



SHIRELAND
SIXTH FORM

**YOU'VE
MADE AN
EXCEPTIONAL
CHOICE**

The background of the entire page is a photograph of rows of red stadium seats, likely in an auditorium or sports arena. The seats are arranged in a tiered fashion, and the image is slightly blurred, creating a sense of depth. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the seats.

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 2 and Level 3 pathways, dependent on students' prior academic attainment and interests.

Level 3 Pathway

Entry requirements: 5 x grade 4 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 requirements webpage.)

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 requirements: Grades to be discussed at enrolment on a case by case basis. This does not need to include Maths and English (limited spaces)

Duration: 1 year

This programme includes a compulsory IT qualification, along with the choice of up to three subjects: Business Studies, Sport, and Social Science. Students will also work towards their English and/or Maths GCSE resit. Places are offered on GCSE Results Day, once grades have been confirmed.

Graduation on to Level 3 Pathway

If students successfully pass all courses at Level 2, they will automatically graduate on to a Level 3 pathway here at Shireland. This will be confirmed in 1 to 1 discussions with pupils once they have enrolled with us after results day.



A LEVEL COURSE INFORMATION

Art & Design

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 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 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 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.

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 skill-set 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

To study Mathematics is to study the language of our Universe. Without the Mathematical laws that bind us together our Universe and our existence within it would not be possible. The Greek Mathematician Euclid observed: 'The Laws of Nature are but the Mathematical thoughts of God.' Do you have what it takes to begin to understand?

A Levels in Mathematics and Further Mathematics are hugely versatile qualifications which are highly respected by employers and Higher Education institutions. Careers for those with good Mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid, but are also often interesting and rewarding.

There is a huge demand from employers, particularly in science, engineering, business and manufacturing, for students with the higher order skills to think logically, analytically and critically. An A Level in Mathematics demonstrates an aptitude in such skills. Through the solving of complex problems, you will develop resilience and an ability to think creatively and strategically.

The writing of structured solutions, proof and justification of results will help you to not only formulate reasoned arguments but also demonstrate advanced numeracy skills and the ability to process and interpret data. Many courses at university require robust, strong Mathematical skills.

Mathematics

- Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 (2 hours – 100 marks)
- Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 (2 hours – 100 marks)
- Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics (2 hours – 100 marks)

Further Mathematics

- Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1 (1.5 hours - 75 marks)
- Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2 (1.5 hours - 75 marks)
- Paper 3: Further Mechanics 1 (1.5 hours - 75 marks)
- Paper 4: Further Pure Mathematics 1 (1.5 hours - 75 marks)

Careers and Higher Education

For most science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degree courses A Level Mathematics is a requirement and AS or A Level Further Mathematics is often a preferred subject.

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 a Foundation Studies course in Art and/or Photography at university and then onto a related degree 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, graphic design 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 smart phones. 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 front-line 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 of 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 dynamic and multifaceted discipline that integrates creativity, innovation, and practical problem-solving. It develops a diverse skill set — from imaginative design and conceptual thinking to effective project management and strategic resource planning. Universities increasingly value Product Design for its ability to foster original thought, critical analysis, and creative approaches to complex challenges — all of which are highly transferable and sought-after skills.

At Shireland, the study of Product Design encompasses a broad range of topics designed to stimulate both intellectual and practical development. Students engage with social and ethical considerations, material sciences, and contemporary manufacturing techniques, all explored through a balance of coursework and hands-on project work. This combination of theory and practical application ensures a comprehensive understanding of how design shapes the modern world.

In 2016, the UK government highlighted the need for over one million new designers and engineers to sustain the nation's global leadership in design and innovation. As a result, Product Design has become an increasingly popular academic and professional pathway. The skills and knowledge developed through this course provide an excellent foundation for future study and careers in design, engineering, and related industries.

Career pathways

Graduates of Product Design are highly employable due to the breadth and applicability of their skills. Potential career destinations include:

- Product Design
- Graphic Design
- Engineering and Civil Engineering
- Architecture
- Project Management
- Skilled and Technical Professions

Psychology

Studying the course

With the demand for psychological insight on the rise in the UK, exploring A Level Psychology opens doors to the intricate world of human behaviour and serves as a pivotal gateway to understanding the intricacies of the mind. This academic venture is not merely a course; it's an exploration into the very essence of human behaviour. The course covers a wide range of topics, including social influence, memory, aggression, phobias, attachment, psychopathology, research methods, issues and debates in psychology and key questions that are important in society, as well as conducting exciting research investigations.

The course is designed to develop critical thinking, research literacy, and analytical skills, preparing students for further study in psychology and related disciplines. Students can expect to gain a deep understanding of psychological theories, evidence, and practical application.

Psychology is truly an interdisciplinary course which complements a range of other A Level subjects, providing a strong foundation for various academic and career pathways, for example clinical, health, educational, counselling and forensic psychology. In addition, it can lead to careers that lean on psychological knowledge such as healthcare, social work, probation services, research and business – any job working with other humans!

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

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; dying, printing, embellishing, weaving, pattern making and manufacturing processes. The CAD/CAM skills include; the use of the laser cutter for cutting or engraving patterns and shapes into fabric and the use of the computerised embroidery machine.

Career pathways

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

- Fashion Design
- Textiles Design
- Interior Design
- Retail Buying and Merchandising
- Fashion Stylist
- Illustrator
- Fashion Journalist
- Trend Reporter

World Languages

Studying the course

"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way." — Frank Smith

At A-Level, students develop advanced skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing in their chosen language. The course focuses on fluency, accuracy and the ability to express complex ideas and opinions. Students explore themes such as social issues, politics, culture, and literature, gaining a deeper understanding of the language and the societies where it is spoken.

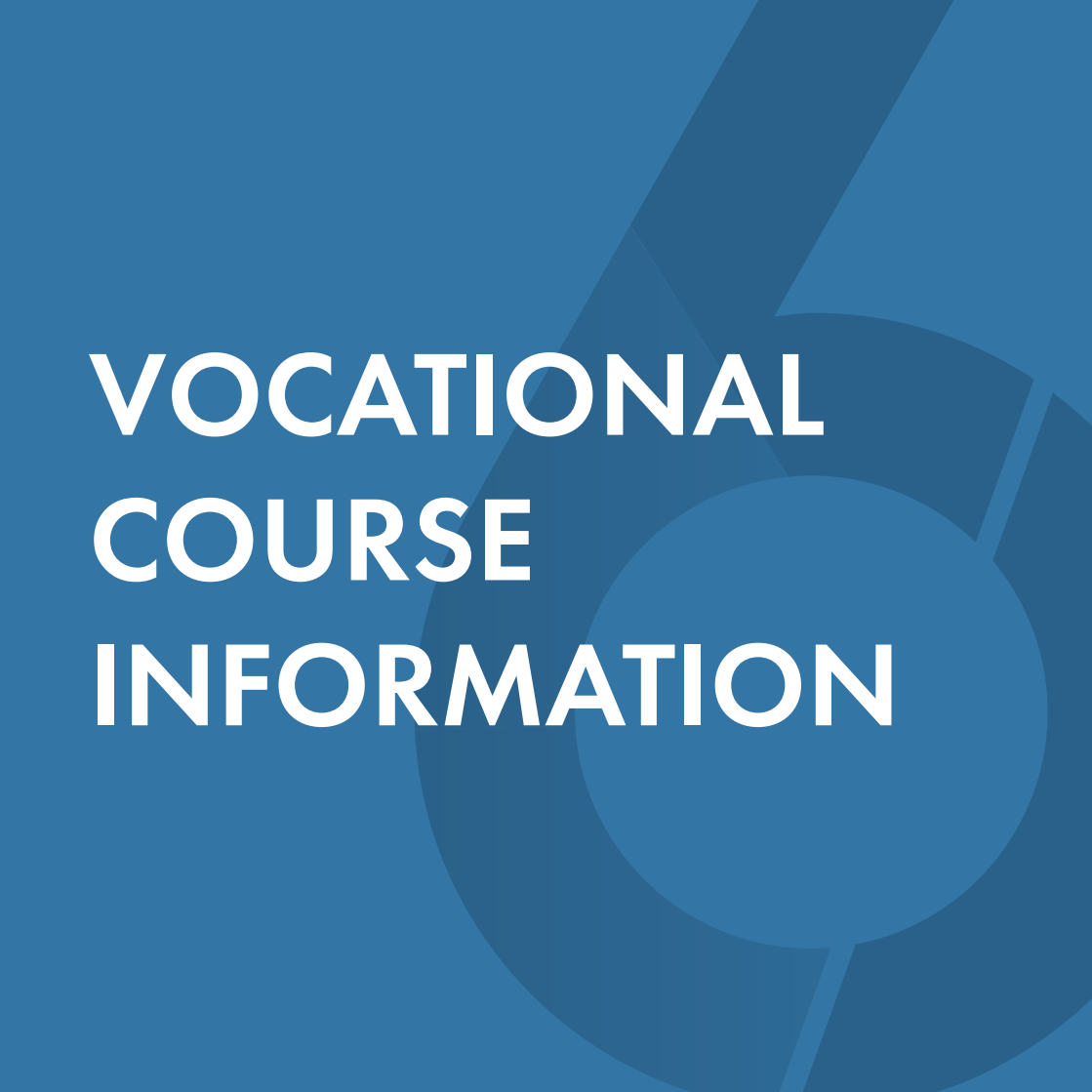
Through authentic materials like films, articles and literary texts, learners enhance critical thinking and cultural awareness. The course also builds transferable skills such as analysis, problem-solving and confident communication – highly valued in higher education and the workplace.

Career pathways

Studying a language at A-Level opens up a wide range of opportunities, including:

- International business and trade
- Law and diplomacy
- Translation and interpreting
- Education and teaching
- Media, journalism and publishing
- Tourism and hospitality

Language skills are increasingly sought after in a global economy. A-Level Languages can lead to university degrees in languages or combined courses (e.g., Business and Spanish, Law and German). These qualifications enhance employability in sectors where cultural understanding and multilingual communication are essential.



VOCATIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

Applied Science

Studying the course

Choosing to study the Applied Science 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. This course 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 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 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 developed in collaboration with over 5,000 universities, employers, and professional bodies, placing employability at its core. It is designed to help learners build the skills and confidence they need to step confidently into a successful future.”

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 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.

Studying Health and Social Care opens doors to a wide range of careers and further study, including nursing, midwifery, social work, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and pharmacy. The sector offers diverse opportunities, with hundreds of different roles across healthcare, social care, and related services. Working in this field allows you to make a meaningful difference to people's lives while gaining valuable skills and experience. Careers in health and social care provide long-term employment prospects, with excellent opportunities for promotion and professional development.

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 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 our course in IT couple be right for you."

Career pathways

The IT 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.

Sports Science

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.

Our Sports Science course will cover 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.

Travel and Tourism

Studying the course

Do you love to travel and explore new cultures? A career in Travel and Tourism offers exciting opportunities in a dynamic and diverse industry. This course will give you the practical skills and knowledge needed to work in areas such as hospitality, customer service, travel planning, and management enterprises. You'll gain hands-on experience and insights into how the industry operates, preparing you for further study or employment in this ever-evolving sector.

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.

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.



VOCATIONAL COURSES

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, including community drama, acting for camera and careers.

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

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!