



SHIRELAND
SIXTH FORM



Prospectus 2022/23

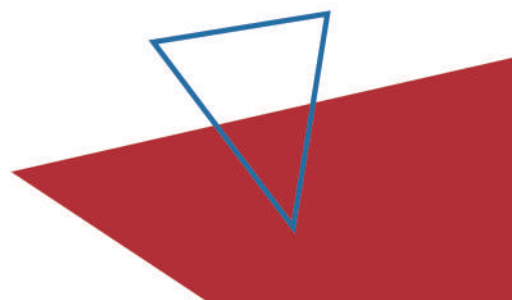


SHIRELAND
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

PROUDLY PART OF
 SHIRELAND
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY TRUST

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Welcome

Shireland Sixth Form is dynamic and vibrant. We have grown and transformed during the past 10 years.

The Sixth Form represents the final stage of your formal education and as such is your passport to the future. Therefore, our Sixth Form programme supports and develops not only your academic progress but also gives you many opportunities to develop new skills through our Futures, work experience and many other extra-curricular programmes. Our Sixth Form helps to develop the levels of independence that you require when you leave formal education. We help you decide what the next steps will be whether that be university, apprenticeships or stepping into the world of work.

We ensure that you engage with industry experts, universities and careers advisors to help you in making important decisions that shape your future. I very much hope that you decide to apply to Shireland Sixth Form and look forward to meeting you all.

Mr D Irish

Principal



SHIRELAND
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

**INNOVATE
INSPIRE
COLLABORATE**



Welcome

A very warm welcome to our prospectus. It has been designed to offer you an insight into the experience of being a Sixth Form student at Shireland. So, whether you are a prospective student seeking more information on the courses we offer, or a parent asking how your son or daughter will be cared for, the following pages have been designed to answer some of those questions.

Time after time our students and families inform us that the main reason they choose Shireland Sixth Form is for the incredible learning opportunities. This is coupled with our passion for providing the best possible experience for our students; to challenge and encourage them to take the initiative in shaping their future. We do this by developing the areas that students find challenging but within a supportive environment so they not just succeed but excel. This 'family feel' resonates through everything we do in the Sixth Form, whether it's the tutors who offer support on a daily basis or our regular interaction with parents all resulting in students feeling valued and that they are treated as adults.

We work hard to provide an outstanding education at Sixth Form. We don't shy away from hard work; regular academic monitoring ensures students stay on track to success.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Sixth Form soon.

With my best wishes,

Mrs D Fox

Head of Sixth Form

Follow us on social media for the latest in news and information.



@ShirelandSixthform



@ShirelandSixth



**SHIRELAND
SIXTH FORM**



OVER
80 different work
experience providers

100%
progression to university, further education,
apprenticeship, employment or Gap Year

Our students come from over
**30 DIFFERENT
SCHOOLS**





SHIRELAND
SIXTH FORM

You've made an outstanding choice.

Shireland Collegiate Academy has been rated as **'outstanding'** by Ofsted for the last 2 inspections (2010, 2013). Sixth Form was judged **'good'** in 2010 and **'outstanding'** in 2013. We're committed to continuing with the delivery of the highest quality of teaching to ensure **all our students reach their potential**. We use the latest technology to enthuse, challenge and inspire our students.



29

subjects to choose from

60

the minimum number of timetabled hours a year spent on our Futures Programme – offering you an insight into careers

100%

progression to university, further education, apprenticeship, employment or Gap Year

24

different universities across the UK

25+

clubs, societies and programmes that we offer as part of our enrichment programme

250

seats in our state-of-the-art auditorium designed in conjunction with Birmingham Hippodrome

What we offer

Our aim is to offer a tailor-made programme which meets the needs and interests of our learners. Our programme is not just about attaining the core academic pathway and this diagram shows at a glance the other elements that make up our **Sixth Form Experience**.

For more details visit our website: collegiateacademy.co.uk



Personal Development



Academic Pathway

See page 8 for more details.



Transferable Skills Programme





Futures Programme*



Enrichment Programme

Follow us on social media for the latest in news and information.

  @ShirelandSixthform

 @ShirelandSixth

*including application to
Oxbridge and medical school

How to choose your subjects

We are an inclusive Sixth Form and offer Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 pathways, dependent on students' prior academic attainment and interests.



Level 3 Pathway

Entry requirement: 5 x grade 5 or above at GCSE, including Maths and English

Duration: 2 years

Progression route: Higher education, apprenticeships, employment, gap year, voluntary work

Students have a free choice of 3 subjects, which are studied for 2 years. Occasionally we may be able to accommodate a fourth subject, depending on prior academic attainment. We have over 28 subjects available, both at A Level and BTEC. Each subject has an entry requirement.



Level 2 Pathway

Entry requirement: 5 x grade 5 or above, but not including Maths and English (limited spaces)

Duration: 1 year

Progression route: Further education college, Shireland Sixth Form, local sixth form provider

Currently, the programme includes a compulsory Business Admin qualification along with a Digital Media course*. Students also study English or Maths GCSE resit. Places are offered to students on GCSE Results Day, once grades are known.



Level 1 Pathway

Entry requirement: 5 grades at GCSE, not including Maths and English (limited spaces)

A small group of our Year 11 students progress on to a one-year Level 1 Programme, which includes completing a vocational course*, as well as GCSE Maths and English resit.

*These courses are currently being updated and further information will be made available once confirmed.

Your application timeline

Once you've decided Shireland Collegiate Academy Sixth Form is the right choice for you, you're ready to apply. Here is a handy timeline to show you the steps along the way for your application process:

November 2022 onwards

Complete your application form. You can do this by visiting our website: collegiateacademy.co.uk/sixth-form and clicking on 'Apply Now' or 'Sixth Form Admissions Process'. The online application form requires information including contact details as well as your preferred subject choices.

December 2022 onwards

Attend your consultation evening appointment. We aim to ensure you are well supported with your application. As part of this, we invite you and your family to attend a consultation evening to discuss your subject choices and offer advice and guidance. It is not an interview.

January 2023 onwards

Following your consultation evening appointment we send you a conditional offer letter.

May to June 2023

GCSE exam season!

June 2023

Attend our Induction Programme to meet your new teachers, your new classmates and start your academic studies.

24th August 2023

GCSE Results Day! Once you know your grades we will confirm your subject choices. If you don't meet the entry requirements we can offer other courses, subject to availability.

September 2023

Before you start your academic studies we help you settle in by completing our enrolment programme.

Follow us on social media for the latest in news and information.



@ShirelandSixthform



@ShirelandSixth

Don't take our word for it, meet our students and see what they say...



I chose to stay on at Shireland because I have been here since Year 7 and know the teachers really well. **I feel comfortable** with them and **they know my strengths and weaknesses**. They know how to push me and get the best for me.

I'm studying Design Technology, Physics and Computer Science A Levels. They are hard work but they fit with what I want to do as a career. I found it helpful to talk through the subjects that I wanted to study to make sure I chose the right ones for me. **There are plenty of opportunities in our Sixth Form**, for example, enrichment clubs like Young Enterprise and Voluntary Programme.



Shireland has the subjects I want to study at Sixth Form. I did consider going somewhere else but I'm glad I stayed here. There's a good atmosphere and it is different to being in the main school. **We have our own block and have study to get our work done**. I'm applying for some of the enrichment programme opportunities like Gold D of E.

I went to another local school and wanted to come to Shireland because I've heard that it's got a good reputation. **The staff here are really friendly and work us hard. They want the best for us.** We can also get involved in extra-curricular activities which will help with my CV.



I really like Shireland Sixth Form. The atmosphere is good. We went on a team building day which helped me get to know others. Each day I have some study sessions, so we have our own block to use. I'm enjoying being here and pleased I applied.



I wanted to have a change from my previous school and heard Shireland has a good reputation. I know of other students who have come here and said good things. **We get given our own laptop and teachers give us lots of work online to help us with independent study.** We also have a Futures lesson each week, which helps us with careers planning.



Follow us on social media for the latest in news and information.

  @ShirelandSixthform

 @ShirelandSixth



Our students' destinations

Our students receive continuous support with their decision-making process for their chosen career pathway. For many of our students this entails an application to university. Below is a list of some of the universities where our students were accepted and are continuing their education.



ABERYSTWYTH
UNIVERSITY



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University



UCB
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL BIRMINGHAM



UWE
Bristol
University of the West of England



DE MONTFORT
UNIVERSITY
LEICESTER



University of Hertfordshire
UH



KING'S
College
LONDON



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER



London
South Bank
University



UCL



The University of
Nottingham



UN
University of Northampton



University of
Reading



ROYAL HOLLOWAY
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



STAFFORDSHIRE
UNIVERSITY



WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David



Aston University



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



University
of Bolton



Coventry
University



UEA University of
East Anglia
NORWICH UNITED KINGDOM



Keele
UNIVERSITY



The
University of
Law



Loughborough
University



ual:
university of the arts
london



Newman
University
LEICESTER



NTU Nottingham Trent
University



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH



University of
Roehampton
London



University of
Southampton



Swansea
University
Prifysgol Aberlawe



UNIVERSITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON



Applied Human Biology BTEC

Exam board: Pearson EdExcel

Studying the course

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Human Biology is intended to be for Sixth Form students who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the health and health science sectors.

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. Everyone taking this qualification will study three mandatory units, covering the following content areas:

- Unit 1: Principles of Applied Human Biology
- Unit 2: Practical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases
- Unit 3: Human Biology and Health Issues.

In addition to the Applied Human Biology specific content outlined above, the requirements of the qualification will mean that learners develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by higher education and employers; for example, an opportunity to concentrate over an extended period on their research and investigative techniques – a key skill needed to progress successfully into higher education, employment or self-employment.

Career pathways

In this qualification learners will study Applied Human Biology which forms the foundation of the health and health science sectors. The sectors are wide ranging, including, for example, nursing, midwifery, and allied health including life sciences, clinical biomedical sciences and physiological sciences. There are approximately 50,000 people employed in applied health science occupations and over 3 million nurses in the UK.

When combined with other qualifications within a two-year study programme, students can progress into higher education, such as BSc (Hons) in Occupational Health if taken alongside, for example, a Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care; BSc in Nursing or Midwifery if taken alongside, for example, a Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care; BSc (Hons) in Sport Science if taken alongside, for example, a Pearson BTEC Level 3 in Sport; BSc (Hons) in Nursing if taken alongside, for example, A Levels in Psychology and Sociology.



Applied Science BTEC

Exam board: Pearson EdExcel

Studying the course

Choosing to study the Applied Science BTEC is a great decision to make for lots of reasons. More and more employers are looking for well qualified people to work within the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Your BTEC will sharpen your skills for employment or further study and help you to achieve your ambitions and career goals.

The course has been developed in the science sector. It focuses on giving students the opportunity to acquire technical and employability skills, knowledge and understanding which are transferable. The course enables individuals to meet changing circumstances, whether these arise from a shift in their own status or employment, or general changes in applied science practice, provision, or environment.

An integral part of our teaching in Applied Science BTEC is practical work and all students will be expected to carry out scientific procedures including colorimeters, microscopes, titration, making standard solutions, thin and paper chromatography.

As research and communication are an integral part of Applied Science BTEC all students are provided with textbooks and outstanding teacher-created resources to support their knowledge and understanding of the course content.

Career pathways

95% of universities and colleges in the UK accept students who have successfully completed a BTEC qualification including competitive Russell Group universities. Graduates with an Applied Science BTEC qualification are highly employable as it is a fundamental subject for careers in the science and health sectors. There are many other routes that you can take with an Applied Science BTEC qualification. These include Forensic Scientist, Science Technician, medical sciences, biochemical sciences or environmental sciences. Other possible career paths could include NHS careers, engineering and education.

Fine Art A Level

Exam board: EdExcel

Studying the course

"The arts are integral to our understanding of the world, as important as reading, writing, geography and arithmetic." (Nicholas Serota Director of the Tate, 2012).

Art, craft and design encourages creative thinking skills and develops visual literacy. Industry's demands for an increasingly innovative and globally competitive workforce, make learning in this subject ever more relevant to young people.

The discipline of drawing is at the foundation of other skills in art. It is used as a tool, by which students can analyse, record and translate the world around them. Critical studies enhance and underpin practical teaching, where students engage with artists, designers and architects of contemporary and historically significant, as well as culturally diverse contexts. Analysing wider issues and concepts, developing critical-thinking and imitating the processes, methods and media used by artists, inspire students to embrace their own creativity and individual self-expression.

Career pathways

Art and Design is a broad subject that encompasses so many of the exciting and varied skills associated with employment in the creative industries. Through studying this in A Level, developing creative thought processes and improving technical skills and art critical knowledge, students then open the door to studying the subject further. For example, Foundation Studies in Art and Design and then onto a related degree course in which they will produce a range of different styles of work and create their own portfolio.

For employment there may be opportunities to work in local galleries, design offices, graphics companies and retail as well as the chance to work as a commercial artist.



Biology A Level

Exam board: AQA

Studying the course

Biology A Level provides you with the opportunity to become involved in the study of living things. As a Shireland Sixth Form biology student, you will study topics such as cell biology, neuroscience, evolutionary biology and ecology.

Biologists now find themselves as one of the top ten most employable graduates; with a 100% pass rate at biology, we have the experience to support your success in this subject.

An integral part of our teaching is practical work and all students will be expected to use biological equipment including colorimeters, microscopes, ecological sampling and microbial growth apparatus. As research and communication are an integral part of Biology A Level, all students are provided with subsidised textbooks and outstanding teacher-created resources to support their knowledge and understanding of the course content.

Career pathways

Graduates with a biology degree are highly employable, as it is a fundamental subject for careers in the science and health sectors. There are many other routes which you can take with a biology degree. These include medical sciences, biochemical sciences or environmental sciences. Other possible career paths could include NHS careers, engineering and education.



Business Studies BTEC

Exam board: Pearson, BTEC National Extended Certificate in Business

Studying the course

This course has been created in collaboration with over 5,000 universities, employers and professional bodies; with employability at the heart, so that learners can develop the skills and confidence they will need to step into a prosperous future. With a track record built over 30 years of learner success, BTEC Nationals are widely recognised by industry and higher education as the signature vocational qualification at Level 3. They provide progression to the workplace either directly or via study at a higher level. Proof comes from YouGov research, which shows that 62% of large companies have recruited employees with BTEC qualifications. What's more, well over 100,000 BTEC students apply to UK universities every year and their BTEC Nationals are accepted by over 150 UK universities and higher education institutes for relevant degree programmes either on their own or in combination with A Levels.

Curriculum-related trips and experienced guest speakers are used throughout the course to support your business studies development by providing a real-life context. Business Studies BTEC will see students complete a total of four units over the course of two years. Two units will be assessed externally and two units are completed through coursework that is assessed internally.

Career pathways

Business graduates are highly employable due to the nature of the real-life skills and knowledge developed. The range of career choices considerably widens through gaining a business qualification. You might consider working in marketing, human resources or management.

Studying business can also lead to careers in almost any sector of industry, from banking to fashion, every company needs business-minded individuals.

Chemistry A Level

Exam board: AQA

Studying the course

Chemistry is the study of the composition, structure, properties and reactions of substances. Chemistry seeks to explain everything that we see around us daily on a molecular, atomic or even sub-atomic level. From how the food we eat provides our cells with energy for us to function, to how the materials which make up the chair you are sitting on interact with each other to prevent you from falling to the floor.

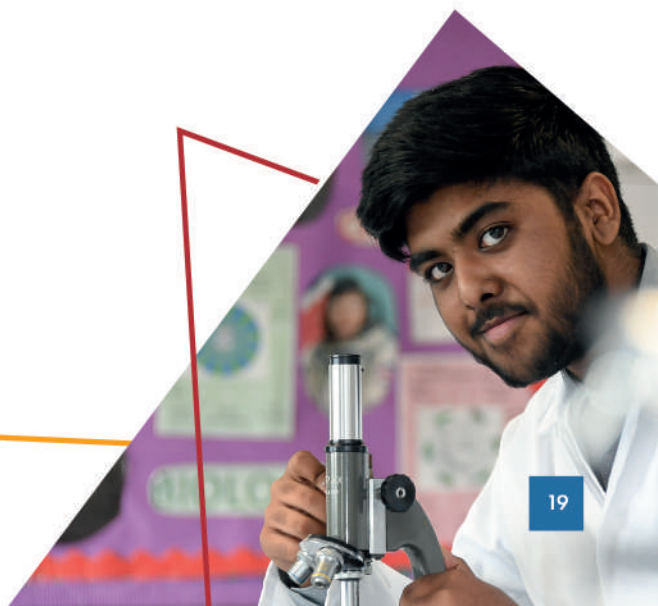
Chemistry explores the building blocks of all living and non-living substances and tries to explain why certain substances interact with each other, how they interact and what happens when they interact.

Chemistry is a popular science and we have excellent laboratory facilities, which the facilities allow the students a wide variety of learning activities including formal lectures, practical sessions and group work.

Career pathways

This qualification can lead to careers in areas such as medicine, pharmacy and dentistry. It is also extremely useful for careers in the biological sciences, physics, mathematics and analytical chemistry.

Please note: you will need a Chemistry A Level qualification if you wish to study Veterinary Medicine or Medicine at university. Chemistry can also be useful for people who intend to study subjects like Law and Philosophy, this is because it demonstrates an ability to understand difficult concepts.



Computer Science A Level

Exam board: OCR

Studying the course

There is no doubt of society's need for the use of computers and computing technology. It has enhanced our lives for the better and continues to grow and adapt, as a fundamental part of everyday living. The need for competent and capable citizens to work in the field of computer science is also in extremely high demand.

Studying an A Level qualification in Computer Science will provide you with the necessary knowledge, understanding and applications of essential elements of computer technology. It will prepare you for studying Computer Science at degree level which will, in turn prepare you for a successful career in one of the many computing-related fields.

Taking A Level Computer Science at Shireland Sixth Form means you will be taught by enthusiastic specialist teachers with a true passion for the subject. The dedicated staff will teach you about the theory of computer science and develop your skills in computational thinking, and problem solving, which are crucial for success in the workplace and wider world. The first year of Computer Science will serve as an in-depth study of computer science theory and the fascinating topics contained within. In year two, students will further their study of computer science theory and use this theoretical knowledge to create a robust, computer program to solve a real-world problem, making use of an industry-standard computer programming language.

Career pathways

A Level Computer Science as a subject can lead to a variety of careers or higher education courses. The skills it develops can lead to Systems Developer, Web Developer, Computer Science Teacher, Software Applications Developer, Games Developer, Multimedia Programmer, Software Tester, Network Engineer, IT Trainer, Social Media Manager, Database Engineer.



Dance A Level

Exam board: AQA

Studying the course

The Dance A Level course is delivered in state-of-the-art facilities including a premium dance studio. Dance at Shireland is a fast-evolving subject and goes from strength to strength each year. The department has first class international recognition.

Dance at Shireland is a dynamic qualification that encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as teamwork, communication and problem solving. Students have endless opportunities to create, devise, perform and compete.

Collaborations with external providers such as the Hippodrome Education Network offers opportunities to channel talent in the right direction. Students have the opportunity to take part in extra-curricular activities, to strengthen practical technique and confidence, as well as competitive performances in and around the country if they choose to.

Career pathways

The higher education pathways stemming from Dance A Level are endless. Due to the varied course content, it prepares students for future career choices, which involve the higher order organisation skills, communication, problem solving, competence in both written and practical tasks, the ability to argue and make judgements through analysis, compare and contrast, research effectively, choreograph to a brief and perform set material.

Career pathways after higher education: performing, choreographing, directing, stage production, critique and reviews, reporting, dance company owner, exam moderator, competition organiser, events manager, costume designer, teacher of Dance or Performing Arts, college/university lecturer.

Drama (Level 3 Diploma in Creative and Performing Arts)

Exam board: RSL

Studying the course

Studying acting at Shireland gives you access to industry standard facilities, including a studio space, fully equipped theatre with lighting and sound equipment. The teaching staff are outstanding, enthusiastic and experienced, making the course relevant, exciting and enjoyable for all. The results for Sixth Form acting courses have been consistently exceptional, with 100% of learners achieving distinction grades for the past three years.

We work in conjunction with Birmingham Hippodrome Creative, as well as several practitioners currently working within the industry including actors, directors, agents and film crews, meaning you receive relevant and up to date advice on working within the industry.

The course is practically focused and has flexible units that can be tailored to the needs and interests of each individual student. It is fast paced, exciting and full of opportunities.

This Department for Education approved course is designed to equip you with the skills and expertise needed to progress into diverse roles within the creative and performing arts industry. A qualification in acting is not just about being an actor, the skills and experience you gain through this course will support you in all aspects of your future.

Career pathways

Future Courses: You may study a variety of degree level courses related to the performing arts sector.

Employment: Due to the vocational nature of the course you would be ideally placed to gain employment within the creative arts sector, an industry that has hundreds of different job roles (performance, technical and administrative).

Soft Skills: A qualification in acting proves that you are confident, a good public speaker, an effective communicator, a team player and a creative thinker which are skills that are highly sought after by a range of employers and universities.



English Language A Level

Exam board: AQA

Studying the course

“The limits of my language are the limits of my universe.”

As a student of English Language, you will refine your ability to take apart and put back together words, sentences, paragraphs, even texts.

This A Level requires students to not only critically engage with writers but analyse their own creativity. The course considers aspects of language and social diversity, language as a tool for communication and language acquisition in children. It also allows for students to take part in their own investigation of language in action.

As an academic and core subject, English Language A Level is valued by higher education providers. Any degree course requires an advanced level of literacy, communication and thinking skills, all of which are fostered by the rigorous, analytical approach taught at A Level.

Career pathways

Like English Literature, English Language as a subject can lead to an almost endless variety of careers. Because of their highly developed communication skills, English graduates go on to pursue rewarding careers in publishing, journalism, broadcasting, teaching, training and coaching, social work and mentoring. English Language is an analytical subject. The teaching methodology reflects this and therefore as a course it may well compliment other analytical subjects such as the Sciences. However, the creative aspect may appeal to Arts students who enjoy using their imagination.

Students with strong A Levels in English sometimes elect to study Law at university, leading to a range of lucrative career pathways in the legal profession. English can also be a strong foundation for degrees in history, media, marketing and even business and human resources.

English Literature A level

Exam board: AQA

Studying the course

"The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries."

The study of English Literature is, ultimately, the study of humanity, in the broadest sense. Great literature reflects the great moments of historical, political and social change, throughout history, told by those who lived through them. And yet, it is more than that. It is a deeply compassionate, personal insight into what it means to be human, at a world level, but also at an intimate and personal level.

Lovers of literature broaden their understanding of themselves and those around them. As an academic and core subject, English Literature A Level is valued by higher education providers. Any degree course requires an advanced level of literacy, communication and thinking skills, all of which are fostered by the rigorous, analytical approach taught at A Level.

Career pathways

English as a subject can lead to an almost endless variety of careers. Because of their highly developed communication skills, English graduates go on to pursue rewarding careers in publishing, journalism, broadcasting and writing, teaching, training and coaching, social work, youth work and mentoring. Many even consider careers in the political arena, or local government, since an understanding of world events often promotes an interest in government and social change.

Students with strong A Levels in English sometimes elect to study Law at university, leading to a range of lucrative career pathways in the legal profession. English can also be a strong foundation for degrees in history, media, marketing, communications and even business.



Further Maths A Level

Exam board: Pearson Edexcel

Studying the course

A Level Further Mathematics must be combined with A Level Mathematics and cannot be studied alone. A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics are taught in parallel throughout Year 12 and 13, incorporating a mixture of direct teaching and independent study. The course is designed for those who have a passion for mathematics and enjoy studying the subject.

The breakdown of the course is shown below. The two option papers are most likely to be those listed below but may vary depending upon the interests of the group and skills base.

- Further Pure Mathematics one:
Topics will include proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus and further vectors
- Further Pure Mathematics two:
Further techniques involving complex numbers, algebra and functions, calculus, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, and differential equations.
- Further Mathematics options one: Further Statistics:
Topics include Poisson and binomial distributions, hypothesis testing, central limit theorem, chi squared tests, probability generating functions.
- Further mathematics option two:
Further Mechanics, Momentum and impulse, collisions, centres of mass, work and energy, elastic strings and springs.

Career pathways

Further Mathematics is a major benefit for university courses in mathematics, sciences or engineering, and for those who enjoy the subject and it is likely to greatly enhance university applications.

Geography A Level

Exam board: OCR

Studying the course

Geography is a subject highly valued by universities as an A Level choice. It is recognised as one of eight facilitating subjects. This means that universities can favour students who have completed Geography at A Level, due to the blend of skills that has been developed in the Sixth Form years.

Your Geography A Level course covers a range of human and physical topics and the complex interactions between both. You learn to evaluate, compare, contrast and analyse case studies at a local, national and global scale. You learn how to present this information both in examinations and in coursework. These skills can be transferred to the world of work and higher education.

Whilst we do work hard in lessons, Geography is also fun! We spend time on field trips studying Geography in the real world to offer you the opportunity to experience what they study and to see how important it is as a subject in shaping our lives. Attending the fieldwork is a compulsory element of the course. We heavily subsidise the trips, with families asked to make a small contribution.

Career pathways

Graduates with a Geography degree are highly employable. The subject covers both the arts and science and is often regarded as a broad-based subject that really fits well for future careers. Geography graduates can specialise in environment and sustainability jobs, managerial positions in business, town and country planning, teaching, Law, Medicine, veterinary science, healthcare, laboratory work, accountancy, IT, engineering, etc. The list is endless.



German A Level

Exam board: AQA

Studying the course

We strongly believe in languages as a skill for life and want German to be a subject that you really enjoy and find rewarding. Our objective is to enable you to develop your languages skills to your full potential, giving you the knowledge to communicate with confidence in German.

Learning German opens the door to so many opportunities that you may never have even thought about, not just in business but in the fields of medicine, law, engineering, architecture, art, science and of course travel and tourism. Learning German can lead to great job opportunities across Europe and the world as Germany has a diverse industry sector and strong economy.

The British Government realises that there is a shortage of students emerging from study with a foreign language so choosing to study German at A Level is a way of boosting your employability. German is commonly used in scientific language, thanks to a strong history of research and development, and is becoming more and more prolific on the internet.

German can be combined with any subject as learning a foreign language improves your skills of analysis and interpretation and this can complement all your studies.

You will be taught by specialised, experienced and very enthusiastic teachers who use a wide range of teaching activities and strategies to enhance your enjoyment of learning the language whilst developing your linguistic skills. The department also offers a range of extra-curricular activities such as trips to Germany and the Birmingham Christmas Market in order to enhance the language learning experience in our Academy.

Career pathways

German as a subject can lead to a variety of exciting and fulfilling careers and higher education courses. Language skills are valued in many areas, such as medicine, national and international business, translation and interpreting, journalism, politics, education and travel & tourism.

Health and Social Care BTEC

Exam board: Edexcel

Studying the course

The health and social care sector comprises two sub sectors: health care and social care. Health care encompasses all hospital activities, medical, nursing homes and GP services, for example. The social care sector includes residential nursing care, residential nursing facilities, domiciliary care and social work.

By studying the Health and Social Care BTEC you will be able to progress in the sector through degree programmes in nursing, midwifery, social work, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and pharmacy for example. There are more than 300 distinct career paths in this sector. The sector is a major employer; almost four million people across the UK. You can gain an enormous sense of personal achievement by making a positive difference to people's lives. A career in social care offers long-term employment prospects, with great opportunities for promotion and progression.

The Health and Social Care department have highly motivated staff who will provide you with all the support you need. You will be expected to work hard as we have high expectations, but a fun and supportive environment will be created to help you succeed.

Career pathways

On completion of this course you could complete higher education or training, employment or an apprenticeship. This could lead to a career in nursing, midwifery, social work, speech therapy, teaching, health promotion, physiotherapy, occupational health or a general degree in health studies, psychology, sociology, social policy or criminology.



History A Level

Exam board: AQA

Studying the course

History is a very popular A Level choice, with over 70,000 students choosing it this year across Britain. As well as being highly respected by all universities, for a variety of courses the qualification itself can prove extremely useful, hence its popularity.

History is a great A Level for progression into social science and humanities courses at university, such as History, English, Law and Economics. However, it is by no means restricted to being relevant for these courses alone. Many leading universities also respect science students taking History as the analytical and writing skills gained from it are invaluable in any field. Its depth, variety and challenging nature means that the skills students learn from History A Level will remain with them no matter what they choose to study at a higher level.

AQA A Level History allows student to study three units and explore a diverse range of historical periods. The depth study and breadth study are examined units, with a piece of coursework forming the non-examined assessment.

Career pathways

Having developed analytical, writing, debate and detective skills History students are primed for a huge range of careers choices. Areas include: law, politics, public sector, business, marketing, journalism, economics, teaching, academia, insurance, social research, archaeology and curation (museums, galleries, archives and libraries).



Information Technology BTEC

Exam board: Edexcel

Studying the course

IT is now embedded in our society and is a vital part of industries as diverse as entertainment, banking and manufacturing. The growth in IT services, networking and data management is a key feature in global economies and the IT job market remains strong.

The Information Technology BTEC course will open doors in both an academic or career-based pathways for sixth form students, which can offer the foundation for further study at university and progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT.

Throughout the course there are several opportunities to go out and see ICT in operation, as well as having several industry specialists to connect with. This qualification is designed for sixth form students who are interested in studying IT systems, sharing information and who learn best by completing practical/coursework elements. If this is you, then a BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology could be right for you!

Career pathways

The IT BTEC course is designed to provide both academic and vocational experiences. It will equip learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding required for a wide range of job roles in IT and business. Alternatively, students' progress to higher education at HND or degree level. It can easily lead on to careers in e-commerce, business administration, network management, finance, software engineering, systems analysis, marketing, web development, web administration, programming, knowledge management and telecommunications.

Mathematics A Level

Exam board: Pearson Edexcel

Studying the course

The course allows you to build on your previous understanding of Mathematics from GCSE. You will expand your knowledge of Mathematics in algebra and functions and will learn to use Mathematics in the real world by studying mechanics and statistics. All these elements of the course make it applicable to almost any future career you might be considering. The modules covered in this course will also help you with other A Level courses such as Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

You will have access to online interactive resources that have thorough worked solutions so that you can really understand how problems are solved. The resources will provide you with many tips and hints on how to best prepare yourself for each unit so that you have a good understanding of all the basics before you begin the unit. You can access this from home, so you can work at your own pace and ensure you have grasped an understanding of everything.

This course also allows you to explore the use of technology, through the use of graphical calculators. You will be given one at the start of the course, which you can use in lessons and in the exams. The calculator is very expensive, but we will provide this for you, so you do not have to purchase one. It's an excellent tool to help you visualise graphs and solve lots of exciting equations.

Career pathways

There are many careers you can go into with a Mathematics A Level. Those that pursue a degree involving Mathematics are very likely to earn more. The list of careers is endless. Careers can range from engineering, accounting, investment banking, business analyst, teaching and many more.



Music (Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners)

Exam board: RSL

Studying the course

It is a proven scientific fact that studying music is good for you. It is the only subject in existence that strengthens every part of the brain, and playing or listening to music releases dopamine, which is the body's 'feel-good' chemical – it literally makes you feel better! It also increases your chances of making friends, having fun, and is definitely a way of improving your soft skills, which is something that all universities and employers have said are incredibly important.

Studying Music at Shireland Sixth Form gives you access to the best facilities in the region, and to teachers who have first-hand experience of the music industry. At the heart of our facilities is a recording studio, which you will be trained how to use, as well as a fantastic performance space. We only buy professional quality instruments and equipment. In our faculty we have staff with degrees in Music Production and Music, staff who have signed recording and publishing deals with major record labels, staff who have toured the UK, and staff who run performing arts companies in their own time.

This is a vocational course, specifically designed to prepare you for a successful career in the music industry, whether on the stage or behind-the-scenes. You will not only develop your practical musical skills, but you will also develop a variety of hugely important personal skills, such as confidence, resilience and teamwork. Units include music event management, careers in music, audition skills and performing music.

Career pathways

Before the COVID pandemic, the music industry was growing year upon year, reaching a high in 2020 where it contributed £5.8billion to the UK's economy and employing 197,168 people full-time. Thanks to Brexit and COVID-19, these figures decreased in 2021, but figures from 2022 show that the music industry is already bouncing back, and it is predicted that it will surpass the above figures within a few years. There is never a better time to aspire to be a part of the UK's vibrant music industry.

Whilst musicians, composers, songwriters and lyricists make up the majority of employment in the industry, there are a wide variety of 'behind-the-scenes' roles also available, for example recording engineers, live sound engineers, roadies, stylists, record company executives, managers, the list goes on!

Philosophy, Ethics and Religion A Level

Exam board: WJEC/ Eduqas

Studying the course

Philosophy, Ethics and Religion is an extremely well-respected discipline in both the academic and employment world. A good qualification in this subject will show that you can think about important issues and develop problem-solving skills. All careers are governed by ethical principles and an ability to understand these would certainly be deemed an advantage by employers. This subject will also develop critical analysis skills, which are vital for a wide range of Degree level subjects.

Reasons to choose this subject:

- Improve ethical and philosophical thinking skills and the ability to think outside of the box.
- Study topics that explain the diversity of life and religion in the modern world.
- Develop communication skills and learn to clearly express your views and increase your self-confidence.
- Understand contemporary ethical and religious issues such as immigration and religious fundamentalism.
- Investigate ultimate questions such as "why does evil exist?" and "what is the purpose of life?"
- Allows you to explore how religious and non-religious beliefs and practices shape and influence the world we live in.

Career pathways

Philosophy, Ethics and Religion is an excellent preparation for a huge variety of career choices including:

- Law
- Media
- Teaching
- Medical Science
- Journalism
- Social and community services



Photography A Level

Exam board: EdExcel

Studying the course

The creative industries earned £104 billion last year for the UK economy. There are currently 1.7 million people employed in the creative sector. With such a thriving industry, it is vital that young people are aware of the many exciting opportunities available to them through following this educational pathway.

Photography is a broad subject that encompasses so many of the exciting and varied skills associated with employment in the creative industries. Through studying this in A Level, developing creative thought processes and improving technical skills and art critical knowledge, students then open the door to studying the subject further.

Career pathways

Individuals studying Photography can progress to Foundation Studies in Art or Photography and then onto a related degree course in which they will produce a range of different styles of work and create their own portfolio. For employment there may be opportunities to work in local galleries, design offices, graphics companies and retail as well as the chance to work as a commercial artist.



Physics A Level

Exam board: AQA

Studying the course

Modern Physicists have been responsible for some of the greatest achievements of our era. Just think – without our understanding of atomic theory there would be no computers, no internet, no smartphones. The digital age as we know it would not exist. Without quantum mechanics there would be no lasers or satellite navigation. Who knows where future scientific discoveries and inventions will take us?

If you're up for shaping tomorrow's world, an A Level in Physics could take you to the frontline of the latest emerging technology. Whether you are working in a field directly related to physics like nuclear physics or astronomy, or one that simply uses the skills you've gained, your Physics A Level can really help you to make a difference.

The aim of the course is to provide a stepping-stone from GCSE to A Level Physics including quantum physics, medical physics, nuclear physics, mechanics and magnetism. It prepares students not only for studying Physics further but any course and career which requires logical thinking and a structured approach to problem solving.

Career pathways

Students studying Physics at Shireland have gone on to study the physical sciences at university: Physics, Engineering, Mathematics. Others have found the course beneficial in a career in medicine, or the other sciences.

The career options for physicists are too extensive to list, but here are a few: defence, astronomy, education, meteorology, energy, research, telecommunications, finance, computing, law. Highly paid careers are available for students with physics degrees.

Product Design A Level

Exam board: Eduqas

Studying the course

Product Design is a broad and varied subject that encompasses a wide and diverse range of skills, from creativity and designing, to project management and resource planning. As a subject, Product Design embodies skills that can be transferable to a whole wealth of pathways. Product Design has become ever more popular with universities citing the fact that it encourages students to think outside of the box and creatively to solve problems; problem solving being a key skill recognised by universities and employers.

Studying Product Design at Shireland embraces a broad range of areas that will encourage you to think about topics including, sustainability, social and ethical issues, material sciences and manufacturing techniques, all of which are studied alongside the coursework and practical elements of the course. We have state-of-the-art facilities, including impressive 3D printers, five workshops and several industrial level pieces of equipment.

In 2016 the Government identified that the UK needs over one million new designers and engineers to continue to lead the world in this field, as such Product Design has become an extremely popular route for students to take through to university, with the skills learned on this course supporting your future in design or engineering.

Career pathways

Graduates of Product Design are highly employable due to the variety of practical skills learned. Graduates can expect employment in the following fields: product design, graphic design, engineering, civil engineering, architecture, project management careers, skilled labour.



Psychology A Level

Exam board: Edexcel

Studying the course

Psychology is a science and is the study of brain and behaviour. We all have ideas about people and about ourselves, and psychology relates to those ideas but draws on scientific methods to build a body of knowledge about such issues. Psychology can be theoretical, looking at how the brain works and what drives our behaviour, including issues such as early childhood experiences and what happens to us as we develop. Psychology can be practical, such as in therapy and treatments as well as in the workplace, such as when devising advertisements or advising the police.

You might think of psychology as listening to people on a couch and to an extent you would be right. There is much more to it than that, however. The most important quality for anyone wanting to study psychology is to find people fascinating.

Are you intrigued by why people act in the way they do? If so, then psychology will capture your imagination.

You will need to be:

- willing to have your opinions and values challenged
- willing to listen to and take on board new ideas and novel arguments
- able to see both sides of an issue and not reject one side simply because you believe initially that it is wrong.

Psychology provides many opportunities to develop skills in assessing debates and arguments. Psychology is a very useful subject for any career where you interact with people. Occupations such as journalism, nursing and marketing all welcome trainees who have studied psychology.

Career pathways

Many fields of psychology include: clinical psychology, forensic psychology, counselling, probation, HM prison service, police, teaching, educational psychology, sports psychology and many more.

Psychology BTEC

Exam board: Edexcel

Studying the course

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Psychology is intended to be an Applied General qualification for Sixth Form learners wanting to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the applied psychology sector.

The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level and it has been designed as one third of a typical study programme, normally alongside A Levels or other applied general qualifications at Level 3. No prior study of the sector is needed. Higher education believe Psychology BTEC contributes to admission requirements for many relevant Applied Psychology courses. When combined with other qualifications within a two-year study programme, such as AS/A levels or a BTEC National Foundation Diploma or Diploma in a complementary sector, you can progress into higher education, such as a:

- BSc (Hons) in Occupational Health if taken alongside, for example, a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health and Social Care
- BSc in Education and Child Psychology if taken alongside, for example, a Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care and an A level in Biology
- BSc (Hons) in Sport Psychology if taken alongside, for example, a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science
- BSc in Forensic and Criminal Psychology if taken alongside, for example, a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Forensic and Criminal Investigation.

Career pathways

Many fields of psychology include clinical psychology, forensic psychology, counselling, probation, HM prison service, police, teaching, educational psychology, sports psychology and many more.



Sociology A Level

Exam board: AQA

Studying the course

Sociology is the study of society. It is about all kinds of social relationships that people share with each other in their families, schools and work. The methods developed by sociologists are used in other academic areas such as market research and management studies.

You will study all varieties of human experience. Social theory is also important in Sociology. It teaches us that there are no right or wrong answers when it comes to studying the way people live together. What is important for a sociologist is the ability to evaluate evidence and choose between possible explanations. You will enjoy Sociology if you are the type of person who is not afraid to have new ideas and who is not afraid to work at a demanding pace.

Career pathways

On completion of this course you could complete higher education or training, employment or apprenticeship. This could lead to a career in: social work, nursing, police force, all public-sector professions, social policy, journalism and criminology.



Sport BTEC

Exam board: EdExcel

Studying the course

Sport is a popular choice at sixth form and for university courses. This course will give you a broad range of skills and knowledge that can be used in a variety of jobs in the sports industry and can aid you when studying at university.

Your BTEC Sport course will cover an in-depth knowledge of the human body including bones, muscles and energy systems. You will learn skills critical for university such as presentation skills and sports specific coaching skills. There will be opportunities to take part in a variety of sports too.

You will enjoy this course if you like sport and the elements that go into making a successful individual in sport. This course combines your theoretical knowledge with the practical element. Therefore, individuals who can balance both elements will succeed on this course.

This course is equivalent to one A Level.

Career pathways

Sport as a subject can lead to a variety of careers or higher education courses. The following is a list of possibilities for careers and higher education courses:

- Teaching PE
- Coaching in sport
- Physiotherapy
- Sport & Exercise Science
- Leisure Management
- Nutritionist/Dietician
- Sports Psychology
- Sports Development



Textiles A Level

Exam board: EdExcel

Studying the course

Textiles at A Level is taught through the Art and Design specification and introduces students to the exciting world of design through textiles design, fashion, interior and textiles installation.

This course will give students a wide variety of experiences exploring a range of textile media, techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies including CAD/CAM. The traditional skills include dying, printing, embellishing, weaving, pattern making and manufacturing processes. The CAD/CAM skills include the use of the laser cutter for cutting or engraving patterns and shapes into fabric and the use of the computerised embroidery machine.

Career pathways

This course can lead you to many exciting career pathways such as:

- Fashion design
- Textiles design
- Interior design
- Retail buying and merchandising
- Fashion stylist
- Illustrator
- Fashion Journalist
- Trend Reporter

Travel and Tourism - Vocational

Exam board: WJEC

Studying the course

Do you love travel? Did you know that you could make a career out of it in the dynamic, diverse and expanding Travel and Tourism industry? The Travel and Tourism industry is growing at a rapid rate, it is the fourth largest industry in the UK and generates £127 billion to the UK economy, employing 2.97 million people. In the past ten years there has been a huge increase in the number of business and leisure passengers travelling. Budget airlines have contributed to expansion of the short-break market. This has led to the expansion of regional airports, in the UK and Europe. In addition, there has been a rise in hospitality management enterprises. This has subsequently created a demand for a hugely flexible, skilled workforce.

Your Travel and Tourism qualification will cover a range of topics that relate to a wide variety of sectors in the industry including accommodation, transport, airport management and travel agents.

You will learn how to communicate with customers effectively as well as evaluating and analysing the impacts of tourism in several case studies at a local, national and global scale. This will help you develop a range of skills that can be transferred to the world of work, as well as in higher education.

This subject will offer you the opportunity to experience some of the destinations you study on residential trips where you will participate in tourism activities and get the opportunity to interview current employees in the industry. This includes visits to attractions in the UK, a training session with British Airways at London Heathrow, and overseas destinations on a cruise with P&O.

Career pathways

There are many employment opportunities available for students who have studied Travel and Tourism. After completing your qualification you might be attracted by roles in retail travel, passenger transport, tourist attractions, airports, airlines, hotels, conferences and events, holiday resorts, and hospitality and entertainment. The list is endless.

You may want to build on your knowledge in higher education with a degree in a related field such as tourism, hotel or aviation management, which could lead to higher paid careers in the future.





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