



SHIRELAND
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY



SHIRELAND
SIXTH FORM



PROSPECTUS

Welcome

A very warm welcome to our prospectus. It has been designed to offer you an insight in to 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. Our best-ever set of A Level and BTEC results in 2017 are testament to that. We don't shy away from hard work; regular academic monitoring ensures students stay on track to success.

Whilst this prospectus offers a glimpse into life at Shireland Sixth Form, the best way to really understand what we do is to visit us. Feel free to contact us to arrange a tour.

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

With my best wishes,

Denise Fox
Head of Sixth Form



Welcome from Mr Irish - Shireland Principal

Shireland is a special place to work and to learn! My mission is to provide a school where students are happy and achieve well beyond their potential. Somewhere that they feel valued and important.

All of our students deserve a world class education where 'Outstanding' delivery is the expectation and the norm. To this end we have created long lasting partnerships with Microsoft Education and the Hippodrome in Birmingham to support the development of our rich curriculum that helps to bring learning to life. Technology is central to all that we do at Shireland and supports staff in preparing students who are confident in the use of technology as they consider their career aspirations. We help them to develop these aspirations not only through academic achievement but also through an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities led by our staff.

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What is our academic curriculum offer?

Level 3 Programme

For our Level 3 Programme students have a free choice of 3 subjects, which are studied for 2 years. Occasionally we may be able to accommodate a fourth subject. We have over 25 subjects available, both at A Level and BTEC. Our subject links on the website offer a further insight into the course content, as well as the method of assessment. Each subject has an entry requirement.

It can be a daunting prospect choosing the right 3 subjects. Our team of staff are here to help students and families every step of the way. Our Open Evening offers a chance to discuss course content with subject teachers in more detail and meet current students studying the course. In addition, a number of local universities attend our Open Evening and are on hand to answer questions relating to appropriate subjects to study at degree level.

Students apply using our online form and then invited to attend an interview with one of our senior leadership team. Our interview process offers families and students the time to consider the suitability of the subjects chosen. Sometimes students change their minds after application, this can be accommodated through discussions with the Sixth Form team throughout the academic year.

Level 2 Programme

Sometimes students have attained a good set of GCSE grades but not attained a grade 4 or above in Maths or English GCSE. If this is the case, we offer students the opportunity to complete a one year Level 2 Programme. Currently, the programme includes a compulsory Business Admin qualification along with an optional engineering or hospitality course. Students also study English or Maths GCSE resit. Places are offered to students on GCSE Results Day, once grades are known.

Level 1 Programme

Some of our Year 11 students study a one year Level 1 Programme, which includes completing vocational courses, as well as work experience. Students applying for this programme are interviewed accordingly.

Academic courses offered through the Sixth Form Enrichment Programme

In addition to the core curriculum our students are encouraged to take additional, appropriate academic courses including Community Languages and Further Maths AS Level. These courses are offered on individual merit.

We also offer support to students who are required to complete UCAT, BMAT and LNAT as part of their application to specific universities.

How do we enrich our Sixth Form students' lives?

Enrichment Programme

All our students access a wide range of opportunities to develop their skills, qualities and attributes to make them stand out from the rest on application to university and/or employment. Our Enrichment Programme is an integral part of the experience for our Sixth Form students. Students can take part in a range of enrichment opportunities, such as:

Young Enterprise
Duke of Edinburgh
Theatre School (acting, drama, music, backstage support roles)
Recreational sport
Voluntary Programme
E-tech employment (hardware and software development, App design)
World languages
Green Power Racing Car Project
Scratch coding club (computer science)
Chess club
Wellness Club

'Futures' Programme

All our students complete our 'Futures' Programme, which focuses on helping support students as they explore possible career pathways. Students attend a weekly lesson, during which time they complete a variety of activities in order to better understand themselves, including strengths and areas of development, as well as understanding the world of work and managing their own career plans.

Professional Pathways

Unique to Shireland Sixth Form is the Professional Pathways. The current pathways are:

Medicine
Finance and accountancy
Engineering
Law

Students attend externally organized events about their career sector, as well as workshops, careers talks, presentations and work experience; all of which are designed to help them develop plenty of evidence for their personal statements.

Transferable Skills Programme

In order to be academically successful, students need to understand how to study at Sixth Form level. They complete a Transferable Skills Programme during their tutor time, focusing on such topics as effective time management, good organisational skills, effective note-taking, becoming IT literate, developing resilience and responding effectively to feedback.

Supporting our students

Sixth Form Team

Our Sixth Form team comprises:

Mrs Fox	Head of Sixth Form and Careers
Mrs Dodd	Head of Year 12
Mrs Dhillon	Head of Year 13
Mrs Lanigan	Head of Level 1, Level 2, GCSE resits and PSHE
Mrs Atwal	Student support manager

Tutors

When students arrive in Year 12 they are assigned to a tutor who stays with them for the time that they are in Sixth Form. Each day the students start the day with tutor time from 8.45am to 9.10am. During this time tutors cover a range of topics, including transferable skills and PSHE, as well as 1:1 mentoring. Families are welcome to contact tutors at any time. Tutors have responsibility for tracking their students' attendance and punctuality, as well as supporting students with their academic studies. Tutors also write the academic references for their students.

School support staff

Students meet the school support staff who can be of help, for example the school's first aider, school nurse and safeguarding team.





What are our 2019 student destinations?

Aston University

Accountancy and Finance
Business and supply chain management
Business management
Computer Science
Engineering and Applied Science
Law
Law with management
Optometry
Pharmacy
Psychology
Social Science

Birmingham City University

Adult nursing
Business
Business Management
Criminology with Security Studies
Diagnostic radiography
Drama and English
Economics
Event Venue and Experience Management
HR Management
Law
Media
Pharmacy
Primary Education
Product design and management
Social Science

University College, Birmingham

International tourism with business management
Sports therapy
University of Birmingham
Chemical engineering
Chemistry
Civil engineering
Geology
Law
Maths
Pharmacy

University of Bristol

Law

Coventry University

Aerospace systems engineering
Applied Biosciences
Business law
Childhood and Youth Studies
English Literature
Law
Psychology
Social work

De Montford University

Dance
Health and life science
Medical Science
Product Design

University of East London

Performing Arts

Newman University

Criminology
Drama, theatre and applied performance

Ryerson University, Toronto

Business management

University of Wolverhampton

Chemical engineering
Law with Philosophy
Maths with Secondary Education
Paramedical science
Pharmaceutical science
Sport and exercise science

University of Worcester

Fire and rescue with a foundation year
Journalism and politics
Sports science

Apprenticeships

DPD – HR management
RBS – commercial banking
Real estate management

Other

Employment – DPD, Nandos

Privileges

Our students are in a school Sixth Form setting, which offers parents and families assurance that our traditional set of values and expectations is upheld. We also recognize that our students are preparing for the world of Higher Education or employment, and with that in mind, we have a number of privileges for our students.

Laptops

Students are issued with their own laptop device to use during their time in the Sixth Form. Students have full access to our online platform of study resources, including tailor-made class sites for each teaching group. Students also have specific software on their laptops for such subjects as Product Design and Computer Science. This gives our students a fantastic opportunity to be flexible in their studies, in and out of lessons. Our tech team are on hand to offer support if ever needed.

Dress code

Whilst being in a school setting we recognise the need for our students to be able to mature into young adults. As a result, we have a business dress code. The students respond well to this privilege and understand how they are role models to the rest of the school.

Dedicated study base

Students access a range of study rooms, within the Sixth Form block. There are rooms for silent study, as well as the collaborative zone, where students can work with peers.

Lunchtime pass

Students are given the privilege of attaining a lunchtime pass, subject to excellent attendance and academic progress. Students highly value this opportunity to leave the site at lunchtime.

Careers Resource Centre

Students have access to our designated careers resource centre, located on the first floor of the Sixth Form Block. Students can use a wide range of resources within the space, as well as book a one-to-one meeting with our Careers Adviser to discuss any aspect of their career ambitions.

Student leadership team

We have a pro-active, hard-working student leadership team who meet the Head of Sixth Form every week to discuss the running and development of the Sixth Form experience. We also have an active student rep team, who regularly attain the views of the whole student body and feed this into the student leadership team meetings.

Acting (RSL Level 3 Diploma in Creative and Performing Arts)

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.

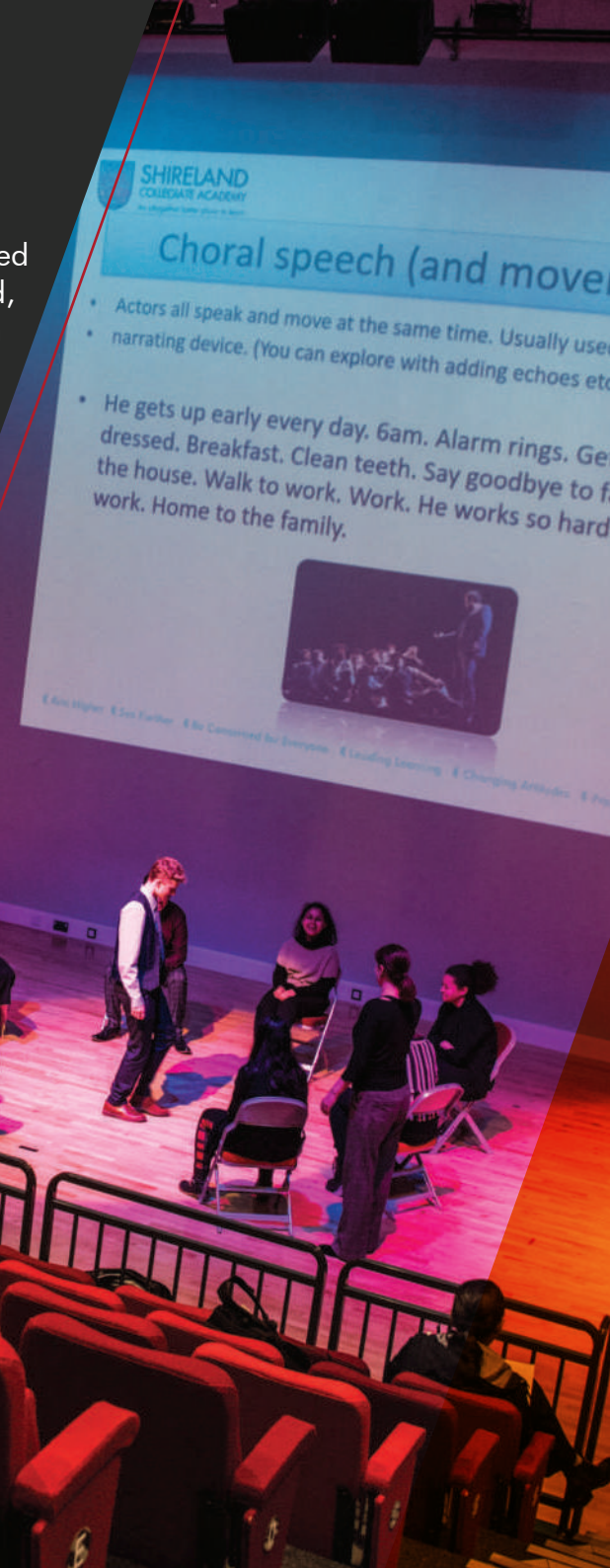
This DfE approved course is designed to equip you with the skills and expertise needed to progress into diverse roles within the creative and performing arts industry. A qualification in acting is not just about being an actor, the skills and experience you gain through this course will support you in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



Applied Science BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

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.

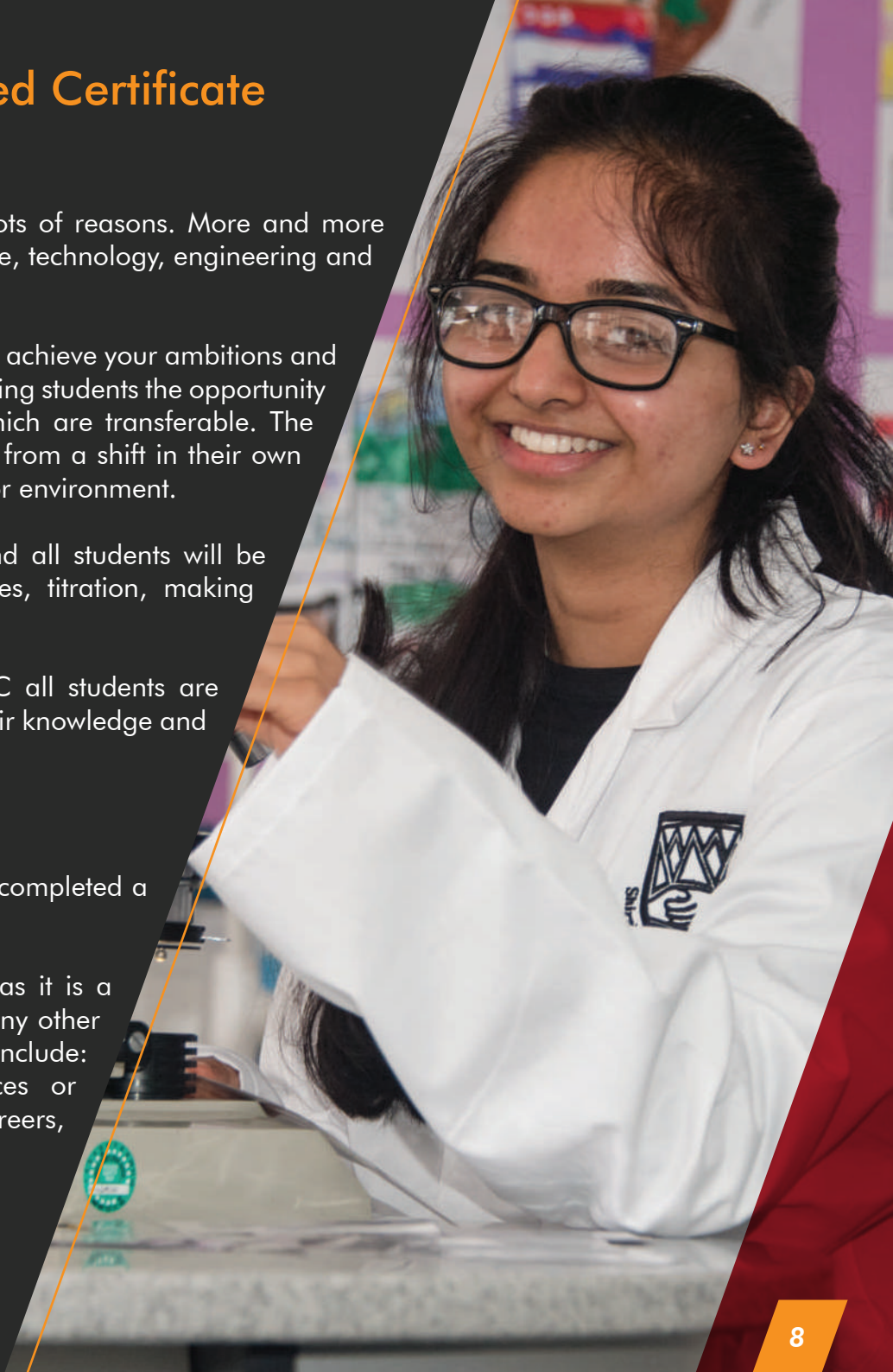
An integral part of our teaching in Applied Science BTEC is practical work and all students will be expected to carry out scientific procedures including colorimeters, microscopes, titration, making standard solutions, thin and paper chromatography.

As research and communication are an integral part of Applied Science BTEC all students are provided with text books 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 that 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 which you can take with a 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.



Art A Level

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).

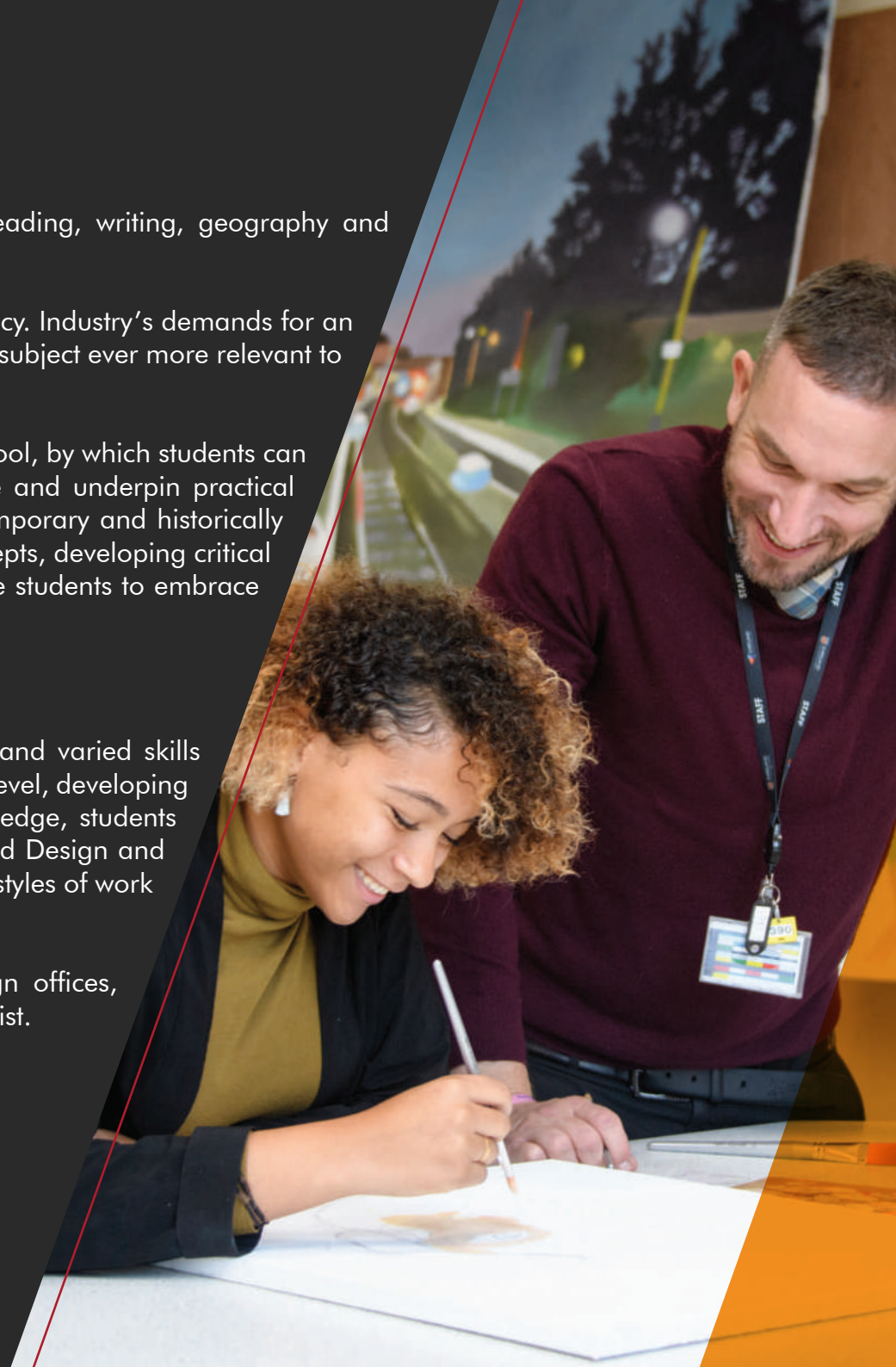
Art, craft and design encourages creative thinking skills and develops visual literacy. Industry's demands for an increasingly innovative and globally competitive workforce, make learning in this subject ever more relevant to young people.

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. 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

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 text books 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 A Level

Studying the course

Choosing Business Studies A Level will help you develop a very strong skillset to enable progression. You will develop an awareness of the world around you. Considering how volatile the economy has been in recent years, you might be interested in developing a good understanding of how the effects of certain actions can be felt globally. Studying business can help to satisfy your curiosity for the world around you.

Starting your own business empire. If you dream of becoming the next Lord Alan Sugar with your very own business empire, then the study of business can help you to develop the fundamental skills that you'll need to succeed.

Business Studies A Level will support university progression by providing you the background knowledge that you'll need and the best possible chance of success. The subject also promotes independent learning and essay writing skills which are invaluable for university study.

Studying Business Studies A Level at Shireland Sixth Form means you will be taught by experienced, dedicated staff with a true passion for the subject. All staff delivering the course have relevant industrial experience which adds to their ability to deliver the subject in an engaging manner.

Curriculum related trips and experienced guest speakers are used throughout the course to support your business studies development by providing a real-life context.

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.



Business Studies BTEC Level 3

Studying the course

The new BTEC Nationals have 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.

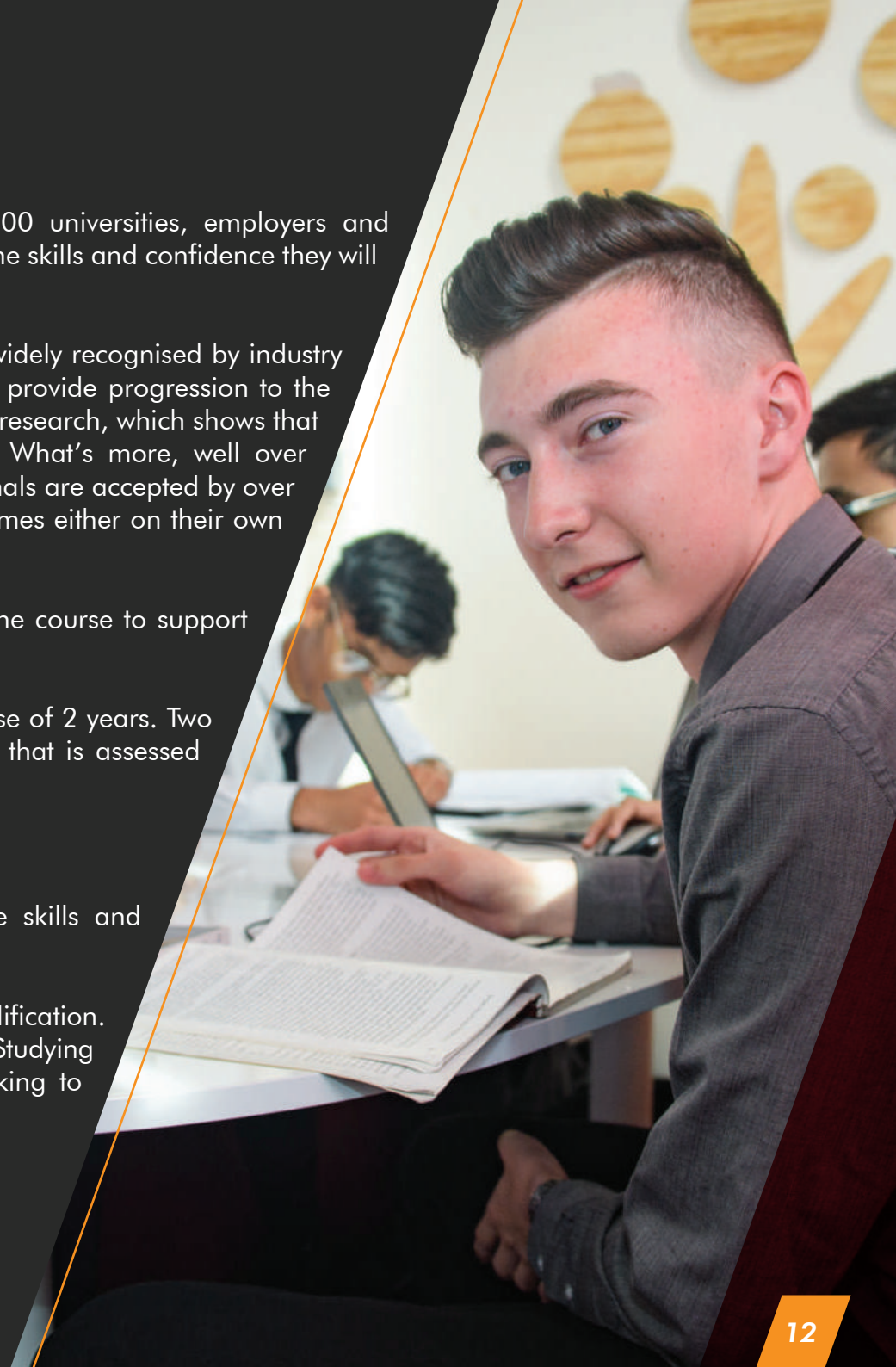
Curriculum related trips and experienced guest speakers are used throughout the course to support your business studies development by providing a real-life context.

Business Studies BTEC will see students complete a total of 4 Units over the course of 2 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

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 and access this website, 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.

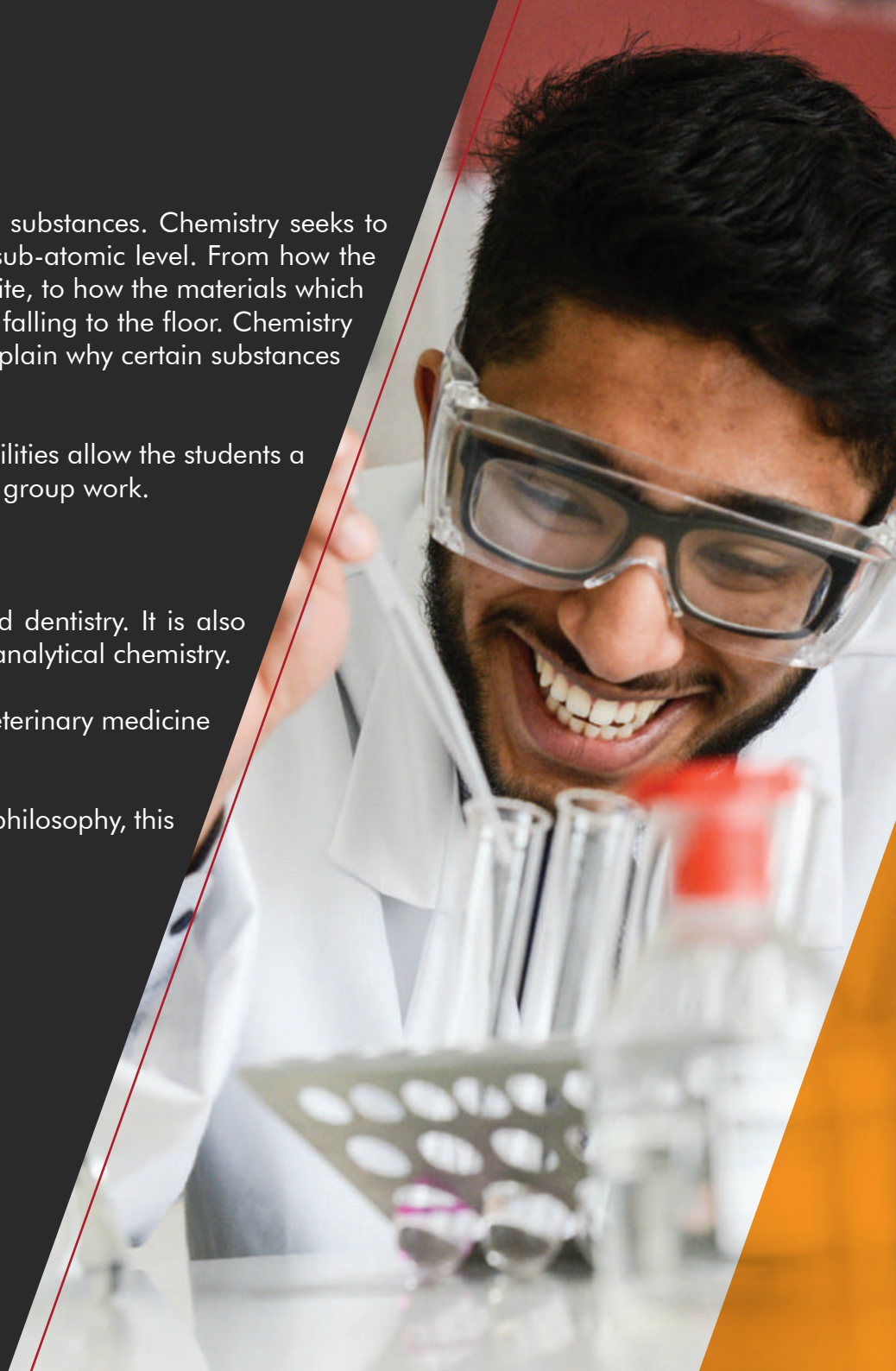
Chemistry is a popular science and we have excellent laboratory facilities. The facilities allow the students a wide variety of learning activities including formal lectures, practical sessions and group work.

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

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, capable men and women 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.



Computing BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Studying the course

There continues to be widely publicised evidence that suggests the skills gap for jobs within the computing and digital sector is expanding. In one sense this could mean a potential future with limited technology based goods and services. In another it serves as an opportunity, as there are several vacancies in computing careers that require skilled adults to fill them.

Computing BTEC is a subject that will appeal to students who are interested in a future working with computers or in a related area such as Project Management, Cybersecurity, Electronics or even Engineering. It is a very 'hands on' subject that focuses on computer programming, as well as the theoretical understanding of how computers work. During the course, students will be assessed on their ability to apply computational thinking skills to solve problems as well as their knowledge and understanding of how computer systems work.

The differences between Computing BTEC and A Level Computer science are based on the learning approach. Where A-Level Computer Science has students mainly studying theoretical aspects of the topic for further study towards knowledge mastery, BTEC Computing delivers “applied learning” that brings together knowledge and understanding with practical and technical skills. This is achieved through learners performing vocational tasks that encourage the development of appropriate vocational behaviours and transferable skills which are valued in both higher education and the workplace. Students who successfully complete a BTEC Level 3 qualification have the benefit of either moving on to further study or attempting to seek employment in a related field.

Computing BTEC will see students complete a total of 4 Units over the course of 2 years. Throughout the course some assessment will be external, where some is internally completed and assessed by a teaching specialist. Learners study 3 core units with one optional unit.

Career pathways

Similar to A Level Computer Science, Computing BTEC can lead to a variety of careers or higher education courses. The skills it develops can lead to: systems developer, web developer, games developer, cybersecurity specialist, network engineer, social media manager, database engineer plus many more.



Dance A Level

Studying the course

The Dance A Level course is delivered in state of the art facilities including a premium dance studio.

Dance overall at Shireland is a fast-evolving subject and goes from strength to strength each year. The reputation of the department has first class international recognition. Mrs Lucy Prince (Head of Dance and Creative Arts Director) leads the course pushing boundaries to a professional level incorporating collaborations from all across the globe.

Dance at Shireland is a new dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. Students have endless opportunities to create, devise, perform and compete. Collaborations with external providers such as the Birmingham Educational Network offering opportunities to channel talent in the right direction.

The students have the opportunity to take part in extracurricular activities to strengthen practical technique and confidence as well as competitive performance situations in and around the country if they chose to.

Career pathways

The Higher education pathways stemming from Dance A Level are endless. Due to the varied course content it prepares the students for 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 and site effectively, choreography 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.



English Language A Level

Studying the course

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

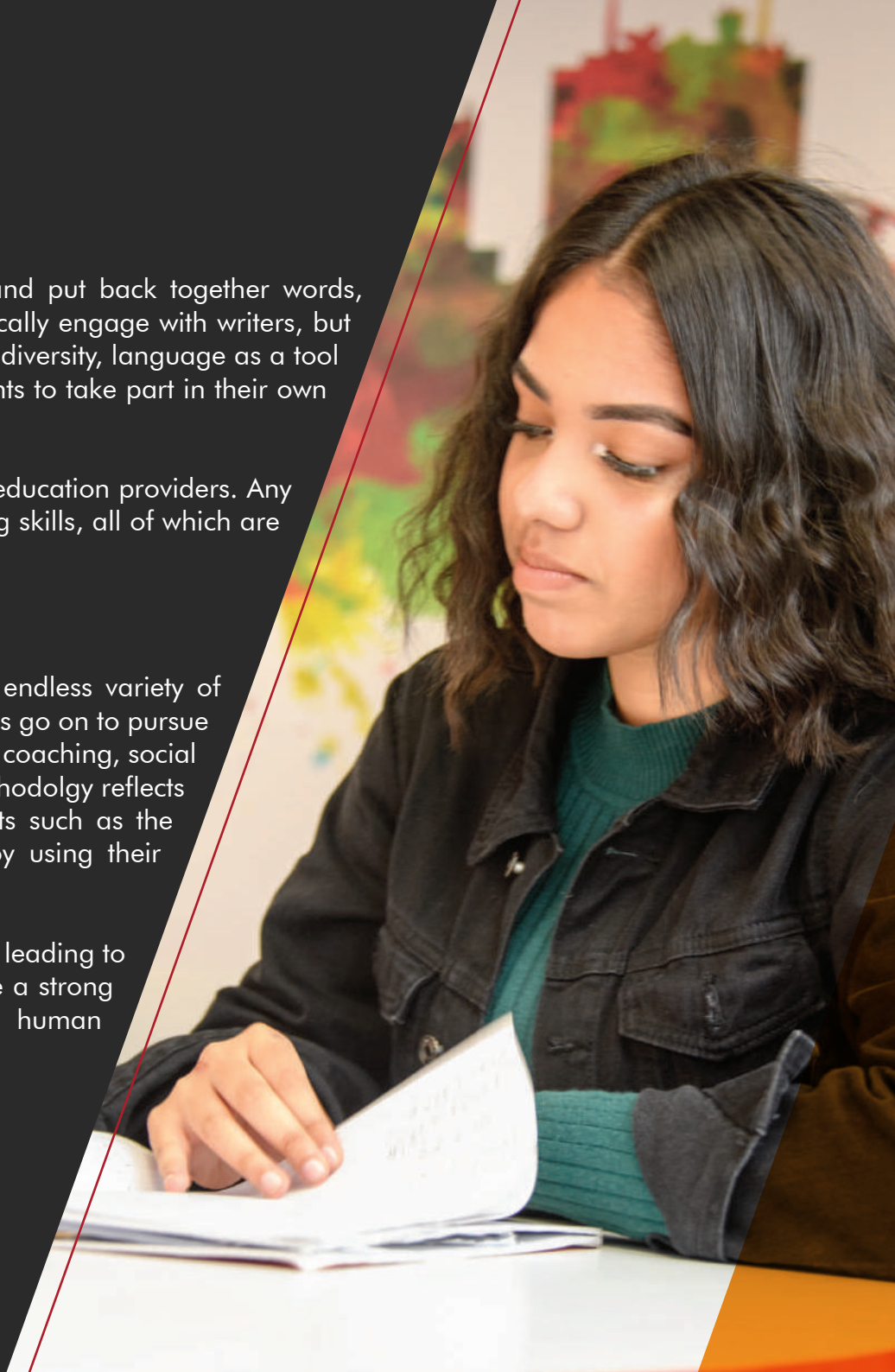
As a student of English Language, you will refine your ability to take apart and put back together words, sentences, paragraphs, even texts. This A Level requires students to not only critically engage with writers, but analyse their own creativity. The course considers aspects of language and social 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

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.

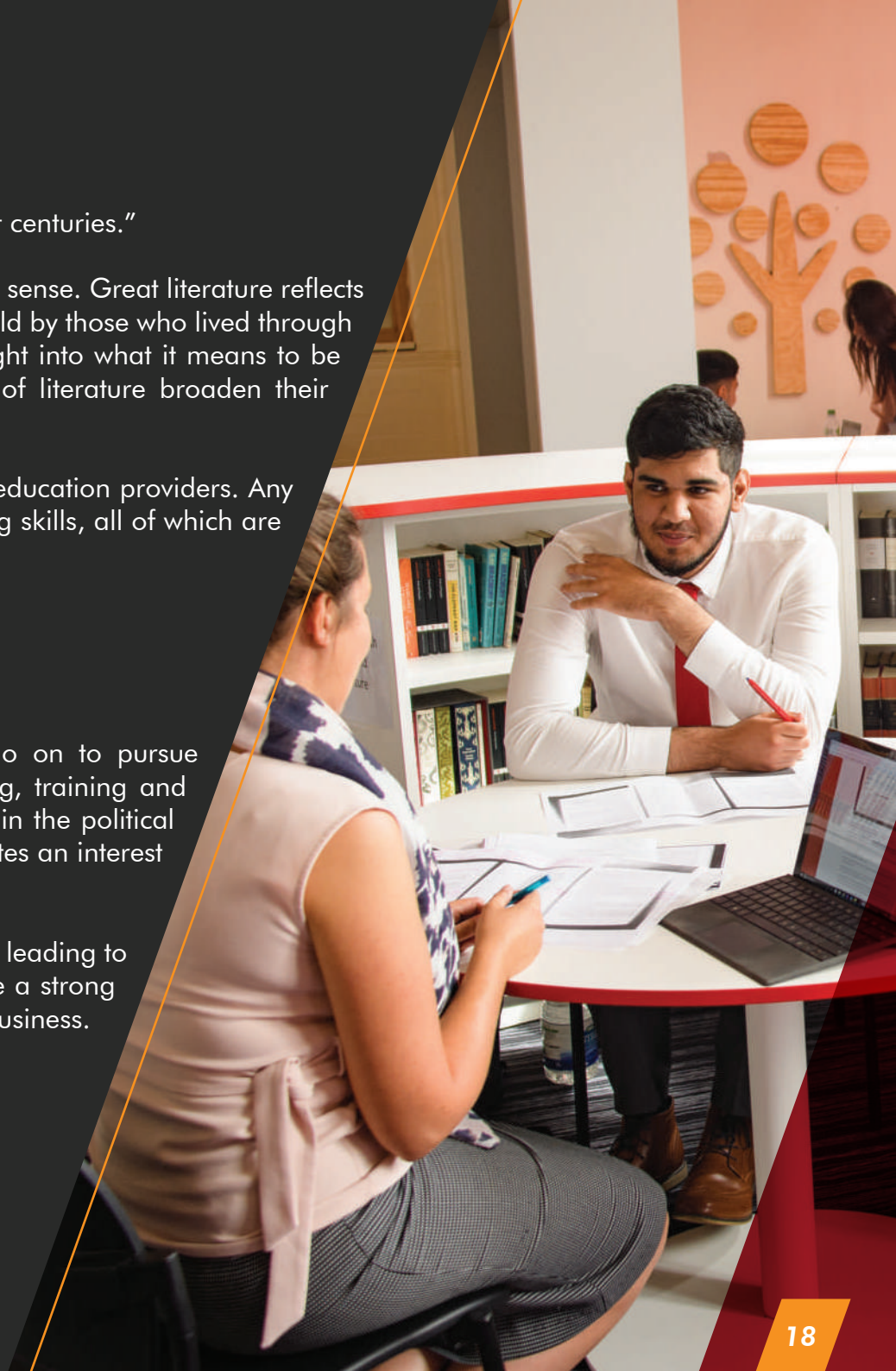
As an academic and core subject, English Literature A Level is valued by higher education providers. Any degree course requires an advanced level of literacy, communication and thinking skills, all of which are fostered by the rigorous, analytical approach taught at A Level.

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.



Geography A Level

Studying the course

Geography is a highly valued subject by universities as an A Level choice. It is recognized 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 have been developed in the Sixth Form years.

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

In 2015 the Guardian newspaper identified geography as the 'must-have' A Level.

Whilst we do work hard in lessons, geography is also fun! We spend time on day and residential trips studying geography in real-life situations to offer you the opportunity to see for yourself how important it is as a subject in shaping our lives. Attending the fieldwork is a compulsory element of the course. To show our commitment to this, 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 specialize in environment and sustainability jobs, managerial positions in business, town and country planning, teaching, law, medicine, veterinary science, healthcare, laboratory work, accountancy, IT, engineering, the list is endless.



German A Level

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.



"The range of subjects and courses available to students is **innovative and imaginative** and is extremely carefully planned to meet their precise needs and interests." - **Ofsted**





SHIRELAND
SIXTH FORM

SHIRELAND
COLLEGIATE AC/
In together better

RELEAS
TOM
TOKYO
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Health and Social Care BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

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 programs 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 apprentice. 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

Studying the course

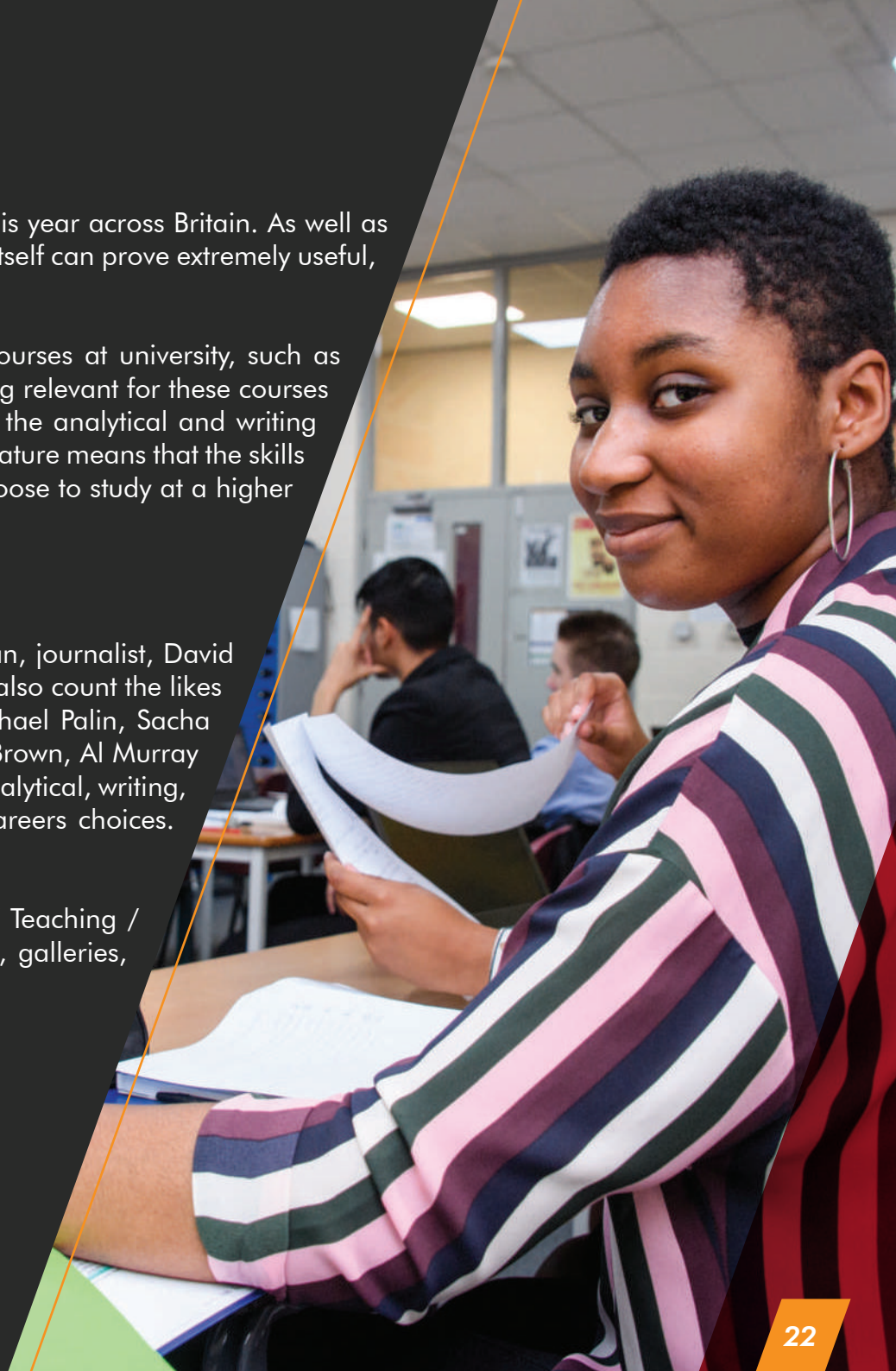
History is a very popular A Level choice, with over 70,000 students choosing it this year across Britain. As well as being highly respected by all universities, for a variety of courses the qualification itself can prove extremely useful, hence explaining its popularity.

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.

Career pathways

If you enjoy history, it can lead you to a great future. Look at Dermott Murnaghan, journalist, David Sainsbury, Chairman of Sainsbury's, Diane Abbott, MP and broadcaster. You can also count the likes of Melvin Bragg, Anita Roddick, founder of the Body Shop, Monty Python's Michael Palin, Sacha Baron Cohen (AKA Ali G) Louis Theroux, Jonathan Ross, John Prescott, Gordon Brown, Al Murray and Cold Play's Chris Martin among other history graduates. 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 Level 3 National Extended Certificate

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 pathway 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 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, telecommunications.



Mathematics A Level

Studying the course

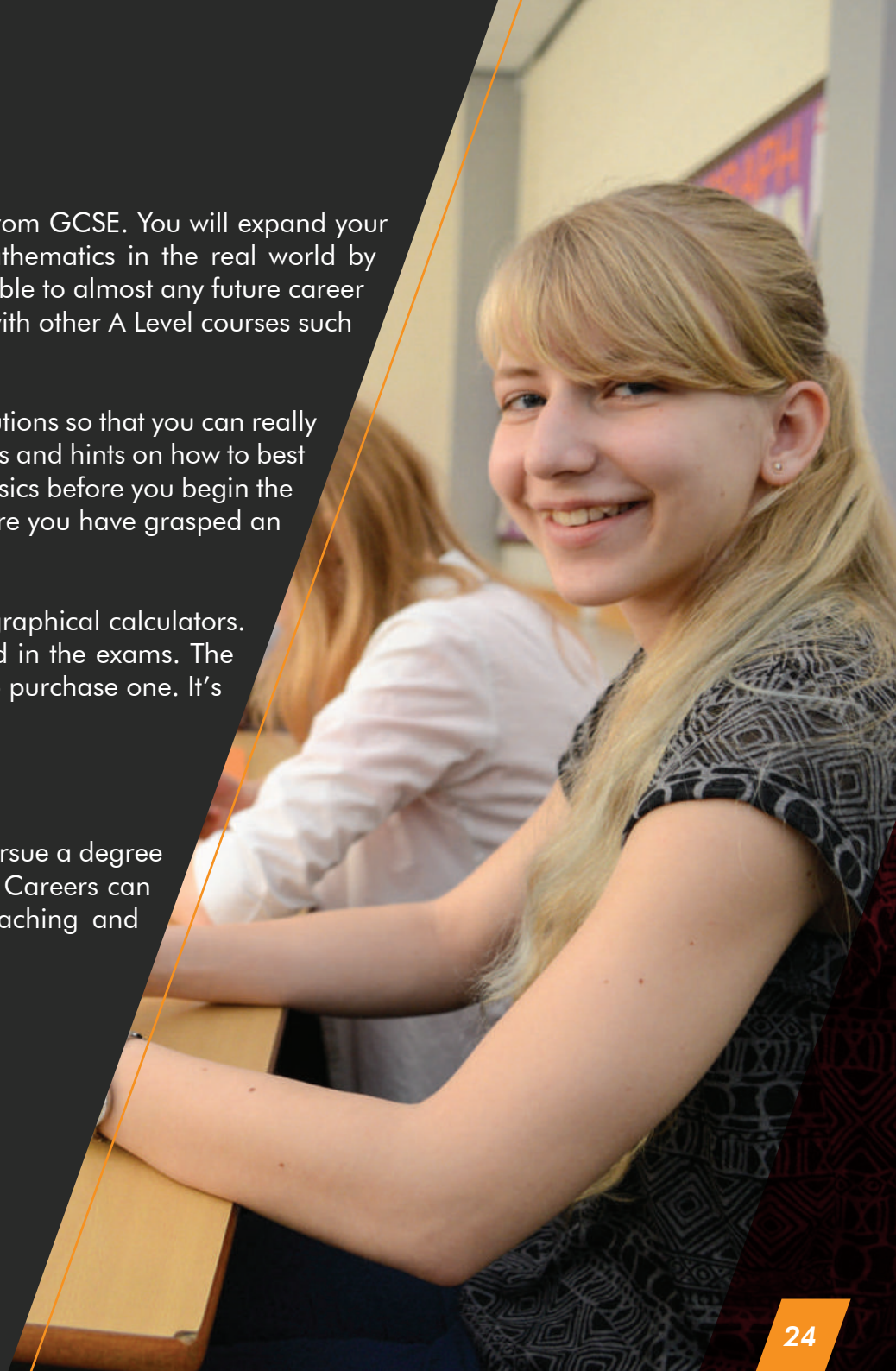
The course allows you to build on your previous understanding of Mathematics from GCSE. You will expand your knowledge of Mathematics on algebra and functions and will learn to use Mathematics in the real world by studying mechanics and statistics. All these elements of the course make it applicable 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 visualize 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 RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners

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 bodies '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 teaching music, managing music events, audition skills and performing music.

Career pathways

In a time where most industries are shrinking and cutting back, the music industry is growing year-on-year. 145,815 people were working in the UK music industry in 2017, and it contributed £4.5billion GVA to the UK's economy.

The live music industry, and exports of British music to overseas, are also growing, thanks in part to British superstars such as Adele, Stormzy and Ed Sheeran. 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

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 around 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.

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

Studying the course

The creative industries earned £76.9 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 individuals 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

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

Studying the course

Product Design is a broad and varied subject that encompasses a broad range of skills from creativity and designing to project management and resource planning. Product Design has become ever more popular with universities citing the fact that it encourages students to think outside of the box and more creatively to solve problems, problem solving being a key skill recognized by universities.

Studying Product Design at Shireland encompasses a broad range of areas that will encourage you to think about social and ethical issues, material sciences, manufacturing techniques, which are studied alongside the coursework and practical elements of the course.

In 2016 the government identified that the UK needs over one million new designers and engineers in order 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, and the skills learner on this course will support your future in design or engineering.

Career pathways

Graduates of Product Design are highly employable due to the broad 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 BTEC

Studying the course

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Psychology, is intended to be an Applied General qualification for post-16 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, but you should normally have a range of achievement at level 2, in GCSEs or equivalent qualifications, including GCSE in science.

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements to 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

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 apprentice. This could lead to a career in:

- Social work
- Nursing
- Police force
- All public-sector professions
- Social policy
- Journalism
- Criminology



Sport BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

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. 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

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; dyeing, 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 computerized 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



WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Tourism

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 & Tourism industry?

The Travel and Tourism industry is growing at a rapid rate, it is the 4th 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 work-force.

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 at 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 post 16 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.



**"The sixth form is
outstanding"
- Ofsted**



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