SWB6TH

[OAT]
Ormiston Academies Trust
AN OAT ACADEMY

SIXTH FORM COURSE OVERVIEW

2025-2027

PATHWAYS

Students study each of their 3 subjects for 5 hours per week.
All students also have a CORE lesson each week.

Academic Pathway

These options lead to University, Level 4 study and apprenticeships.

A Level 3D Design & Architecture
A Level Art (Fine Art)
A Level Art (Photography)
A Level Biology
A Level Business
A Level Chemistry
A Level Computer Science
A Level English Literature
A Level Geography
A Level History
A Level Law
A Level Mathematics
A Level Product Design
A Level Psychology
A Level Religious Studies - Philosophy, Religious Thought and Ethics (PRE)
A Level Sociology

Mixed Pathway

Students can choose a mix between A Levels and BTECs providing they have secured the entry requirements.

These options lead to University, Level 4 study and apprenticeships.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Students will have the opportunity to study Enrichment courses 2 lessons per week unless they are studying to pass their GCSE English or Maths, or are undertaking an alternative enrichment qualification.

Vocational Pathway

These options lead to University, Level 4 study and apprenticeships.

BTEC Applied Science
BTEC Performing Arts
BTEC Sport
Cambridge Technicals in Media
AAQ in IT: Data Analytics
AAQ in Applied Science
AAQ Criminology
AAQ Health & Social Care

Please note all vocational courses are subject to change due to Government changes.

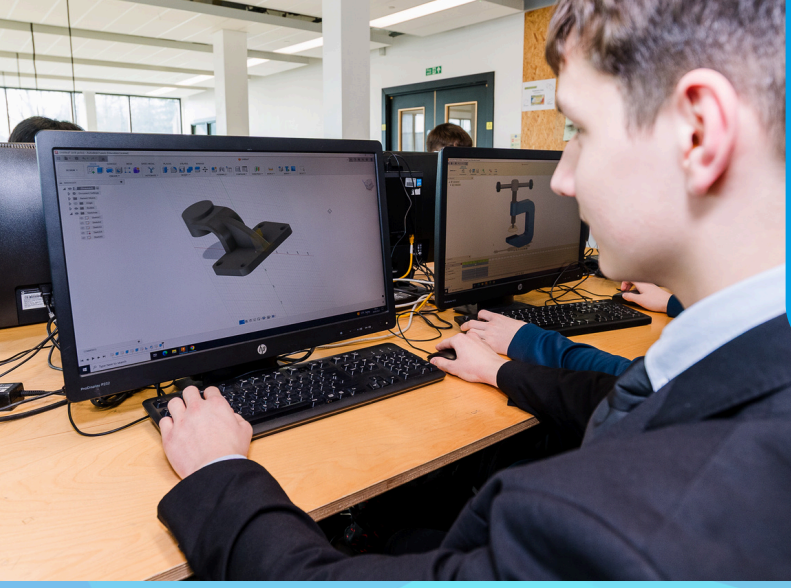
RESIT ENGLISH OR MATHS

Year 12 students who have not yet achieved a grade 4 in GCSE English Language or GCSE Maths will be supported to secure this grade (or higher) during their time at SWB6th.

- Students will have four opportunities to resit these exams across Years 12 and 13.
- Additional support will be provided through small group catch-up teaching, equivalent to around 3 hours per week for the subject being resat.
- Exam sittings take place in November and June each year.
- Once a student achieves their grade 4, they will no longer continue with that subject.

Important: Students may only resit either English Language or Maths (not both).

All courses are dependent on having sufficient numbers to run.



A LEVEL 3D Design & Architecture

Entry Requirements

No previous experience needed.

Course Content

The Three-Dimensional Design A Level at SWB enables pupils to explore form, structure and space through creative design and practical making. Early workshops build technical skills in materials and construction techniques, combining creative thinking with craftsmanship. Pupils investigate how objects, interiors and spaces are designed and used, with emphasis on experimentation and problem solving. Areas of study include architecture, product and furniture design, ceramics, sculpture, model making, sustainable design and CAD/CAM processes. Work will demonstrate creative use of materials, integration of structure and function and refined 3D outcomes that communicate ideas effectively. After the workshop stage, pupils begin the two components that make up the A Level.

·Component 1 is worth 60% of the A-level and the submission is coursework based. Pupils will develop their own personal investigation into a theme of their choice, building upon the skills and ideas explored in the workshop stage. This will include practical work supported by a written study (1,000–3,000 words).

Some of the areas of study may include architectural and spatial design projects, set and exhibition design CAD/CAM processes and much more.

·Component 2 is worth 40% of the A-level and is an externally set assignment set by OCR. Pupils will be given 15 weeks to respond to a theme set by the exam board, researching, developing and testing ideas through sketching, modelling and prototyping. This will lead to a final realised outcome completed during a 15-hour practical examination.

On completion of the Three-Dimensional Design A Level course, pupils might progress to further or higher education.

Courses might include:

·A creative arts foundation course
·A creative design or architectural course of your choice at university
Examples: Architecture, Interior Architecture, Product Design, Furniture Design, Urban Design, Exhibition Design, Landscape Architecture, Sculpture, Ceramics, Industrial Design or 3D Modelling.

Pupils may also progress to Arts or Architectural apprenticeships, work in design studios, model making, or construction-based creative industries.

Link to Specification

OCR A LEVEL FINE ART

Entry Requirements

5 in Art GCSE if studied. Students who are keen to take Art, but do not have an Art GCSE will be asked to complete a task by the Director of Art and Textiles.

Course Content

The Fine Art A-level course at SWB provides pupils with the opportunity to explore, research and acquire Art techniques. At the start of the course pupils will embark on a number of workshops to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of Fine Art media. Pupils will explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to Fine Art, developing their understanding of materials, media, and processes to explore their strengths and preferences. Students will show evidence of trying to extend their own and others' way of seeing the world. Work produced for this qualification will demonstrate the use of formal elements and creative skills in a process of creative problem solving.

Once pupils have completed the workshop stage, they will embark on the 2 components that make up the Fine Art A-Level. ·Component 1 is worth 60% of the A-level and the submission is coursework based. Pupils will have developed their skills and ideas from the workshop stages and will be given the opportunity to follow a passion of theirs for a project starting point. Some of the areas of study may include portraiture, landscape, still life, human forms, abstraction, narrative, Installation and much more.

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Component 2 is worth 40% of the A-level and is an externally set assignment set by OCR. Pupils will be given 10 weeks to respond to a theme and generate an idea for a final outcome that will be completed in a 15-hour examination.

Trips and visits to art venues and professional workshops are built into the course. We also have close links with Wolverhampton University, which includes an annual visit to their end of year Degree Show. On completion of the Fine Art A-Level course, pupils might progress to further or higher education.

Courses might include:

- A creative arts foundation course
- A creative degree course of your choice at University.

Examples: Fine Art, Architecture, Interior Design, Graphic Design, Illustration, 2D and 3D Animation, Fashion and textiles design, Game design, Product design, Photography

- An Arts apprentice

Link to Specification

OCR A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

Entry Requirements

GCSE Photography not required. Grade 4 in an Art discipline preferred. Portfolio required.

Course Content

The Photography A-level course at SWB provides pupils with the opportunity to explore, research and acquire photography techniques. At the start of the course pupils will embark on a number of workshops to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of photographic media. Pupils will explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to traditional/digital photography, developing their understanding of materials, media, and processes in order to explore their strengths and preferences. Pupils will engage with early light-based images and rudimentary technology, such as a pinhole cameras and photograms, as well as the most contemporary, including the use of digital cameras, scanners and studio lighting. Students will learn to critique photographers' work as well as develop and realise their own art.

Once pupils have completed the workshop stage, they will embark on the 2 components that make up the Photography A-Level.

·Component 1 is worth 60% of the A-level and the submission is coursework based. Pupils will have developed their skills and ideas from the workshop stages and will be given the opportunity to follow a passion of theirs for a project starting point.

Some of the areas of study may include portraiture, landscape photography, still-life photography, experimental imagery, photographic installation, moving image, animation and much more.

·Component 2 is worth 40% of the A-level and is an externally set assignment set by OCR. Pupils will be given 10 weeks to respond to a theme and generate an idea for a final outcome that will be completed in a 15-hour examination.

Trips and visits to art venues and professional workshops are built into the course. We also have close links with Wolverhampton University, which includes an annual visit to their end of year Degree Show.

On completion of the Photography A-Level course, pupils might progress to further or higher education.

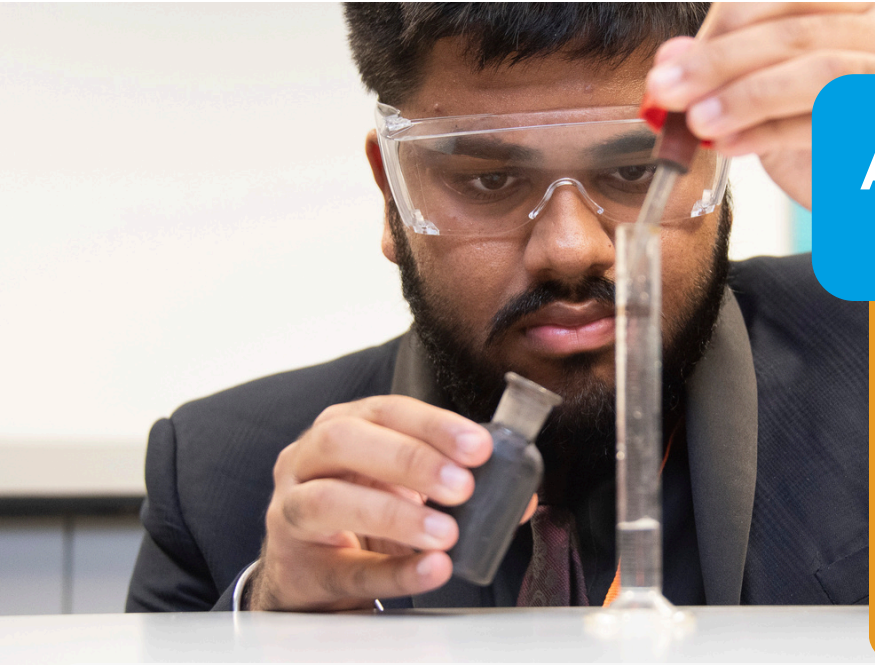
Courses might include:

- A creative arts foundation course
- A creative degree course of your choice at University.

Examples: Fine Art, Architecture, Interior Design, Graphic Design, Illustration, 2D and 3D Animation, Fashion and textiles design, Game design, Product design, Photography

- An Arts/Photography apprentice

Link to Specification



A LEVEL BIOLOGY

Entry Requirements

66 in Science. For separate sciences one must be Biology. Grade 5 in Maths and English

Course Content

Module 1: Development of practical skills in biology
- Practical skills assessed in a written examination
- Practical skills assessed in the practical endorsement

Module 2: Foundations in biology
- Cell structure
- Biological molecules
- Nucleotides and nucleic acids
- Enzymes
- Biological membranes
- Cell division, cell diversity and cellular organization

Module 3: Exchange and transport
- Exchange surfaces
- Transport in animals
- Transport in plants

Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- Communicable diseases, disease prevention and the immune system
- Biodiversity
- Classification and evolution

Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Communication and homeostasis
- Excretion as an example of homeostatic control
- Neuronal communication
- Hormonal communication
- Plant and animal responses
- Photosynthesis
- Respiration

Module 6: Genetics, evolution and ecosystems
- Cellular control
- Patterns of inheritance
- Manipulating genomes
- Cloning and biotechnology
- Ecosystems
- Populations and sustainability

Link to Specification

A LEVEL BUSINESS

Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in English and Maths
Level 2 pass or grade 4 if previously studied business.

Course Content

It doesn't matter if you haven't studied business before. You might have an interest in business and want to start your own business one day. You may have an enquiring mind and be interested in how businesses work and what challenges businesses face.

Business is a dynamic subject. You will learn about the diverse nature of business enterprise and the interdependence of the various parts of the business world. You will explore business success and business failure, investigate local, national and global business markets.

Theme 1 topics
1.1 Meeting Customer Needs
1.2 Market
1.3 Marketing Mix and Strategy
1.4 Managing People
1.5 Entrepreneurs and Leaders

Theme 2 topics
2.1 Raising Finance
2.2 Financial Planning
2.3 Managing Finance
2.4 Resource Management
2.5 External Influences

Theme 3 topics
3.1 Business Objectives and Strategy
3.2 Business Growth
3.3 Decision-making Techniques
3.4 Influences on Business Decisions
3.5 Assessing Competitiveness
3.6 Managing Change

Theme 4 topics
4.1 Globalisation
4.2 Global Markets and Expansion
4.3 Global Marketing
4.4 Global Industries & Multinationals

Once you have completed the course there are various options open to you, including University courses such as business management, accountancy and finance, marketing, travel & tourism, IT and international business.

Careers such as: banking, sales, administration, management, operations, visual merchandising, public sector organisations or charities.

Link to Specification

A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

Entry Requirements

66 in Science. For separate sciences one must be Chemistry. Grade 5 in Maths and English.

Course Content

Module 1: Development of practical skills in chemistry
- Practical skills assessed in a written examination
- Practical skills assessed in the practical endorsement

Module 2: Foundations in chemistry
- Atoms, compounds, molecules and equations
- Amount of substance
- Acid–base and redox reactions
- Electrons, bonding and structure

Module 3: Periodic table and energy
- The periodic table and periodicity
- Group 2 and the halogens
- Qualitative analysis
- Enthalpy changes
- Reaction rates and equilibrium (qualitative)

Module 4: Core organic chemistry
- Basic concepts
- Hydrocarbons
- Alcohols and haloalkanes
- Organic synthesis
- Analytical techniques (IR and MS)

Module 5: Physical chemistry and transition elements
- Reaction rates and equilibrium (quantitative)
- pH and buffers
- Enthalpy, entropy and free energy
- Redox and electrode potentials
- Transition elements

Module 6: Organic chemistry and analysis
- Aromatic compounds
- Carbonyl compounds
- Carboxylic acids and esters
- Nitrogen compounds
- Polymers
- Organic synthesis
- Chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR)

Link to Specification

A LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE

Entry Requirements

A minimum of a grade 4 in Computer Science. If you have not done computer science previously then a grade 6 in Maths would be required. Previous programming knowledge is desirable but not essential.

Course Content

The computer science qualification will, above all else, be relevant to the modern and changing world of computing, and will also be relevant to the higher education community. Computer science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learnt in the classroom to real-world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, that can look at the natural world through a digital prism. The computer science qualifications will value computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

This course will be the best preparation for students who want to go on to study computer science at a higher level and will also provide a good grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills.

The new qualifications are focused on programming which will build on GCSE computing and emphasise the importance of computational thinking as a discipline. There will be an expanded maths focus, much of which will be embedded within the course.

Career Progression

Software Engineer
Computer Programmer
Web Developer
Network Administrator
Database Administrator
Systems Analyst

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Link to Specification

A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in English Literature (Grade 6 in Language will be considered on an individual basis)

Course Content

The course is AQA Advanced GCE English Literature (Specification B) and consists of two externally assessed examinations sat at the end of Year 13 and two pieces of Non-Exam Assessment created over the two-year course.

For Paper 1, you will be focused on the 'aspects of tragedy' and how these are both portrayed and adhered to in these texts: 'King Lear' and 'Richard II' by William Shakespeare, and 'The Great Gatsby' by F S Fitzgerald.

The paper is set up as:
Section A: One passage-based question on King Lear.
Section B: One essay question on 'King Lear'
Section C: One essay question linking 'Richard II' and 'The Great Gatsby'
This will form 40% of your A-Level.

For Paper 2, you will be focused on the elements of crime writing and how these are presented within the following texts: 'Brighton Rock' by Graham Greene, 'Atonement' by Ian McEwan and poetry of Crabbe, Browning and Wilde.
There will also be an unseen element through a crime extract.

The paper is set up as:
Section A: One compulsory question on an unseen passage.
Section B: One essay question on a set text.
Section C: One essay question connecting the two remaining set texts.
This will form 40% of your overall A-Level.

For the Non-Exam Assessment, you will study two texts, one poetry and one prose alongside a Literary Critical Anthology focussing on feminism, Marxism and postcolonialism. You will produce two essays of 1200-1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical Anthology. This will form 20% of your overall A-Level.

By design, you have to be a critical thinker as an English Literature student. Therefore, this skill will enable you to be a critical thinker in further education and/or in your career. It will enable you to have the confidence in your own opinion and value what you have to say.

Link to Specification

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Geography and 4 in English and Maths.

Course Content

Exam/coursework weighting: Paper 1 30% Paper 2 30% Paper 3 20% Non-examined Assessment 20%

Each topic contains three or four enquiry questions that form the basis of study for that topic. We love this about geography because enquiry questions encourage active learning and an investigative, critically evaluative approach to learning; not simply revising content. Throughout each of the chosen topics of study are our three synoptic themes: players, attitude and actions, futures and uncertainties. Synoptic themes are incorporated into the content and topics of study through enquiry questions and form the key component of examination Paper 3.

Year 12:
- Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards – Paper 1
- Topic 2: Coastal Landscapes and Change – Paper 1
- Topic 3: Globalisation – Paper 2
- Topic 4: Regenerating Places – Paper 2
- Summer Term: Beginning the NEA student investigation

Year 13:
- Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity – Paper 1
- Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security – Paper 1
- Topic 7: Superpowers – Paper 2
- Topic 8: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty
- Autumn Term: Continuation and submission of NEA student investigation

Exam Overview

Paper 1: Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 30% of the qualification 105 marks
Paper 2: Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 30% of the qualification 105 marks
Paper 3: Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 20% of the qualification 70 marks
NEA: Non-examined assessment 20% of the qualification 70 marks

Link to Specification

A LEVEL HISTORY

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 if studied at GCSE, Grade 5 in English if not studied.

Course Content

The A-level History qualification has been designed to help students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time. This qualification will help students to gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives. The engaging topics available to them throughout the course will provide them with the knowledge and skills they require to succeed as A-level historians.

Component One: The Tudors.
This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

- How effectively did the Tudors restore and develop the powers of the monarchy?
- In what ways and how effectively was England governed during this period?
- How did relations with foreign powers change and how was the succession secured?
- How did English society and economy change and with what effects?
- How far did intellectual and religious ideas change and develop and with what effects?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

Component Two: Germany.
This option provides for the study in depth of a period of German history during which a newly developed democratic form of government gave way to a dictatorial Nazi regime. It explores political concepts such as 'right' and 'left', nationalism and liberalism as well as ideological concepts such as racialism, anti-Semitism and Social Darwinism. It also encourages reflection on how governments work and the problems of democratic states as well as consideration of what creates and sustains a dictatorship.

Component Three:
A personal study based on a topic of student's choice. This should take the form of a question in the context of approximately 100 years. It must not duplicate the content of options chosen for Components 1 and 2.

Career Progression/ Next Steps:
This A Level can lead to a degree in subjects such as history, sociology, law, English, religious studies and politics. Career paths can include journalism, teaching, managerial work, public relations, archeology, media, government and law.

Link to Specification

A LEVEL MATHS (Advanced GCE in Mathematics)

Entry Requirements

Grade 7 in Mathematics with high grade 6's considered on an individual basis.

Course Content

The exam is Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics and consists of three externally-examined papers in May/June of Year 13.

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 (*Paper code: 9MA0/01)
Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 (*Paper code: 9MA0/02)
Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics (*Paper code: 9MA0/03)
Each paper is 2 hours long and is worth 1/3 of the overall grade.

Course Content Overview Papers 1 and 2

- Topic 1 – Proof
- Topic 2 – Algebra and functions
- Topic 3 – Coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane
- Topic 4 – Sequences and series
- Topic 5 – Trigonometry
- Topic 6 – Exponentials and logarithms
- Topic 7 – Differentiation
- Topic 8 – Integration
- Topic 9 – Numerical methods
- Topic 10 – Vectors

Course Content Overview Paper 3

Section A: Statistics

- Topic 1 – Statistical sampling
- Topic 2 – Data presentation and interpretation
- Topic 3 – Probability
- Topic 4 – Statistical distributions
- Topic 5 – Statistical hypothesis testing
- Section B: Mechanics
- Topic 6 – Quantities and units in mechanics
- Topic 7 – Kinematics
- Topic 8 – Forces and Newton's laws
- Topic 9 – Moments

A calculator is essential for this qualification and we recommend the Casio CG50 graphical calculator, assistance may be available for its purchase.

Link to Specification

A Level Product Design AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in maths with Grade 4 in English strongly advised/ Merit in Engineering if studied.

Course Content

Core Technical Principles: Materials and Their Properties, Manufacturing Processes, Product Lifecycle.
Design and Market Influences: Design Movements, User-Centered Design, Market Research:
Designing and Making Principles: Design Methodologies, Communication Skills, Problem-Solving

Exam Content
The AQA A Level Product Design assessment consists of two main papers:
Paper 1: Design and Technology: Technical Principles (30% of A Level): This paper assesses understanding of technical principles, materials, and processes through a combination of short-answer and extended-response questions.
Paper 2: Design and Technology: Designing and Making Principles (20% of A Level): This paper focuses on the application of design principles and critical thinking through scenario-based questions, including case studies that relate to real-world contexts.

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
NEA Overview (50% of A Level)
The NEA involves a practical project where students design and create a prototype. The process includes: Identifying a Problem, Research and Analysis, Design Development, Making, Evaluation.

Future Pathways
Studying AQA A Level Product Design can lead to various opportunities:
Higher Education: Pursuing degrees in industrial design, product design, engineering, architecture, or related fields.
Careers: Opportunities in design engineering, product management, interior design, automotive design, and manufacturing.
Entrepreneurship: Starting your own design or manufacturing business, or developing innovative products for the market.
Further Training: Apprenticeships or vocational training in specialized areas of design and technology.
Overall, the AQA A Level Product Design course equips students with a blend of practical and theoretical skills, preparing them for a range of exciting and dynamic career paths in design and technology.

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Link to Specification

A Level Psychology OCR

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Science. Grade 5 in Maths.
Grade 4 in English.

Course Content

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and experiences, where we look to explain why people are the way they are. The course aims to extend our everyday observations of human behavior by attempting to explore the truth behind what is 'known' scientifically. Psychology also examines how to help treat individuals who suffer from various psychological disorders, and the different ways one can go about this. Most of Psychology is literature based; however, there are sizable science and mathematical elements. You do not need to have a GCSE in Psychology to study it at A-Level.

Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues whilst being able to apply psychological knowledge to a range of contexts. Students will learn how to analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies and methods.

Course Units:
Paper 1: Research Methods
Paper 2: Psychological themes across core studies.
Paper 3: Applied Psychology: Issues in Mental Health, Criminal Psychology and Child Psychology.

The A level course is 100% examination based through three papers.

Students are assessed on a range of knowledge and skills which includes through multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended writing responses.

This subject is very useful if you want to go on to study Psychology, Counselling, Youth Work, International Relations, Politics, Business, healthcare, childcare, teaching, the police force, prison settings, human resources, management roles, counselling, clinical, medicine and many more.

You can study either a BSc (Science) or a BA (Art) in Psychology, so individual university requirements need to be checked as they may vary.

A Psychology degree has been widely regarded as one of the most versatile degrees when trying to access the job market after university, since humanity and human elements are present in all parts of life.

Please note, the OCR exam board is due to update the A Level psychology specification. Changes to the specification are intended to begin in September 2026. We are awaiting for confirmation from OCR.

Link to Specification

A Level Religious Studies: Philosophy, Religious Thought and Ethics (PRE) OCR

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 or above in English. Grade 5 or above in PRE/Religious Studies preferred but not essential

Course Content

The course is comprised of three equally-weighted components; Philosophy, Religious Thought (studied from a Christian perspective) and Ethics. The course is assessed 100% through examination, by undertaking a 2 hour exam per component.

Philosophy Learners will study...
- Ancient philosophical influences: Plato and Aristotle
- The nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- The nature and impact of religious experience
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issues in religious language.

Religious (Christian) Thought: Learners will study...
Insights: Augustine's teaching on human nature; death and the afterlife.
Foundations: knowledge of God's existence; the person of Jesus Christ
Living: moral principles and action
Development: religious pluralism
Society: gender
Challenges: secularisation; Liberation Theology and Marx.

Ethics: Learners will study...
- Normative ethical theories: Natural Law, Kantian Ethics, Utilitarianism and Situation Ethics
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance: Euthanasia and Business
- Ethical language and thought
- Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs

Having an A Level in this subject will prepare you well for any Humanities based degree course. It complements subjects such as Classic Civilizations, History, Law, Sociology and Psychology, as well as any literacy based subject such as English.

This qualification will support candidates working towards careers in teaching, education as a whole, Counselling, Health care/ Medicine, Law, Criminology, Social work, Public Services, Business and more.

Link to Specification

Promotional Video

A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in English

Course Content

Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Sociological concepts, theories and research methods.

Students will apply sociological knowledge to contemporary society in the United Kingdom and globally. In addition, the ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate theories in relation the infrastructures in society will be essential.

Course units:
Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods
Paper 2: Topics in Sociology (Families and households and beliefs in society)
Paper 3: Crime deviance with Theory and Methods

The A level course is 100% examination based through three papers taken at the end of the second year of the course.

Students can progress to degree courses such as Anthropology, Criminology, Journalism, Law, Social Policy and Sociology.

They pursue careers in which an understanding of people and social groups is essential, such as the police, law, journalism, teaching, nursing, politics, social work, business, human resources, advertising and public relations.

Sociology is an exciting social science that will inspire you to think about and view the world from different perspectives.

Sociology is the study of societies and human interaction within them. Sociologists try to explain what holds society together, the causes of social problems, and the reasons behind social continuity, trends and social change.

You will study a diverse and controversial range of topics, ranging from why crime occurs, what British families are like today and why, race, gender, class and age and the impact of education and shaping your place in society.

Sociology encourages you to question the way our society is organised and to realise that things are not always, what they seem! You will be introduced to the methods used by sociologists and explore how people are socialised to become members of society and gain their identity. You do not need a GCSE in Sociology to study A level.

Link to Specification

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science

Entry Requirements

Grade 55 in Science and a grade 4 in Maths.

Course is subject to change due to Government changes.

Course Content

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science at 6th form is a great manor to develop your scientific literacy, analytical skills and investigative skills to enable you to successfully interpret the world around you.

The course is aimed for those students who are interested in learning about the sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in applied science.

This course was developed in collaboration with employers and higher education representatives to ensure maximum relevant knowledge, understanding and skill will be attained by completion.

Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science 1 (External Unit)
- Periodicity and properties of elements
- Production and uses of substances in relation to properties
- Structure and functions of cells and tissues
- Waves in communication

Unit 2: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques (Internal Unit)
- Undertake titration and colorimetry to determine the concentration of solutions
- Undertake calorimetry to study cooling curves
- Undertake chromatographic techniques to identify components in mixtures
- Review personal development of scientific skills for laboratory work

Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills (External Unit)
- Planning a scientific investigation
- Data collection, processing and analysis/interpretation
- Drawing Conclusions
- Science Investigation Skills

Unit 9: Human Regulation and Reproduction (Internal Unit)
- Understand the interrelationship and nervous control of cardiovascular and respiratory systems
- Understand the homeostatic mechanisms used by the human body
- Understand the role of hormones in the regulation and control of the reproductive system

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Link to Specification

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts: Acting

Entry Requirements

Drama GCSE/BTEC at Grade B/Merit
English GCSE at Grade 5

Course is subject to change due to Government changes.

This BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts: Acting aims to offer the student a highly practical and professional introduction to the world of theatre and performance. The course is equivalent to one A – Level and is accepted by most Universities.

Assessment and Content:
During this two year course you will complete four units:

Unit 1: Investigating Practitioners Work - This is a written investigation (exam) that is explored through independent research and practical exploration during lessons. You will study the theories of two Drama Practitioners, you will then sit a three hour exam to write up your investigation - this unit is marked externally by the exam board.

Unit 2: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance - You will research, rehearse and perform two pieces to a live audience.You will develop your skills along the way by experimenting with a wide range of texts, you will also do regular skills audits and a performance log which is a bit like a scrap book of your rehearsal process. At the end of the year you will also prepare and deliver a presentation to the group.

Unit 4: Group Performance Workshop - In a group of 3-7 you will devise a performance based on a certain stimuli. You will research, rehearse and perform this piece to a live audience and keep a log of your process.

Final unit: Based on the strengths of the cohort, the choice of which unit to do last will be up to class and staff. There are many options to choose from!

Careers

This course offers students an opportunity to follow several different career paths. The skills used in this course will provide you with an array of positive factors that you can use in any career; team work, dedication, presenting to an audience, confidence, responsibility and organisation. The course will also appeal to you if you wish to enter the teaching profession or any professional arena where you may have to address an audience. This course offers an excellent foundation for students wishing to go to University to follow a Theatre Studies or Drama degree.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport (Single)

Entry Requirements

Merit at L2 if studied. Must play a sport regularly / be a member of a club.

Course is subject to change due to Government changes.

At SWB, we understand the importance of maintaining a positive health and fitness, we also understand that many students wish to pursue this as a career option.

The Sport courses at SWB6th caters for every learners and their desire to continue their sporting education into further education and employment.

We also feel that the Sport should play a significant part of your education and to support this, we offer;

- The opportunity to represent one of our sports teams and to also be involved in a leadership role within our sports teams in Yr7-11.
- Specific career support and Sports University experience within the local, regional and National areas.
- Discounted Coaching (sports specific) and First Aid qualifications.

Course Content

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport (Single)

This course is the equivalent to a single A Level and is a good course to follow if you enjoyed sport at Year 11 but wish to follow other A Levels. This course will not solely allow you to progress onto a sport course at University but can be used for a course that has sport as a second subject or module as part of the course.

Course Content

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
- Optional : Professional Development in the Sports Industry and Practical Sports Performance.

PDF

Link to Specification

BTEC National Level 3 Diploma in Sport (Double)

Entry Requirements

Merit at L2 if studied. Must play a sport regularly / be a member of a club.

Course is subject to change due to Government changes.

At SWB, we understand the importance of maintaining a positive health and fitness, we also understand that many students wish to pursue this as a career option. The Sport courses at SWB6th caters for every learners and their desire to continue their sporting education into further education and employment. We also feel that the Sport should play a significant part of your education and to support this, we offer;

- The opportunity to represent one of our sports teams and to also be involved in a leadership role within our sports teams in Yr7-11.
- Specific career support and Sports University experience within the local, regional and National areas.
- Discounted Coaching (sports specific) and First Aid qualifications.

Course Content

BTEC National Level 3 Diploma in Sport (Double)

This course is the equivalent to 2 A Levels.

This course has units dedicated to allowing the learner to understand the wider concepts of sport as their primary subject in their options.

This course would allow you to progress into a sporting course such as;

Sports Development, Sports Management, Sports Massage, PE Teaching, Coaching & Development, Sport & Exercise Science, Sports Journalism, Physiotherapy, Leisure Industry Management and Personal Trainer.

PDF

Link to Specification

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICALS IN DIGITAL MEDIA (EXTENDED CERTIFICATE) OCR

Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in English

Course Content

Media Studies at SWB6TH gives you the skills to analyse and interpret the messages communicated by the world's increasingly dominant media institutions.
This challenging yet fulfilling course focuses on exploring how the media works and how meaning is communicated through sounds, words and images. The course aims to help you understand, criticise and enjoy media products by combining research tasks with practical projects.

By understanding more about professional practice and how the media industry is run, you will develop a stronger appreciation of the significance of what you read, see and hear; you will also acquire a greater awareness of how the media represents our world.

We have previously enjoyed trips to Birmingham City University and Staffordshire University taking part in Media workshops where students have had the chance to work with industry professionals to record their own podcasts, filmed a TV News broadcast in a real studio and pitched ideas to a real client for a new charity advert.

Course is subject to change due to Government changes.

This course is assessed with a mixture of exams and coursework. You will develop an understanding of what the media is trying to communicate to you, the industry and its production process through examined units. You will also have the opportunity to create your own media products including an advertising campaign, a new magazine, a drama script and a scene for a new TV show through the coursework based units.

This course is excellent preparation for study of the media at degree level and is also a pathway to a career in the ever-growing creative industries, it provides you with relevant creative skills, independent learning, and critical thinking

PDF

Link to Specification

Cambridge Advanced Nationals (AAQ) in IT: Data Analytics

Course is subject to change due to Government changes.

Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in English

Course Content

This qualification is designed to build your confidence and competence in handling data across various digital contexts. It prepares you for careers in IT, data science, and analytics, or progression to university-level study.

Fundamentals of Data Analytics
This module introduces the basics of working with data—how it's collected, processed, and analysed. You'll learn to handle different data types, apply simple statistical methods, and create visualizations like charts and dashboards. It also covers key ethical and legal responsibilities, such as data protection laws.

Big Data and Machine Learning
Here, you'll explore what makes data "big" and how it's managed using modern technologies like cloud platforms. You'll get a beginner's look at machine learning, understanding how algorithms learn from data and are used in real-world applications like predictions and recommendations.

Spreadsheet Data Modelling
This module teaches you how to use spreadsheets to build models that solve problems or simulate scenarios. You'll work with formulas, functions, and charts to create dynamic tools for tasks like budgeting or performance tracking—skills that are widely used in business and tech.
Data and the Internet of Everything (IoE)
You'll learn how connected devices—from smart homes to industrial sensors—generate and use data. The module explores how this data is transmitted and processed, and it encourages you to think critically about privacy, security, and ethical issues in a hyper-connected world.

Data and Digital Marketing
This module focuses on how data drives modern marketing. You'll analyse customer behaviour using tools like Google Analytics, learn how businesses target audiences, and evaluate campaign success through metrics like ROI and engagement. It's a blend of tech and creativity

Two exams:
·Fundamentals of data analytics
·Big data and machine learning
NEA:
·Spreadsheet data modelling
·Data and the internet of everything
·Data and digital marketing

|Career progression
·Data analyst, Digital Marketing, IT support technician, Cyber security, Software developer

Alternative academic qualification (AAQ) in Applied Science (Level 3 National Extended Certificate)

Entry Requirements

Grade 55 in science. Grade 4 in English and Maths

Course Content

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Applied Science (Certificate) allows students to study the principles and applications of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, as well as practical scientific procedures and techniques. Students will also develop their investigation skills and explore contemporary issues in science. There are three examined units where students will engage in theoretical concepts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics to develop their scientific knowledge and skills.

This redesigned qualification reflects the demands of a modern and evolving digital environment. The qualification is intended for students that wish to apply themselves and progress into higher education as a pathway to employment.

Unit 1: Principles and applications of biology (examined)
-Structure and function of specialised cells and biological tissues
-Structure and function of biological molecules
-Cellular transport and enzyme activity

Unit 2: Principles and applications of chemistry (examined)
-Atomic and electronic structure
-Bonding structure
-Periodicity
-Physical chemistry
-Organic chemistry

Unit 3: Principles and applications of physics (examined)
-Understanding waves and optical fibres
-Forces in transportation and Newtons Laws of Motion
-Electrical circuits and the transfer of energy

Unit 4: Practical scientific procedures and techniques
-Undertake techniques to prepare solutions and determine concentrations and purity
-Undertake biological procedures to investigate concentration and distribution of biological components
-Undertake physical procedures to examine energy transfer
-Review personal development of scientific skills for laboratory work

Unit 5: Science investigation skills
-Undertake a literature search and review to produce an investigative project proposal
-Produce a plan for an investigative project
-Safely undertake the project by collecting, analysing and presenting data
-Presenting conclusions of findings

PDF

Link to Specification

AAQ in HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in English strongly recommended.
Grade 44 in Science strongly recommended for Triple Award.

Course is subject to change due to Government changes.

Course Content

·The health and social care sector is a growing area of national importance and career opportunities. Do you want to make a difference to peoples' lives? This course will enable you to develop the knowledge and the practical skills required for a range of careers within the health or social care sector including: cognitive and problem-solving, critical thinking, intrapersonal skills, self-management, adaptability and resilience

Topics:

- Human Lifespan and Development – Factors affecting growth and development, interventions and the different professionals providing care and treatment.
- Human Biology and Health – Human body structure and systems, normal physiological functioning and the impact of common disorders.
- Health and Social Care Practice – Core principles, values and legislation that underpin and influence health and social care, and the effect of social determinants on an individual health status.
- Promoting Health Education – Health education, its purpose and use of different approaches and models to achieve positive health outcomes.

Key Skills:

- Professional values and skills expected of professionals, including communication and listening skills.
- Organisational and critical thinking skills
- Cultural and social intelligence when working with individuals across the lifespan with different needs, alongside methods of managing challenging situations.
- Interpersonal skills required when working with others, including compassion and empathy
- Responsibilities of professionals to be adaptable and innovative in delivering care.
- Management of own time and learning
- Academic skills such as research.

Career opportunities:

- Students have progressed onto higher education and into careers including nursing, midwifery, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy and social work and many more.
- Nursing – BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing
- Teacher Training – Childhood and Early Years Studies BA (Hons)
- Social Work – BA (Hons) Social Work

Criminology (Applied Diploma)

Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in English and Science.

Course Content

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology.

This Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is a qualification with elements of psychology, law and sociology that complements studies in humanities. The qualification involves applied learning, i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful contexts linked to the criminal justice system.

Unit 1: Changing awareness of crime.
This will enable the learner to demonstrate understanding of different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported.

Unit 2: Criminological Theories.
This unit will allow learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crime, drawing on what they have learned in Unit 1.

Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom.
This unit will provide an understanding of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified to the verdict. Learners will develop the understanding and skills needed to examine information in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases.

Course is subject to change due to Government changes.

Unit 4: Crime and Punishment.
In this unit, learners will apply their understanding of the awareness of criminality, criminological theories and the process of bringing an accused to court in order to evaluate the effectiveness of social control to deliver criminal justice policy.

This course can lead to degree pathways such as:
• BSc Criminology • BA Criminology • BA Criminology and Criminal Justice • BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology • LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology • BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology • BA (Hons) Criminology • BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology • BSc Criminology with Law

The qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service.

ENRICHMENT COURSES

All students who have passed both Maths and English will choose to study an enrichment course at 2 hours per week. All opportunities give the students an option of getting further qualifications and points for their next step choices.

SPORTS LEADERS & DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD

Entry Requirements

Sports Leaders - interest in sports leadership and willingness to purchase SWB Sports Leaders kit.

Sports Leaders Award

All year 12 students will have the opportunity to additionally study for a Sports Leaders Qualification Level 3. This is a nationally recognised qualification that enables successful learners to independently lead purposeful and enjoyable sport/physical activity. Learners must complete a minimum of 30 hours of leadership throughout this qualification and participate/lead as part of our extra-curricular timetable and within our primary school sport links. The SLQ carries 16 UCAS points which alone will enhance any personal statement.

Promotional Video

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

DofE gives you the chance to discover just how much you're capable of. It's also a great way to meet new people, try new things, do what you love and make a difference in your community. Through DofE, you could try everything from surfing to salsa dancing, coding to candle making, bee keeping to ballet. It's your call.

DofE is non-competitive and for everyone – whatever your interests, background and abilities. It's about finding the confidence to be yourself, and knowing that when things get tough, you can find a way through.

To achieve your Award, you'll need to complete five sections –Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition and a residential. What you do for the first three sections is up to you, and we'll give you all the support you need. The Expedition involves spending four days and three night in the countryside, and again we'll make sure you're fully prepared for it. The residential involves staying away from home: it could be a summer camp, conservation project but again we'll make sure you're fully prepared.

Promotional Video

EPQ Extended Project Qualification

Entry Requirements

Grade 4+ in English and Maths

Course Content

The Extended Project Qualification is not like any of the other subjects, courses, or qualifications that you will have studied at GCSE, A Level, or at any other point in your secondary education. It's structured completely differently – it gives the opportunity to study something which is of personal interest to you (it just cannot be anything you cover in your other subjects). It's therefore important that you choose a topic that will inspire you, that will encourage you to make it the best work possible, and that will excite you to share it with an audience in your presentation.

For your project, you can choose between two options: either a 5000-word essay; or an artefact that you have made alongside a written report. The topic of each is determined entirely by you in conversations with your supervisor (teacher).

You will be conducting all that research yourself, the emphasis of the assessed elements of the project will be less on the actual material you produce and more on the process that you will have followed. You will be assessed on a range of skills, from your planning of and sticking to timetables to your research management skills, from your presentation skills to your ability to problem solve. The important thing about the essay is that it is driven by and organised around research. Whether you want to do it in English literature or media studies, it needs to be academically presented, referenced, and written – and you will need to come up with some sort of research plan from which you work. The artefact, on the other hand, can be anything that you fancy: a poem, a computer game, a song or composition, an app. This will be accompanied by a report in which you are explaining what it is you have done. Again, though, it is not so much about the artefact itself as the process by which you arrived at it.

The EPQ will help you when applying to university or further education – as the key skills that it demands of you are precisely those that higher education institutions want to see and you will be able to demonstrate that you have the ability and passion for independent study in a subject that you like.

The world of work will also be fairly enthusiastic about your Extended Project too. Presentation skills, time management, showing an initiative when it comes to personal development, all of these things matter to employers.

When was the last time you were able to study anything you wanted at school, by the way? When was the last time you could achieve academic success in a field that you actually cared about? Completing an EPQ is a real achievement that you should be proud of. The EPQ carries tariff points for most universities equivalent to half an A-Level.

Link to Specification

AQA Certificate Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths)

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Mathematics (Foundation or Higher)

Course Content

The AQA Level 3 Certificate in Mathematics Studies is a new post-16 qualification, designed to equip learners to develop and apply real-world maths skills, and progress to university, employment, or higher apprenticeships in a wide range of industry sectors, or professional training. It reflects the content of the new GCSE (9-1) in Mathematics, which helps to provide a smooth learning transition.

Mathematics Studies consists of two one and a half hour externally examined papers. Students sit both papers in May/June in any single year.

Paper 1: Compulsory Content (50% of the final grade) examines the following content areas:
3.1 Analysis of data
3.2 Maths for personal finance
3.3 Estimation
Paper 2: Applications (50% of the final grade), only one of the 3 optional topic areas is examined.

Either:

Paper 2A: Statistical Techniques
3.4 Critical analysis of given data and models
3.5 The normal distribution
3.6 Probabilities and estimation
3.7 Correlation and regression

Or:

Paper 2B: Critical Path and Risk Analysis
3.4 Critical analysis of given data and models
3.8 Critical path and risk analysis
3.9 Expectation
3.10 Cost benefit analysis

Or:

Paper 2C: Graphical Techniques 3.4 Critical analysis of given data and models
3.11 Graphical methods
3.12 Rates of change
3.13 Exponential functions

Link to Specification