexcel

Entry Requirements:
4 GCSEs grade 9 - 4 including grade 4 in English and Maths

Career Progression

The requirements of the qualification will mean that you develop the transferable and higher order skills which are valued by higher education providers and employers. For example, the study of applied science particularly encourages development of skills such as evaluation, analysis and synthesis. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting admission requirements for many relevant courses.

The qualification supports entry to, for example:

- BSc (Hons) in Chemistry with Analytical Science
- BSc (Hons) in Forensic Science
- Higher National Diploma (HND) in Applied Science.

Business Studies BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate & Diploma

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Ms Dussard

Examining Body:
Edexcel

Entry Requirements:
4 GCSEs grade 9 - 4 including grade 4 in English and Maths

Course Description

The BTEC Level 3 in Business is a full-time vocational qualification that is equivalent to 1 or 2 A-levels. The programme is designed to enable students to gain both academic and practical experience and become competent in areas that are directly related to the workplace.

BTEC Business is a course that when chosen with a good combination of subjects, could open many doors. Most employers and universities want to be assured that potential candidates are able to contextualise information and apply knowledge and theory. BTECs offer a practical hands-on approach that can be lacking in other courses. The course is designed as specialist qualification for those who have a clear idea that Business will have some part in their future career or who want to go on to university. It encourages personal development, motivation and confidence, through practical participation and by giving you responsibility for your own projects.

Scheme of Assessment

6 MANDATORY UNITS:

Unit 1: Exploring Business (90 GLH) - Assignment set and marked internally

Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign - (90 GLH - Task set and marked externally

Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance (120 GLH) – Written exam

Unit 4: Managing an Event - (90 GLH) - Assignment set and marked internally

Unit 5: International Business - (90 GLH) - Assignment set and marked internally

Unit 6: Principles of Management (120 GLH) - Task set and marked externally

- **PLUS 2 OPTIONAL UNITS**

NOTE: All optional Units are 60 GLH and are set and marked internally

Career Progression

The majority of students from this course progress to a university based programme such as business, business management or business information systems. After completing the course you may well also be well-equipped to pursue study or employment in a range of areas including marketing, management, human resources or accounting.

Health and Social Care BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate and Diploma

Key information

Subject Leader:
Ms John

Examining Body:
Edexcel

Entry Requirements:
4 GCSEs grade 9 - 4 including grade 4 in English and Maths

Course Description

BTEC's in Health and Social Care have been developed to:

- Give opportunities for health and social care students to achieve a nationally-recognised qualification
- Give full-time learners the opportunity to enter employment in the health and social care sector or to progress to higher level vocational qualifications.
- Give learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

The Edexcel BTEC Health and Social Care Courses at KS5 require two years of academic study to complete. The main courses offered are the Level 3 Diploma or the Level 3 Extended Diploma. However, it may be possible to take lower level 3 courses such as the Level 3 National Foundation Diploma.

You will learn through a combination of:

- Classroom lessons
- Tutorials
- Independent Study
- Work Placement
- Practical Activities

Support can be provided to all students on disclosure of any additional needs.

Scheme of Assessment

In order to pass the course you will be required to take written exams and complete coursework.

Course Titles

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care
(360 GLH, equivalent in size to one A Level. 4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external. Mandatory content (83%). External assessment (58%))

A broad basis of study for the health and social care sector. This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

Key information

Subject Leader:
Ms John

Examining Body:
Edexcel

Entry Requirements:
4 GCSEs grade 9 - 4 including grade 4 in English and Maths

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health and Social Care
(720 GLH, equivalent in size to two A Levels. 8 units of which 6 are mandatory and 3 are external. Mandatory content (83%). External assessment (46%))

This qualification has been designed to account for two-thirds of a two-year, full-time study programme for learners who are intending to go onto further study in a related sector. It supports access to a range of higher education courses if taken as part of a programme of study that includes another BTEC or A Level alongside it.

Career Progression

There are many different pathways which you can pursue following your studies in Health and Social Care. There are a range of workplace environments in which you can put your skills to use for example in people's homes, residential care units, in homeless shelters and in young offenders' institutes. Individuals also could specialise in one specific area of social issues such as domestic violence and mental health.

ICT BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate and Diploma

Key information

Curriculum Leaders:
Mr Au

Examining Body:
Edexcel

Entry Requirements:
4 GCSEs grade 9 - 4 including grade 4 in English and Maths

Course Description

The BTEC Level 3 in ICT is a full-time vocational qualification that is equivalent to either 1, 2 or 3 A-levels. The programme is designed to enable students to gain both academic and practical experience and become competent in areas that are directly related to the workplace.

The Information Technology Industry is one of the fastest growing and rapidly changing fields.

Technology is evolving daily with new devices and systems constantly being created to provide faster and more efficient methods for information and communication technology.

BTECs offer a practical hands-on approach that can be lacking in other courses. The course is designed as specialist qualification for those who have a clear idea that ICT will have some part in their future career or who want to go on to university. It encourages personal development, motivation and confidence, through practical participation and by giving you responsibility for your own projects.

Scheme of Assessment

The styles of assessment are a real strength of the programme, with the emphasis on coursework rather than exams, allowing students to achieve their full potential. There are a diverse range of methods used including written assignments, group work, laboratory reports, presentations, practical tests and simulations.

Grades are awarded on a Pass, Merit or Distinction basis.

Career Progression

The majority of students from this course progress to a university-based programme such as business, business management or business information systems. After completing the course, you may well also be well-equipped to pursue study or employment in a range of areas including marketing, management, human resources or accounting.

Music and Performing Arts Cambridge Technical

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Mr Francis

Examining Body:

OCR

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs grade 9 - 4 including grade 4 in Music GCSE or an equivalent recognised grade on your own instrument/voice

Course Description

The Level 3 Cambridge Technical Award is equivalent to one

A-Level and provides a flexible pathway for students wanting to gain the skills needed to enter the Creative Industries and/or for those wanting to study at university.

The course allows you to specialise on your own area of interest across Performance, Production and Recording as well as focusing on the skills related to working collaboratively and independently within industry. Some lessons will be spent working with students across the Performing Arts, while others will be spent working with specialists in your own chosen area to allow you to fully define your musical identity.

Scheme of Assessment

All work is completed as coursework either as a practical performance; series of practical exercises; presentation; or spoken/written report. This depends on the units.

Units 1 – 3 are completed during lessons at set times in May/June in Year 12 and 13 and are assessed by the exam board.

Unit 4 and your chosen optional unit are completed as coursework in lessons and are assessed by your teachers and professionals from the music industry.

You will work as a team to plan, promote, run and evaluate an event of your choice, taking on front of house, backstage, performing, marketing or management roles. You will also undertake research into how specific organisations within the Music Industry work and how different roles interact with each other. You will complete your own projects linked to your own area of specialism in Performing, Composition, Production or Recording and use these skills to produce your own portfolio of work as well as collaborating with others.

Career Progression

You will be able to progress to a range of music technology, sound design and music courses at universities and specialist colleges. These can lead to careers in music production as sound engineers, technicians and music producers as well as music artist management, live sound, marketing and promotion, and A&R. Students also progress to performance courses as session musicians and composers, including film score and gaming soundtrack design. This is often combined with teaching.

Sport BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Mr Guiheen

Examining Body:
Edexcel

Entry Requirements:
4 GCSEs grade 9 - 4 including grade 4 in English and Maths

Course Description

A two year full-time course providing in-depth study of the sector. Supports progression to higher education and employment.

For post-16 learners wishing to specialise in a specific industry, occupation or occupational group. The qualifications give learners specialist knowledge and skills, enabling entry to an Apprenticeship or other employment, or progression to related higher education courses. Learners taking these qualifications must have a significant level of employer involvement in their programmes.

In addition, universities, professional bodies and businesses have all confirmed that these qualifications meet their entry requirements.

Course Content

There will be 10 mandatory units and 4 optional units.

Mandatory Units

- Anatomy and Physiology 120 GLH) H, exam based
- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being (120 GLH) H, task based external verification
- Development and Provision of Sport and Physical Activity (120), task based external verification
- Investigating Business in Sport and Active Leisure (90 GLH), task based external verification
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry (60 GLH) E, compulsory unit
- Sports Leadership (60 GLH), H E, compulsory unit
- Practical Sports Performance (60 GLH), compulsory unit
- Coaching for Performance (60 GLH), compulsory unit
- Research methods in sport (60 GLH), compulsory unit
- Acquiring Skill in Sport (90 GLH), compulsory unit

Optional Units

- Application of Fitness Testing
- Sports Event Organisation
- Technical & Tactical
- Sports Performance Analysis

Scheme of Assessment

The styles of assessment are a real strength of the programme, with the emphasis on coursework rather than exams, allowing students to achieve their full potential. There are a diverse range of methods used including written assignments, group work, laboratory reports, presentations, practical tests and simulations.

Grades are awarded on a Pass, Merit or Distinction basis.

Career Progression

The course provides progression opportunities into vocationally relevant employment or higher education, including a guaranteed place scheme for HE sport options within the department.

Travel & Tourism BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Key information

Head of Department:
Ms John

Examining Body:
Edexcel

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs grade 9 - 5

Course Description

The BTEC Level 3 in Travel & Tourism is for learners who want to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by exploring the aims of different travel and tourism organisations, the features of tourist destinations, how organisations meet customer requirements, and the influences on global travel and tourism.

Scheme of Assessment

Learners are required to complete and achieve all the components included in the qualification:

1. Travel and Tourism Organisation and Destinations (Internally assessed)
2. Influences on Global Travel and Tourism (Externally assessed)
3. Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism (Internally assessed)

Career Progression

The travel and tourism sector is the UK's third-largest employer, accounting for 9.5 percent of total employment. This Award complements the learning in GCSE programmes such as GCSE Geography and GCSE Business by broadening learners' experience and skills participation in different contexts. The course will give learners the knowledge, understanding and skills to help prepare them for employment or tl lead on to further areas of study. The outlook for the travel and tourism sector remains robust and it will continue to be at the forefront of wealth and employment creation in the global economy.

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Mr Raja

Examining Body:
Edexcel

Entry Requirements:
5 GCSEs 9 – 5
A written application reviewed by teachers.

EPQ Advanced Level

Course Description

What is it?
The EPQ is an exciting course that allows student to explore their passions and interests that no other qualification at this level can offer. It is a subject that can be taken alongside other A levels and can be a good compliment to sixth form study. Especially for students considering going on to university, this gives a structured taste of how research is conducted and presented. It can be a strong addition to a university application.

Students can choose to conduct research on any area of interest if it isn't already covered in the curriculum of their chosen A levels. The research is presented through a 5000-word essay or produced as an 'artefact' with an accompanying 1000-word essay.

Students will learn to be independent learners and gain important research and analytical skills that will useful in higher education institutions. Students enjoy and take pride in becoming the 'expert' of their chosen field.

Course Content

Year 12

This is a one-year course. Although students are expected to complete the project independently, students will have 1 hour a week taught sessions primarily at the start of the course where they will gain skills in research, time management, referencing and writing skills. They will also be assigned a supervisor where they will have periodic meetings at intervals during the year.

Scheme of Assessment

1. Project Log: This document is a record of the project process from the proposal to the final review.
2. Essay/artefact: 5000 word written research report or an artefact (such as a performance or a product) with 1000 word supporting document.
3. Presentation: Students will present their project in person in front of a panel.

Career progression

In terms of UCAS points it is worth half of an A level. For some universities it can also form part of a lowered offer if a high grade is achieved on the EPQ.

> "An EPQ allows you to explore your own interests and develops your research skills. An important skill many top universities and employers require"

GCSE English Resit

Key information

Curriculum Leader:
Ms Kazi

Examining Body:
AQA

Entry Requirements:
English Grade 4

Course Description

English GCSE resit offers students the opportunity to revisit the course studied in Year 11. As well as studying specific texts for the examination, students will further develop all aspects of their communication in speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Students will again study different types of writing as they focus on examination skills.

Scheme of Assessment

External examination.

Career Progression

By achieving a Grade C students will be able to go on to study a range of other subjects in higher education. Employers in most areas of the workplace expect a Grade C as a minimum requirement.

GCSE Maths Resit

Key information

Curriculum Leader:

Ms Phillips

Examining Body:
Edexcel

Entry Requirements:
GCSE grade 4 or lower in Mathematics GCSE

Course Description

The course is familiar to you as all pupils have been entered in Year 11. The focus is on the pupil centred learning where pupils are expected to complete independent work that compliments the teaching activities. The course covers the topics with focus of using a calculator and non-calculator aspects to the examination. You will be entered for either the GCSE foundation or higher tier Mathematics paper.

Course Content

- Number
- Algebra
- Shape and measure
- Data handling and Probability

We continue building your skills in the above areas. We support your independent learning through 2 lessons a week teaching time as well as offering after school sessions to increase tutor time.

Scheme of Assessment

Paper 1 (Non-calculator)

Weighting: 33.3% of GCSE

Much of this module will be familiar from GCSE but includes more advanced algebra.

Paper 2 (Calculator)

Weighting: 33.3% of the GCSE final assessment

Paper 3 (Calculator)

Weighting: 33.3% of the GCSE final assessment

The maximum mark achievable per paper is 80.

Career Progression

Grade 4+ GCSE Mathematics is essential for all courses. It is compulsory to continue GCSE Mathematics until you have reached this level and is required for all University places.

SIXTH FORM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Advanced Level

It is essential that students meet the following GCSE criteria for Advanced Level courses. Students must have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above including English or Maths as well as the subject criteria for each option.

COURSE	Entry Requirements (GCSE/BTEC)
Art & Design	GCSE grade 5 in Art
Biology	Grade 6 in Biology Triple Science GCSE or Grade 6 in Core and additional. Minimum grade 6 in both Maths GCSE and English Language
Business	GCSE Maths Grade 5 and English Language GCSE minimum grade 5. Grade 6 in GCSE Business or a similar subject
Chemistry	Grade 6 in Chemistry Triple Science GCSE or Grade 6 in core and additional. Minimum Grade 6 in Maths and English Language GCSE
Computer Science	GCSE ICT (or equivalent) with a grade 6 or above. Minimum grade of 6 in Maths and 5 in English Language GCSE
Design Technology	GCSE grade 6 in DT
Economics	GCSE grade 6 in English Language and Maths
English	GCSE grade 6 in both English Language & English Literature
Geography	GCSE grade 5 in Geography and minimum grade in 5 English Language
History	GCSE grade 5 in History and minimum grade 5 in English Language
Maths	GCSE Grade 6 in Maths
Further Maths	GCSE grade 8 in Maths
Music and Performing Arts	GCSE grade 4 in Music
Philosophy and Ethics	GCSE grade 5 in English Language and grade 5 in Religious Studies
Physics	Grade 6 in Physics Triple Science GCSE or Grade 6-6 in Combined Science. Minimum Grade 6 in Maths and English Language GCSE
Psychology	Grade 6 in English and Grade 5 in Maths GCSE. GCSE grade 6 in Combined Science
Sociology	Grade 5 in English and Grade 5 in Maths GCSE. GCSE grade 5 in Combined Science

Vocational Qualification Courses:

All BTEC Courses are split between the following;

Extended Certificate – Equivalent to 1 A-Level

Diploma – Equivalent to 2 A-Levels

COURSE	Entry Requirements
Extended Certificates available in; Sport, Business, Health & Social Care, ICT, Performing Arts, Science, Travel & Tourism	4 x Grade 9 - 5 including a 4 in English and Maths
Diplomas available in; Business, Health & Social Care, ICT	4 x Grade 9 - 5 including a 4 in English and Maths

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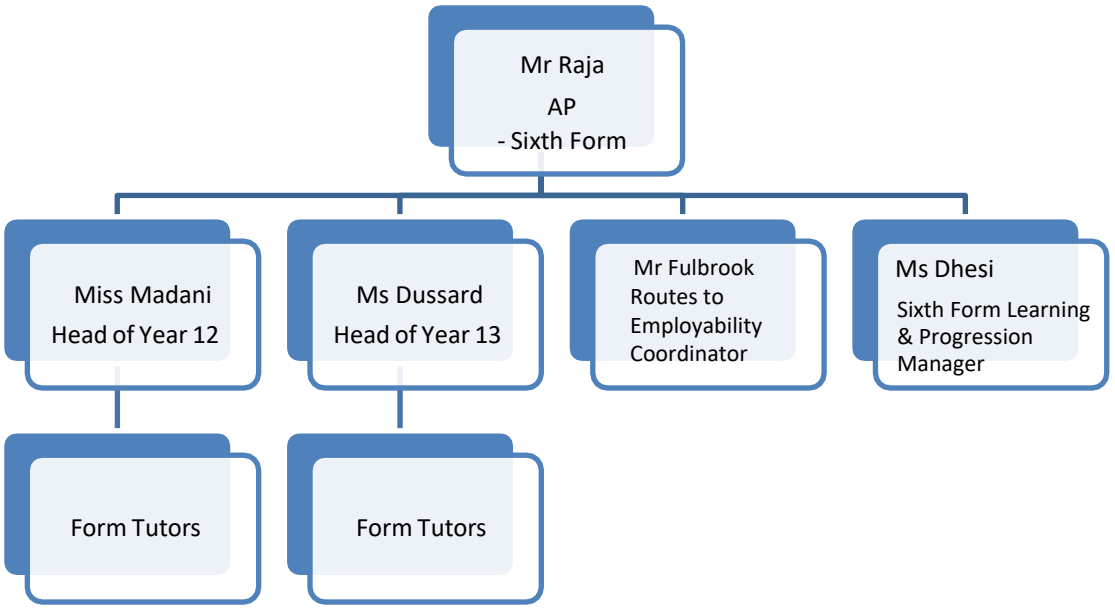
WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Enrichment, Mentoring & Volunteering Programme

Developing students' skills at the academy is a fundamental process. We have put in place a clear mentoring process which allows all students the opportunity to meet with a mentor to discuss any necessary needs. Meetings consider:

- Predicted Grades & Current Grades
- Volunteering
- Enrichment Activities
- Career paths and progression.

These meetings occur throughout the year. As well as these meetings we have a number of staff who specialise in specific areas to develop each students' needs. Below is a breakdown of opportunities available to students at the academy.



All students have the opportunity to participate within the Enrichment Programme and you will also have the opportunity to take on responsibility roles within the sixth form community. For example you may wish to be part of our student leadership team, either as the Chair of Student Leadership (our equivalent to the traditional Head Girl/Boy role) or as a Vice Chair or Prefect. In the competitive world that we live in today, we want all of our Sixth Form students to be successful, well rounded young adults who are able to cope with the demands of further education or working life. To prepare you for this, the enrichment programme incorporates a variety of clubs, workshops, initiatives and working parties from which you will be able to develop your skills in team working, communication, problem solving, leadership and much more.

Below are a handful of enrichment activities you can get involved in:

1. Student Leadership Team - representing Sixth Form area through supporting the operation of school events and acting more widely as a role model to all students, and an ambassador to all visitors.
2. University Visits - helping you to make the right choices for further education.
3. Departmental extra-curricular clubs - enriching your understanding of subjects that you study (supporting volunteering hours).
4. School Council - having your input in the way that the school is run.
5. University Master classes & Summer Schools.
6. Work Experience – The academy feels that a work experience programme will support your decision making for UCAS and future career paths.
7. School Trips – Regular enrichment activities are led by staff to support students' development.
9. Sports Clubs – The academy is pleased to allow all students the opportunity to represent the Academy at sport.
10. Connexions Workshops – Support for all students considering apprenticeships and potential job opportunities.

Volunteering

What are the benefits of volunteering?

- An opportunity to have fun outside the school environment
- An opportunity to make a difference in someone's life
- A healthy opportunity, such as tackling obesity through sport
- Educational opportunities – learn through doing as a complement to formal education
- Gaining skills or taking part in training
- Gaining work experience and making contacts within a profession
- Qualification opportunities in coaching, refereeing, leadership and team management
- It's good for your CV – especially for Further or Higher Education
- Gives you a sense of pride; feeling needed and valued

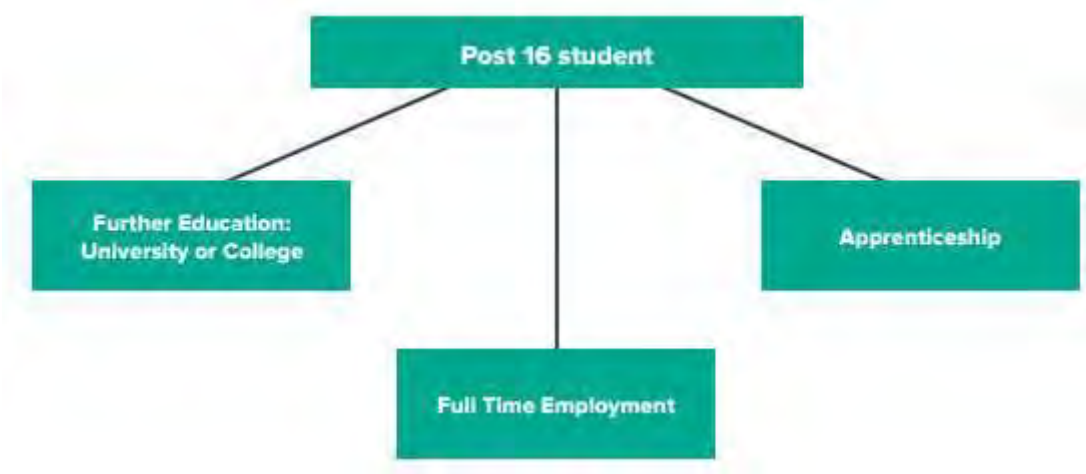
All Year 12 students are expected to complete 12 hours of volunteering in their first year of Sixth Form study at the academy. We feel that this will provide students with the benefits highlighted above and support their overall development.

Private Study

All students studying in the Alec Reed Academy Sixth Form area will be expected to complete 5 hours of supervised independent study per week in addition to the private study and homework required to meet the demands of all courses. These sessions are timetabled and staffed in a dedicated study area with access to computers and other resources, as well as specific guidance from a member of staff as to how to revise best. This means you will be given structured guidance in working independently to support your taught hours to complete coursework, revision or supplementary study and ensure you meet and exceed your potential in your chosen programme of study

Careers & UCAS Support

An essential part of any Sixth Form student's time at the academy is the decision making process of what next step the student will take once leaving the academy. The academy has a responsibility in advising and supporting you in your next steps. Traditionally students will follow one of the three pathways below after leaving us:



Throughout the two years that you study at the academy your teachers, form tutor and the Sixth Form Leadership team will support you in the necessary decisions that need to be made in deciding what are the best next steps for you!

Full Time Employment / Apprenticeships

Throughout Year 12 & 13 students will have the opportunity to meet with the academy's Connexions support person who can give the necessary advice on how to apply for positions and what necessary grades or experience are required. These support days will include learning basic skills such as;

- CV Writing
- Interview advice and guidance
- Cover letter writing
- Dress and Appearance

ALEC REED ACADEMY

PROUD TO LEARN

SIXTH FORM

Prospectus 2025/26

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