MILNER SIXTH

LEARN

GROW

BELONG

Part of Bishop Milner Catholic College

''INSPIRING HEARTS AND MINDS WITH CHRIST AT THE CENTRE OF ALL WE SAY AND DO''

Welcome to
Bishop Milner Sixth Form

Our Head of Sixth Form Welcomes you

We are extremely proud of what our Sixth Form has to offer to both its students and the local community. We are excited to extend to you the opportunity to be part of a small, local Sixth Form that has you, your wellbeing and your academic success at its centre.

You will find our Sixth Form to be a friendly, supportive and inclusive environment which offers Quality First Teaching, outstanding pastoral care and personalised guidance needed to help all students develop the skills and self-confidence to achieve their full potential. We are fully committed to helping our young people build the successful futures they so richly deserve.

We are a Catholic college with a family atmosphere and we pride ourselves on good relationships. Our Sixth Form is made up of students not only from our own Year 11, but also those who choose to join us from other schools too. Most importantly, all become valued members of our Sixth Form community, where the care of the individual is paramount and everyone is treated equally. Placing Christ at the centre of all we say and do guides our approach to putting people first.

At Bishop Milner Catholic College, we have high expectations of all our students as evidenced not only in the quality of our examination outcomes, but reflected in our fantastic young people who move on to higher education, apprenticeships or employment. Our team of well-qualified and dedicated staff ensure that our students have the opportunity to flourish in a nurturing environment where academic excellence is aspired to and celebrated and a strong sense of citizenship and community belonging is encouraged at all times.

We are passionate about our comprehensive package of further enrichment that complements the academic, social and spiritual growth of those within our community. These activities are rich and varied and include trips abroad, public speaking competitions, field trips, Archdiocese annual Lourdes pilgrimage, work experience placements, visits to universities and so much more! All of our students are encouraged to take part in the activities on offer to support their growth as well-rounded individuals.

Milner Sixth prides itself on being a niche institution that is able to give a very personalised experience of both pastoral care and academic study. Students leave having secured university places, apprenticeships, work-based training or jobs in sought-after industries and we are proud to be a part of that incredible journey. We strive to ensure that students keep their options open and develop the skills, attributes and qualifications to flourish in the future.

Milner Sixth also offers a comprehensive career and UCAS service, which focuses on individual support and looks to respond to your interests and skills. The quality of careers guidance given to students stands us out from other schools and colleges.

Our support process runs throughout your time in Sixth Form, not just in the final few months. Students receive specialist advice as they research and finalise their higher education or career choices. Our aim is to ensure that everyone can leave Milner Sixth heading in the direction that best suits them and that makes the most of their individual talents.

We hope this prospectus provides you with great insight into life at Bishop Milner Catholic College. However, there is no substitute for visiting us and seeing these things for yourself. We look forward to seeing you at our Open Evening and are also happy to provide guided tours around the college. Never hesitate to get in touch!

I look forward to making the next steps towards your future with you!

Mr N Richards Head of Sixth Form

Catholic Life
at Bishop Milner

We are a proud Catholic Community. Whilst you do not have to be Catholic to attend or gain a place here, our curriculum and activities are always planned to help you develop your spiritual journey.

Our college promotes the growth and development of the whole person to their full potential by ensuring that their curriculum experience is within a Catholic context, where you can be supported in acquiring skills, knowledge, positive attitudes and moral values. We strive to make your experiences of relationships within the school productive and positive, seeking to cherish and develop what is good through mutual respect and understanding.

The spiritual life of all members of our community is central to our mission.

Inspired by St Peter, our Faith Representatives are involved in a range of areas in college life including:

- providing prayers for tutor time
- organising of charity events
- Involvement in the celebration of Feast Day Masses

We have a chapel which provides a peaceful place for staff and students to reflect and have some quiet time. It is open at social time and it is used for assemblies, staff prayer, and class Mass throughout the year.

Masses and Liturgical Celebrations

There are weekly acts of Collective Worship, Masses, services of reconciliation, reflection and Feast Day Masses. In this way we recognise and support the point made by Pope Francis in April 2019 where the Holy Father urged young people to:

...be the protagonists of change. You, young people, are the ones who hold the future. I ask you to be builders of the world, to work for a better world."

We respect all faiths and students of all religious denominations are welcomed to our Masses. **We also welcome students of no faith at all. Importantly, we come together as one – doing everything we can to be roles models of compassion, truth and respect.**

"...be the protagonists of change. You, young people, are the ones who hold the future. I ask you to be builders of the world, to work for a better world."

Enrichment Opportunities

There are a range of extra-curricular activities you can get involved in to broaden experiences and support learning in college.

Some of these include:

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

This is an opportunity to volunteer to work with the sick in Lourdes by taking them to the Grotto, the torchlight procession or by talking to the elderly or infirm on this pilgrimage.

Public Speaking Competition

For a number of years, the Catenians have run a prestigious public speaking competition. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to add to your personal statements and CVs, and take part in something fun!

Student Ambassadors

We recognise the importance of being able to demonstrate you are responsible citizens who can make positive contributions to our college community. We encourage you to apply for our Student Ambassador Team.

As a team, they work together across the whole college to support student voice through the college's Student Council as well as supporting with our younger leaders such as the main school prefects.

Teaching Assistant Award and Paired Reading

Being part of a wider school places our Sixth Form students in unique positions to be leaders and role models in a number of ways: Students have the opportunity to complete their Teaching Assistant Award by supporting across the main college site. Support as a paired reader

English Speaking Board and Extended Project Qualifcation

All students have the opportunity through their Core RE lessons to complete the Level 3 Certificate in Speech, where they develop their skills in presentation, debate and questioning as well as their confidence. This complements the topics covered in their Core RE lesson, where students grow a greater understanding or ethical issues across the world. Additonally the EPQ is available to all students where they create a project on a topic of their choice. Univeristies and employers look very favourably on these skills and qualifications.

Work Experience

As part of the college's Sixth Form enrichment curriculum, all Year 12 students are encouraged to arrange and attend one week of work experience at the end of the summer term. This provides an opportunity to enhance applications and CVs for university or employment and provides a valuable opportunity to experience the expectations for employment.

Support for your Health & Wellbeing

Facilities

The Sixth Form Centre has a dedicated study suite with access to computers and support staff throughout the college day.

In addition to this, we also have a recreation room with comfy spaces for lounging and socialising. You can also take advantage of the college's larger Learning Resource Centre as a place of study.

Other facilities include:

- Sixth Form Cafe staffed throughout the day
- Study Room
- Quiet Study Area
- Sixth Form Common Room with table tennis
- Laptop Zone
- Wi-Fi
- Sports Hall
- Fitness gym
- MUGA floodlit pitch.

Pastoral support

Our first priority is YOUR welfare and protection. Therefore, we have designated Senior Staff responsible for Safeguarding Children (11 to 18). The names of these staff are displayed in reception and around the college.

You will be assigned to a tutor group and attend weekly tutor sessions. This allows you to develop a point of contact to get to know each other, take part in collective worship, and get involved in PSHE. Tutors also write UCAS references and support with the UCAS application process.

A whole range of student interventions from subject support to counselling is on offer to students who feel they may need extra support or guidance at any time.

Wellbeing

We value the importance of having a balance between study and social time. YOUR wellbeing is important to us in order to get maximum output and experience.

We like to create a positive ethos towards learning with regular rewards and treats for students who are dedicated and consistently apply themselves.

We are also part of the Uni Days scheme, a bit like NUS, where you can get discount on the things you like to shop for.

Bursary Fund

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome specific barriers to participation so they can remain in education.

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

- bursaries for defined vulnerable groups of up to £1,200 a year
- discretionary bursaries which institutions award to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment

Please note that the bursary is awarded subject to attendance throughout the year.

Our Expectations

Student Conduct

We pride ourselves on nurturing students that can make active and positive contributions to their community and world of work – we want you to be the best you can be!

Our expectations are high, and this extends to your behaviour and a ttitudes in and around college. Further guidance can be found in the Student Handbook.

Sixth Form Dress Code

At Bishop Milner we expect our Sixth Form students to be role models to all the other students in college. This should be evident through their outstanding behaviour, attitude and ethos, but to also set an example through their appearance and the way in which they present themselves.

We won't fully stipulate what you can wear! We feel you should wear clothes that are comfortable and practical but are also appropriate for the workplace and to meet our expectations.

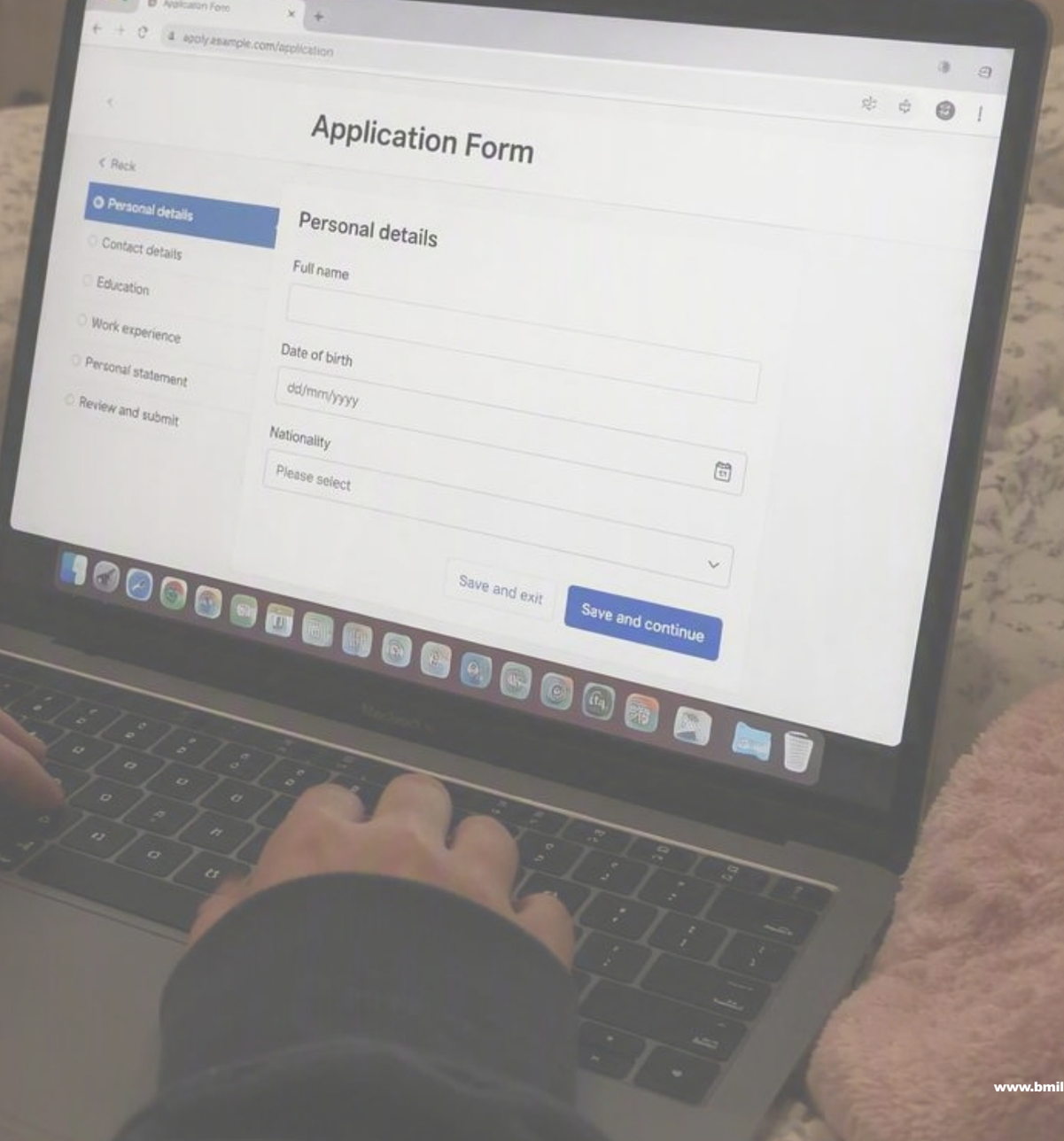
Attendance and Punctuality

As the stepping stone to future careers, we believe Sixth Form is the place to get it right and start as you mean to go on!

Employers and Universities are always keen to know your attendance and punctuality as a reflection of your work ethic, passion and attitude.

Your form tutor will keep note of your attendance and punctuality, we will address these if they become a concern.

Making your Application



Application Deadline

Our application process is now all online on the college's website www.bmilner.dudley.sch.uk, simply click on the Sixth Form tab.

Applications open on 22nd October 2026 which is the same date as our Open Evening.

If advice or assistance is required on the completion of application forms, please e-mail the college on **info@bmilner.dudley.sch.uk** or contact college reception on **01384 889422**

Subject Consultations: February - Easter

All applicants will have an opportunity to attend a consultation with a member of the Sixth Form Team. This will allow you to dicuss course optins and your future pathway.

Provisional Offer Letters:

Once applicants have completed their application they will receive a letter notifying them of the outcome of their application and any subsequent conditions attached to the offer. At this time students will also be invited to Sixth Form Induction.

Induction: July

To welcome both new and existing members of our college community into Sixth Form life, there will be an Induction event in July for students to meet their tutors, other students and receive further information relating to Bishop Milner Sixth Form.

Enrolment: August

Enrolment Interviews will take place following publication of GCSE examination results. Subject choices will be finalised at this point. Students will be issued with their college identification, timetable and student handbook on their first day in September.

Overview
of the Curriculum

Choosing the Right Courses

During the Spring Term you will have the opportunity to discuss your course selections with a member of the Sixth Form Team.

We advise all applicants to familiarise yourself with the courses available and prepare any questions that you might have.

Students are also encouraged to think about their future choices and career plans when making their course selections. In Year 12, the majority of students are expected to study three Level 3 courses.

With a broad range of qualifications and subjects to select from, you may wish to consider the following factors when making your choices:

- What plans do you have for a university education? Have you any alternative plans?
- Which subjects will support your long-term career plans?
- Which subjects do you already enjoy and consistently achieve in?
- What subjects or topics are you naturally curious about?
- What is your preferred learning style?
- How do you prefer to be assessed? Through coursework? Through examination? Through performance?

If you are interested in studying a specific subject at university, we advise you to investigate the entry requirements on the UCAS website (www.ucas.com). The 'Course Search' tool will give you all the information required for degree courses.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) from Edexcel

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a skills-based, independent research project with a project which is unique in that you decide what it is about, and the focus is on developing valuable skills rather than learning and examining content.

By choosing to complete an Extended Project, you are embarking on a challenging and rewarding journey which will enable you to become the college expert in your chosen field and equip you with a range of skills valued both in further education and in the workplace.

The EPQ is a Level 3 independent research project which earns you UCAS points.

Assessment of the EPQ is through the Completion of a CRF log, a 5000-word essay or artefact and a 1000-word report with a presentation.

Subjects
and entry criteria

Sixth Form Entry Criteria: a minimum of 5 GCSE grades at 4-9	
A Level Courses	
Art & Design	Grade 4 in GCSE Art Students who have not studied Art and demonstrate a personal interest in the subject will be considered on an individual basis and may be asked to show a portfolio of work
Biology	Grade 6 in GCSE Biology **or** a 6/6 in Combined Science GCSE and a grade 5 at GCSE Mathematics
Chemistry	Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry **or** a 6/6 in Combined Science GCSE and a grade 5 at GCSE Mathematics
English Literature	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and English Literature
History	Grade 5 in GCSE History and grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature is recommended.
Philosophy and Ethics	Grade 5 in GCSE RE and grade 5 in GCSE English language is recommended.
Psychology	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature and recommended Grade 5 in GCSE Maths
Sociology	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature
Maths/Statistics *	For Maths a minimum grade 6 is required at GCSE but grade 7 recommended, for Statistics Grade 5 in GCSE Maths minimum however recommend a grade 6, students must have completed higher tier at GCSE Maths.
	**** Course offered in September 2027 between Maths/Statistics is dependant on suitabilty of the cohort at the point of enrolment.***
BTEC (Level 3) / Applied General Qualification/ Alternative Academic Qualification/V Levels	
Accounting and Finance	Students will need to have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above (or equivalent) including English and Maths
Criminology	Students will need to have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above (or equivalent) including English Language or Literature
Education	Students will need to have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above (or equivalent) including English Language or Literature
Engineering	Students will need to have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above (or equivalent) including English, Maths and Science
Medical Science	Students will need to have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above (or equivalent) including English, Maths and Science
Law	Students will need to have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above (or equivalent) including English Language or Literature
Sport	Grade 4 in GCSE Physical Education or a Merit in vocational Sport course
GCSE Retakes	It is a statutory requirement that you must sit English and Mathematics again if you have not achieved

Course

Art and Design A-Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Summary

A-level Art and Design aims to further your interest and enthusiasm for Art! It will equip you with a set of transferable skills both for life and for a wide range of vocational areas.

This creative course encourages you to develop your skills as a practising artist. You will be introduced to a variety of projects with the intention to build on your artistic skills and develop your use of materials.

The emphasis throughout the course is developing a personal and individual style whilst experimenting with techniques and materials in both 2D and 3D to a greater depth and maturity.

The course allows exploration of a variety of techniques including Painting, Drawing, Print, IT, Textiles, Sculpture and Ceramics.

You will be encouraged to become an independent thinker, developing personal responses to a range of topics, themes, ideas, observations, experiences, environments and cultures. Students May specialise in Fine Art or Textiles.

Opportunities outside the classroom include: visits to local museums; art galleries and universities; Sixth Form students mentoring KS3 and KS4 students and participating in competitions.

How will the course be assessed?

Component 1 - Personal investigation

Component 2 - Externally set assignment

Component 1 - Personal Investigation 60% of final A level grade. An in-depth extended, exploratory project/ portfolio based on a theme or subject matter that is personal and meaningful to the learner.

The project must integrate critical, practical and theoretical work. Must include a 1500 - 3000-word piece of extended writing. Component 2 - Externally set assignment 40% of final A level grade.

Portfolio of preparatory work completed from February to May in Year 13. One or more final pieces completed in a 15-hour examination session All work is marked internally by the centre and moderated by AQA during a visit to the centre.

Future Career Pathways

Diverse and varied careers such as architecture, advertising, fashion and textile industry, theatre set and costume design, graphic design, web page design, media, photography. industrial product design, jewellery, interior design, teaching, therapy. medicine

Biology A-Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Summary

The work of biologists is vital to us all. Choose Biology and you could find yourself advancing knowledge, finding new discoveries and tackling some of the pioneering new challenges facing the world we live in.

Biology is the study of the natural world and will take you on a journey through life from the macroscopic environments that drive the biodiversity we see on Earth, through to the microscopic world of the cell and the molecular interactions that drive it.

Studying Biology at A level will engage you with the complexities of Ecological concepts and enable you to link this to concepts learnt in Chemistry and Physics too. Whilst there is a lot of theory to learn, there will also be a great deal of analysis of experimental data as you will demonstrate the skills needed to be a real scientist. Strong mathematics and reasoning skills are therefore essential. As well as A Level Chemistry, Biology is also well supported by Mathematics and, or, Physics.

Students have participated in a mock autopsy conducted by final year medical students, having the opportunity to dissect and handle organs from a mock cadaver. Students have the opportunity to visit Warwick University for a Biology in Action day seeing presentations upon the latest research undertaken by top scientists.

How will the course be assessed?

Unit 1 - Biological molecules
Unit 2 - Cells
Unit 3 - Organisms exchange substances with their environment
Unit 4 - Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
Unit 5 - Energy transfers in and between organisms
Unit 6 - Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
Unit 7 - Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
Unit 8 - The control of gene expression.

Assessment is 100% examination-based, with twelve standard experiments being assessed and awarded independently which must be passed in order for the A Level to be awarded.

Paper 1 has 91 marks lasting 2 hours - 35% of the A level.
Paper 2 has 91 marks lasting 2 hours - 35% of the A level
Paper 3 has 78 marks lasting 2 hours (includes an essay question) 30% of The A level. Practical assessments as well as written exams, a separate endorsement of practical skills is taken alongside the A-level.

This is assessed by teachers and will be based on direct observation of students' competency in a range of skills that are not assessable in written exams. Students will be awarded a pass or fail at the end of the course based on the assessed practicals.

Future Career Pathways

With a Biology A-level, you can normally study further sciences at university such as Forensic Biology, Biology Human Biology, Ecology, Environmental Biology, Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Botany, Zoology, Parasitology, Aquatic Bioscience, Genetics, Virology, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy and many more. The higher your grade, the more options are open to you, universities also often recommend that - if you want to study a science at degree level - you may need to take a further science such as Chemistry or Mathematics at A-level. The list of career opportunities is varied and endless, including teaching and research, biological science and technology, medical and health services, genetic counselling, health education, biochemistry…

Course

Chemistry A-Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Summary

You are the substance of which stars are made. Just breathe in and out, and you are performing a chemical reaction! Pick up a soft drink and you'll find Chemistry everywhere – from the can you are holding to the paint used to cover it and the liquid inside. Chemistry is the study of all things, and how to change from one into another.

Your food, body, mobile phone, the air you breathe, are all made of chemicals. If you like thinking logically - and thinking hard – then Chemistry is for you. If you want to see with new eyes all that is before you, in your food, cosmetics, product labels and in the atmosphere, and want to know how the world works, you are a natural chemist. The Chemistry Department will take your natural curiosity, develop your analytical and critical thinking skills, so with new understanding, you can play your part in changing the world.

Chemists conduct experiments to study how elements work in different conditions, test how they mix, and work out what they are made of, right down to the tiniest particle! The results can be colourful, explosive, or even impossible to see. Chemists use these experiments and knowledge to develop medicines, foods, fabrics and other materials – from neon lights to shatterproof glass. Chemistry helps you to develop research, problem solving and analytical skills.

Cross-curricular links are a vital part of the Chemistry experience. Additional work is done with the RE Department (in the study of Ethics) and the Art department to enhance the knowledge and skills gained. Additionally, speakers are often invited to share their knowledge and experience in using Chemistry in their professions

How will the course be assessed?

The Chemistry course is divided into 3 main units –

3.1 Physical Chemistry
3.2 Inorganic Chemistry
3.3 Organic Chemistry

Each unit is further divided into sub-units, which explores the subject area in greater detail.
Assessment is 100% examination-based. There are 12 required practical experiments (which are teacher assessed) which must be completed and passed in order for the A Level to be awarded. Overall, at least 20% of the marks in the assessments with require the use of Higher Tier GCSE Mathematical skills, applied in a Chemistry context.

Paper 1 (Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and Practical skills) – 105 marks of short and long answer questions - 2 hours - 35% of the A level.

Paper 2 (Physical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and Practical skills) – 105 marks of short and long answer questions - 2 hours - 35% of the A level.

Paper 3 (Any content and Practical skills) – 60 marks of short and long answer questions, 30 marks of multiple choice - 2 hours - 30% of the A level

Future Career Pathways

Chemistry will help you in most STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) careers and more besides. It is an important subject for careers in medicine, environmental science, engineering, pharmacology, space exploration, perfume and cosmetics development, teaching, software development, toxicology – the sky is the limit!

English Literature A-Level
Examination Board: AQA (Specification A)

Course Summary

English Literature is a course designed for students who are passionate about English Literature and enjoy reading. You will have the opportunity to explore a range of texts and genres from different time periods and authors. You will have the opportunity to study Shakespeare and an array of poets across time.

We also opt to study modern literature which will allow you to examine how the issues of the modern world are presented on the page from sexuality and femininity to war, conflict and politics. English literature is an academic subject respected by all universities, and particularly Russell Group Universities.

Students who excel in this subject are good communicators, can write effectively and are able to analyse, debate and explore perspectives in detail. As part of the course, the English department take students to the theatre, attend bespoke revision conferences as well as having links with local universities.

How will the course be assessed?

Love though the Ages
Love through the Ages explores relationships presented in Shakespeare's 'Othello,' comparing the presentation of love in two unseen poems and finally, comparing love across previously studied prose, currently 'Great Gatsby' and poetry from a set anthology.

Texts in Shared Contexts
Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the present day: Texts in modern context gives you the opportunity to study the whole collection of Carol Ann Duffy's 'Feminine Gospels'. The second section of this exam offers an extract of unseen prose to explore and then a comparison of two modern text previously studied in class, currently Williams' 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and Stockett's 'The Help.'

NEA: Non-Examined Assessment
During your two-year course you will independently write a 2,500-word essay comparing two texts, one of which must be from the 19th century, currently Dickens' 'Great Expectations'. Here you have the scope to choose your own comparative text and title, meaning you can explore a topic of interest to you such as identity, power, sexuality, mental health.

Exam 1 Love through the Ages 40% 75 marks 3 hours

Exam 2 Texts in Shared Contexts: Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the present day 40% 75 marks 2 hours 15 mins

NEA: Non-Examined Assessment 2,500-word comparative independent study 20%

Future Career Pathways

As a facilitating subject for the Russell Group, English Literature is an area of academic study that lends itself to a range of Higher Education courses as well as future careers. Students of English literature go on to study a wide range of subjects including performing arts, journalism, creative writing, law, marketing and advertising, psychology, sociology and media studies. Future career pathways include publishing, teaching, journalism, law, marketing, PR, the arts and social media.

Course

History A Level
Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Summary

Studying A-Level History enables students to use their passion for the subject in a variety of ways including the importance of debate. The understanding and learning of History never stops. Learning History not only enhances your chances at university and in the job market but also broadens minds and evaluate issues not only at home but globally. It is also recognised as a facilitating subject by the Russell Group. Learning A-level History also encompasses the core values of Bishop Milner and enables students to spiritually and morally reflect on the events that have shaped the world that we live in today.

Opportunities to visit various universities that offer workshops on the art of writing essays. This is a unique opportunity to understand how to enhance skills further and be successful in A-Level History.

The History department are currently discussing various trips that link with topics of study. One places that is in discussion is visiting London to visit the Houses of Parliament. Also, a potential trip to the USA is under consideration.

There is also an opportunity for politicians to come to school to talk about their experiences of political life which will enable students to understand the life of a politician.

Students who are considering studying History at University or any subjects linked to History (such as Law, Politics or English) will have the opportunity to visit local universities to gain experience on what university life will entail. Seminars from university lecturers will give students an insight into the topics that are taught at university. The History department also encourage wider reading that will enthuse students and give them an opportunity to read at university level.

How will the course be assessed?

Unit 1: Britain Transformed 1918-1997:
Students will have the unique opportunity in studying the political, economic and social history of Great Britain from after the First World War to the election of Tony Blair in 1997.

Unit 2: The USA, 1920-55: bust and recovery:
Students will learn about the fascinating history of USA during the first half of the 20th century. Students will have the opportunity to learn about how USA was able to become arguably the most powerful country in the world.

Unit 3: Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763-1914:
During Year 13, students will have the opportunity to study the rise and fall of the British Empire. Firstly, students will study the Empire through a breadth study, with focus on the formation and transformation of the British Navy and also the change in trade between the colonies and Britain including the slave trade. The second half of the unit will be concentrated on various case studies in which either Britain colonised various areas of the world or the tensions with the Empire and countries that were colonised. Throughout all of this, students will enhance their evaluative skills and their source skills.

Assessment is 80% exam based with 20% coursework.

Paper 1 2 hours 15 minutes – 30% of final grade
Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes – 20% of final grade
Paper 3 2 hours 15 minutes – 30% of final grade

Coursework: An interpretation essay on a topic of your choice. – 20% of final grade.

Future Career Pathways
The opportunities in the job market are endless not only can you do historic based careers you can use you're A-level to partake in law, politics and other evaluation-based jobs. Also, there are opportunities within the teaching sector at all levels of the profession.

Psychology A-Level
Examination Board AQA

Course Summary

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and experiences. Students learn to consider why other people's behaviour may differ from their own, depending on external factors such as upbringing or internal factors such as genetics.

Students will also learn about the causes of various psychological disorders such as phobias, OCD and how to treat individuals who suffer from these. Psychology is an academically challenging subject that includes sizeable science and mathematical elements, as well as extended essay writing.

This qualification offers an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

Experience of conducting research outside of lessons for example observing younger students' conformity to older students at break time and observing the relationships between gender and driving behaviour. A sheep brain dissection to analyse the localisation of brain function.

Experience of taking part in degree level research; students in the past have been interviewed by two University of Birmingham students that were investigating exam stress and anxiety.

Contact with local universities, including a lecture delivered by Newman University on Criminology. Regular Study Buddy sessions where year 13 students mentor year 12 students.

How will the course be assessed?

Paper 1 Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology
Paper 2 Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods
Paper 3 Issues and Debates in Psychology, three optional topics (Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology)

The A-level course is 100% examination based through three papers.

All papers include multiple choice, short answers extended writing questions.

Future Career Pathways
This subject is very useful if you want to go on to study Psychology, Counselling, Youth Work, international Relations, Politics, Business, healthcare, childcare, teaching, the police force, prison settings, human resources, management roles, counselling and many more.

You can study either a BSc (Science) or a BA (Art) in Psychology, so individual university requirements need be checked as they may vary.

A Psychology degree has been widely regarded as one of the most versatile degrees when trying to access the job market after university, since behaviour and social interactions are present in all parts of human life.

Course

Philosophy and Ethics A-Level
Examination Board: OCR

Course Summary

The Philosophy and Ethics A-level is a dynamic and engaging "course, which combines issues of religion, morality, psychology and sociology, and philosophy with contemporary topics, such as gender, sexism and business ethics.

Students enjoy the passionate debates that are a key aspect of studying this subject and the chance to share their own theories regarding ideas from as far back as Ancient Greek philosophy.

A-level Philosophy and Ethics actually combines a range of other areas of study, such as History, Law, Science, Sociology, Business Studies, English and Psychology in addition, to studies in English, Law. Sociology: Psychology, History, Science and Business.

Ultimately, it is a subject that has a wide appeal, it is focussing on the very heart of what it means to be human and how and why we have developed morally, spiritually and socially.

Opportunities outside the classroom include; access to University lectures on key topics, film or theatre trips when the focus is relevant to the course.

How will the course be assessed?

There are three components of study, which make up the Philosophy and Ethics A-level qualification:

1. **Philosophy of Religion:** examining life's big questions, such as: can Philosophical arguments be effective in arguing for God's existence? What are the implications for belief in a loving God when faced with issues of moral and natural evil? And does it make sense to talk about God in everyday language?
2. **Religion and Ethics:** examining issues of morality, such as should businesses be concerned with ethics? Does religion have the right to comment on people's sexual relationships? And should ethical decisions be based on the greater outcome for the greatest number or, by applying the principle of situation ethics?
3. **Developments in Christian Thought:** examining religious issues in contemporary society and religion, such as is motherhood liberating or restricting? Was Jesus merely a teacher of wisdom or, was he a political and social liberator? And how useful is the Bible in moral-decision making?

It is 100% examination-assessed, with an examination for all three components worth 33.3% each. Each exam is two hours and students answer three extended essay questions (from a choice of four), worth 40 marks per essay. This results in 120 marks in total for each paper

Future Career Pathways

A qualification in A-level Philosophy and Ethics reflects your ability to analyse; show reasoning and critical-thinking skills; examine issues from different perspectives and ask life's key questions. As well as this, it gives a deeper insight into different schools of thought from the philosophical to the secular and allows you to engage with contemporary moral, philosophical and religious issues with from a position of knowledge and understanding with the vocabulary that you need to articulate your views.

As a result, it can lead to careers or further studies in a wide number of disciplines: Business management - the most common industry to go into with this qualification at degree level! – Medicine, Law, Media - Teaching lecturing, research - The religious life and ministry - The police - Social/ care services ~ Politics - Counselling - Working for a museum art gallery, historic building/ place of worship - Working for local council civil service/ government or non-governmental organisations - Charity and volunteer work and fundraising nationally, internationally and globally -Chaplaincy and youth work.

Sociology
Examination Board: AQA

Course Summary

Sociology is the study of how society is organised. We look at the relationships between individuals and groups and how experiences, such as childhood poverty, racism and labelling can affect a person's life chances. Our students find that studying Sociology on look at Britain and the world today in new ways. What students discover is how to think critically for themselves and to look at human behaviour from different perspectives.

Students must study the following two core themes: socialisation, culture and identity and social differentiation, power and stratification. The study of the topics in this paper should engage students in theoretical debate while encouraging an active involvement with the research process. The study should foster a critical awareness of contemporary social processes and change, and draw together the knowledge, understanding and skills learnt in different aspects of the course.

Students will be familiar with sociological explanations of the following content: the role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure. Differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society. Relationships and processes within schools, with particular reference to teacher/pupil relationships, pupil identities and subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning. The significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome, for an understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of and access to education; the impact of globalisation on educational policy.

Opportunities outside the classroom include: A question and answer session with local member parliament on current political affairs and the education system. Opportunities to conduct research outside of lesson, for example recruiting participants to take part in a questionnaire on GCSE attainment and culture. Contact with local universities, including lectures delivered by Newman University on Criminology and Working with Children and Young People.

How will the course be assessed?

Unit 1 -Education with Theory and Methods
Unit 2 -Topics in Sociology (Families and Households and The Media)
Unit 3 -Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

The A-level course is 100% examination based through three papers taken at the end of the second year of the course.

Future Career Pathways

Students can progress to degree courses such as Criminology, Journalism, Law, Social Policy and Sociology.

They pursue careers in which an understanding of people and social groups is essential, such as the police, social work, business, human resources, advertising and public relations.

Course

Statistics A-Level
Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Summary

Statistics A -Level develops students' ability to collect, analyse, interpret and evaluate data, while applying statistical methods to real-world situations. The course builds strong mathematical, analytical and problem-solving skills and is particularly useful for students interested in subjects such as economics, psychology, biology, geography, business, data science and social science.

1. Data and Probability

Data collection methods

Sampling techniques

Data presentation and interpretation

Measures of location and spread

Probability concepts and calculations

Correlation and regression

2. Statistical Inference

Hypothesis testing

Probability distributions

Binomial and normal distributions

Estimation and confidence intervals

Significance testing

3. Statistics in Practice

Applying statistical techniques to real-life contexts

Using large data sets

Interpreting statistical reports

Evaluating conclusions and communicating findings

How will the course be assessed?

A Level Statistics is a fully exam-based qualification assessed through three equally weighted 2-hour papers covering data and probability, statistical inference, and practical statistical applications.

Paper 1: Data and Probability
2 hours
80 marks
Covers data handling, probability and related statistical techniques

Paper 2: Statistical Inference
2 hours
80 marks
Covers statistical inference, distributions and hypothesis testing

Paper 3: Statistics in Practice
2 hours
80 marks
Covers statistical inference, distributions and hypothesis testing

Future Career Pathways

Data Analyst, Busines Analyst, Accountant, Financial Analyst, Risk Manager, Statistician, Data Engineer, AI specialist, Cyber Security Analyst.

Accounting and Finance V Level
Examination Board: TBC

Course Summary

The V Level in Accounting and Finance develops learners' understanding of how financial information is created, interpreted, and used within organisations. Students will explore accounting principles, financial reporting, budgeting, costing, taxation, financial performance, investment decision-making, risk management, ethics, and commercial awareness.

The qualification combines theoretical knowledge with practical and industry-relevant scenarios, enabling learners to apply accounting and financial concepts to real business situations. Learners will develop analytical, numerical, problem-solving, communication, and digital skills that are highly valued by employers and higher education providers.

How will the course be assessed?

Course specification not available at present

Typical Assessment Methods
Written examinations
Case study analysis
Applied finance projects
Scenario-based assessments
Financial reporting tasks
Professional discussions or presentations
Synoptic assessment integrating knowledge and skills

Future Career Pathways

Degrees in Accounting, Finance, Banking, Economics, or Business

Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

AAT professional qualifications

Entry-level finance and accounting roles

Course

Criminology Applied General
Examination Board: WJEC

Course Summary
Criminology is an Applied General qualification. It has been designed to offer exciting and interesting experiences that focus learning for Post 16 education, to acquire knowledge and understanding in purposeful contexts linked to the criminal justice system.
Criminology is the scientific study of criminal behaviour, on individual, social and natural levels, and how it can be managed, controlled and prevented. The course is suitable if you are interested in why people commit crime, what types of crime they commit and how those crimes are dealt with or punished. It also enables you to use theories of criminality to analyse criminal situations and make recommendations for policy. You will assess campaigns for changes in awareness of crime and review verdicts. It is an excellent foundation if you want to pursue the study of criminology at university level.

How will the course be assessed?
Unit 1: Changing awareness of crime
The focus of the unit is on unreported crime and its consequences. We will examine white collar crime and organised crime as well as media representation of crime. Internally assessed controlled assessment.
Unit 2: Criminological theories
The aim of this unit is to explore the reasons why people commit crime from a variety of different perspectives such as biological, sociological and psychological. Students apply these theories to real life situations answering questions such as “what makes someone a serial killer? Externally assessed examination.
Unit 3: Crime scene to courtroom
In this unit we examine the Criminal Justice System, from the identification of the crime through to the verdict. Students evaluate the validity of verdicts given in criminal cases (including miscarriages of justice in real life) and gain an understanding of techniques used by police and throughout the CJS. Internally assessed controlled assessment.
Unit 4: Crime and punishment
This unit focuses on the roles of different agents of social control such as the police, CPS, probation and prison service. Students will also learn how to evaluate the limitations and effectiveness of these agents. Externally assessed examination.

Future Career Pathways
Students studying Criminology can lead to degress such as Criminology, Sociology, Forensic Science and Policing to name a few.

Possible careers could include but are not limited to:
Police Officer, Crime Scen Investigator, Prison Officer, Youth Justice Worker, Criminal Intelligence Analyst, Solicitor, Legal Researcher, Social Worker, Forensic Psychologist, Behaviour Analyst

Education V Level
Examination Board: TBC

Course Summary
The V Level in Education provides learners with a broad understanding of educational practice, child and young person development, learning theories, inclusion, safeguarding, curriculum design, and the role of education within society.

The qualification is designed for students interested in careers across teaching, educational support, youth work, community education, and further study in education-related disciplines. Emphasis is placed on understanding how people learn and how educational environments support development, achievement, and wellbeing.

How will the course be assessed?

Course specification not available at present

Typical Assessment Methods

Written examinations
Research projects
Case studies
Reflective portfolios
Presentations
Professional practice assessments
Synoptic assessments based on educational scenarios

Future Career Pathways
Students taking this course would be able to progress into areas such as Education studies degree, Teaching and teacher training pathways, Childhood and Youth Studies, Education support, Apprenticeships within education and training.

Course

Engineering Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ)
Examination Board: Pearson

Course Summary

The Pearson Level 3 AAQ in Engineering is designed for students interested in engineering, technology and innovation. Students develop knowledge of engineering principles, modern technologies, Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and project management. The course develops technical, mathematical and problem-solving skills through practical projects and real-world engineering applications, preparing students for higher education and apprenticeships.

How will the course be assessed?

Unit 1: Engineering Principles (Exam)

Unit 2: Engineering Applications (Exam)

Unit 3: Engineering Design (Coursework)

Unit 4: Engineering Project (Coursework)

Future Career Pathways

Mechanical, Civil, Electrical, Aerospace and Automotive Engineering, Degree Apprenticeships and other STEM-related courses and careers.

Medical Science Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ)
Examination Board: Pearson

Course Summary

The Pearson Level 3 AAQ in Medical Science is ideal for students interested in healthcare, medicine and biomedical sciences. Students explore human anatomy, physiology, pathology, infectious diseases and laboratory science whilst developing practical investigation and research skills.

The course combines scientific theory with practical application, helping students develop analytical, problem-solving and communication skills valued by universities and employers

How will the course be assessed?

Unit 1: Principles of Human Physiology, Anatomy and Pathology (Exam)

Unit 2: Health Issues and Scientific Reporting (Exam)

Unit 3: Practical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (Coursework)

One optional unit in a specialist area

Future Career Pathways

Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery, Biomedical Science, Physiotherapy, Paramedic Science, Pharmacy and other healthcare-related professions

Course

Law BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Examination Board: Pearson

Course Summary

This qualification is for post-16 students who want to continue their education through applied learning and to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the legal sector.

It aims to give a coherent introduction to study of the Legal Sector.

It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A-levels.

It provides the basis of an excellent route for learners to pursue a career in the legal sector. This can be through higher education (degrees in business and law) or through an Advanced Apprenticeship in Legal Services.

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education.

It includes the opportunity to develop the research, communication, presentation, decision-making and critical-thinking skills valued by higher education. In addition, employers have been involved and consulted in order to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice for students planning to enter employment directly in the legal sector.

Students are given the opportunity to visit crown court and observe judges, barristers and solicitors at work. Legal professionals are also invited into college to meet with students.

How will the course be assessed?

Unit 1 - Dispute Solving in Civil Law:
Learners will explore how civil disputes are resolved and will examine precedent and its application in the law of negligence using case studies

Unit 2 - Investigating Aspects of Criminal Law and the Legal System:
Learners research how laws are made and interpreted, who advises and decides the outcome of criminal cases and the punishments imposed if laws are broken

Unit 3 - Applying the Law:
An examination of law and police procedures related to specific crimes, including homicide.

Unit 4 - Aspects of Family Law:
Explore requirements of a valid marriage and civil partnership as well as breakdown In relationships and disputes over children

Unit 1 - 1 hour 30 minutes examination sat in the summer of Year 12.
Students are provided with the scenario prior to the examination and are then given 6 hours of preparation time. Students are allowed to take 2 sides of A4 notes into the examination with them.

Unit 2 - coursework

Unit 3 - 2-hour examination sat in the January of Year 13.
Students are provided with the scenario prior to the examination and are then given 6 hours of preparation time. Students are allowed to take 2 sides of A4 notes into the examination with them

Future Career Pathways

After pursuing vocational qualification, career pathways include: Studying a degree in Law, Psychology, Sociology or Criminology. Future careers include barrister, barrister's clerk, chartered legal executive (England and Wales), going into the Police Force or Armed Services, Public Services, management, business and teaching

Sport BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Examination Board: Pearson

Course Summary

This is an exciting time for Sport at Bishop Milner Catholic College with BTEC National in Sport. The Extended Certificate is an academic, practical and vocational course. It is suited to those students who are interested in further studies or a career in sport.

The content of this course has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to Higher Education.

Through a combination of both practical and theory elements, students will gain a deeper understanding of anatomy and physiology, fitness training and programming for health and well-being, professional development in the sports industry and the principles of fitness testing.

The course has a mixture of both internal and external assessments over two years. Students will get lots of opportunities to delve into the world of sport beyond sixth form life.

For example, students will get to visit a range of Universities such as Wolverhampton, BCU, Loughborough and Newman to experience taster sessions in the world of sport and to give them and insight into the requirements of sports degrees.

In addition, educational visits to UCFB Wembley to get a feel of the different post-18 courses that they offer such as Sports Business and Sports Journalism and local football clubs to experience different employment opportunities in the sector.

How will the course be assessed?

Mandatory units:

Unit 1 - Anatomy and Physiology - students will explore the different body systems such as the Skeletal, Muscular and Cardio-respiratory system and how they adapt to regular training.

Unit 2 - Fitness Training and Programming for Health and Well-being - students will look at designing a training programme to suit an individual's needs and what people need to do to improve their health.

Unit 3 - Professional Development in the Sports industry - this unit explores the array of opportunities available in the sporting industry.

Other optional units will be selected from the following:

Unit 4 -Sports Leadership
Unit 5 -Application of Fitness Training
Unit 6 -Sports Psychology
Unit 7 -Practical Sports.

The course is made up of four units which cover the broad range of the sports industry.

Two of the units are internally-assessed through the production of a portfolio of evidence.

This evidence is generated through written assignments, presentations or practical demonstrations. Two of the units are externally-assessed through examinations and set tasks.

Future Career Pathways

Progression routes include employment or further study/training in the following fields: Sport and Exercise Science, Sport, Leisure and Business Management, Sports Marketing, Teacher Training and Event Management.

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