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Dear Student

Sixth Form courses

At Backwell School we have always shaped each course in the Sixth Form to suit the individual, his or her needs, skills and future intentions. We use the Sixth Form subject choice meeting to help students find the combination of subjects that is right for them.

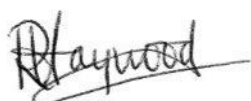
In this booklet we have started with a general introduction to Sixth Form subjects and explained what sort of considerations you need to bear in mind as you decide which subjects to choose. Then we have provided you with detailed information about the individual subjects themselves. At the end there is information about transport and financial assistance.

We are sure that you will give careful consideration to the important decisions you have to make. It is our intention that the information we give you here, together with an individual subject choice meeting, will help you to make the right choices. We hope you will select Backwell, and we look forward to working with you to help you achieve the goals you set yourself, not only in the next two years but in the life ahead of you.

Further copies of this brochure and relevant forms are available via e-mail or from our website. Please use the addresses above.

Please join us at our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 15 November 2018 to find out more.

Yours sincerely



Rose Haywood
Assistant Headteacher – Head of Sixth Form

November 2018

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Programmes of Study at Backwell Sixth Form

Thank you for your interest in Backwell Sixth Form. We offer a suite of courses at Level 3 (A Level or equivalent). The normal allocation for Year 12 students will be three two-year courses plus either the Extended Project Qualification or an additional AS Level.

Students achieving mostly grades 7 – 9 at GCSE may choose to study four A Levels, and requests of this nature will be discussed at interview. However, it is worth noting that for even the most competitive courses, university offers tend to be based on the best three subjects only. Therefore it is usually advisable for students to specialise than spread their efforts too thinly. Please see the Frequently Asked Questions and Pen Portraits later in this booklet for further guidance.

Two Year Courses

Students should select either three or four of these courses from the wide selection offered. It is possible to study either just A Levels or a mixture of A Levels and vocational qualifications.

A Levels

Every subject at A Level is now a two year linear course, with all of the assessment at the end of Year 13. Grades available vary from A* to E; this represents an equivalent range of ability to that covered by grades 9 – 4 at GCSE.

Cambridge Technical Diplomas and Level 3 Extended Certificates

These are Level 3 courses equivalent to A Level standard. Students focus on areas of the subjects in an applied way. Assessment is through six or more units over the two years, including a final exam at the end of the course. All these courses have been designed in conjunction with employers and universities. We have chosen qualifications which will help students access the appropriate pathway in Higher Education, training and employment. Successful students are awarded either Distinction Star (equivalent to A* at A Level), Distinction (A), Merit (C) or Pass (E).

One Year Courses

Unless they are taking a fourth A Level, students should choose one of the following courses to supplement their programme of study in Year 12. (Students taking four A Levels may also consider taking the EPQ.)

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The EPQ is a standalone qualification designed to extend and develop students' skills in independent research and project management. It is worth exactly half of an A Level and is graded A* to E. The EPQ requires students to carry out research on a topic of their own choice; it may extend, but not replicate, their other qualifications. They then use this research to produce either an extended written report or a practical outcome. A student can take inspiration from something studied in class or something completely unrelated to their studies, such as a hobby. Where students have a particular future plan in mind, it is often beneficial to link this to their choice of EPQ topic.

AS Levels

Once equivalent to half a full A Level, the change to a linear structure means that AS Levels are now worth around 40% in terms of the university tariff system. They are assessed by examinations in May of Year 12 and are graded from A to E (there is no A* grade at this level). Where appropriate, a student may decide to study an AS Level instead of an EPQ (for example taking AS Level Mathematics to support three scientific A Levels). Please note that due to the changes in course structure, we are only able to offer the following subjects at AS Level: Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Modern Languages and Music.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

What is the Extended Project?

The EPQ is a relatively new qualification that has been especially welcomed by universities, as it enables students to study a subject of their choice in more depth. Employers have also responded well to the introduction of the qualification, as it encourages students to become more independent in areas such as planning and time management.

Students will be expected to research and complete their project (often an extended essay or dissertation, but it can be a creative or practical outcome) and deliver an assessed presentation on their work. Students must also complete and submit a project log, providing details of their research and how their project developed. At the end of the course they will be awarded a qualification worth half an A Level.

How useful is the Extended Project Qualification?

It is an excellent way of setting candidates apart from their peers in the increasingly competitive world of Higher Education and employment. The Extended Project allows for a significant input into the choice and design of an extended piece of work and enables them to take responsibility for a defined task.

The EPQ is increasingly valuable for those applying to Higher Education. It allows students to demonstrate independence and extra commitment to their chosen area of study – especially at interview. Consequently, top universities value it greatly; some routinely give alternative offers to students who have studied the EPQ. Students who get a ‘points offer’ from university will also benefit from studying the Extended Project. It attracts half as many points as a full A level. Thus a student with an offer of 96 points needs three ‘C’ grades at A level, but if they have a ‘C’ in the Extended Project the necessary grades at A Level would only be CDD.

Learners will develop skills, knowledge and understanding that they will be able to use when tackling similar projects in future study or employment contexts. For example, different types of project feature within a variety of higher education courses, including academic research such as dissertations, practical investigations and creative and technological projects. In employment, there is an increasing trend towards management through the use of projects of various sizes and duration, enabling companies to respond flexibly to change and capitalise on the creativity of their employees. Project-based work is a key feature of business, social and community enterprises.

How will the Extended Project be taught and assessed?

Work on the EPQ will follow this schedule:

Introduction and Core Skills	Term 1 of Year 12
Initial Planning and Project Proposal	Term 2 of Year 12
Planning Review	Term 3 of Year 12
Mid-Project Review	Term 4 of Year 12
End of Project Review	Term 5 of Year 12
Presentations	Term 6 of Year 12
Marking and moderation	Term 1 of Year 13

Students will learn through lectures, classes, seminars and individual tutorials. Each student will be assigned a Project Supervisor - a member of teaching staff who will guide them through the project. Because the project is submitted at the end of Year 12, students will be able to focus fully on their A Levels in Year 13. This timing also ensures that projects are complete ahead of any relevant interview for higher education or training.

Planning Your Study Programme

How to choose your subjects

Many of you will want to continue with subjects that you are good at or enjoy. If so, one obvious person to talk to is your current teacher. However, aptitude and entry requirements are not the only considerations. Some Sixth Form subjects are not taken at GCSE – are there new subjects that you are overlooking? Some subjects go well together, like Biology and Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. If you have a chosen career direction, which kinds of subjects are required or preferred? If you want to go to university, are there particular A Level subjects that you need to study in order to qualify for your university course? In some cases it will not be enough just to study the degree subject at A Level; other subjects will be needed too. For example, many degree courses in Physics require A Level Mathematics as well as Physics.

If you are thinking of university, you can check out entry requirements on the UCAS website www.ucas.com. Click on 'Course Search' to find out the details for subjects you might want to study at university.

The following is an introductory guide to certain university courses. Remember it is essential to check the full details for yourself.

University subject	Guidelines
Engineering	Often Mathematics and Physics required. Sometimes other sciences too, depending on your specialism.
Law	A conditional offer is likely to include very high grades, but no particular subject requirement. However subjects especially favoured by Law Admissions Tutors include History, English Literature, Maths and Modern Languages.
Medicine	At least two A Level sciences are usually required, often Chemistry and Biology. Many universities now welcome an Extended Project with a medical theme, others value a fourth full A Level. Do a course search on "Medicine" as described above.
Nursing	Degree courses often require Science A Levels, especially Biology. Do a course search on "Nursing" as described above.
Science	Science and Mathematics A Levels. Individual subjects differ, so you need to check them out. For example, some Biology courses require Chemistry too, and some Biochemistry courses look for Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics.
Teaching: Primary	GCSE grades 9- 4 in English, Mathematics and Science required. If you plan to apply for a BEd degree you should take at least one, preferably two, A Level subjects related to the primary curriculum.
Teaching: Secondary	GCSE grades 9 - 4 in English and Mathematics required. If you take a degree prior to teacher training, the degree subject must be relevant to the curriculum subject you want to teach.
Veterinary Science	Generally Sciences and Mathematics at A Level, especially Chemistry and Biology. Very competitive, both in terms of grades and experience expected. Do a course search on "Veterinary" as described above.

General Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 4 - 9 including English Language. If a student has not studied a subject at GCSE this does not preclude them from studying it at A Level. Students who do not meet the minimum requirements to study in the Sixth Form or who do not meet subject specific requirements will still be considered in light of their suitability to study their chosen options. Discussions will be had with relevant subject leaders with a final decision being taken by the Head of Sixth Form.

Entry profile for specific subjects

Subject	Grade in subject at GCSE	Additional grade in Core Subjects
Applied Science	44 in Science	4 in Mathematics
Biology	66 in Science or 6 in Biology and 6 in another science	5 in Mathematics
Chemistry	66 in Science or 6 in Chemistry and 6 in another science	6 in Mathematics
Physics	66 in Science or 6 in Physics and 6 in another science	6 in Mathematics
Physical Education	66 in Science or 6 in Biology and 6 in another science	
Mathematics	6	6 in Mathematics
Further Mathematics	8	8 in Mathematics
Computing		6 in Mathematics
English Language	5	5 in English Language
English Literature	5	5 in English Literature
Geography*	5	
History*	5	
Philosophy and Ethics		5 English Language
Modern Foreign Languages	6 in the corresponding language	
Business Studies		5 in Maths, 5 in an essay based subject
Business Studies CTEC		4 in Mathematics
Economics		5 in Maths and 5 in English Language
Sociology		5 English Language
Psychology		5 in Maths and 5 in English Language
Health and Social Care CTEC	General entry requirements	
Music**	5 and Grade 5 or equivalent in an instrument or voice	
Music Technology**	4 (Music)	
Performing Arts**	4 (Music, Dance or Drama)	
Drama and Theatre Studies**	4	
Art courses**	5	
DT**	4	
Creative Media CTEC	General entry requirements	

* Where this subject has not been studied at GCSE students will be considered based on their overall academic profile.

** If not studied at GCSE a task to assess a candidate's suitability will be set.

Course Choice FAQs

Should I take four A Levels?

We would normally advise students to take only three of our two year courses, plus the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification). However, we recognise that some students find it hard to narrow down their options, and for some it might be appropriate to take four A Levels.

Each student request to study four A Levels will be assessed individually and discussed at interview, but we have set guidelines to suggest whether this would be an appropriate learning plan: students should normally have achieved at least grade 8 in their chosen subjects and average around 8 across all of their GCSE courses.

Students taking Further Mathematics will ordinarily take four subjects, with the option of converting Further Mathematics to an AS Level during Year 12 if the workload proves to be too demanding.

Do I have to take the Extended Project Qualification?

As stated earlier in this booklet, the EPQ is highly valued and can be studied in any subject area. It is therefore now a core part of our standard offer. If students are taking four A Levels or three A Levels and an additional AS Level, it is not compulsory to take the EPQ. However, we strongly advise all students to think carefully before turning down the chance to gain this qualification.

Should all my subjects be 'Facilitating Subjects'?

Not necessarily. The most important factors in choosing your courses should be your interest in the subjects and their relevance to any future plans you may have.

'Facilitating Subjects' are those, mainly academic, subjects, which universities find are especially helpful to study at degree level. They include Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, English, History, Geography and Modern Languages. It is important to know that even the most demanding of universities generally only require two of a student's A Levels to be from this list. Moreover, if a student's strengths and future plans are in subjects such as Art, Drama, Psychology or Economics, then those subjects will be equally valuable - if not more. Students should know that, generally speaking, courses which prefer Facilitating Subjects also demand very high grades at A Level (A*-B).

What are the OCR Cambridge Technicals and the Level 3 Extended Certificate? Are they as valued by universities and employers as A Levels?

These courses have been designed to meet the requirements of universities and employers in particular sectors, such as Health and Social Care, Media and Business. They are included in the government's list of approved courses and provide valuable UCAS points for university entrance requirements. Some very competitive courses do insist that all subjects taken are A Levels, so students should check carefully where their future plans are already known. All vocational courses have some form of terminal examination, but a series of coursework projects forms the main method of assessment; therefore, these courses suit students who prefer an ongoing, applied way of learning.

Pen Portraits

Josh is predicted grades 8 or 9 in all his GCSE examinations. His greatest interest is photography and he is thinking of an Art Foundation Course after Sixth Form before, hopefully, going on to a top university. Josh decides to study his three strongest subjects at A Level. They are Photography, English Literature and Sociology. As his future plans focus on art, he understands that it is OK that only one of his options is a 'Facilitating Subject'. He is planning to use his EPQ to explore an aspect of one of the subjects he enjoys at GCSE, but has not decided to continue to A Level.

Seth is predicted 4s and 5s in his GCSE examinations, with his best subject being Science. He finds exam conditions challenging but enjoys coursework. After Sixth Form, Seth wants to work towards a career as a nurse or related health care profession. Seth applies for A Level Sociology and the Cambridge Technical in Health and Social Care. He also applies for A Level Biology, but, given the entry requirements for this subject, he has a reserve choice of Applied Science. Seth is considering which aspect of health care will make the best Extended Project focus for him.

Seeta is predicted grades 8 or 9 in all her GCSE subjects. She doesn't know what she wants to do in the future but is ambitious to go to a top university. Seeta chooses A Levels in History, Biology and Geography as these are her strongest subjects and, as 'Facilitating Subjects', will help her apply to competitive courses. She will choose the focus of her Extended Project early in Year 12, following guidance from her supervisor.

Rhys is predicted a range of GCSE grades from 4 to 7. He is certain that he wants to be a primary school teacher in the future. Rhys therefore chooses A Level English Language and A Level Maths as two of his subjects because he knows that core subjects will be very useful for teacher training. He also opts for the Cambridge Technical course in Digital Media as he really likes what he has learned about the content and learning style of the course. Rhys has already decided that his Extended Project will focus on the learning styles of young children.

Annie is predicted grades ranging from 6 - 9 in her GCSEs. She is especially successful in Maths and the Sciences. She has had no problems managing her workload at GCSE and likes the idea of becoming an engineer in the future. After discussions at home and in her sixth form interview, Annie decides to study four A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry. She knows that if this proves to be too much work she has the option of converting Further Maths to an AS Level and focusing her efforts on her other three subjects in Year 13.

OUR COURSES

Art: Art, Craft and Design *(A Level, AQA)*

This is a broad-based course exploring practical, critical and contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and media. Our Art, Craft and Design A level gives you the skills and knowledge to create personal and imaginative work using a range of skills, processes and techniques.

Drawing is an important part of any art course and we start with a project over two terms that will give you the confidence to record and explore abstract compositions, still life and portraiture using a range of traditional drawing media and materials. Later on you will be able to choose the direction and theme you want to take your work in for your first mini project, both contextually and through the choice of media including computer drawing software.

You must include at least two areas of specialism within the Unit 1 coursework project; Fine Art, Graphic Design and Illustration, Photography or 3D. Your teachers will guide you with finding the right direction for your work and how to use your strengths and interests. During Year 12 you will be introduced to these specialist areas through a series of workshops in term three including painting, printing and dry point etching, clay and 3D, photography and darkroom processes, graphic design, computer software such as Illustrator and Photoshop, and illustration techniques.

The course is structured to support the understanding of the four Assessment Objectives, whilst giving you the freedom to experiment with ideas in depth. You will be expected to use four hours of time out of lessons a week to develop work and complete projects to meet deadlines.

Entry Requirements

Those who have taken Art and Design at GCSE will normally have achieved a 5 grade or higher, although we will accept you with a 4 grade if you show good motivation in this subject. Good drawing skills are essential. If you have not taken Art and Design GCSE you will be expected to show work of the expected level before coming to the induction session and starting the course.

Course Content

Unit	%	When?	Content
Component 1: Personal Investigation	60%	September to December (Year 1)	Drawing Project: You will explore accurate, expressive and inventive ways of recording your experiences and observations through drawing. Over the first term you will have teacher led lessons developing confident drawing skills, leading into an independent project over term two taking ideas and themes from this drawing project into final outcomes.
		January (Year 1) to January (Year 2)	Personal Investigation: your choice of theme Inspiration Book – finding inspiration from a range of sources - learning how to research, analyse and respond to art, craft and design. Responding and experimenting with ideas – developing skills

			<p>Trip to Art Galleries – recording experiences to inspire your own project.</p> <p>Essay – 1000-3000 word essay that makes links with your own art and shows critical and contextual understanding.</p> <p>Practical project resulting in final outcomes – you will start the main project in September of Year 2.</p>
Component 2: Externally Set assignment	40%	February to May (Year 2)	<p>Choose from eight given starting points from the exam board.</p> <p>Preparation work over three months to develop ideas. Fifteen hours (three days) of supervised sessions to complete your final outcomes.</p> <p>All work is assessed as a whole project for final grade.</p>

Career Links

Students who have done Fine Art frequently go on to degree courses via an Art Foundation course and have ended up pursuing careers in Painting, Architecture, Art Therapy, Teaching, Theatre Design, Film and Media work, Sculpture, Graphic Design, Arts Administration and Gallery work. Some go directly on to degree courses in subjects like those above, but also Art History and combined courses.

For further information, see Mrs J Lewis or Ms Burchell

Art: Photography (A Level, AQA)

This course introduces you to a variety of approaches when working with photographic images including portraiture, landscape, still life and experimental imagery. You will look at photography in a historical context and consider how it has developed over time informing contemporary practice and current trends.

The course is well resourced, including having a fully working darkroom and studio, and a full time technician. The course starts going back to the basics of photography to develop stronger skills when considering perspective, movement, composition, rule of thirds, depth of field and the elements of art.

You will explore the different styles, genres, processes and techniques available to the photographer and start to plan what area of photography you will like to investigate independently including film. You are taught how to work with digital and film SLR cameras taking shoots on location and in the studio. You will also learn how to manipulate images using Photoshop and darkroom derivatives to help you achieve more original, experimental and skilful outcomes.

Entry Requirements: Those who have taken Photography at GCSE will normally have achieved a 5 grade or higher, although we will accept you with a 4 grade if you show good motivation in this subject. Good DSLR camera skills are essential and you will need to develop these skills alongside digital editing using Apple Mac computer software. If you have not taken Photography at GCSE you will be expected to show work of the expected level before coming to the induction session and starting the course.

Course Content

Unit	%	When?	Content
Component 1: Personal Investigation	60%	September to December (Year 1)	Elements Project: the theme of the first project is based on the elements of art and will be given to you during the induction day, so you have the summer to start developing your work. Over the first term you will have teacher led lessons developing photographic skills, leading into an independent project over term two taking ideas and themes from this Elements project.
		January (Year 1) to January (Year 2)	Personal Investigation: your choice of theme Inspiration Book – finding inspiration from a range of sources - learning how to research, analyse and respond to art and photography. Responding and experimenting with ideas – developing skills Trip to Art Galleries – recording experiences to inspire your own project. Essay – 1000-3000 word essay that makes links with your own art and shows critical and contextual understanding. Practical project resulting in final outcomes – you will start the main project in September of Year 2.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment	40%	February to May (Year 2)	Choose from eight given starting points from exam board. Preparation work over three months to develop ideas. Fifteen hours (three days) of supervised sessions to complete final outcome. All work is assessed as a whole project for final grade.
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Career Links

It is especially appropriate for students seeking to go on to an Art Foundation course or for those who wish to study degree courses in Photography, Media and Film Production, Photojournalism, or careers in Marketing, Advertising, Publishing and in the Film Industry.

For further information see Ms Dexter or Mr Ray

Art: Textile Design (A Level, AQA)

This course introduces you to a variety of experiences that explore a range of textiles processes and techniques, both old and new. The main skills covered are investigating colour, texture and pattern through a variety of textile methods such as screen-printing, batik and tie-dye, appliqué, pattern drafting, garment construction, and fabric construction including surface decoration.

You can also work in printed and dyed fabric and materials. The starting points for the beginning of this course are about developing your skills with techniques and processes, developing ideas through research into the work of others.

Later on you will be able to choose the direction you want to take your work in, both contextually and through the choice of media. You will cover a wide range of modern and traditional techniques and skills with a focus on fashion.

Entry Requirements

Those who have taken Textiles or Art at GCSE will normally have achieved a 5 grade or higher, although we will accept you with a 4 grade if you show good motivation in this subject. If you have not taken Art or Textiles GCSE you will be expected to show work of the expected level before coming to the induction session and starting the course.

Course Content

Unit	%	When?	Content
Component 1: Personal Investigation	60%	September to December (Year 1)	Corsetry: You will be taught a wide range of skills including boning, the use of structure to reshape the human body, various surface decoration and fabric manipulation techniques leading to the production of your own high end corset by the end of term two.
		January (Year 1) to January (Year 2)	Personal Investigation: your choice of theme Inspiration Book – finding inspiration - learning how to research, analyse and respond to photographers and artists. Responding and experimenting with ideas – developing skills. Further experimentation of a wide range of techniques building on the skills acquired in the first project including pattern drafting and garment construction. Essay – 1000-3000 word essay that makes links with your own textiles work and shows critical and contextual understanding. Practical project resulting in final outcomes – you will start the main project in September of Year 2.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment	40%	February to May (Year 2)	<p>Choose from eight given starting points from the exam board.</p> <p>Preparation work over three months to develop ideas. Fifteen hours (three days) of supervised sessions to complete your final outcomes.</p> <p>All work is assessed as a whole project for final grade.</p>
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Career Links

Students who have done Textiles frequently go on to degree courses via an Art Foundation course and have ended up enjoying a wide range of related careers such as Textiles and Fashion Design in Industry, (this can include a wide range of high street and designer fashion houses) Fashion Journalism, Interior Design, Fashion buying and selling, Marketing, Branding, Environmental development of new fibres, Sportswear technology and design and many more. The Textiles industry is the biggest in Britain.

For further information talk to Ms S Walton

Biology (A Level, Pearson Edexcel)

SNAB (Salters-Nuffield Advanced Biology) is largely taught in context through real-life biology. For example, we start with an account of cardio-vascular disease and then go on to look at the factors that make it more likely that any one of us will suffer from a stroke or heart attack. This allows us to introduce the biochemistry of fats and carbohydrates bit by bit, as you need to know them to understand about strokes and heart diseases, rather than all at once.

Some parts of the course are very practically based and you should be prepared to become involved in practical work to develop the necessary skills. Reading around the subject is also important as this will broaden your understanding.

Entry Requirements:

In Combined (Double) Science: Grade 6 in both exams.

In Separate (Triple) Sciences: Grade 6 in GCSE Biology, plus another 6 in another science.

Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.

Course Content and Assessment

Units	%	When?	Content
Paper 1	33.3	May/ June 2021	Topic 1: Lifestyle, health and risk This topic builds on students' knowledge and understanding of the functioning of the circulatory system and the importance of lifestyle choices to health. Topic 2: Genes and health This topic considers several biological principles related to cystic fibrosis. The topic also allows for discussion of the social and ethical issues surrounding genetic screening for genetic conditions. Topic 3: The voice of the genome This topic follows the development of multi-cellular organisms from single cells to complex individuals. Topic 4: Biodiversity and natural resources This topic focuses on biodiversity and the wealth of natural resources used by humans. Topic 5: On the wild side This topic covers ecosystems, climate change and our responsibilities as stewards of the environment. Topic 6: Infection, immunity and forensics This topic covers forensic pathology, bacteria and viruses, and the evolutionary battles that take place between invading pathogens and their hosts.
Paper 2	33.3	May/ June 2021	In addition to topics 1 - 4 above, the paper will also examine: Topic 7: Run for your life This topic is centred on the physiological adaptations which enable humans/animals to undertake strenuous exercise. Topic 8: Grey matter The nervous system, brain imaging and the regions of the brain are covered.

Unit 3	33.3	May/ June 2021	The paper will include synoptic questions drawn from two or more different topics from the specification. A pre-released scientific article will be available from Easter. A significant proportion of the paper will consist of comprehension questions based on the article.
Practical competency	Pass/ Fail		Course endorsed practical skills are assessed continuously by the teacher(s) and only at the completion of the course is a pass or fail assessment submitted to the exam board.

All three papers will include questions that target the conceptual and theoretical understanding of experimental methods.

All three papers will include questions that target mathematics at higher level GCSE. This will equate to a minimum of 10% of the marks across all three papers.

There is no longer any assessed coursework but students will expect to demonstrate practical competency.

Career Links

The course provides a sound grounding in Biology for those wishing to pursue a variety of biologically based courses and careers. There is an emphasis on Human Biology in a number of areas on this course that provide a good introduction for those interested in pursuing Medicine and related subjects.

For further information, please see Mr Bonney

Business Studies (A Level)

Do you have want to understand how businesses operate? How they develop/maintain a competitive advantage? How they use marketing to attract customers? How they assess their performance? Then Business is the subject for you. It is the perfect subject for those students with an interest in current affairs and who want to keep abreast of what it happening in the business world.

You will apply your knowledge and understanding to real-life business contexts, and real business case studies in all assessments. You will develop transferable skills that support higher education study and the transition to employment, including numeracy, communication, an understanding of the business environment and commercial awareness.

Entry requirements: Grade 5 in Mathematics and 5 in an essay-writing subject (English, History, Sociology or Religious Studies).

Course Content

Units	%	When?	Content
Paper 1: Marketing, people and global business	35%	June 2021	<p>This paper assesses Themes 1 and 4:</p> <p>Theme 1: Marketing and people This develops an understanding of how businesses identify opportunities and explores how businesses focus on developing a competitive advantage through interacting with customers. It develops an understanding of how businesses need to adapt their marketing to operate in a dynamic business environment. It also considers people, exploring how businesses recruit, train, organise and motivate employees, as well as the role of enterprising individuals and leaders.</p> <p>Theme 4: Global business This investigates businesses that trade on a global scale and explore their reasons for doing so, developing an understanding of the globally competitive environment and consider the ethical and moral dimensions of global business activities.</p> <p>The paper is split into Sections A and B. Both sections are assessed via one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open-response question. The content of this paper is taught over Year 12 and 13.</p>
Paper 2: Business activities, decisions and strategy	35%	June 2021	<p>This paper assesses Theme 2 and Theme 3:</p> <p>Theme 2: Managing business activities This unit explores raising and managing finance, and measuring business performance. It outlines the importance of using resources efficiently within a business to ensure that goods or services can be delivered effectively and efficiently, and to a high quality. It considers the external influences that have an impact on businesses, including economic and legal factors.</p>

			<p>Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy</p> <p>This topic further develops the core concepts and takes a strategic view of business opportunities and issues. It includes the analysis of corporate objectives and strategy against financial and non-financial performance measures and how businesses grow, and develop an understanding of the impact of external influences. It covers the causes and effects of change and how businesses mitigate risk and uncertainty.</p> <p>The paper is split into Sections A and B. Both sections are assessed via one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open-response question. The content of this paper is taught over Year 12 and 13.</p>
Paper 3: Investigating business in a competitive environment	30%	June 2021	<p>This paper assesses all four of the themes.</p> <p>Section A will focus on the broad context provided in a pre-released document. Section B will focus on at least one strand within the context provided. Each section will contain unseen stimulus materials comprising quantitative and qualitative evidence.</p> <p>Both sections are assessed via one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open-response question. The content of this paper is taught over Year 12 and 13.</p>

Career Links

Many students who take A level Business go on to higher education courses such as business management, business administration, accountancy and finance, human resource management, marketing, retail management, tourism management and international business. There are also a wide range of careers open to them in banking, sales, product management and general management as well as working in public sector organisations or charities.

For further information contact Mrs Sharper in the Business Studies and Economics Department

Business Studies (OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical)

Business Studies is the investigation of how businesses work efficiently in all aspects of their operations. It focuses on the internal functions of business and the formation of strategy and it also examines the external environment with which the business must interact in order to meet the needs of its customers.

A Business Studies classroom is an exciting place to be. Active discussion is encouraged and students will be able to draw upon their own knowledge of the wider world to better inform their understanding of the topics. The new Cambridge Technical qualification allows students to be assessed through both external examinations and internally assessed ongoing coursework. The qualification will give learners skills, knowledge and a thorough understanding of business; it is equivalent to one full A level and will allow learners access to higher education on business-related programmes.

Entry Requirements: GCSE grade 4 in Mathematics.

Course Content

Year 12	%	When	Content
The Business Environment (External exam)	33.3%	January Year 12	<i>The Business Environment</i> will give learners an understanding of the wider external contexts in which businesses operate and of internal business functions and their interdependencies. The unit will allow learners to appreciate how legal, financial, ethical and resource constraints can affect business behaviour and the influence that different stakeholders can have and how businesses must respond.
Customers and Communication (Internally assessed coursework)	16.6%	June Year 12	<i>Customers and Communication</i> will allow learners to appreciate how vital customers are to the success of a business. It will give learners an understanding of how important it is for businesses to know their customers and what influences customer behaviour. In this unit, learners will understand how to communicate with customers.
Year 13			
Working in Business (External exam)	16.6%	January Year 13	<i>Working in Business</i> will give learners an understanding of the type of critical skills needed when working in business, such as organisation, prioritisation and effective communication. The unit will allow learners to learn how to use different business documents and about organisational protocols that most businesses would expect employees to follow.
2 x optional units (Internally assessed coursework)	33.3%	June Year 13	The optional units cover a wide range of topics to give learners the opportunity to take a unit that is relevant to a specific aspect of business; for example marketing, accounting, human resources or business planning. Learners will also develop transferable skills such as communication, planning, teamwork, research and analysis.

Career Links

The Cambridge Technical in Business could help you go on to further study in a range of areas, e.g. Business, Management, Marketing, Accounting and Finance. With a growing service sector economy, employment prospects for students with a sound understanding of business are good.

If you have any further queries, please contact Mrs Sharper in the Business Studies and Economics Department

Chemistry (A Level, Edexcel)

This course teaches the theoretical and practical skills necessary to become an advanced chemist. There will normally be one or two practical sessions per week backed up by theoretical work. The course is designed to relate to real-world chemistry and each topic is framed by the context in which the chemistry can be applied. Our course still involves pops and squeaks, colour changes and smells. You will gain new skills which are useful in the subject but many are also transferrable. Chemistry is a subject of endless possibilities; many of our ex-students are involved in cutting edge research into new drugs and materials. In order to do well on this course you will need to work very hard outside the classroom, solving problems and assimilating new ideas.

Entry Requirements:

In Combined (Double) Science: Grade 6 in both exams.

In Separate (Triple) Sciences: Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry, plus a 6 in another Science GCSE.

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

Course Content

A Level	Content
Topics Year 12	Topic 1 Atomic structure and the periodic table Topic 2 Bonding and structure Topic 3 Redox 1 Topic 4 Inorganic Chemistry and the Periodic Table Topic 5 Formulae equations and Amounts of Substance Topic 6 Organic Chemistry 1 Topic 7 Modern Analytical Techniques 1 Topic 8 Energetics Topic 9 Kinetics 1 Topic 10 Equilibrium 1
Topics Year 13	Topic 11 Equilibrium 2 Topic 12 Acid-base Equilibria Topic 13 Energetics Topic 14 Redox 2 Topic 15 Transition Metals Topic 16 Kinetics 2 Topic 17 Organic Chemistry 2 Topic 18 Organic Chemistry 3 Topic 19 Modern Analytical Techniques 2

Assessment

Exam	%	When?	Course coverage
Paper 1 90 marks 1 hour 45 minutes	30%	May / June 2021	Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry. Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 11 - 15
Paper 2 90 marks 1 hour 45 minutes	30%	May / June 2021	Advanced Organic and Physical Chemistry. Topics 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 16 - 19
Paper 3 120 marks 2 hours 30 minutes	40%	May / June 2021	Synoptic Paper Topics 1 - 19 and Practical Principles

There is also a practical endorsement. Course endorsed practical skills are assessed continuously by the teacher(s), including during 16 Core Practical assessments throughout Years 12 and 13. Only at the completion of the course is a pass or fail assessment submitted to the exam board. These practical skills are also heavily focussed on in Paper 3 of the written examinations.

Study Tips

A-level Chemistry is a significant step up from GCSE Chemistry so you will need to use your study time outside of lessons effectively right from the start. Reviewing your work is essential as each unit of the course builds on concepts from the previous ones. If you have a shaky grasp of the fundamentals it will make understanding more advanced concepts extremely difficult. We have regular multiple choice assessments every few weeks to allow both you and your teachers to see which areas need further developing. There are also written assessments mid-way through and at the end of each unit. You need to be on top of your work to perform to your full potential in these assessments.

To ensure you perform to the best of your ability you will need to:

- Keep up-to-date with your home learning. You will receive feedback on your home learning tasks in lessons so if you fail to keep up with this you will miss out on valuable advice on how to progress.
- Review your work regularly, not just before assessments.
- Use a wide range of resources to develop your understanding of each element of the course and also how they link together.
- Do not let anything you don't understand to pass by without being addressed. You may need to see your teacher on a one-one basis or in a small group. They will be more than happy to arrange an appropriate time to do this.

Career Links

Students who have studied Chemistry at Backwell have gone to university to study for degrees in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Natural Sciences, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, Pharmacology, Environmental Sciences and various Engineering degrees. A level Chemistry is a qualification which is highly valued by universities and employers as they demonstrate abilities in analysis and problem solving which are sought after skills.

If you have any further queries, please contact Mr Turner

Computer Science (A Level, OCR)

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems. While the assessment is based heavily on two paper based final exams, the course is very much centred on practical programming and students spend the majority of their time developing programming skills. It is an intensely creative subject and one that really develops the students' problem solving skills by learning about something called computational thinking. This is a tool kit for finding solutions for big problems. A skill that is very transferable.

The aims of this qualification are to enable students to develop:

- an understanding of, and ability to apply, the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science including; abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems including writing programs to do so
- the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- the capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- mathematical skills
- the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology

Entry requirements: Grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE.

Unit	%	When?	Content
Unit 1 Computer Systems	40%	June of Year 13 2 ½ hour exam 140 marks	Characteristics of contemporary processors. Software and software development. Programming Exchanging data. Data types, structures and algorithms. Legal, moral, ethical and cultural issues.
Unit 2 Algorithms and programming	40%	June of Year 13 2 ½ hour exam 140 marks	Elements of computational thinking. Programming and problem solving. Pattern recognition, abstraction and decomposition. Algorithm design and efficiency. Standard algorithms.
Unit 3 Programming Project	20%	Coursework submitted in April of Year 13 70 marks	Analysis of a problem to enable students to demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the assessment objectives. Students will need to analyse the problem, design a solution, implement the solution and give a thorough evaluation.

Career Links

This course is ideal for students wishing to pursue Computer Science, Information Systems, Multimedia, Software Engineering, Computer Networking, e-Business and Information Management at degree level, or for anyone considering any kind of career in computing. It is also a good additional subject for any student considering taking Mathematics, Engineering or Sciences.

For further information contact Mrs Usoro

Design and Technology: Product Design (A Level, WJEC Edugas)(Entry Code A602QS)

The course encourages students to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products (prototypes and/or models) through the development of independent learning, creativity and innovation. You should have an interest in how everyday and innovative products are designed and manufactured.

Key features:

- The first year will allow students to develop design, analysis and practical skills through design and make activities
- By the end of the first year and through the second year, candidates will be involved in a sustained design and make project (called a Non-Exam Assessment or NEA), based on a Design Brief by the candidate. This will be a fully tested, high quality product which would be appropriate for its intended purpose.

Entry Requirements: GCSE grade 4 or higher in Design Technology or other related subject.

Course Content

A Level (First Year)	%	When?	Content
Year 12			<p>Candidates will be given the opportunity to solve contextualised problems through a range of small design and make tasks.</p> <p>Project design work in this first year will cover the disciplines of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research and product analyses• Design brief and specifications• Design considerations and technological activities• Generating proposals, including the use of ICT and CAD (Computer Aided Design)• Relevant industrial and commercial investigations• Planning/Quality Control procedures• Student and third party testing and evaluations• Clear communication and use of key skills <p>Our project tasks in this first year of A Level will not be assessed but will be designed to generate and consolidate knowledge of materials, components and systems, as well as improve designing and practical skills and instil growing confidence in working independently in the workshop.</p> <p>Work will begin later in this first year on the second year's assessed, final project (NEA – see below).</p>
Year 13 (Second Year)			
Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21 st Century	50%	June 2020	<p>Assessing the candidate's knowledge and understanding of technical principles and designing and making principles, along with their ability to analyse and evaluate the wider issues in Design & Technology (e.g. moral, social, environmental concerns; global manufacturing; new technologies, etc.).</p> <p>A mixture of structured, short answer and more open, extended answer questions.</p> <p>Written Examination (3 hours). 100 marks</p>

Component 2: Design and Make Project	50%	June 2020	<p>Substantial design and make task, incorporating practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge.</p> <p>Evidence will be provided in a presentation design portfolio and working sketchbook with photographic evidence of final prototype/model.</p> <p>This major task must demonstrate the candidate's ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform analytical product analyses. • Design and make a high quality product which can be tested and evaluated by his/her target market/client contact. • Apply relevant knowledge and understanding, including key skills, to a range of technological activities, e.g. testing of materials/systems/mock-ups. • Relate work to relevant industrial and commercial practices. • Communicate to relevant audiences their ideas, understanding and decision-making processes. <p>Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) (approx. 80 hours). 100 marks. This unit is marked by the teacher and moderated by WJEC Eduqas by a visiting moderator.</p>
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Career Links

There are education awards up to degree level in Design and Technology: Product Design and other Design and Technology associated subjects, e.g. Architectural and Transport Design, leading to jobs in associated fields. These would include Industrial Design, Product Design, Engineering (various), Production Design (film and theatre), Desktop Publishing and Graphic Design (including film and television effects).

For further information about the course contact Mr Brees

Drama and Theatre Studies (A Level)

Explore practical and theoretical aspects of performance at an advanced level, drawing on the work of key practitioners and play texts.

Entry Requirements: A grade 4 in Drama, if taken at GCSE.

Course Content

Units	%	When?	Content
Component 1: Drama and theatre	40%	May/ June 2021	What's assessed: Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre through the study of two set plays and the analysis of the work of live theatre-makers. How it's assessed: Written exam.
Component 2: Creating original drama (practical)	30%		What's assessed: Process of creating devised drama through the creation and performance of a devised drama piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director). The devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed theatre practitioner. How it's assessed: Working notebook and devised performance.
Component 3: Making theatre (practical)	30%		What's assessed: Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts each taken from a different play (the methodology of a prescribed theatre practitioner is applied to the exploration of one of the extracts). Students record and analyse the practical exploration / interpretation of the extracts in a reflective journal. How it's assessed: Performance of a play extract and a reflective report.

Career Links

Drama and Theatre Studies compliments further study in Drama, English (language or literature) or the humanities at undergraduate level. Some of our students have gone on successfully secure places at specialist drama schools.

For further information talk to Mr Bannister or any of the Drama Department staff

Economics (A Level, AQA (7136))

Do you want to understand how the world *really* works? Then Economics is the subject for you. Economists face one central dilemma: the needs and desires of humans are near limitless whilst the resources available to them are finite. This means that humans must make choices about their consumption. Economics is the study of these choices: What should we produce? How should we produce it? For whom should it be produced?

Economics is the perfect subject for those with an interest in current affairs. You'll learn economic theory at micro and macro levels that will give you insights into individual and social behaviour. It is impossible to understand global events without a grasp of economics. You'll learn why countries lurch between booms and busts; why the global economy collapsed in 2008; how prices in markets determine the supply of and demand for products.

Economics is the perfect subject for humanities students wishing to demonstrate and maintain their maths skills and for maths and science students that wish to develop their essay writing skills. You'll be required to analyse and interpret data, but also to present logical, coherent arguments concerning economic policy at an individual and governmental level. You will leave the course a more rounded, worldly person, with a deep understanding of human behaviour in a world of scarcity.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in Mathematics and grade 5 in English Language.

Course Content

Units	%	When?	Content
Paper 1: Markets and Market Failure	33.3%	June 2021	<p>This unit focuses on microeconomics: the choices made by individual economic agents (individuals and firms) in markets. Will think about how market forces allocate resources within individual markets and what happens when that mechanism fails. Microeconomic models such as demand and supply, perfect competition, monopoly, the operation of the price mechanism and the causes of market failure are central to this part of the course. Other key models relate to the operation of labour markets, wage determination and causes of inequalities in the distribution of income and wealth.</p> <p>This material is assessed via one set of context questions requiring the student to interpret, analyse and comment on economic data, and one essay question. The content of this paper is taught over Year 12 and 13.</p>
Paper 2: The National and International Economy	33.3%	June 2021	<p>This unit focuses on macroeconomics: how national and international economies function together. It will build a good knowledge of developments in the UK economy and government policies over the past fifteen years and will explore developments in the world economy, including the European Union, and how these have affected the UK. A range of economic objectives will be considered, including growth, controlling inflation, tackling unemployment and achieving satisfactory trade balances. The impact and effectiveness of current government policies to deal with these issues will be taught, as well as considering alternative policies and approaches.</p> <p>This material is assessed via one set of context questions requiring the student to interpret, analyse and comment on</p>

			economic data, and one essay question. The content of this paper is taught over Year 12 and 13.
Paper 3: Economic Principles and Issues	33.3%	June 2021	This paper assesses from across the course. It has multi-choice questions which test knowledge and a case study section comprised of short format questions requiring comparison, application and analysis as well as a longer format essay question requiring evaluation. It is a great opportunity to show what you have learned.

Career Links

Economics is regarded as an entry qualification for courses at elite universities in such areas as PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics), Accounting, MORSE (Mathematics, Operations Research, Statistics and Economics), Management Science, Business Administration, and International Business Economics. Many of our A level students go on to study for degrees at Russell Group Universities in related subjects and then progress into careers in accountancy, actuarial science, financial analysis, investment analysis and the like. Economics is a well-respected A Level that appeals to many employers in both the public and private sectors.

For further information contact Mrs Sharper in the Business Studies and Economics Department

English Language (A Level, AQA)

Through studying this course you will gain an understanding of the importance of Language in every aspect of our lives. The course will develop your ability to analyse how language works in a range of situations, as well as improving your skills as a writer. Throughout the course you will be exploring how spoken and written language is used in different ways as well as considering the wider social and cultural factors that influence communication.

Entry Requirements: At least a grade 5 in GCSE English Language, although preferably higher.

Course Content

Units	%	When?	Content
Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society	40%	June 2021 2½ hour exam	This unit will introduce you to the study of Language through exploring language variety and children's language development. You will examine a range of written and spoken language in use and explore concepts of audience, purpose, genre, mode and representation. In the exam you will analyse and compare two unseen texts that could be taken from a range of sources. You will also analyse a transcript of a young child's speech or writing and write an essay on child language development.
Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change	40%	June 2021 2½ hour exam	In this unit you will explore language diversity and change over time. You will develop your understanding of the varieties of English through researching how language varies because of time, place and personal background. You will also study how language changes and develops and consider the social attitudes to such change. In the exam you will answer an essay question on Language Diversity and will write a second, more informal piece on an issue relating to Language Varieties to a non-specialist audience.
Non Exam Assessment Language In Action	20%	March 2021	In this unit you will have the opportunity to investigate an area of language of your own choice. Through working on this coursework you will develop important research skills by planning and carrying out an independent investigation which will involve collecting and analysing original language data. You will also have a chance to write a piece of original writing that will demonstrate your ability to write in a particular form for a specific audience. You will write a short reflective commentary to accompany your original writing.

Career Links

Language students have gone on to study Linguistics at degree level, or courses in related fields such as Sociology or Psychology. Students who have studied English have moved into careers such as journalism, law, education and Media and Publishing.

For further information contact Mr Grainger

English Literature *(A Level, AQA specification A)*

Through following this course you will develop a wide-ranging understanding and appreciation of English Literature. During the course you will:

- become an active, critical reader by exploring different ways of interpreting texts, considering the contexts in which the texts you study were written,
- be given opportunities to read widely and pursue independent studies comparing texts of your own choice,
- have opportunities to see a range of plays, attend conferences and visit exhibitions.

Entry Requirements: At least a Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature, although preferably higher. To complete this course, you are also expected to be a committed reader who is prepared to read widely throughout the course.

Course Content

Units	%	When?	Content
Paper 1: Love Through the Ages	40%	June 2021	You will study three texts that will allow you to explore the theme of 'Love Through the Ages'. This unit will also allow you to develop your confidence in responding to unseen poetry texts. The three hour examination will test your close reading skills as well as your broader knowledge of the texts you have studied.
Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts.	40%	June 2021	This 2 ½ hour examination will allow you to study a further three texts of all genres. You will explore the key concerns of Twentieth Century Literature through reading and comparing texts that explore the post Second World War world. The exam will require you to respond to unseen texts as well as writing individual and comparative essays on the texts you have studied.
Paper 2: Independent Critical Study	20%	January 2021	In this non examined assessment you will have the opportunity to write a sustained, 2,500 word comparative essay of two texts, one of which must be written before 1900. In this essay you will be expected to prove that you have the skills to be a confident, independent reader through selecting a text of your own that you wish to compare to a text you have studied in class.

Career Links

Through studying this course you will acquire important critical skills that will allow you to analyse texts, develop your ideas through discussion and sharpen your thinking through building persuasive arguments. These skills are widely transferable and offer an excellent preparation for both higher education and future employment. Top universities value English Literature as they feel it is a facilitating subject which prepares students for a good range of courses. Students who have taken English Literature at Backwell have gone on to study English Literature at degree level, or have taken higher education courses in such subjects as Sociology, History, Psychology or Journalism. Literature students have gone on to gain employment in a range of areas. Past students are now involved in a variety of careers such as theatre administration, media and primary teaching.

For further information contact Mr Grainger

French (A Level, AQA)

"It is arrogant to assume that we can get by in English or that everyone else will speak our language. Learning a foreign language is polite, demonstrates commitment – and in today's world is absolutely necessary."

Sir Trevor MacDonald, Chair, Nuffield Language Inquiry

The A level French course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. You will gain a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity. As well as developing your language skills, you will widen your knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and societies where French is spoken. Examples include technological and social changes, highlights of French-speaking artistic culture, including francophone music and cinema, and who wields political power in the French-speaking world. The most successful A level linguists have always shown a commitment to and an enjoyment of the subject which extends way beyond the classroom. We encourage you to read foreign language magazines, newspapers and books, participate in theatre and cinema visits, and attend lectures out of school. We also encourage you to arrange an exchange visit, a study trip or work experience in a French-speaking country.

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE French.

Course Content

Units	%	When?	Content
Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing 2 hours 30 minutes	40%	June 2021	Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from authentic resources Translation from French into English Translation from English into French
Paper 2: Writing 2 hours	30%	June 2021	Either one Question in French on a set text, or one question on a set film, or two questions on set texts. Questions will require a critical and analytical response to the work studied.
Paper 3: Speaking 21 - 23 minutes	30%	May 2021	Discussion of a sub-theme based on a stimulus card (5 - 6 minutes) Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9 - 10 minutes) of individual research project

A one year AS qualification in French is also available and will be examined in May/June 2019.

Career Links

You could study French at degree level either alone or as part of a combined degree, and you will have developed the skills to learn new languages. A variety of career options is open to students of French, whether you choose to work at home or abroad, for example in business, engineering, scientific research, technology, journalism, international aid, the leisure industry or teaching.

For further information see Miss Young

Geography (A Level, AQA)

Geography is the study of Earth's landscapes, peoples, places and environments. It is, quite simply, about the world in which we live.

Geography is unique in bridging the social sciences with the natural sciences and provides an ideal framework for relating other fields of knowledge. Geography is, in the broadest sense, an education for life and for living. Learning through geography helps us all to be more socially and environmentally sensitive, informed and responsible citizens.

This engaging and relevant course will give you the opportunity to;

- engage with the relationship of human populations to each other over space and time.
- study the relationship between human populations and their physical environment at a variety of scales from the local to the global.
- consider your own role in relation to themes and issues being studied and the roles, values and attitudes of others including decision-makers.

You will gain an appreciation of current events in both human geography (conflicts, population and migration, energy security and sustainability) and in physical geography (climate change and hazard management). You will learn how to design and implement a fieldwork investigation involving the collection of both primary and secondary data, the clear presentation of your results and accurate analysis of the trends and patterns you have identified. You will acquire a wide range of specific skills for the presentation and analysis of geographical information in the form of maps, graphs, sketches, annotated diagrams, photographs, statistics and extended writing.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE Geography.

Course Content

Physical Geography	%	When?	Content
Component 1	40%	June of Year 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water and carbon cycles• Glacial systems and landscapes• Hazards <p>This unit is assessed by a 2½ hour written paper (120 marks)</p>
Human Geography			
Component 2	40%	June of Year 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global systems and global governance• Changing places• Population and the environment <p>This unit is assessed by a 2½ hour written paper (120 marks)</p>

Geography fieldwork investigation			
Component 3	20%		<p>Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content. Students are expected to submit a written report of 3,000 - 4,000 words.</p> <p>To help students develop the field skills required to undertake their own individual study. We organise a residential field course to Nettlecombe Court, near Exmoor. The cost of which is approximately £350 for the week, which includes all tutoring, full board catering and travel to/from the centre.</p>

Future steps

The Russell Group of universities has recognised A Level geography as one of their preferred 'facilitating subjects'; which supports an application into a wide range of undergraduate courses such as Engineering, Environmental Sciences and Humanities based courses such as Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

Geography graduates are numerate, literate, good team workers, can think analytically and critically, and are highly computer literate. The knowledge and skills that geographers gain from their studies are highly relevant to the workplace and attractive to employers.

You will find geographers working in every sector of the economy, including the City, local businesses, not-for-profit organisations, leading highly relevant research or as key decision makers in local and national government.

Use the Royal Geographical Society's website to give more ideas for careers with Geography:

<http://www.rgs.org/OurWork/Study+Geography/Careers/Careers+with+geography.htm>

For further information please see Mr Stubbs

German (A Level, AQA)

„Wer fremde Sprache nicht kennt, weiß nichts von seiner eigenen.“

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The A level German course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. You will gain a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity. As well as developing your language skills, you will widen your knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and societies where German is spoken. Examples include: The changing state of the family, immigration and integration, festivals and traditions, cultural life in Berlin, and Germany's role in Europe. The most successful A level linguists have always shown a commitment to and an enjoyment of the subject which extends way beyond the classroom. We encourage you to read foreign language magazines, newspapers and books, participate in theatre and cinema visits, and attend lectures out of school. We also encourage you to arrange an exchange visit, a study trip or work experience in a German-speaking country.

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE German.

Course Content

Units	%	When?	Content
Paper 1 Listening, Reading and Writing 2 hours 30 minutes	40%	June 2021	Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from authentic resources Translation from German into English Translation from English into German
Paper 2 Writing 2 hours	30%	June 2021	Either one question in German on a set text, or one question on a set film, or two questions on set texts. Questions will require a critical and analytical response to the work studied.
Paper 3 Speaking 21 - 23 minutes	30%	May 2021	Discussion of a sub-theme based on a stimulus card (5 - 6 minutes) Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9 - 10 minutes of individual research project)

A one year AS qualification in German is also available and will be examined in May/June 2020.

Career Links

You could study German at degree level either alone or as part of a combined degree, and you will have developed the skills to learn new languages. A variety of career options is open to students of German, whether you choose to work at home or abroad, for example in business, engineering, scientific research, technology, the leisure industry or teaching.

For further information see Mrs Landbeck

Health and Social Care *(OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical)*

The programme is designed to provide an understanding of the many and varied aspects of health and social care services. The Level 3 Cambridge Technical provides a grounding that can be used to access higher education, further training or employment within the sector.

The **Level 3 Extended Certificate** is equivalent to one A Level. It involves studying six units over two years – three of which are internally assessed (assignment-based) and three of which are externally assessed (examinations). One of the exams is worth 1.5 units and one of the assignment units is only worth 0.5 units, which means:

58% exam + 42% assignment

There are four compulsory units:

- **Building positive relationships** in health and social care (assignment work - internally assessed)
- **Equality, diversity and rights** in health and social care (exam - externally assessed)
- **Health, safety and security** in health and social care (exam - externally assessed)
- **Anatomy and physiology** for health and social care – 1.5 unit size (exam - externally assessed)

Two other units have been chosen by the teachers (both are internally assessed):

- **Nutrition** for health (0.5 unit size)
- **Sexual Health, Reproduction and Early Development**

Assessment : The internally assessed units involve assignments and project work. These are internally marked and moderated by OCR. External assessment in this qualification will involve written examinations including case studies and scenarios related to the health and social care sector which students will need to apply their knowledge and understanding to.

Overall award levels

At the end of the two years you will receive a Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*. Pass is equivalent to a grade E at A level, Merit is equivalent to a grade C, Distinction to a grade A and Distinction* to a grade A*.

UCAS points available

Cambridge Technicals provide a base for progression to university, apprenticeships or work and are recognised for UCAS tariff points (although it is important to check individual course requirements when considering university options). A Pass is worth 16 UCAS points, a Merit is worth 32 points, Distinction 48 points and a Distinction* 56 points.

Entry requirements: General Sixth Form entry requirements.

Career Links

This can lead to further study at university or to careers in health or social care settings such as nursing, elderly care, nursery nursing, social work, early years education, mental health, special educational need support work. It would complement subjects such as Sciences, Psychology and Sociology and be suitable for anyone wishing to work with people.

For further details speak to Miss Browne.

History (A Level, AQA)

Work is shared between student and teacher; there will be formal lessons led by the teacher; seminar work in which individuals or pairs of students research specific topics and then report back to the whole group; a great deal of discussion about issues, problems and personalities; there will be a range of sources and interpretations to be assessed; more importantly you will be expected to teach yourself through extensive reading. The focus of the final exam is very much on making well supported judgements, based on a detailed knowledge of the periods studied. Students will need to comment intelligently on the opinions of historians showing an awareness of the historical context. We will be following the new AQA syllabus, which is examined at the end of Year 13.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE History.

Units	%	When?	Content
Unit 1C: The Tudors: England, 1485–1603	40%	June 2021	Breadth Study This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How effectively did the Tudors restore and develop the powers of the monarchy?• In what ways and how effectively was England governed during this period?• How did relations with foreign powers change and how was the succession secured?• How did English society and economy change and with what effects?• How far did intellectual and religious ideas change and develop and with what effects?• How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?
Unit 2L: Italy and Fascism c.1900-1945	40%	June 2021	Depth Study This option provides for the study in depth of a period of Italian history during which democracy gave way to Fascism. It requires an exploration of concepts such as liberalism, extremism, Fascism and authority. It also encourages students to reflect on the reasons for political change, the interaction of economic and governmental developments and the factors which promote and sustain dictatorship.
Unit 3: Personal Study: The Holocaust	20%	March 2021	Historical Investigation A personal study based on a topic of student's choice. This should take the form of a question in the context of approximately 100 years.

Career Links

People sometimes think “You can’t do anything with History”. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. Good historians have the ability to read, understand and process a lot of information quickly in order to produce confident, concise, articulate and rational judgements. They ask searching and pertinent questions and are not easily fobbed off. As a result they are highly sought after in a number of occupations: broadcasting, journalism and the legal profession for example. Some of us just prefer to teach!

For further information please speak to Mr Burns

Mathematics (A Level, AQA)

This is a linear two year course covering Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics, thus giving all students a good grounding in a variety of Mathematical areas. The course emphasises understanding and application of new theory. The final examinations consist entirely of problems to solve, rather than reproduction of lesson notes. So, although you will undoubtedly make notes as you progress through the two year course, the most important aspect of your studies will be practising solving problems and applying the theory covered. To be successful, you must have, or develop, a willingness to tackle questions and become involved with the work. Good students regularly use their private study periods to see staff for one-to-one consultation and this practice is actively encouraged.

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.

Course Content

Exams	%	When?	Content
Paper 1: Pure Mathematics (2 hours)	33%	June of Year 13	Includes all aspects of pure mathematics, including proof, algebra and functions, sequences, trigonometry, exponentials and logs, calculus and numerical methods.
Paper 2: Pure and mechanics (2 hours)	33%	June of Year 13	Includes all content from paper 1 plus mechanics content (vectors, kinematics, forces, Newton's laws, moments)
Paper 3: Pure and statistics (2 hours)	33%	June of Year 13	Includes all content from paper1 plus statistics content (statistical sampling, data presentation, probability, distributions, hypothesis testing)

Students taking Mathematics as an AS qualification only would complete the following exams at the end of Year 12:

AS Exams	%	When?	
Paper 1: Pure and mechanics (90 minutes)	50%	June of Year 12	Includes all aspects of pure mathematics, including proof, algebra and functions, sequences, trigonometry, exponentials and logs and calculus. Also includes elements of mechanics (vectors, kinematics, forces and Newton's Laws).
Paper 2: Pure and Statistics (90 minutes)	50%	June of Year 12	Includes all aspects of pure mathematics, including proof, algebra and functions, sequences, trigonometry, exponentials and logs and calculus. Also includes elements of statistics (statistical sampling, data presentation, probability, distributions, hypothesis testing)

Career Links

For further information please speak to Mrs Usoro or Mr Blundell

Further Mathematics (A Level, AQA)

The Further Mathematics course is aimed at those people who want a mathematically challenging experience! Conceptually demanding, but very enjoyable and rewarding, the course is excellent preparation for the study of Mathematics at university (or a Mathematics-related subject).

Further Maths A level is always taken alongside A level Maths and there is a significant overlap between the contents of the two A levels.

Entry Requirements: AS Level Further Mathematics (1 year course): GCSE grade 7 in Maths
A Level Further Mathematics (2 year course): GCSE grade 8 in Maths

Course Content

Exam	%	When?	Content
Paper 1: Pure (2 hours)	33%	June of Year 13	Contains Pure Mathematics topics, and includes further work on algebra, polar coordinates, complex numbers, matrices and hyperbolic functions.
Paper 2: Pure (2 hours)	33%	June of Year 13	The same content as Paper 1
Paper 3: Applied (2 hours)	33%	June of Year 13	This question paper will cover two of the applied units from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mechanics• Discrete Maths• Statistics Decisions on which applied topics to be studied will be made during the course.

Students taking Further Mathematics as an AS qualification only would complete the following exams at the end of Year 12:

AS Exams	%	When?	Content
Paper 1: Pure (90 minutes)	50%	June of Year 12	Contains Pure Mathematics topics including complex numbers, further calculus, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions and further algebra and functions.
Paper 2: (90 minutes)	50%	June of Year 12	This question paper will cover two of the applied units from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mechanics• Discrete Maths• Statistics Decisions on which applied topics to be studied will be made during the course.

Career Links

For further information please speak to Mrs Usoro or Mr Blundell

Media Production (OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical)

Available in two sizes delivered either as a single A level equivalent at Backwell or Full Time Extended Diploma (three A level equivalent) at Curzon Cinema in Clevedon.

Media Production programmes for Backwell Sixth Form have built on considerable reputation from the success of the Creative and Media Diploma over the last six years. The changes in applied qualifications have made available a variety of new and even more flexible qualifications and we have chosen now to offer the OCR Cambridge Technical course. The programme offers two options the single line introductory Diploma and the full time Extended Diploma based at the Curzon Cinema and links students to other regional offers at the Engine Shed and bottle yard film and television studios in Bristol.

The programme is a new approach post-16 study developed by Arts Council England and Boomsatsuma initially at Backwell School. We are focused on providing a new style course that offers differentiated progression to your chosen destination be that further education, university or the workplace. We offer an entirely project-led and business-like media course, working as a commercial arts agency, meaning that students' creative work is used to deliver practical, real-world projects for the community.

Why Media ? Where can that take me? The programme uses media production thematically to build the work of the group. Students in the current programme have a diverse range of destination targets that range from the expected Film and TV, Photography, Animation, Illustration, Interactive gaming, Graphic Design undergraduate courses to the less obvious Criminology, International Business, Marketing, Public relations. This is thematically media production, but does not limit undergraduate progression offering a range of transferable communication skills.

The Qualification is the **OCR Cambridge Technical in Media Level 3**. The qualification is scalable from 30 to 180 credits. We have shown equivalent in A level size below as many aren't familiar with diploma structures. The key fact here being that they are UCAS accredited and leave the door open to university progression.

OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Media	Number of credits	A level equivalent	Option choice lines	UCAS points
OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory diploma	60	1 x A level	1	16 - 56
OCR Cambridge Technical Extended diploma	180	3 x A level	3 Full time	48 - 168

Access requirements: The willingness to commit the programme, work as a team and engage.

This is an applied programme at Backwell with work on locations in and around the area as required by the projects. Students on the full time course will be based at Curzon Cinema three days a week with a touch base day at Backwell to remain connected for pastoral and extra-curricular activity. There will be a need to commit to working on occasions in our other connected centres.

This course is run for Backwell School by Boomsatsuma. More details on this and other courses can be found at www.boomsatsuma.com or email Mark Curtis direct on mark@boomsatsuma.com.

Music (A Level, Edugas)

Entry Requirements:

- A grade 5 at GCSE Music
- Grade 5 or equivalent on an instrument or voice

Grade 5 Music Theory and regular ensemble playing experience will be a helpful grounding.

Course Content

Exams	%	When?	What?
Component 1: Performing	35/ 25%	<i>Ongoing</i> Examined in Term 4 in Year 13	<p>Option A - Solo and/or ensemble performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Performance of at least 3 pieces. At least one must be as a soloist. ▪ Performance should last between 10 and 12 minutes and be of approximately Grade VI standard. ▪ Pieces must reflect at least two different areas of study. <p>Option B - As above, but 6-8 minutes and at least 2 pieces. Assessed by a visiting examiner.</p>
Component 2: Composing	25/ 35%	<i>Ongoing</i> Submitted at the start of Term 5 in Year 13	<p>Option A – Two contrasting compositions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compositions should be 4 to 6 minutes in total ▪ One piece should reflect an aspect of the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by WJEC. ▪ The second piece is a free composition. <p>Option B - As above, but three compositions that should be 8-10 minutes in total and a third piece should reflect a different area of study.</p>
Component 3: Appraising	40%	Examined in the Summer of Year 13	<p>One written/listening examination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Area of study A: Western Classical Tradition – The Development of the Symphony ▪ Area of study B/C/D: Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre or Jazz ▪ Area of study E/F: Into the 20th Century or into the 21st Century. <p>The exam will consist of: Set work analysis, extended responses and wider context, unprepared extracts of music with and without a score, comparison questions.</p>

Career Links

Studying A level Music is excellent preparation for a Music Degree or going on to Music College. It also develops a broad range of skills useful in any sphere of further education.

For more information please contact Mrs Cooper.

Music Technology (A Level, Edexcel)

This course teaches you the theory and practice of Music Technology today. This will be approached through three areas of study. These are:

- Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
- Principles of sound and audio technology
- Composition
- The development of recording and production technology

Through these areas of study you will learn how to:

- produce performances using sequencing software in a range of musical styles
- develop the skills required to make high quality digital recordings
- learn how to compose and arrange using music technology
- develop your knowledge of the principles and development of music technology
- learn how to control and interpret data

Entry Requirements: A grade 4 at GCSE Music.

A Level Exams	%	When?	What?
1: Recording	20%	<i>Ongoing</i> Submitted in Term 5 in Year 13	In this unit you will create a recording, chosen from a list of songs. You will learn the production tools and techniques needed to capture, edit, process and mix an audio recording.
2: Technology-based Composition	20%	<i>Ongoing</i> Submitted in Term 5 in Year 13	In this unit you will produce a composition to a brief set by Edexcel. You will learn about creating, editing, manipulating and structuring sounds to produce a technology-based composition.
3: Listening and Analysing	25%	Examined in Summer of Year 13 (1½ hour written exam)	This is a written examination that tests your knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles, in the context of a series of unfamiliar commercial recordings. There are three areas of study: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes• Principles of sound and audio technology• The development of recording and production technology.
4: Producing and Analysing	35%	Summer of Year 13 (2¼ hour practical/ written exam)	This is a written and practical examination that tests your knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques, to be applied to unfamiliar materials provided by Pearson in the examination. There are two areas of study: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes• principles of sound and audio technology.

Career Links

This course would be excellent grounding for various Music Technology further education courses, from creative to technical. It would also be useful for going on to a 'straight' music course in conjunction with Music A level. In the past students have also gone on to study Computer Programming and other ICT/Technology courses.

For further information please contact Mrs Cooper or Mr Mortimer.

Performing Arts *(OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical)*

The Performing Arts Level 3 certificate, which is equivalent in terms of UCAS points to an A Level, is a broad-based qualification that provides the opportunity for you to explore the world of Performing Arts in a practical way. You will be given the opportunity to specialise in Dance, Drama or Music through mandatory and optional units. As there is no formal written examination units are assessed through live performance, video evidence, log books and presentation folders.

Entry Requirements: GCSE grade 4 in either Music, Dance or Drama.

Course Content

Mandatory Units	Guided Learning Hours	When?	Content
Prepare to work in the Performing Arts sector	120	Externally assessed	<p>This unit will give learners the strategies, attitudes and survival skills for sustaining a career in the performing arts industry.</p> <p>They will learn to self-promote and respond to employment opportunities as well as learning when and how to adapt to a quickly changing economic landscape. It will also give learners an understanding of the expectations of potential employers and bookers so that they can maximise their chances of getting work as a freelancer in a fiercely competitive environment.</p>
Proposal for a commissioning brief	60	Externally assessed	<p>This unit gives learners the opportunity to develop and realise a community arts project.</p> <p>They will consider their creative skills and preferences and think about how these can be utilised in a way that benefits a community or a defined group of participants who may otherwise have little access to the project's content.</p> <p>They will develop knowledge and understanding of administration and planning as well as the creative skills and techniques applicable to a project, learning how to evaluate it in a way that will underpin future projects and professional contexts.</p>
Influential Performance Practice	10	Externally assessed	<p>This unit gives learners the opportunity to find out about genres, styles and periods, social, cultural and historical influences and significant theatrical/performance developments and practitioners.</p> <p>They will develop research skills and experience being able to select, organise and analyse material. This, in turn, will enable learners to present a reasoned argument and adapt and apply this knowledge into a performance practise, directorial concept, choreographical concept or presentation concept, dependent on the discipline being studied.</p>

Combined Arts	60	Internally assessed	<p>This unit gives the learners an opportunity to research into the history of new performance and influential artistic practice that should reveal a long history of actors, dancers and musicians.</p> <p>They will create a new performance by reinterpreting an existing piece of repertoire. Whether an actor, dancer or musician, learners will find innovative and dynamic ways of combining these disciplines to reimagine the existing piece and making it accessible and fresh for a contemporary audience.</p>
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One of the following optional units will be selected	
Current issues in Performing Arts	Improvisation
Health and Fitness for performance	Performing repertoire

Career Links

Performing Arts can lead to further study in Performing Arts, Combined Arts, Dance, Drama, Music and Arts Administration at degree and HND level. Students may also choose to use their qualification to go straight into employment, rather than go on to higher education.

For more information please see Mr Bannister (Drama), Mrs Mortimer (Music), and Mrs R Lewis (Dance)

Physical Education *(A level, OCR)*

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in Combined (Double) Science, or a grade 6 in Biology and a 6 in another Science. Success in and enjoyment of the theoretical component at GCSE PE would form a sound basis for this course.

Course Content

A Level	%	When?	Content
Component 1:	30%	May/ June of Year 13 2 hour exam (90 marks)	Physiological Factors Affecting Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anatomy and Physiology Exercise Physiology Biomechanics <p>Section A: 10 marks, short-answer questions on any topic. Section B: 3 x 20 mark questions. One question per topic. The 20 marks will be broken down into part questions Section C: 1 x 20 mark extended response 'synoptic' question which links two or more topics.</p>
Component 2:	20%	May/ June Of Year 13 1 hour exam (60 marks)	Psychological Factors Affecting Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills Acquisition Sports Psychology <p>Section A: 10 marks, short-answer questions on any topic. Section B: 2 x 20 mark questions. One question per topic. The 20 marks will be broken down into part questions. Section C: 1 x 10 mark extended response 'synoptic' questions which links two or more topics.</p>
Component 3:	20%	May/ June of Year 13 1 hour exam (60 marks)	Socio-cultural and Contemporary Issues Sport, Society and technological influences <p>Section A: 10 marks, short-answer questions on any topic. Section B: 2 x 20 mark questions on any part of this component. The 20 marks will be broken down into part questions. Section C: 1 x 10 mark extended response 'synoptic' questions which links two or more topics.</p>
Component 4:	30%	N/A	Performance within Physical Education Performance or coaching practical. (30 marks) Evaluation and analysis of performance for improvement. (30 marks)

Career Links

This course offers a solid foundation for degree level studies in Physical Education and related subjects, and it can also be used as part of your entry qualification for a number of other degree courses. Students who wish to continue with sports studies other than at university can consider a GNVQ Leisure and Recreation course or the BTEC National Diploma Science (Sports) award.

For further information speak to Mr Stephens, Mr Budd, Mr Moore or Mr Bergh

Physics (A Level, OCR Advancing Physics A)

Our A Level Physics A specification takes a content led approach to the course. This is a flexible approach where the specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of physics. As learners progress through the course, they'll build on their knowledge of the laws of physics, applying their understanding to areas from sub-atomic particles to the entire universe.

We're striving for good science that's straightforward and engaging to teach, with fair, challenging and relevant assessment that works well in centres and promotes practical activity.

In order to be successful you are expected to practise the work we do outside of lessons and to read around the subject to deepen understanding.

Teaching modules:

- **Year 12:** Development of practical skills in physics, foundations of physics, forces and motion, electrons, waves and photons.
- **Year 13:** Newtonian world and astrophysics, particles and medical physics.

Entry Requirements:

In Combined (Double) Science: Grade 6 in both exams.

In Separate (Triple) Science: Grade 6 in the Physics exams, plus another 6 in another Science GCSE.

In addition to the science results, we require a minimum of a grade 6 in Mathematics.

Course content

Units	%	When?	Content
Modelling physics (Component 01)	37%	June 2021	This component is worth 100 marks and is split into two sections and assesses content from teaching modules 1, 2, 3 and 5. Learners answer all questions. Section A contains multiple choice questions. This section of the paper is worth 15 marks. Section B includes short answer question styles (structured questions, problem solving, calculations, practical) and extended response questions. This section of the paper is worth 85 marks.
Exploring physics (Component 02)	37%	June 2021	This component is worth 100 marks and is split into two sections and assesses content from teaching modules 1, 2, 4 and 6. Learners answer all questions. Section A contains multiple choice questions. This section of the paper is worth 15 marks. Section B includes short answer question styles (structured questions, problem solving, calculations, practical) and extended response questions. This section of the paper is worth 85 marks.
Unified physics (Component 03)	26%	June 2021	This component assesses content from across all teaching modules 1 to 6. Learners answer all questions. This component is worth 70 marks. Question styles include short answer (structured questions, problem solving, calculations, practical) and extended response questions.

Practical Endorsement	Pass or Fail	June 2021	Course endorsed practical skills are assessed continuously by the teacher(s) and only at the completion of the course is a pass or fail assessment submitted to the exam board.
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Career Links

A Level Physics is widely respected and highly valued by employers and institutions alike. Students who have studied Physics have gone on to do apprenticeships or study varying types of Engineering, Physics, Computer Science, Law, Product Design, Naval Architecture, Radiography, Audio Technology, Finance and much, much more.

For further information please contact Dr Evans

Psychology (A Level, AQA)

Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour. It asks why people feel, think and act the way they do. Studying Psychology will help you develop a number of skills, including how to:

- view the world from different perspectives
- develop critical reasoning skills
- put across your point of view fluently
- plan and conduct scientific investigations
- analyse and interpret data

This means that Psychology students are not just knowledgeable of psychological subject matter, but are well equipped for all sorts of study or employment opportunities. A level Psychology involves essay writing, class discussion, reading and research.

Entry Requirements: GCSE grade 5 in Mathematics and a grade 5 in English Language.

Course content

Units	%	When?	Content
Paper 1	33.3 %	June 2021	Two hour exam. Multiple choice, short answer questions and extended writing. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Influence• Memory• Attachments• Psychopathology
Paper 2	33.3 %	June 2021	Two hour exam. Multiple choice, short answer questions and extended writing. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biopsychology• Approaches in Psychology• Research Methods
Paper 3	33.3 %	June 2021	Two hour exam. Multiple choice, short answer questions and extended writing. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issues and Debates in Psychology• Gender or Relationships (teacher dependent)• Aggression• Schizophrenia

Career Links

Psychology can help your career directly, such as becoming a Psychologist (of which there are many different types), therapist or mental health worker. Psychology can also have indirect links to other careers, such as Law, HR, Advertising, Marketing, PR, Teaching and so on.

For further information please see Mr Sare

Religious Studies: Philosophy and Ethics (A Level, AQA)

This course is the most popular route to Philosophy in the UK, and as such recognised for this at universities. It develops critical and analytical thinking through studying western Philosophy and Ethics. A thoughtful and inquiring approach is required. Lively discussions, seminar presentations, videos, and conferences all form part of the course, to enable you to extend your ideas and to become adept thinkers.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

Course Content:

Unit	%	When?	Content
Paper 1: Philosophy and Religion	50%	June 2021	<p>These topics will be studied with reference to Philosophy and Christian Theology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God/gods/Ultimate Reality; Life after death; The challenge from science; The nature and role of religion; Sources of wisdom and authority. • Arguments for the existence of God; Evil and suffering; Religious experience; Religious language; Miracles; Self and life after death; The nature and function of religion. • How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on, philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied. <p>These topics will be studied with reference to Philosophy and Christian Ethics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key moral principles; Religious identity; Religion and sexual identity, Religious pluralism; Ethical theories. • Issue of human life and death; Issues of animal life and death; Introduction to meta ethics; Free will and moral responsibility; Conscience; Bentham and Kant. • How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on, ethical studies in relation to the issues studied.
Paper 2: Christianity and dialogues	50%	June 2021	<p>Section A: Study of Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources of wisdom and authority. • Gods/gods/ultimate responsibility • Self, death and the afterlife. • Good conduct and key moral principles. • Expression of religious identity. • Religion gender and sexuality. • Religion and science. • Religion and secularisation. • Religion and religious pluralism. <p>Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion. How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied.</p>

			Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion. How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on ethical studies in relation to the issues studied.
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Career Links

The subject is useful as a traditional academic subject, providing a secure foundation for any future direction. Students who have recently studied this course have gone to university to read a diverse range of degrees including Law, History, Mathematics and Philosophy, French and Philosophy, and Accounting. Some have continued their interest through Theology and Philosophy degrees. Others have gone into Nursing and Theatre Studies.

For further information speak to Mrs A Spiers

Science (Applied) *(AQA, Level 3 Extended Certificate)*

To obtain the extended certificate students must follow a two year course covering the units below

Entry Requirements: In GCSE Combined (Double) Science: grade 4 in both exams or two at grade 4 from any of the three Separate Science GCSEs, and at least a grade 4 in Maths.

Course Content : Year 12

Units	%	When?	Content
Unit 1: Key Concepts in Science (written exam)	16.6%	Examined June of Year 12	<p>This is predominantly a theoretical unit in which learners develop their knowledge and understanding of key concepts in science and how they are applied to medical, healthcare, food, environmental, pharmaceutical and material industries. Key areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell structure • Transport mechanisms • Heart • Homeostasis • Breathing and cellular respiration • Photosynthesis and food chains • Atomic structure • The Periodic Table • Amount of substance • Bonding and structure • Enthalpy changes • Useful energy and efficiency • Electricity and circuits • Dynamics
Unit 2: Applied Experimental Techniques (portfolio)	16.6%	Submitted June of Year 13	<p>Learners will produce six scientific reports about six different experimental techniques (2 x biology, 2 x chemistry and 2 x physics). The six experimental techniques include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rate of respiration • Light dependent reaction in photosynthesis (the Hill reaction) • Volumetric analysis • Colorimetric analysis • Resistivity • Specific heat capacity
Unit 3: Science in the Modern World (written exam with pre-release material)	16.6%	Examined January of Year 12	<p>This unit enables learners to analyse and evaluate scientific information, to develop critical thinking skills and to understand the use of the media to communicate scientific ideas and theories. We will also look at the varied roles scientists can perform in an organisation such as biologist, chemist, geneticist, ecologist and material scientist. Learners will cover the benefits of scientific roles to society and the scientifically-related skills needed to undertake certain roles.</p>

Course Content: Year 13

Units	%	When?	Content
Unit 4: The Human Body (written exam)	16.6%	Examined January of Year 13	This unit is designed to develop an understanding of human anatomy and physiology. Key areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digestive system and diet• Musculoskeletal system and movement• How oxygen is transported in the blood and how physiological measurements can be applied• The structure and function of the nervous system and brain• Nerve impulses
Unit 5: Investigating Science (portfolio)	16.6%	Submitted June of Year 13	The purpose of this unit is for learners to undertake the role of a research scientist. Learners will research a topic and develop an outline for the practical investigation. They will perform the investigation and present their findings.
Unit 6: Microbiology (portfolio)	16.6%	Submitted June of Year 13	Students undertake research looking at the topic of microbiology, including prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells, Gram staining and microbes used in biotechnology. This portfolio unit includes both research and practical investigations looking at different techniques for culturing microorganisms and the factors that affect microbial growth.

Career Links

This qualification is supported by a range of universities, and taken alongside other qualifications it can fulfil the entry requirements for a number of science-related higher education courses, including biomedical, forensic and sports science, as well as nursing. This qualification could also support learners in progressing to a related apprenticeship or into employment.

For further information please see Mr Lake or Mrs Thomas

Sociology (A Level, AQA)

Sociology studies the structure, dynamics and 'functioning' of society. Studying sociology offers insights into social and cultural issues. It helps students develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issues around identity, education, poverty, religion, crime, culture and inequality. The Sociology A level course enables students to develop a number of new skills, including how to:

- use evidence to present arguments
- investigate facts and use deduction
- understand the world around you
- put over your point of view fluently
- be critical of the news/media

As an academic discipline Sociology demands the ability to cope with a variety of theoretical perspectives and the need to be able to write well-structured and evaluative essays. Teaching methods include class discussion, presentations and evaluation of sociological theories and research studies. Written work will be regularly set and students will need to spend time out of lessons consolidating knowledge through wider reading and practising extended writing/essays.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE English Language

Course content

Units	%	When?	Content
Paper 1	33.3%	June 2021	Two hour exam. Short and extended writing questions on the topics of Education and Methods in Context (of Education) . Extended writing question on Theories and Methods in Sociology. All these topics are compulsory.
Paper 2	33.3%	June 2021	Two hour exam. Extended writing questions on the optional topics. Section A: Families and Households (studied in Year 12). Section B: Beliefs in Society (studied in Year 13).
Paper 3	33.3%	June 2021	Two hour exam. Short and extended writing questions on the topic of Crime and Deviance . Extended writing question on Theories and Methods in Sociology. All these topics are compulsory.

Career Links

Sociology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in the public sector, such as the Police, Social Work, Nursing or Medicine. However the subject is also useful in a number of other careers, like Marketing, Advertising, PR, Journalism, Law or Teaching.

For further information please speak to Miss Browne (Subject Leader)

Spanish (AQA, A Level)

"It is arrogant to assume that we can get by in English or that everyone else will speak our language. Learning a foreign language is polite, demonstrates commitment – and in today's world is absolutely necessary."

Sir Trevor MacDonald, Chair, Nuffield Language Inquiry

The A Level Spanish course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. You will gain a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity. As well as developing your language skills, you will widen your knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and societies where Spanish is spoken. Examples include technological and social changes, highlights of Spanish-speaking artistic culture, including Hispanic music and cinema as well as current issues affecting the Spanish-speaking world. The most successful A level linguists have always shown a commitment to and an enjoyment of the subject which extends way beyond the classroom. We encourage you to read foreign language magazines, newspapers and books, participate in theatre and cinema visits, and attend lectures out of school. You will also be eligible to participate in our Exchange visit to Salamanca or organise your own study trip or work experience in a Spanish-speaking country.

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish.

Course Content

A level	%	When?	Content
Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing 2 hours 30 minutes	40%	June 2021	Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources. Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from authentic resources. Translation from Spanish into English. Translation from English into Spanish.
Paper 2: Writing 2 hours	30%	June 2021	Either one question in Spanish on a set text, or one question on a set film, or two questions on set texts. Questions will require a critical and analytical response to the work studied.
Paper 3: Speaking 21-23 minutes	30%	May 2021	Discussion of a sub-theme based on a stimulus card (5 - 6 minutes) Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9 - 10 minutes) of individual research project

A one year AS qualification in Spanish is also available and will be examined in May/June 2020.

Career Links

You could study Spanish at degree level either alone or as part of a combined degree, and you will have developed the skills to learn new languages. A variety of career options are open to students of Spanish, whether you choose to work at home or abroad, for example in business, engineering, scientific research, technology, the leisure industry or teaching.

For further information see Miss Maguire

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Financial assistance via the 16 – 19 Bursary Fund

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is allocated to the school by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. It is designed to support post-16 students in full-time education with the financial challenges of their continuing education.

There are three parts to the scheme:

- Students who meet certain exceptional criteria (i.e. young people in care or care leavers) are eligible for an annual grant of £1,200.
- Students who are eligible for free school meals are entitled to claim regular monthly payments of up to a maximum of £50 throughout the year.
- Other students whose parents/carers are in receipt of Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit are also able to claim back expenses related to their studies, including transport to school.

Full details and application forms for the 16-19 Bursary Fund will be given to all students during their Induction, again at the start of Year 12 and are also available on the school website, www.backwellschool.net. Please note that the figures above are based on this year's allocation and may be subject to change.

Home to School Transport

Concessionary transport: North Somerset does not provide transport beyond the compulsory age of 16, except for those with special needs. There is a concessionary travel scheme whereby a student not entitled to transport may be able to take up a spare seat on a hired vehicle. For enquiries, please contact North Somerset Council's home to school transport department.

Student First Southwest: For travel by bus, young people (aged 16 – 21) and students of any age in full time education can get up to 30% discount on all tickets across the West of England (Bristol, Bath, Weston super Mare and Wells). They will need to obtain a First Photo ID pass. These are free of charge and valid for one year from the date of issue. The pass must be shown to the driver on every journey. If none can be produced at the time of travel, then the ordinary adult single fare must be paid. To obtain a First Photo ID pass just visit a First Travel shop with a passport photo and proof of age to get a Young person's photo ID, or download a form online. Alternatively students in possession of a valid NUS Card, University ID card or International Student ID card can show their card to obtain the discount. Valid ID must be shown on every journey.

More information can be found on <https://www.firstgroup.com/bristol-bath-and-west/tickets/ticket-types/young-person-16-21-students>

Train: For students who wish to travel by train GWR offer an 'Adult Scholar' season ticket for 16 - 18 year olds who are in full-time study. The season ticket is only valid for a specific, regular journey to and from school/college on Monday to Friday only, and can be bought either termly, or as a block of three terms. (Term 1 is from September to December; Term 2 is from January to Easter and Term 3 is from Easter to July). It offers a substantial saving on the standard three-month adult season ticket price. If you are interested in purchasing an Adult Scholar season ticket, you will need to call GWR direct on 0345 6786972. This line is available between 8.00 am - 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday. Payment can be made by credit or debit card.

Students may also wish to consider buying a 16-25 Railcard, which will give 1/3 off rail fares; this costs £30 for a year. However we would point out that it is not possible to use this card for journeys before 10.00 am, so therefore not very useful for school travel. For more information and details on how to apply, please visit <https://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/>

Car parking: There are limited spaces available for Sixth Form parking in school. Year 13 students can apply for a car parking permit by completing an application form and providing insurance information. Places will be allocated on an individual basis, with priority given to those living furthest away and with limited access to public transport. It is unusual, therefore, for Year 12 students to be given permission to park in school. Please note that the car park at Backwell Leisure Centre is for patrons only.

Motorbikes and Bikes: There is parking for bicycles and mopeds. Moped drivers need a permit as described for car drivers above.

Timetable for entry to the Sixth Form, 2019

November	Backwell Sixth Form Open Evening: Thursday 15 November 2018, 7.00 pm
December	Deadline for applications: Friday 7 December 2018
January-February	Subject choice reviews for current Backwell students
January-March	Students from other schools who have submitted application forms will be invited to subject choice interviews at Backwell
May-June	GCSE examinations
June	Sixth Form Induction Course (provisional date) Friday 21 June 2019
August	GCSE results: Thursday 22 August 2019
September	Term begins on Monday 2 September 2019*

*Information on Inset days has yet to be confirmed

Policy of Year 12 Admissions, September 2019

The maximum size of Year 12 is expected to be 240 students, subject to their fulfilling the entry criteria and subject to class size in their chosen subjects. We are pleased to receive external applications to Year 12. We typically admit an average of 40 to 50 external students each year.