



SMESTOW ACADEMY **SIXTH FORM**

PROSPECTUS 2026

OUR VISION



I am delighted to welcome you to Smestow Academy Sixth Form, a growing and vibrant community where students are supported, challenged, and inspired to become the very best version of themselves.

Our sixth form has a warm, family feel, and students quickly develop a genuine sense of belonging that underpins their confidence and success.

We pride ourselves on the strong pastoral support we provide. Every student is known as an individual, and our dedicated team work hard to ensure that each young person feels valued, supported, and ready to thrive both academically and personally.

Our Getting Next Steps Ready programme provides bespoke UCAS and careers guidance, industry insights, and visits to universities and employers. Alongside academic qualifications, we offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities designed to prepare students for life beyond sixth form. From leadership roles, to cultural experiences and volunteering, our enrichment programme helps students develop the skills, resilience and independence needed for their future aspirations.

This year, we are also excited to introduce a new reward system shaped by student voice and designed exclusively for our sixth form, ensuring that achievement, commitment, and contribution are meaningfully recognised.

At Smestow, we care deeply about every student and work hard to support their aspirations. We are incredibly proud of our inclusive ethos, our high expectations, and the ambition our students show every day. We look forward to welcoming you into our community and helping you take your next steps with confidence.

Mrs F Bryant
Head of Sixth Form



**YOUR
JOURNEY
STARTS
HERE**

ABOUT US

Sixth form will offer you the opportunity to study a wide range of both academic and vocational courses, providing you with the qualifications that you require to follow your chosen career path. Students will benefit from high quality teaching that builds upon previous knowledge and skills. Teachers will go above and beyond to support you to ensure that you realise your full potential.

An outstanding level of guidance is provided through our pastoral programme. Sixth form students are organised into Year 12 and 13 tutor groups. This enables us to provide you with a bespoke programme that will support you in all aspects of sixth form life and prepare you for life beyond.

A wide and varied enrichment programme will ensure that you will develop the skills and qualities needed to enhance applications to university, apprenticeships and employment. Strong results and specific guidance have enabled our previous cohorts to progress onto their chosen destinations.

The careers guidance programme you will receive will be of the highest quality. Sixth form students immerse themselves into school life, working with younger students, assisting at open evenings, parent events and acting as excellent role models for the years below. We hope that you will fully embrace these opportunities and inspire those around you.

We pride ourselves on being a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive sixth form, which has a wonderful family atmosphere, and we hope you will join our success story.

DRESS CODE

You are young adults and will be treated accordingly. We do expect you to adopt our dress code of smart office wear.

BOYS

- Shirt with Collar and Tie
- Smart Trousers
- V-neck jumper or cardigan
- Smart shoes
- Smart coat or jacket

GIRLS

- Smart blouse with sleeves and a high neck line
- Smart dress, trousers or skirt that is no shorter than knee length
- V-neck jumper or cardigan
- Smart shoes
- Smart coat or jacket



We pride ourselves on being an inclusive Sixth Form which makes sure that the needs of all our students are met. As a sixth form student, you will benefit from a bespoke study programme that ensures your sixth form experience will provide you with the qualifications and wider skills to ensure that you progress seamlessly in your career pathway. As the senior members of the school community, we do have high expectations of all of our sixth form students.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SUBJECT

When exploring your subject choices for Sixth Form, it is important to keep your future in mind. If there is a specific career or university course you are interested in applying to, then researching the entry requirements now will help you in making those decisions. For example, if you want to study Medicine at university then one of the essential requirements is to take A level Chemistry. As entry requirements for each university course vary, it is essential that you complete your own detailed research before making your final decision.

The UCAS website offers a comprehensive Search Tool [[UCAS Search Tool](#)] that allows you to explore every UK university course, apprenticeships and more, including their most recent entry requirements. With thousands of courses available at hundreds of universities, your search can be filtered by subject interest and location to narrow them down.

For a quick idea of which subjects you may need to study in the Sixth Form, please look at the Informed Choices tool from the Russell Group Universities - <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>

For those who wish to apply to apprenticeships, this is a little more complicated, as opportunities arise as and when companies have them. Creating an account with the National Apprenticeship Service helps to keep you informed.

SIXTH FORM STUDY PROGRAMME

You will have timetabled lessons for your chosen subjects, plus volunteering, enrichment and independent study sessions.

We do expect you to carry out some independent study at school, alongside the expectations of independent study at home.

Contributing to the wider life of the school is vital for your personal development and to provide invaluable support for the younger students. As part of your study programme, you will be required to volunteer within a subject of your choice during the week to support those students within that lesson. You will also be provided with a wide programme of enrichment activities to participate in. The programme is varied and will enable you to gain additional qualifications such as the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or participate in activities for your own personal development and wellbeing.

In order to promote leadership skills and allow our sixth form students to take an active role in the organisation of their studies, we also have the Smestow Senior Six leadership team. This team consists of two head students, two personal development and wellbeing leads, a charity lead and an enrichment lead.

The programme is designed to support you with every aspect of your sixth form education and also to prepare you for life beyond sixth form.

You will be organised into year-based tutor groups and will receive an organised programme of sessions every day.

In Year 12 this will include a focus upon the following key areas

All About Me

- Personal development
- PSHE Programme
- RSE Programme
- Wellbeing
- The pathway ahead

Personal Development

- Writing a Personal Statement
- How to apply for a job
- Managing finances
- Character development – ORACY

Making a Difference

- Working with a link or tutor group
- One to one tutorials with your form tutor

Your Future

- Transition
- Study Skills Development
- Careers Guidance
- Citizenship and British Values
- Revision and Study Techniques
- Preparing for life beyond Sixth Form

SUCCESS ACHIEVED TOGETHER



Students will participate in a range of activities during their 1 hour allocated enrichment time each week. These include

- Student Mentoring
- UCAS guidance
- Industry talks
- Charity Work
- Arts and crafts
- Smestow Getting University Ready programme
- Sport and much more

CAREERS GUIDANCE



Everything we do at sixth form will have your personal career ambitions at the forefront.

The comprehensive tutor programme will support your personal development and guide you every step of the way to support your career choice. In addition to the tutor period sessions, you will receive a lot of external support and guidance.

You will receive support from universities as part of the support we provide for progression to Higher Education. Included are opportunities to visit other university campuses and also attend the UCAS fayre.

We will support you with every aspect of your UCAS application, should university be your preferred pathway to support your career journey.

We work very closely with employers, training and apprenticeship providers and run specific sessions and assemblies to support you should the apprenticeship route be your preferred pathway.

The opportunity to attend our annual careers convention in the Autumn term will provide further opportunities to talk to Higher Education Institutions, employers and apprenticeship providers. Every student will also receive impartial careers advice from our independent career's advisor.

We guarantee you will leave sixth form as an extremely confident, and competent individual who will have received the highest level of support as you progress on your journey as a future leader in your chosen career.



VISIT WWW.MATRIXCAREERSGUIDE.CO.UK FOR HELP AND ADVICE

BTEC

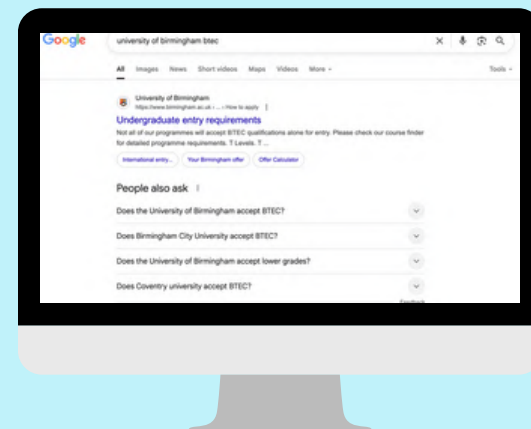
Modern BTECs are very different from the old style qualifications. One of the most significant differences is that they all have an externally assessed examination unit. Because they are more rigorous and intellectually demanding, the modern BTECs have considerable currency with universities, apprenticeship providers and employers.

Over 95% of universities accept students with BTECs, including those that belong to the prestigious Russell Group, such as the University of Birmingham.

Some universities have even set up special sites to make it clear how much they want students with BTECs.

Try Googling the name of a university you might be considering attending + 'BTEC' to see for yourself.

Higher Apprenticeship and Degree Apprenticeship providers are eager to take students with A levels, BTECs or combinations of A levels and BTECs.



See our 'University or Apprenticeship?' section on the next page for more information.

UNIVERSITY OR APPRENTICESHIP

On finishing Year 13, the majority of our students progress to either university or apprenticeships. Whilst it is never too early to start looking ahead, most people keep their options open at this stage, especially if they don't have a firm idea of what they want to do as a career.

We provide personalised, impartial guidance for every student throughout their entire time at Smestow Academy. If you want to start taking a look for yourself, we recommend the following website as a starting point - www.matrixcareersguide.co.uk

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

Another option that is very popular is a Degree Apprenticeship. They are similar to Higher Apprenticeships but differ in that they provide an opportunity to gain a full Bachelor's degree (Level 6) or Master's degree (Level 7).

Designed in partnership with employers, part-time study takes place at a university or college, with the rest of your time being with your employer. They can take between three to six years to complete, depending on the course level.

For more information visit:
www.ucas.com/degree-apprenticeships



16-19 BURSARY FUND

Students in the Sixth Form who need some minor financial support for purchasing books, transport, meals and equipment can apply for our 16 to 19 Bursary Fund. We are committed to distributing bursaries to those students with the greatest need.

Full details of the bursary fund, including checking eligibility and how to apply can be found by following this link:

<https://smestowacademy.co.uk/sixth-form/> and scrolling to the bottom of the page to find the '16-19 bursary fund' FAQs along with key links.

If your personal circumstances change during the year you MUST notify the Sixth Form Team immediately.

All applications are strictly confidential.





A LEVEL BIOLOGY

Overview

A Level Biology is a challenging, rewarding course that will help you to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for a successful career. It offers you the freedom, creativity and opportunity for independent progression from GCSE Science or Biology.

A Level Biology builds on the concepts and skills developed in the GCSE. It will support you to progress to a Biology-related degree course.

What will I study?

Year 12

Core content:

- 1 Biological molecules
- 2 Cells
- 3 Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- 4 Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Year 13

Core content:

- 5 Energy transfers in and between organisms
- 6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- 7 Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- 8 The control of gene expression

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Biology or Grade 5 in Combined Science

Career Progression

A Level Biology is a great choice if you want a career in health and clinical professions, including medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, nursing and forensic science. Other subject links are human biology, chemistry, physics, epidemiology, psychology, applied science, environmental studies and health and social care.

Assessment

Three examinations each lasting two hours.

- Paper 1: (91 marks) - Any topics from topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills (35% of A Level).
- Paper 2: (91 marks) - Any content from topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills (35% of A Level).
- Paper 3: (78 marks) - (78 marks) - Any topics from 1-8, including relevant practical skills (30% of A Level).

A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

Overview

This course will give you the skills and understanding to make decisions about the way chemistry affects your everyday life. You will apply concepts into contemporary areas of chemistry including: climate change, green chemistry, pharmaceuticals, chemistry research.

Handling data will be a key part of your work, allowing you to demonstrate information retrieval skills as well as use of numeracy and ICT. You will build up a range of practical skills that require creativity and accuracy as well as developing a firm understanding of health and safety issues.

What will I study?

As you become more skilled you will take responsibility for selecting appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods, recording your observations and findings accurately and precisely as well as critically analysing and evaluating the methodology, results and impact of your own and others' experimental investigative activities.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Chemistry or Grade 5 in Combined Science; Grade 5 in Maths (Higher Tier)

Career Progression

Chemistry A Level is essential or very useful for: Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biology (and Biology related subjects). Many chemistry graduates pursue a career in industry. We live in an age of molecular technology which ensures that chemistry graduates are in demand across the pharmaceutical, chemical, materials and biotechnology industries. Career paths include research and development, environmental monitoring, forensic science and management. Science journalists have a vital role to play as intermediaries between science and the public. They have a crucial role in explaining the complexities of the latest discoveries in pure and applied science, whether working for television, the internet or newspapers.

The commercial sector is a large employer of chemistry graduates. The analytical and problem-solving skills developed during a chemistry degree are highly regarded and there are many opportunities for 'fast track' careers in the public sector, law, management and consultancy.

Chemistry graduates are highly sought after by the teaching profession, which offers stimulating and rewarding careers for those looking to inspire the next generation. Other graduates pursue careers in universities, studying to PhD level, going on to cutting edge research and teaching undergraduates. In summary, chemistry helps us to understand the world and having a chemistry degree opens a world of opportunities. There has never been a more exciting time to study chemistry!

Assessment

Three examinations will be sat:

Paper 1 Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry 2 hr 15 minutes 100 marks

Paper 2 Synthesis and analytical techniques 2 hr 15 minutes 100 marks

Paper 3 Unified chemistry 1 hr 30 minutes 70 marks

A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Overview

If you have enjoyed the challenges and variety of GCSE English Language and Literature, this course offers opportunities to engage analytically with a wide range of texts.

What will I study?

This specification enables you to explore drama, poetry and prose texts, under the themes of Love Through the Ages and Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the Present Day.

The skills developed through the course include discussion and debate, essential to getting the best out of your critical reading and analysis of texts.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in English or English Literature.

Career Progression

This subject has always been regarded highly by universities and employers. It complements many career pathways including those which involve a high level of communication such as Human Resources, Teaching or Social Work. If you wish to follow careers in the Arts, you would benefit from a background in English Literature. If you wish to follow a more scientific career you can also benefit from the cultural richness of English which adds another dimension to your studies. This subject would be extremely useful to aspiring writers and journalists.

Assessment

Year 12

Paper 1: Love Through the Ages

Section A: Shakespeare

Section B: Unseen Poetry

Section C: Comparing The Great Gatsby and Pre-1900 Love Poetry Written examination: 3 hours

Year 13:

Paper 1: Love Through the Ages

Section A: Shakespeare

Section B: Unseen Poetry

Section C: Comparing The Great Gatsby and Pre-1900 Love Poetry Written examination: 3 hours (40% of A Level)

Paper 2: Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the Present Day.

Section A: Set texts. One essay question on set text (25 marks) - we study texts such as The Handmaid's Tale, Feminine Gospels, A Streetcar Named Desire.

Section B: Contextual linking

- One compulsory question on an unseen extract (25 marks)

- One essay question linking two texts (25 marks) Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes (40%) of A-Level

Non-examined Assessment

Assessed by teachers, moderated by AQA. (20% of A Level).

A LEVEL HISTORY

Overview

A Level History helps you understand the world by studying key events and societies. It develops critical skills like analysis, argumentation, and evaluating evidence, which are valued in careers such as law, journalism, and politics. Beyond facts, it fosters a deeper awareness of how past events shape our present, making you a more informed global citizen.

What will I study?

Studying History at A Level opens a window to the past, helping you understand the events and ideas that shaped our world today. Our course covers two fascinating periods: the Age of the Crusaders, 1071-1204 and 20th century Germany. You will explore one of the most dramatic periods in medieval history — the Crusades — and the clash of faith, power and culture between Christianity and Islam. Then, investigate Germany's tumultuous journey through democracy and dictatorship, from the Weimar Republic to the rise and fall of Nazi rule. This A Level develops your analytical, research, and critical thinking skills, providing a strong foundation for future academic study or careers in law, politics, journalism, and more.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in History

Grade 5 in either English Literature or English Language

Career Progression

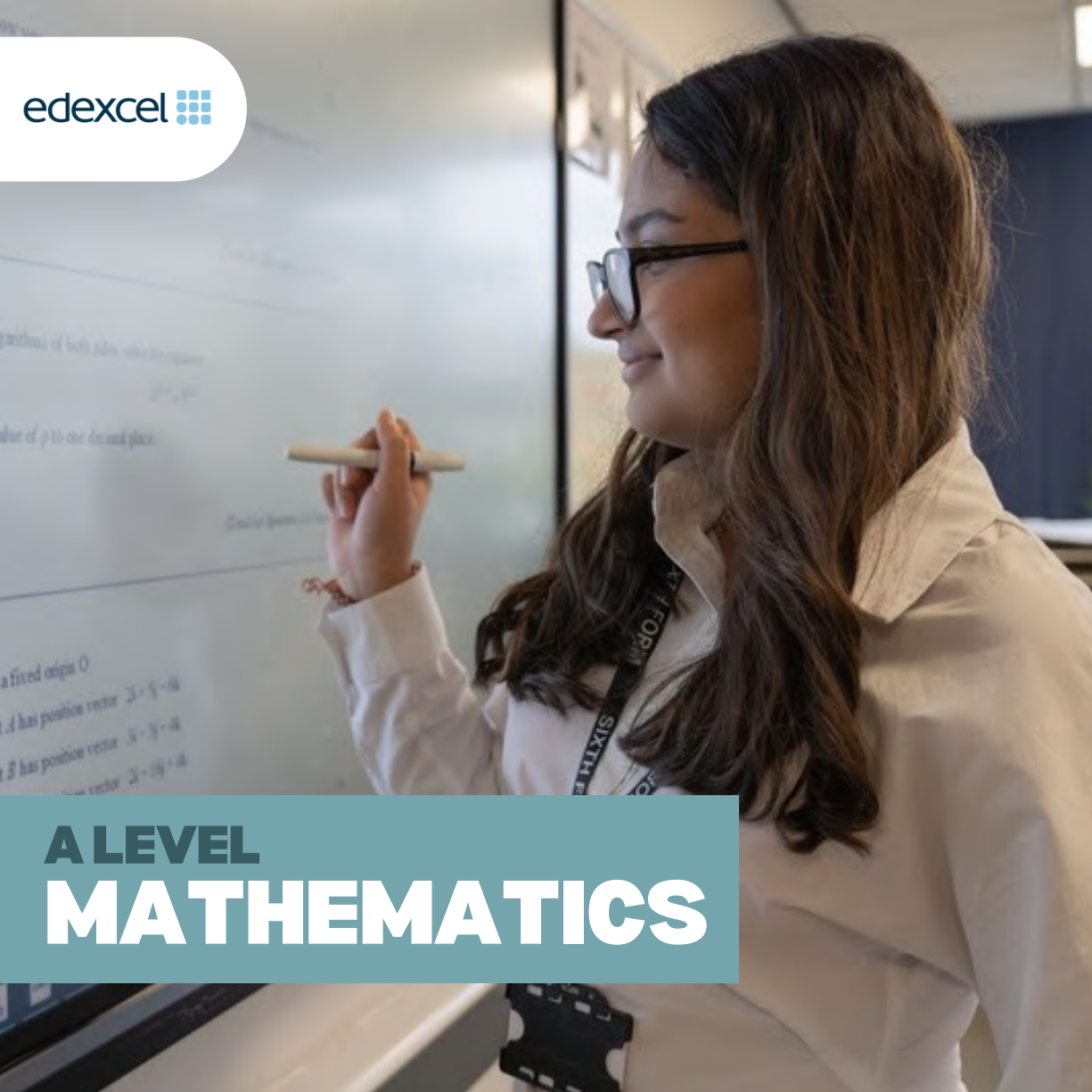
History combines well with other arts subjects and is highly regarded amongst both employers and universities. The analytical and communicative skills developed in History are the key to succeeding in the challenging and competitive work environment of the 21st Century. Historians follow a variety of career paths including the legal profession, local government, business, the armed forces and teaching.

Assessment

British period study: 1A The Age of the Crusades, c1071-1204. 2 hour 30 minutes examination (Worth 40%)

Non-British period study: Unit Y221 - Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1919-63 2-hour 30 minutes examination (Worth 40%)

Historical Investigation: 4000-word essay which covers over a 100-year period (cannot be the same as exam content) (Worth 20%)



A LEVEL MATHEMATICS

Overview

Mathematics A level students and graduates are in high demand with employers. It is the essential transferable component across all science, engineering, technology and maths subjects. Currently 59% of employers state they are having difficulty recruiting people with mathematics skills.

What will I study?

- A Maths A Level will develop transferable skills.
- Analytical skills
- Communication skills
- Investigative skills
- Problem solving skills
- Self management

These are all skills that employers are looking for and which help you when you are applying for jobs and when filling in the personal statement on your UCAS form.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Maths (Higher Tier)

Career Progression

Maths is one of the key facilitating subjects and it's essential for many higher education courses and careers. People with Maths A Level earn on average around 10% more than those without and people with a Maths degree can expect to earn over £220,000 more over their lifetime than a person whose education ceased at A Level.

Employers and University Admission tutors recognise A Level Maths as an excellent qualification. Top universities value A Level Maths as being a more suitable A Level choice than others when applying for any science related degree. A Maths A level can lead to careers in: Finance and Banking, Natural and Life Sciences, Business Consultancy and Operational Research, Engineering etc.

Assessment

Three examinations weighted 33.33% each

Paper 1 and Paper 2 containing content from pure mathematics. Paper 3 containing questions on statistics and mechanics.

Overview

Do you want to investigate the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between? How about understanding how the technology around you works? Do you want to save the planet or maybe just help people get better when they are ill? Or maybe you don't care about any of this and just want to earn a good wage? Well it doesn't really matter. Whatever you do, the knowledge and skills you gain by studying Physics will be useful. Physics is more than a subject - it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries.

In addition to preparing you for careers in the physical sciences and engineering, a secure understanding of Physics and the skills it develops is highly sought after by a wide range of employers in many different and varied fields.

What will I study?

Year 12

- **Measurements and Errors:** How to analyse data from investigations and judge the quality of your interpretations.
- **Particles and Radiation:** The structure of matter, the nature of antimatter and photons, the fundamental forces of the universe and quantum phenomena.
- **Mechanics and Materials:** The motion of objects and how materials react under stress.
- **Waves:** The properties of waves and introduction of principles of optics.
- **Electricity:** The nature of electrical current and its applications in direct current circuitry.

Year 13

- **Further Mechanics:** Non-linear motion and the nature of oscillating systems.
- **Field and their consequences:** The nature of gravitational, electric and magnetic fields, the principle of electromagnetic induction and capacitance.
- **Thermal Physics:** The process of heat transfer and its effects upon matter.
- **Nuclear Physics:** The stability of atoms, fission and fusion processes, nuclear reactors and energy generation.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Physics or Grade 5 in both Core and Additional Science; Grade 5 in Maths (Higher Tier)

Career Progression

A Level physics leads to a variety of careers, not just Physics and Engineering. These are possible careers that A Level Physics can lead to: Audio technician, Food scientist, Oceanographer, Chemist, Geophysicist, Climatologist, Medical physicist, Radiographer, Ergonomics expert, Naval architect, Aeronautical, Design, Mechanical, Agricultural, Electrical/electronic engineering, Medical, Automobile, Flight, Mining.

Assessment

Paper 1: Written examination: 2 hours, 85 marks, 34% of A Level 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content.

Paper 2: Written examination: 2 hours, 85 marks, 34% of A Level 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content.

Paper 3: Written examination: 2 hours, 80 marks, 32% of A Level 45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis.



A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

Overview

Have you ever wondered why people behave the way they do? What influences your decisions? Psychology offers fascinating insights into the complexities of human behaviour, emotion, and thought. Studying psychology at Sixth Form allows you to explore some of the most intriguing questions about the human experience.

What will I study?

You will explore the following topics in Year 12: Social influence, memory, attachment, clinical psychology and mental health, Research methods and Approaches.

In year 13 you will study: Issues and debates, biopsychology, Relationships, Forensic psychology, and schizophrenia.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature.

If you studied GCSE Psychology – Grade 5 or above (not compulsory)

Career Progression

Psychology underpins all aspects of human behaviour, making it useful in any career involving people. It can lead to diverse opportunities, including:

- Clinical Psychology: working in healthcare settings to assess, diagnose, and treat mental health issues.
- Educational Psychology: helping students with learning, social, and emotional challenges.
- Forensic Psychology: applying psychological principles to criminal investigations and working within the justice system.
- Counselling and Therapy: providing support and guidance to individuals facing mental health challenges.
- Neuroscience: exploring brain processes linked to behaviour and cognition.
- Social Work: supporting individuals, families, and communities in overcoming challenges.
- Human Resources and Management: understanding employee behaviour, improving workplace dynamics, and managing talent.
- Marketing and Consumer Research: studying consumer behaviour to guide marketing strategies.

Assessment

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology (2 hours, 33% of A-level)

Paper 2: Psychology in Context (2 hours, 33% of A-Level)

Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology (2 hours, 33% of A-Level)

Overview

Level 3 Cambridge Technicals in Business qualifications help students to achieve their potential and progress to the next stage of their lives, whether that's higher education, an apprenticeship or employment. The content is refreshing, exciting, up to date, engaging, fit for purpose and suitable for the needs of our students. The course will be assessed through a mix of a exams and coursework.

What will I study?

- How the marketing mix impacts businesses and the decisions they make.
- How ethical dilemmas and responsibilities create challenges for business organisations.
- The role of businesses in meeting the needs and wants of society
- The ways that businesses fund themselves and budget their money.

Entry Requirements

GCSE English Language/Literature at Grade 4 or above. GCSE Mathematics at Grade 4 or above.

Career Progression

Business students who go on to study at degree level are in high demand with employers worldwide and are some of the most employable. You will have a wide variety of possible career options open to you upon graduation. Business is both a theoretical and a practical discipline, meaning that you not only gain a great range of knowledge, but also learn the skills needed to apply this knowledge to real life settings, again assisting with employability and putting you ahead of the pack.

Business touches on nearly every aspect of modern society and is useful for both your professional and personal life, as well as being a very interesting subject to study.

For those who wish to acquire a range of business and generic skills you will develop decision making, problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Possible careers include: Human Resources Officer, Insurance Underwriter, Management Consultant, Marketing Manager, Logistics and Distribution Manager, Retail Manager

Assessment

There will be three mandatory units that must be completed:

- The Business Environment (examination)
- Working in Business (examination)
- Customer and Communication (coursework)

You will study a further two optional units (coursework)



VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Overview

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate Health and Social Care is a great introduction to working in the health and social care sector. It allows you to investigate more fully in the working environments associated with these areas. It is a skills-based course where you develop your own personal skills in line with whichever health and social care career you are interested in

What will I study?

Year 12 and 13

- Externally assessed unit: Human Lifespan Development
- Internally assessed coursework unit: Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
- Externally assessed unit: Working in Health and Social Care
- Internally assessed unit: Psychological Perspectives in Health and Social Care

Entry Requirements

5 passes at GCSE Grade 4 or equivalent to include a Merit in Health and Social Care or a GCSE Grade 4 in English

Career Progression

BTEC Health and Social Care is a vocational course which means there is a chance to investigate potential careers as the course progresses.

Studying in Health and Social Care can lead to careers in: Nursing or Midwifery, Teaching, Elderly care, Supporting those with additional needs, Early years, Public Services

Assessment

Rolling programme across the two years of the course:

Year 1

Human Lifespan and Development:

90 marks; 1 hour 30 minutes exam; 25% of the overall Extended Certificate

Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs:

Coursework unit; 90 credits; 25% of the overall Extended Certificate

Year 2

Working in Health and Social Care:

80 marks; 1 hour 30 minutes exam; 25% of the overall Extended Certificate

Psychological Perspectives in Health and Social Care:

Coursework Unit; 60 credits; 25% of the overall Extended Certificate

Overview

The Level 3 BTEC National in Information Technology AAQ (Extended Certificate) qualification has been designed to reflect the demands of a modern and evolving digital environment. The course allows students to study the implication of using technology systems, and cybersecurity threats and how to manage attacks. They will also develop skills in website design and database management.

The course is made up of four units, two of which are exams and two internally assessed units where students will be given practical tasks to develop and test their knowledge.

What will I study?

Topics include:

- Information technology systems
- Cybersecurity
- Website designs
- Databases.

Entry Requirements

GCSE English Language/Literature at Grade 4 or above. GCSE Mathematics at Grade 4 or above.

Career Progression

ICT students who go on to study at degree level are in high demand with employers worldwide and are some of the most employable. You will have a wide variety of possible career options open to you upon graduation. ICT graduates go on to work in Higher education, complete apprenticeships and employment in a wide range of Information Technology roles.

Assessment

Four mandatory units –

- Information Technology Systems – exam.
- Cybersecurity and Incident Management – exam.
- Website Development – coursework.
- Relational Database Management – coursework.



VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION SPORT

Overview

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate offers great flexibility through the units of study. This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education.

Employers and professional bodies have also been involved and consulted to ensure that the content is appropriate for those of you who may choose to enter employment directly in the sport sector.

You will cover a variety of units that help prepare you for a range of employment and further education opportunities. The course is delivered in a number of ways including practical sessions and more classroom-based theory work.

What will I study?

Year 12

Mandatory Units

- Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being: 20 weeks You will explore the client screening and lifestyle assessment, fitness training methods and fitness programming to support improvements in a client's health and wellbeing.

Additional Unit

- Unit 4: Sports Leadership :10 weeks

You will study the roles of a sports leader, the importance of psychological factors and their link with effective leadership. You will also explore an effective leadership style when leading a team during sport and exercise activities.

Year 13

Mandatory Unit

- Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology: 20 weeks

You will look at a number of key areas including the skeleton, the muscular system, the cardio-respiratory system and the energy systems.

- Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry: 10 weeks

You will explore the knowledge and skills required for different career pathways in the sports industry. Learners will take part in, and reflect on, a personal skills audit, career action plan and practical interview assessment activities.

Entry Requirements

5 passes at GCSE Grade 4 or equivalent to include a Merit in Sport or a GCSE Grade 4 in GCSE English

Career Progression

Possible careers include: Sports Development Officer, PE Teacher, Strength and Conditioning Coach, Human Nutritionist, Personal Trainer, Sports Scientist, Performance Analyst, Sports Therapist, Sports Marketing.

Assessment

This course is 33% coursework, 67% external assessment which consists of one examination and one set task. You will complete 4 units in total.

Year 12

- Two Units will be completed in Year 12

- One internally assessed, coursework-based unit and one externally assessed examination

Year 13

- Two units will be completed in Year 13

- One internally assessed, coursework-based unit and one externally assessed timed assignment



SMESTOW FOOTBALL ACADEMY

The Smestow Football Academy aims to provide students with the opportunity to train on a weekly basis; looking at all aspects of football development.

Not only does this include work on the football pitch but also incorporates the use of our swimming pool and fitness centre for fitness purposes to make the individual a better all-round player.

The academy offers an extension to traditional youth football by offering the players an opportunity to continue on their footballing journey in supporting their dreams and aspirations of building a career within the game.

The students will be coached and mentored by a FA qualified coach and someone who also has experience of the professional game and currently plays semi-professionally at a local football club, this allows brilliant links to form enabling students the potential opportunity to go and get some experience.

We have designed the academy to support those players wishing to pursue a career within the game, with a programme designed to offer support and guidance in helping to achieve those aspirations. Training and developmental sessions will be structured in to do this and also to help students understand the demands and requirements as they progress into adult football.

Students will also have the opportunity to gain valuable life-skill qualifications including: FA Level 1 in coaching football, FA Safeguarding and FA Basic First Aid for Sport, FA Referee Course which will all be delivered by FA Tutors.

What to expect:

- Training and development of every aspect of the game
- Match and training analysis through video clips
- Competing in National Football Youth League/AOC British College League and ESFA National Cup . Coached by a fully qualified individual who also has experience of the professional game
- Opportunities to be invited to train and play with local semi professional football clubs
- A fully comprehensive package that has been designed around training and games to replicate a scholarship at professional clubs . Visits to premier league football clubs for matchday or training day experiences

Career Progression

By attending the Smestow Football Academy it will provide students with excellent skills and knowledge in order to progress further both academically and also in the sporting or leisure field. These opportunities could lead to:

- Entrance to University to study sport
- Achieve career in Football as a player or a coach Football Scholarship within America

Independent Home Learning

You will be required to undertake a significant amount of preparation at home; whether it would be independent fitness work or technique work with a ball.





NEXT STEPS

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

- Research your potential career pathway to find out what subjects you might need to study.
- Read the subject information in the prospectus carefully
- Complete the online application form
- You will be then invited to a short interview with the sixth form team, so make sure that you attend this interview and bring any questions you may have.

"CHOOSING TO STUDY AT SIXTH FORM WAS THE BEST DECISION I MADE. THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT AND THE QUALITY OF TEACHING WAS EXCELLENT AND ENABLED ME TO ACHIEVE THE GRADES I NEEDED TO STUDY AT UNIVERSITY."

Our students progress onto positive destinations. These include University, Apprenticeships and employment.

Courses our students have studied at University:

- Business Management
- Music Performance
- History and Political Science
- Business Economics
- Sport and Exercise Science
- Children's Nursing
- Marketing
- Automotive Engineering

- Education Studies
- Microbiology
- Games Art

Employment Destinations:

- Management
- Engineering Apprenticeship
- Social Care
- Nursery School Apprenticeship
- Army
- Accountancy Apprenticeship



APPLICATION PROCESS

Thursday 20th November 2025 Open Evening

Friday 16th January 2026 Deadline for applications

Week commencing 26th January 2026 Sixth Form Interview

Monday 4th May 2026 GCSE Exams begin

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd June 2026 Sixth Form Inductions

Thursday 20th August 2026 GCSE Results Day/Year 12 Registration

Week commencing 31st August 2026 Lessons Start



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