



SHIRELAND
SIXTH FORM

YOU'VE
MADE AN
OUTSTANDING
CHOICE


Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



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

95%

of students went to university or degree apprenticeships this year across

21

different universities across the UK

20

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



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.

(Please note some qualifications such as A Level Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics have a higher entry requirement. Further information can be found on the course entry requirement document.)

Duration: 2 years.

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.

Level 2 Pathway

Entry requirement: 5 x grade 4 or above, but not including Maths and English (limited spaces).

Duration: 1 year.

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.



**A LEVEL
COURSE
INFORMATION**

Art

Studying the course

"The arts are integral to our understanding of the world, as important as reading, writing, geography and arithmetic." (Nicolas Serota, Director of the Tate, 2021).

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 at A Level, students develop their creative thought processes and improve technical skills and art critical knowledge. This ensures students can progress on to a Foundation Studies in Art and Design and then onto a related degree course.

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

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.

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.

Chemistry

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. 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

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.

Dance

Studying the course

Dance delivered in state-of-the-art facilities including a premium dance studio. The course encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, encouraging essential transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. It builds character and is an excellent course supporting any career pathway. Students have endless opportunities to create, devise and perform.

We collaborate with external providers such as the Birmingham Hippodrome Education Network (HEN) offering opportunities to channel talent in the right direction. Students can take part in extracurricular activities, workshops and even lead sessions to strengthen practical technique and confidence for this course.

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, research and site effectively, choreography to a brief and perform set material and build resilience. Organisation is a key skill required for all career pathways, due to the complexity of theory vs practical, this course challenges organisations skills, increases personal expectation and positive mindset.

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

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 and 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

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

Studying the course

Geography is a highly-valued subject 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 have 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 – skills that can be transferred to the world of work, as well as at higher education.

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 specialise in environment and sustainability jobs, managerial positions in business, town and country planning, teaching, law, medicine, veterinary science, healthcare, laboratory work, accountancy, IT and engineering. The list is endless.

German

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.

History

Studying the course

History is an engaging and popular A Level choice, with over 40,000 students studying it last year across the United Kingdom. The subject is highly respected by both universities and employers as the skillset you develop as a historian prepares you for a variety of future pathways.

Higher education and career pathways

History is a great A Level for progression into social science and humanities courses at university, including History, English, Law, Politics and Economics. However its relevance is by no means restricted to these courses alone: previous History students have gone on to study degrees in Sciences, Engineering, Marketing and more. The depth, variety and challenging nature means that the skills students learn from History A Level prepare them for both higher education and a future career.

History at Shireland Sixth Form

AQA A level History is split into three units and assessed by 80% examinations and 20% coursework.

The two examined units are Stuart Britain 1603-1702 (40% of grade) and Democracy and Nazism in Germany 1918 – 1945 (40% of grade). The NEA is a 4,500 word extended essay on the Crusades and the Islamic World 1095-1204 (20% of grade).

Mathematics

Overview

Mathematics A Level continues to develop the topics studied at GCSE mathematics, and introduces methods and techniques used in many subjects at university level and beyond. The mathematics course covers a range of pure and applied mathematics, including mechanics and statistics. Mechanics at A Level is not essential for A Level Physics but could be advantageous, especially if you are considering university courses such as Physics or Engineering. Statistics is increasingly important in several fields such as biology, geography, business, economics and marketing. Mathematics is also an interesting subject to study for its own sake. The skills developed through studying mathematics to a higher level are highly sought after by employers, which is why those who study mathematics earn more throughout their working lives.

Course Overview

A breakdown of the course is shown below:

- Pure Mathematics
 - Topics include proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation integration and vectors.
- Pure Mathematics 2
 - Further techniques involving proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry and integration as well as an introduction to numerical methods.
- Statistics and Mechanics
 - Section A: Statistics – Sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, distributions, hypothesis testing
 - Section B: Mechanics – Quantities and units in Mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's laws, Moments

Further Mathematics

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. Studying the course will ensure you stand out from the crowd when applying for university or jobs as it will allow you to demonstrate you possess highly sought after skills that have been developed to a high level.

Course overview

The breakdown of the course is shown below. The two option papers are most likely to be those listed below (3 and 4) but may vary depending upon the interests of the group and skills base.

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

Philosophy, Ethics and Religion

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 “Does God exist?”
- 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

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

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.

Politics

Studying the course:

Politics is an increasingly popular A Level choice across the UK and the Shireland Sixth Form is delighted to be offering the A Level for teaching from September 2024.

Politics A Level is a fascinating and highly relevant subject that will help you understand the world around you. Politics affects all aspects of our lives, from how we are governed to the ways in which we interact with each other. Studying Politics will give you a deeper understanding of the UK's political system, the different ideologies and political parties that inform it, and the processes of decision-making and legislating. In addition to studying the United Kingdom, Politics A level gives you the opportunity to engage in the study of international topics and issues of a global significance.

It also develops your critical thinking and analytical skills. Politics is an intellectually challenging subject that requires you to think critically about a range of complex issues. You will learn how to evaluate different arguments, identify viewpoints, and draw your own conclusions.

Career pathways:

This course will prepare you for a range of careers and will enable you to access higher education to study a range of subjects. As well as studying for degrees in Politics itself, students can also study a range degrees: Law, Economics, International Relations, History, Journalism, Philosophy, English, Social Sciences and many more.

Politics A Level is a highly respected subject by universities and employers, with some university courses preferring applicants to have studied an essay-based subject like Politics. Employers appreciate the skills that Politics students have acquired, particularly their abilities to communicate, analyse, argue and think critically about the world around them.

Product Design

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 recognised 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 learned 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.

Sociology

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
- Criminology

Textiles

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 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

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 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.



BTEC COURSE INFORMATION

Applied Criminology

The Applied Diploma in Criminology is delivered using a similar course structure to the BTEC qualifications that Social Sciences offer. This qualification is assessed through both internally controlled assessments and externally assessed examinations.

Students must complete all components to pass the qualification with one controlled assessment and one examination taking place in each year.

The first mandatory unit will enable the learner to demonstrate understanding of different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported.

The second mandatory unit will allow learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crime, drawing on what they have learned in Unit 1.

The third mandatory unit will provide an understanding of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified to the verdict. Learners will develop the understanding and skills needed to examine information in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases.

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

This course can provide access to the following degrees at university:

BSc Criminology

BA Criminology

BA Criminology and Criminal Justice

BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology

LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology

BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology

BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology

BSc Criminology with Law

Applied Human Biology

Studying the course

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Human Biology is intended to be an Applied General qualification for post-16 students wanting to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment.

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.

Career pathways

The qualification is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements of many relevant human biology and health science courses however, it is not designed to be studied alongside Biology A Level. Students can progress into higher education to study courses such as:

- BSc (Hons) in Occupational Health, Nursing or Midwifery if taken alongside, for example, a Pearson BTEC Level 3 course 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

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 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. There are many routes which 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.

Business Studies

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.

Health and Social Care

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 apprenticeships. 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.

Information Technology

Studying the course

IT is now embedded in our society and 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 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.

Sport

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.

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 and sports development.

Psychology

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. 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.

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**RSL LEVEL 3
COURSE
INFORMATION**

Drama

Studying the course

Studying acting at Shireland gives 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.

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.

Career pathways

You may study a variety of degree-level courses related to the performing arts sector, including acting, directing, theatre management, technical theatre and many more. The qualification is also an ideal supporting subject for progression into degree level courses in many other sectors.

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.

Music

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.

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 Rehearsal & Performance Skills, Careers in Music, Instrumental Study, Music Event Management and Auditioning for Music.

Career pathways

In a time where most industries are shrinking and cutting back, the music industry is growing year-on-year. 197,168 people were working in the UK music industry in 2019, and it contributed £5.8 billion to the UK's economy.

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, managers, record company executives, the list goes on!