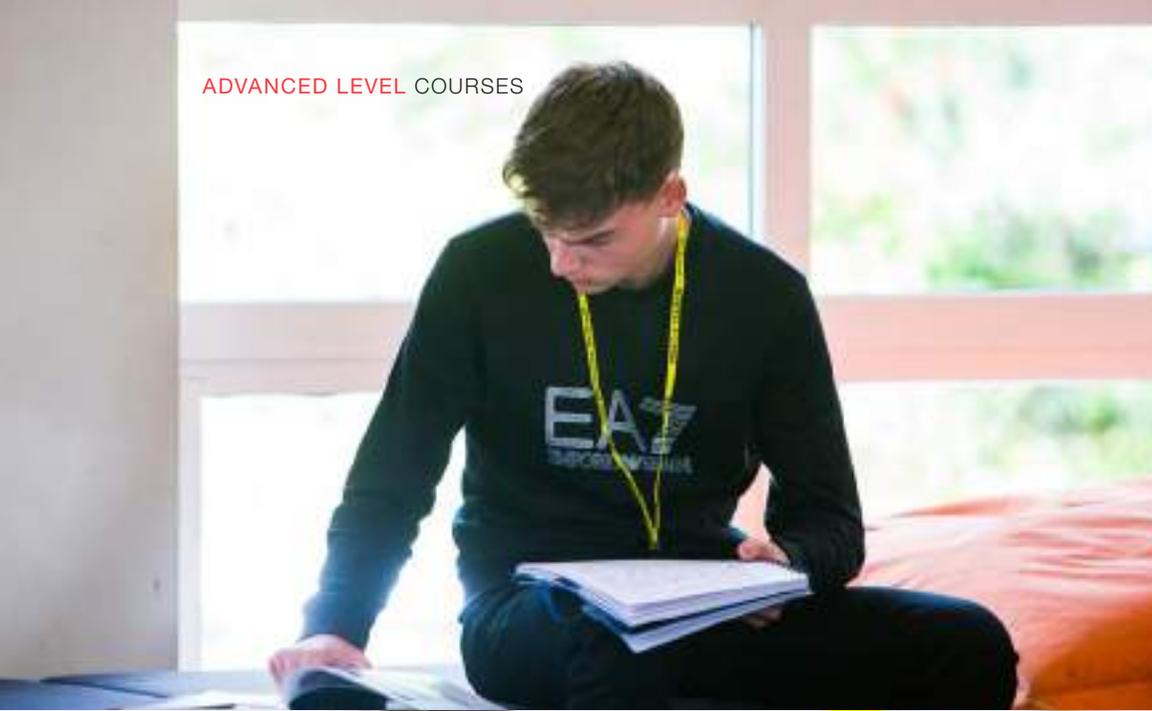


[www.marchesschool.co.uk/sixth-form](http://www.marchesschool.co.uk/sixth-form)

**YOUR FUTURE  
STARTS HERE...  
2018**

**SIXTH FORM** 

part of the Marches Academy Trust



# Choosing your subjects and a programme which is right for you...



When you first apply to the Sixth Form, you may be a little unsure about your final course choices and our aim is to support you, in every way possible, to help you make the right decisions.

Members of the Marches Sixth Form team are on hand should you wish to discuss any part of your application or make any changes to the form you initially submit. You will also have full access to our independent careers advisor who can provide advice and support when considering potential career paths and progression routes.

There will be a range of events running throughout the year to provide both you and your parents/carers with all of the latest information on post-16 education.

A taster event will be held in July to provide you with the opportunity to sample subjects before you finalise your course choices and enrol in September. You will be invited to spend two days as a Marches Sixth Former and there will be a range of 'Road to Sixth Form...' activities taking place throughout the year.



# Course list

## A level courses:

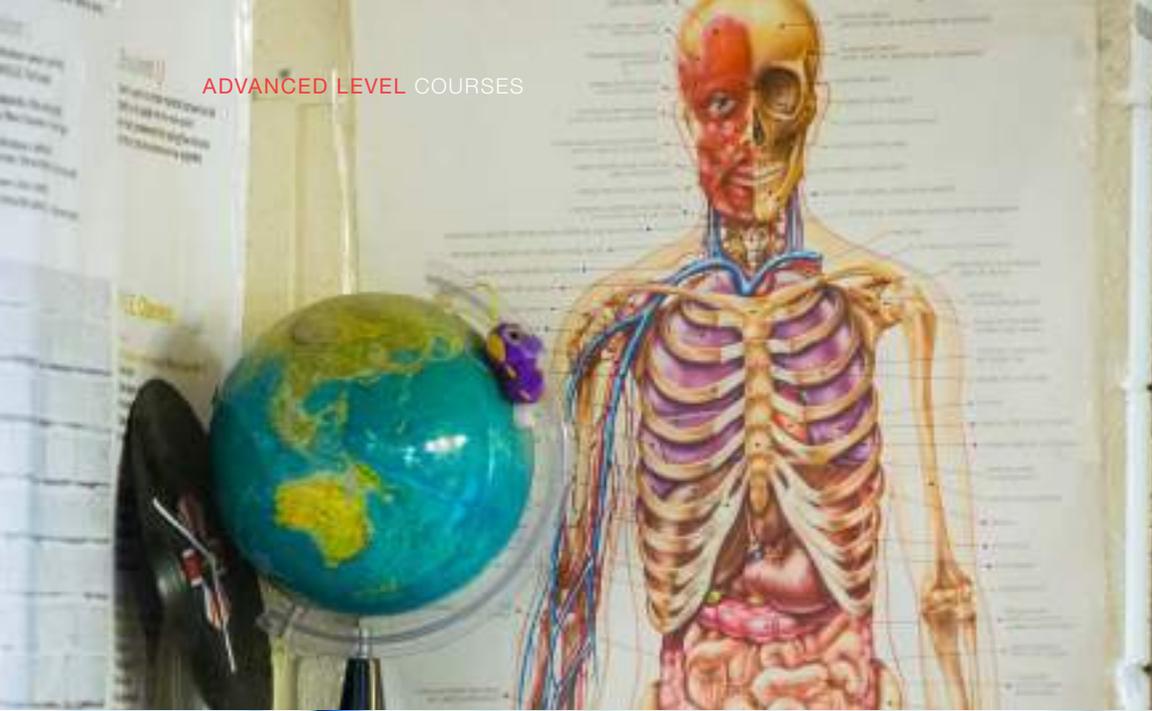
- .....
- Art .....
- Biology .....
- Business Studies .....
- Chemistry .....
- Drama and Theatre .....
- English Language .....
- English Literature .....
- French .....
- Further Mathematics .....
- Geography .....
- German .....
- History .....
- Law .....
- Mathematics .....
- Media Studies .....
- Music .....
- Philosophy of Religion and Ethics .....
- Photography .....
- Physical Education .....
- Physics .....
- Product Design .....
- Psychology .....
- Sociology .....
- Spanish .....

## BTEC level 3 courses:

- .....
- Applied Science .....
- Business Studies .....
- Engineering .....
- Information Technology .....
- Performing Arts .....
- Sport .....

## Extension subjects:

- .....
- AS level Extended Project Qualification .....
- AS level 3 Core Maths .....
- AS level Art .....
- AS level Biology .....
- AS level Business Studies .....
- AS level Chemistry .....
- AS level French .....
- AS level Further Mathematics .....
- AS level German .....
- AS level Mathematics .....
- AS level Music .....
- AS level Photography .....
- AS level Physical Education .....
- AS level Physics .....
- AS level Product Design .....
- AS level Spanish .....



# The Sixth Form provides students with independence and autonomy.



## Student Facilities

The Sixth Form Centre provides Sixth Formers with independence and autonomy, away from the lower school and full access to top-class ICT facilities.

There is an extensive common room where students can escape the rigour of advanced level study. This recreational space provides access to a wide range of refreshments and leisure activities. Sixth Form accommodation also includes a fully equipped, state of the art study centre, used exclusively by Year 12 and Year 13 students, independent study rooms and modern classrooms.

## Enrichment

In addition to your courses, you will also be encouraged to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and additional qualifications. These will provide you with opportunities to make new friends, learn new skills and help to give your future applications 'the edge', an important element in today's competitive market.

Whether you choose to join a sports team, 'Go for Gold' in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award or become a member of the Student Council – it will help to enrich your learning adventure and equip you with skills to boost your university and job applications.



# Make new friends, learn new skills and give your university application ‘the edge’.



## Our Enrichment programme includes:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| .....  | .....  |
| First Aid Course (6-weeks)   | University Open Days and Tasters (Cambridge/Liverpool)                   |
| .....  | .....  |
| Young Enterprise   | Sports Teams – Football, Rugby, Netball, Basketball, Athletics, Swimming |
| .....  | .....  |
| Community Health Champions   | Oxford Debating Society  |
| .....  | .....  |
| National Citizenship Service Award   | TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language)                            |
| .....  | .....  |
| Student Council  | Latin class  |
| .....  | .....  |
| Enrichment Week – work experience opportunities  | PREVENT Training   |
| .....  | .....  |
| Mandarin Chinese Sessions  | Drive Awareness Course   |
| .....  | .....  |
| Student Mentors (Involvement with lower school KS3 – paired reading/homework sessions) | North East Wales UCAS Convention at Glyndwr University                   |
| .....  | .....  |
| 6th Form Quiz League   | Moreton Hall Careers Convention  |
| .....  | .....  |
| Duke of Edinburgh (Gold)   |  |
| .....  |  |
| Krakow – Auschwitz-Birkenau Visit  |  |
| .....  |  |

# We guide & support our students to become confident, independent learners.

## Advice and Guidance

We are very fortunate at The Marches to have subject teachers who are specialists in the curriculum.

The Sixth Form will provide you with more independence and flexibility, however, the strong pastoral care and support is ever present through the Sixth Form Leadership Team.

Do not underestimate advanced level work – you will be stretched to ensure you maximise your academic achievements. We guide and support our students to become confident, independent learners, equipped with the skills to flourish in the modern day world.

## Student Support

The Head of Sixth Form has a team of staff dedicated to student support.

An Assistant Head of Sixth Form is responsible for progression, curriculum development, data tracking and intervention. There is a second Assistant Head of Sixth Form who is responsible for enrichment, student voice and future pathways. A MAP (Most Able Pupils) coordinator focuses on students who are aspiring to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities and those looking to study Veterinary Science or Medicine. There is also a unique 'Scholars Programme' dedicated to extending the most able students.

We have a fantastic Student Support Coordinator who is focused around supporting students in every aspect of their lives, both academic and personal. Each Sixth Form student also has their own Personal Tutor.



# We support you every step of the way, ensuring that you achieve your potential.

## The Future

A dedicated team of staff are on hand to assist with applications for work experience, internships, summer schools, applying for advanced level apprenticeships and UCAS applications.

As a student in The Marches Sixth Form, you will have access to all the latest information on university course requirements, Oxbridge entrance exams, internships, apprenticeship opportunities, career advice and useful tips on how to go about picking the route that is right for you.

Support includes:

Access to the Unifrog system; a one stop shop for all University and Apprenticeship places in the country.

University visits to a range of institutions across the country, including a residential visit to Cambridge University.

Dedicated advice and guidance throughout the University admissions process (UCAS).

Information on student finance, welfare and how to pick the right course and university for you.

Assistance with research into the various apprenticeship schemes currently available and help completing any relevant application forms.

Looking at the employment opportunities available and detailed discussions around the various career paths the 'world of work' has in store.

Regular talks from employers and experts working in a range of professions about the characteristics, skills and qualifications required.



# Application

## Financial Support – 16 – 19 Bursary Fund

We operate a means tested 16 – 19 Bursary Fund for help with equipment, transport, visits and other Sixth Form costs.

Please visit our website to download an application form [www.marchesschool.co.uk/sixth-form/16-19-bursary-fund/](http://www.marchesschool.co.uk/sixth-form/16-19-bursary-fund/)

## Application Process

On the application form we ask you to select up to 4 subjects that you are interested in studying. These choices will be discussed with you, in depth, at your interview.

Interviewing each student individually gives us the opportunity to discuss with you personally your own needs and requirements and ensure that the programme you choose to enrol on, will allow you to achieve your life goals.

## Entry Requirements

We ask that students applying to study our A Level or BTEC Level 3 qualifications post 16, have a minimum of 5 grades 9 – 4 at GCSE, including a minimum of a grade 4/5 in GCSE English and Maths. If you wish to study an A level course you should aim for a grade 6 or equivalent (grade 7 for Further Maths).

It is perfectly acceptable to apply to study a subject that you did not choose at GCSE.

You will be invited to attend a short, informal interview with a member of the Sixth Form Team to discuss your application and talk through your options. All places offered will be conditional until you have received your GCSE results in August and enrolment will take place on GCSE Results Day.

There will be various 'Road to Sixth Form' events and activities taking place throughout the year, to ensure a smooth transition into post-16 study and to provide you with all the information you require to make fully informed decisions. If you have any questions about the admissions process, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01691 664400.

# A level courses

Art	15
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Further Mathematics	23
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Law	27
Mathematics	28
Media Studies	29
Music	30
Philosophy of Religion and Ethics	31
Photography	32
Physical Education	33
Physics	34
Product Design	35
Psychology	36
Sociology	37
Spanish	38



SIXTH FORM

## Art A level

### Overview

This course is designed to enable you to:

Develop fine art related skills using a variety of media, processes and techniques.

Gain knowledge of historical and contemporary painters, styles and genres.

Use a specialist fine art vocabulary and terminology.

Gain knowledge of fine art through research, development and production of your own ideas.

Recognise and develop your own practical and critical strengths in fine art.

Provide you with the tools to develop your own artistic practice.

### Will this course suit me?

You will enjoy this course if you have an interest and natural aptitude for art. An awareness of art and art history is essential; you should have a genuine interest in visual culture.

Encouraging your own creativity can lead you to great ideas in your other subjects too.

A level Fine Art is the ideal stepping-stone for undertaking a Foundation course at Art College or a Bachelor of Art degree at university.

Prior study at GCSE level is essential with a strong personal portfolio. Assessment is on-going throughout the course, leading to an end of year examination.

### Opportunities

Many students go on to higher education in Art and Design including Foundation courses at college and Bachelor of Arts degrees at university.

Students then aim to embark on careers in the World of Advertising, Graphic Design, the Fashion Industry, Set Design, Illustration, Special Effects and Gallery Curation to name just a few. Some set themselves up as practising Artists.



# Biology A level



## Overview

This course is designed to enable you to:

Develop your interest in and enthusiasm for biology, including developing an interest in further study and careers in biology.

Appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

Develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works.

Develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of biology and how they relate to each other.

## Will this course suit me?

It suits those with an interest in the study of living organisms, who enjoy carrying out investigations in the laboratory or as fieldwork.

You will explore issues affecting the world today, for example, developments in genetic engineering.

There is a lot of practical work and coursework under controlled conditions but assessment is predominantly through examinations.

## Opportunities

Biology students have gone on to degree courses in a range of Biological subjects, including Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biological Engineering, Environmental Studies, Forensic Science, Plant Pathology, Nursing, Genetics, Biochemistry.

# Business Studies A level



## Overview

This course is built around a core unit, with an enterprise theme, to enable students to think of a new business idea and how they might research and develop it. Students will think about how their learning applies to their own business idea.

The qualification will introduce students to international business, equipping them either to work in or to manage a business in an international context. A variety of assessment techniques will be used – short answer questions, data-response questions, case studies and a decision-making report.

## Will this course suit me?

This is a very useful A level. It is a challenging academic subject, demanding rigorous intellectual study. It is also rooted in the real world of working life, enabling you to base your studies on your own experience of part-time employment and of your family's and friends' experience of full-time work. You will study the way that businesses work, how decisions are made and the challenges that businesses face. You will find out about Marketing, Finance and Accounting, Human Resources, Operations Management, Economics and a range of business issues and constraints. You will need to be able to read and understand, to write clearly and effectively and to answer business maths questions with confidence and accuracy.

## Opportunities

Business Studies provides a sound preparation for all degree courses, as there are many transferable skills that help with other subjects. There are 5,000 business-based courses available in British universities – it is by far the most popular degree course subject. Many of our students choose to continue their Business Studies at university, and the A level is an excellent academic preparation for this. Those of you who decide to go straight into employment will have learnt much from Business Studies A level about the working world, and this will give you – from day one – a better understanding of your first job.

# Chemistry A level



## Overview

The opportunities for students of Science, and especially Chemistry, are enormous.

Careers within the scientific world are extremely rewarding and qualifications in Science subjects are acceptable as an entry into many other careers. Every time we light a match, boil an egg or simply breathe in and out, we perform a chemical reaction. Our bodies grow, develop and function entirely as a result of the chemical processes that go on within them. Most of the food we eat is grown with the help of chemical fertilisers and kept from rotting with chemical preservatives. If we are to protect the planet from the harmful effects of human activity, we need to understand, as clearly as possible, the complex chemical systems which make up our environment of land, sea and air.

The Chemistry course is designed to enable you to:

Apply your knowledge and understanding to new situations.

Develop key practical and analytical skills in the laboratory.

Appreciate the link between theory and experiment.

Realise the contribution of chemistry to society.

Solve problems often applying mathematical skills.

## Will this course suit me?

Want to know more about the underlying nature of our world? Do you want to further develop your logic and thinking skills? Then you will be solving problems and explaining how the world works.

## Opportunities

Chemistry students have gone onto degree courses in a range of Chemical and Biological subjects, including Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Chemical Engineering, Forensic Science, Aeronautics, Mechanical and Electronic Engineering.

# Drama and Theatre A level



## Overview

This course offers a practical and challenging course of study which encourages learners to:

Develop and apply an informed, analytical framework for making, performing, interpreting and understanding drama and theatre.

Understand the place of relevant theoretical research in informing the processes and practices involved in creating theatre and the place of practical.

Exploration in informing theoretical knowledge of drama and theatre.

Develop an understanding and appreciation of how the social, cultural and historical contexts of performance texts have influenced the development of drama and theatre.

Experience a range of opportunities to create theatre, both published text based and devised work. Develop the creativity and independence to become effective theatre makers.

Analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of others.

## Will this course suit me?

The course is an exciting and inspiring course which prepares learners for further study in Higher Education. This highly practical specification provides learners with the opportunity to work as performers on three different performances.

In Component 1 learners reinterpret a text to create a piece of theatre which is a combination of the selected text and original ideas.

In Component 2 learners engage with a stimulus to create two pieces of theatre; one an interpretation of a text of their own choice and the other a devised piece.

## Opportunities

This specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE. Some learners may have already gained knowledge, understanding and skills through their study of drama at GCSE.

This specification provides a suitable foundation for the study of drama and theatre or a related area through a range of higher education courses, progression to the next level of vocational qualifications or employment. In addition, the specification provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for learners who do not progress to further study in this subject.

# English Language A level



## Overview

In a new course for The Marches School from September 2018, A level English Language encourages learners to develop their interest and enjoyment of English as they:

Develop and apply their understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of language.

Explore data and examples of language in use.

Engage creatively and critically with a varied programme for the study of English.

Develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language.

Independently investigate language in use.

## Will this course suit me?

This course builds upon the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE level. It has a combination of both theoretical units and creative/analytical responses including investigations through the exam and coursework portfolio.

The theoretical aspects are suited to those students particularly interested in the Sciences – especially those that enjoy English but feel that English Literature is not suited to them. It works well with other A level courses such as Modern Foreign Languages, Sociology and Media/Film pathways.

## Opportunities

A level English Language provides a suitable foundation for the study of English language or a related area through a range of higher education courses, progression to the next level of vocational qualifications or employment. In addition, the specification provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for learners who do not progress to further study in this subject. Typically, students of A level English Language are interested in creative pathways such as print/online or Audio Visual journalism, Public Relations and advertising.

# English Literature A level



## Overview

This course is designed to enable you to develop your interest in and enjoyment of literature and literary studies as you:

Read widely and independently, both set texts and others that you will select for yourself.

Engage creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them.

Develop and effectively apply your knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation through discussion creative writing and extended responses.

Explore the contexts of the texts you are reading and others' interpretations of them.

Become an independent and reflective reader and writer.

## Will this course suit me?

The course suits those who enjoy reading widely, including both modern and classic texts. You should enjoy responding in detail to texts in a critical way, relishing the chance to discuss writers' techniques in the form of written essays. There is also the opportunity for some creative writing, based on a text you will study.

## Opportunities

English Literature will give you a wide range of options when you progress to university including English degrees, Teaching, Journalism and this course complements many other subjects.

**I can honestly say Sixth Form is amazing! The facilities are first-class, I am studying courses I am interested in and there are so many enrichment opportunities available to us. Taking part in these will really help my university application stand out from others.**

*Arianwen Griffiths is now studying Social Anthropology and Philosophy at Manchester University.*

# French A level



## Overview

The new A Level in French is assessed at the end of Year 13 through three exams:

**Unit 1 – The Oral exam:** Students are expected to research a topic of their own choosing, rooted in a country or community where the target language is spoken. Students give a 2 minute presentation on this topic and the visiting examiner will ask follow-up questions for a further 9-10 minutes. Following this, students will have a conversation lasting 5-6 based on a randomly selected photo-card, which could be based on any topic studied during the course.

**Unit 2 – Listening, Reading and Translating:** Students will face a variety of listening and reading texts from authentic materials. The topics will be based on any of the topics covered during the two years of study. Students will also be expected to translate two texts (100 words each), one from French into English and the other from English into French.

**Unit 3 – The writing exam:** Students will be expected to write two 300 word essays. One on the book studied during the course and the other on the film studied during the course.

## Will this course suit me?

The course is both interesting and academically demanding, however, it has the benefit of being a highly sought-after qualification and skill in the British business world. You will need to be willing to speak French without worrying about the mistakes you will inevitably make and form opinions on a wide range of issues. You will also need to be willing to invest the time required for learning vocabulary and practising the grammatical structures you have learned in the classroom.

A willingness to participate in the exchange programme will be of enormous benefit to prospective students.

## Opportunities

Studying French complements almost any degree and advanced language skills are beneficial in a large array of careers such as; Business, Accounting, Engineering, Journalism, Finance, Marketing, etc. Language graduates are amongst the most employable in the UK and, on average, earn more than graduates who only speak English. In a post-Brexit Britain, language qualifications/skills will be even more in-demand than they currently are.

# Further Mathematics A level



## Overview

Where the Maths A level starts to develop the skills of problem solving, Further Mathematics introduces the student to a whole new range of problems they never knew existed. This includes, dealing with what happens when the number line is no longer adequate to fully describe our number system, learning about Matrix Mathematics which can be used to solve problems within graphical programming and finding the solutions to multiple sets of equations simultaneously.

The course will run alongside the single A level, studying one further pure and two applied modules.

## Will this course suit me?

You must have a passion for all things mathematical. The course will move at a rapid pace so students will need to spend a lot time outside of lessons consolidating the work covered in class.

## Opportunities

Further Mathematics A level is highly regarded by universities and providers of technical apprenticeships. Students may wish to study straight Mathematics or a joint honours degree. Further Mathematics can be seen favourably even giving a reduced offer.

# Geography A level



## Overview

The course is designed to enable you to:

Understand some of the most pressing challenges facing our world today.

Investigate the choices that exist in managing our world for the future.

Become informed, responsible global citizens by raising your awareness of contemporary issues, from climate change to the threat of international conflict.

Understand physical processes that produce diverse and dynamic landscapes.

Be aware of the similarities and differences between people, places and cultures leading to an improved understanding of societies and economies.

Develop a wide range of transferable skills including communication skills, technological skills, cartographical skills, problem-solving, numeracy and literacy skills.

Undertake fieldwork and individual research in a range of locations, at home and abroad.

Within your lifetime, your world will change faster than ever before, affecting individuals, communities, and the planet as a whole. A level Geography is central to understanding the causes of these changes and their impacts on people and the environment.

## Will this course suit me?

- Do you have an interest in and concern for the environment?
- Are you interested in current affairs?
- Do you enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to your own life?
- Would you like to carry out practical work outdoors as well as classwork?
- Do you want to keep your options open and cover both 'sciences' and 'humanities'?
- Do you enjoy travel and finding out about new people, places, landscapes and events?

If you answered YES to most of these questions, then Geography is right for you!

## Opportunities

Geography provides the opportunity to study a wide range of university courses related to Humanities, the environment, outdoor education and Sciences. Geography graduates are very employable due to their diverse range of transferable skills. Career paths include: Environmental Consultant, Teacher, Researcher, Surveyor, Geologist, Development/ NGO Worker, Cartographer, Architect, Town & Country planner... the list goes on!

# German A level



## Overview

The new A Level in German is assessed at the end of Year 13 through three exams:

**Unit 1 – The Oral exam:** Students are expected to research a topic of their own choosing, rooted in a country or community where the target language is spoken. Students give a 2 minute presentation on this topic and the visiting examiner will ask follow-up questions for a further 9-10 minutes. Following this, students will have a conversation lasting 5-6 based on a randomly selected photo-card, which could be based on any topic studied during the course.

**Unit 2 – Listening, Reading and Translating:** Students will face a variety of listening and reading texts from authentic materials. The topics will be based on any of the topics covered during the two years of study. Students will also be expected to translate two texts (100 words each), one from German into English and the other from English into German.

**Unit 3 – The writing exam:** Students will be expected to write two 300 word essays. One on the book studied during the course and the other on the film studied during the course.

## Will this course suit me?

The course is both interesting and academically demanding, however, it has the benefit of being a highly sought-after qualification and skill in the British business world. You will need to be willing to speak German without worrying about the mistakes you will inevitably make and form opinions on a wide range of issues. You will also need to be willing to invest the time required for learning vocabulary and practising the grammatical structures you have learned in the classroom. A willingness to participate in the exchange programme will be of enormous benefit to prospective students.

## Opportunities

Studying German complements almost any degree and advanced language skills are beneficial in a large array of careers such as; Business, Accounting, Engineering, Journalism, Finance, Marketing, etc. Language graduates are amongst the most employable in the UK and, on average, earn more than graduates who only speak English. In a post-Brexit Britain, language qualifications/skills will be even more in-demand than they currently are.

# History A level

## Overview

The course is designed to enable you to:

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key periods in British, European and International History.

Develop an in-depth understanding of attitudes, beliefs and structures of society.

Assess the historical significance of events, individuals, ideas, attitudes and beliefs and the ways in which they influenced behaviour and action.

Explore the short-term significance of individuals, movements and events, as well as the factors affecting change throughout the whole period.

Develop a range of subject skills including the analysis and evaluation of historical sources in their context.

## Will this course suit me?

This course suits those who have an interest in significant events, movements and personalities of the past. There is a wide and stimulating range of content. Units are assessed by a range of essay and source papers and a controlled assessment.

## Opportunities

This course acts as a natural progression from History GCSE and supports progression to further study. It can be followed up by a Higher Education course in History, Modern History, Ancient History, War Studies, Law and Politics.

**I settled into Sixth Form really well and the lessons are very interesting. Teachers here are experts in their field and I've found that, being smaller than other Colleges, I have developed a great working relationship with my teachers. I would definitely recommend the Sixth Form to others.**

**Lucy Burn** is now studying History at Warwick University.

# Law A level

## Overview

This course is designed to enable you to:

Have an understanding of the structure, personnel and functions of the English Legal System.

Analyse and solve problems by applying legal rules.

Develop the ability to communicate legal arguments and conclusions clearly and succinctly.

Have an understanding of Contract and Tort Law through an in-depth study of the substantive law.

Draw together and make connections between Contract and Tort Law legal processes, legal issues and the development of law.

## Will this course suit me?

You should have a genuine interest in the Law, enjoy reading and be able to express yourself both in the written form and in discussion groups. Assessment is by written examination. Examinations cover essays and scenario based problem questions.

## Opportunities

A level Law provides an excellent foundation for progression to university or a career in the legal profession, criminal justice system, local government and business. It provides skills desired by employers such as problem solving and analytical thinking.

Enrichment activities linked to A level Law include visits to a Prison, the Crown Court, Magistrates Court and Parliament.

# Mathematics A level



## Overview

This course has been designed to build on the problem solving skills that were developed at GCSE. At GCSE, the beauty of Mathematics only just starts to become evident. At A level, more of the picture is revealed. Links with the Sciences, Economics and Engineering become more obvious.

The course contains two thirds Pure Maths (predominantly algebra and calculus) and one third Applied. This focuses on building the student's toolkit of skills, which can then be applied to real world problems within Statistics or Mechanics (the Maths behind Physics).

## Will this course suit me?

You will need to have a grade A or A\* at GCSE Mathematics. To succeed at Maths A level you need to enjoy solving problems, but not necessarily first time around. Maths students are resilient. There is plenty of support for those who need it within the course and this help is very much student led, unlike GCSE. A strong independent work ethic will need to be developed to achieve highly.

If Mathematics was always something you had to do but got no satisfaction from, this is not the course for you. Equally those who found Mathematics straightforward, will need to prepare for a new challenge.

## Opportunities

If students are considering taking Engineering, one of the Sciences, Computing, Economics, Business or any other related degree or career further, then A level Mathematics is the perfect accompaniment.

Additionally straight Mathematics or joint honours degrees unlock the door to a wide variety of career options. Visit [www.mathscareers.org.uk](http://www.mathscareers.org.uk) for more information.

\*There is also the option to study Further Maths for students who wish to specialise and delve even deeper into this fascinating subject.

# Media Studies A level



## Overview

The media play a central role in contemporary culture, society and politics. They shape our perceptions of the world through the representations, ideas and points of view they offer.

The media have real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, with forms of cultural expression and the ability to participate in key aspects of society. The economic importance of the media is also unquestionable. The media industries employ large numbers of people worldwide and generate significant global profit. The globalised nature of the contemporary media, ongoing technological developments and more opportunities to interact with the media suggest their centrality in contemporary life can only increase.

The course is designed to provide a coherent, integrated and in depth approach to studying the media, enabling learners to develop and apply their understanding of the media through both analysing and producing media products in relation to a detailed and comprehensive underpinning theoretical framework and a wide range of advanced theoretical approaches and theories.

## Will this course suit me?

Media Studies features a combination of both theoretical units and creative/analytical responses including a practical production portfolio as part of the final assessment.

Learning about the media involves both exploring and making media products and these two activities are fundamentally related in this specification. Learners create a cross-media production for an intended audience, applying their knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, audience and industry in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC.

## Opportunities

This Media Studies course provides a suitable progression to a range of higher education degree and vocational level courses or to employment. For those who do not wish to progress further with Media Studies, this specification also provides a coherent, engaging and culturally valuable course of study. This course is particularly suited to those that may choose to study a Media/Film related course or are interested in a career in the creative industries. It is suitable for those who enjoy the academic challenge of textual analysis and a desire to be creative.

# Music A level

## Overview

Studying this course will enable you to:

Continue developing your love of performing music.

Explore your ideas and create new music.

Broaden your pleasure of listening to a variety of musical styles.

Discover how and why music has developed the way it has.

Continue exploring music through ICT and recording equipment.

Where else can you play music and get coursework credit for it, create and record your own music, listen to music in class and learn about different styles of music. Music A level will focus on your creative development as an individual, with the care and expertise of teachers who understand your strengths and weaknesses.

## Will this course suit me?

Students are expected to supplement class lessons with individual instrument tuition, instrument practice and independent study time on composition tasks.

All musicians are welcome and students are free to choose any instrument(s) and/or voice(s) and perform music in any style. Students can perform from a score, or improvise, as appropriate.

The composition component of the course allows students to explore areas that inspire and interest them. Students benefit from the two computer suites featuring Sibelius notation software on Apple Mac computers.

Students are expected to have a good level of music theory knowledge and skills, to understand scales and chords. An ability to read music is an integral tool in understanding how music works. It is therefore recommended that students have GCSE Music before embarking on the A level Music course.

## Opportunities

Music A level provides an excellent basis for lifelong learning and for higher education courses in Music. Many students who take A level Music continue with their studies at university. The three units of the course can lead to studies in Performance, Composition, Musicology, Ethnomusicology, Sound Engineering, Conducting, Popular Music, Jazz and Music Education. The multi-tasking required in music as a subject is beneficial to many different career paths with university music students often recruited to management positions in business.

# Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

## A level

## Overview

The course is designed to enable you to:

Develop a range of transferable skills which can be applied far beyond the study of Philosophy and Ethics.

Provide you with a broad introduction to philosophy and the philosophy of religion.

Gain a thorough grounding in key philosophical concepts, themes, texts and techniques.

Develop the ability to reason, form your own judgements, express yourself coherently and contribute to the process of debate.

Consider philosophical problems through the study of religion and ethics.

## Will this course suit me?

If you have enjoyed Humanities in the past and have demonstrated skills in English Literature this course may be of interest to you. The way in which we study requires you to approach abstract problems with a clear, reasoning and open mind.

The course requires excellent reading and literacy skills.

## Opportunities

- Philosophy
- Law
- Teaching
- Politics
- Other Humanities Courses

# Photography A level

## Overview

The course aims to develop: intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive powers, investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical judgements. Knowledge and understanding of Photography in contemporary society and in other times and cultures. An awareness of different roles, functions, audiences and consumers of Photography.

## Will this course suit me?

- 100% Practical and Contextual work (NO theory based exams)
- Access to SLR Cameras and lighting to develop skills.
- 100% Digital course including the development of digital image manipulation skills.

You will learn and develop skills through the use of industry standard software and facilities, pre-paring you for both higher education and employment.

All projects and assignments will focus on developing your own individual skills giving you the greatest opportunity to gain employability skills.

## Opportunities

Direct entry to various 'Light Based Media' degree courses (Photography, Film, Media). Careers are available in graphics, advertising, fashion, medical illustration photography, police and forensic photography, editorial, corporate, press and photo journalism, film and television production, digital imaging specialist, web design, computer games and other new media industries.

If you are not looking at a careers paths related to Photography this subject compliments a range of other subjects well. Skills developed within the subject will benefit and compliment many other careers and areas of the curriculum, for example analytical and creative thinking, problem solving, research and idea development and independent, self-directed working behaviour.

# Physical Education A level

## Overview

This course is designed to enable you to:

Develop your knowledge and understanding in the Physiological and Biomechanical factors affecting performance. The Psychological factors affecting performance and the Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport.

Compare the sporting nature and structure of the USA, Australia with the UK.

Participate in competitive sporting activity on a regular basis.

Improve your performance in physical activity from both a performer and observers perspective. Discover the physiological, psychological and sociological realms of physical education and the world of sport science further.

You will be assessed in three separate exams (70%) as well as a non-exam assessment as a performer and analyst.

## Will this course suit me?

The course is open to students who are enthusiastic about the subject and are willing to work hard. A certain degree of ability in Sport is necessary, but a great deal of interest and personal motivation is essential. The written component is a challenging and enjoyable aspect of the course and should not be underestimated. The course is a testing one which requires a dedicated approach. Practically, students must be of a relatively high standard in two sports. There is an expectation that students are engaging in competitive sport outside of school hours, ensuring that they are achieving their full potential when assessed practically. It should be noted that students will need to gain footage of themselves playing competitively outside of school in their chosen sport(s), as well as evaluate and plan for the improvement of performance of another performer.

## Opportunities

Many students from this subject area continue into higher education in very similar areas such as Sports Science, Sports and Exercise Science, Sports Studies, PE Teaching, Sports Coaching and Sports Development. A wide range of careers in the sports and leisure field are available. Other possible routes may include Chiropractic, Dance Studies, Exercise and Health, Human Life Science, Nursing, Occupational Health and Safety, Occupational Therapy, Osteopathy, Outdoor Pursuits, Physiotherapy, Leisure Management and Sportswear Design.

# Physics A level

## Overview

This course has been developed for students who wish to continue with a study of Physics after GCSE. Such a course will prepare students to progress into further education, to follow courses in Physics, engineering, one of the other sciences or related subjects, or to enter employment where a knowledge of Physics would be useful.

## Will this course suit me?

There are many opportunities for students of Physics on completion of full-time education. Physics is the study of the truly enormous, from the far reaches of the universe, right down to the minuscule internal structures of the atom. Scientific and engineering skills are in great demand at present and A level qualifications are well regarded in many fields of employment.

## Opportunities

There are many possible careers options open to students who study Physics. Qualifications in Science subjects are acceptable as an entry into many other careers.

Some of these include: Courses in Physics, Mechanical Engineering, Electronic/Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Medicine, Astrophysics. Physicists work in many fields including, Medical, Design, Engineering, Computer Science and Game Design, Astrophysics, the Financial Sector and many other areas where knowledge of how the physical world works or a firm understanding of mathematics is required.

**The Marches Sixth Form is a great place to study because everyone is really friendly, the facilities are really modern and I know there is always someone there to support me if I need it. I am currently working towards my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award as this will further help to develop my skills.**

*Rhys Chandler is applying to become a Pilot with Airbus.*

# Product Design A level

## Overview

This course is designed to encourage candidates to take a broad view of design and technology, to develop their capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

This course is designed to enable you to:

Initiate design solutions, develop, test and trial working models and prototypes.

Develop and sustain imagination, innovation and flair when working with concepts and materials.

Develop an understanding of contemporary design and technological practices and consider the uses and effects of new technologies and modern materials.

Develop thinking skills, financial capability, enterprise and entrepreneurial skills.

## Will this course suit me?

This course is designed to offer learners opportunities to study, propose and realise prototype solutions closely linked to the real world of product manufacture in a range of material areas. Recognising the routes that are pursued at GCSE, this specification provides candidates with opportunities to continue their studies either exclusively or as a combination of focus material areas.

## Opportunities

Throughout the course of study, candidates are encouraged to develop a critical awareness of design and technology within society.

These specifications, therefore, provide a suitable foundation for the study of design or related courses in higher education. They are also suitable for candidates intending to pursue careers in areas related to the focus material areas that make up these specifications.



# Psychology A level

## Overview

This course is designed to enable you to:

- .....
- Use different perspectives to interpret the world around you.
- .....
- Develop your planning and conducting of scientific investigations.
- .....
- Develop analytical and evaluative skills in relation to your investigations.
- .....
- Study key issues and theories in Psychology.
- .....
- Apply your understanding to real life examples.
- .....

## Will this course suit me?

- Do you have an enquiring mind?
- Are you curious to develop an understanding of what influences human behaviour?
- Do you enjoy research, analysing and interpreting your findings?
- Would you like the opportunity to engage in lively discussion?

Studying Psychology brings all these aspects and others together and leads to a greater understanding of the world around you.

## Opportunities

Degree in Psychology, but an integral part of many other courses in Caring Services, Marketing or Business. Careers include Clinical or Educational Psychology, Sports Psychology, Forensic Psychology and Teaching.

**Everyone is so friendly, I feel supported by both staff and my fellow students, but I also enjoy the extra freedom we have in Sixth Form. I don't think I could be more comfortable in a learning environment.**

**Chloe Jones** is now studying Nursing at Northampton University.



# Sociology A level

## Overview

This course is designed to enable you to:

- .....
- Acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary social practices and social changes.
- .....
- Appreciate the significance of theoretical and conceptual issues in sociological debate.
- .....
- Understand and evaluate sociological methodology and a range of research methods through active involvement in the research process.
- .....
- Develop skills which enable individuals to focus on their personal identity roles and responsibilities within society.
- .....
- Develop a lifelong interest in social issues.
- .....
- Encourages candidates to develop the skill of critical thinking with respect to sociological theory and methodology and in terms of local, national and global issues and topics, including the nature of social change.
- .....
- Provides opportunities for candidates to consider ethical problems in the context of sociological research.
- .....
- Encourages candidates to examine the relationship between the personal and the social, particularly in terms of the development of an individual's identity with respect to gender, ethnicity, class, age, locality and nation. This serves to promote self-understanding as well as the intellectual and social development of individuals.
- .....

## Will this course suit me?

This course is suitable for people who enjoy reading extensively and analysing what they read. Students will be studying how society and institutions work and considering issues such as power and equality. Students will be expected to engage in informed discussion and debate.

## Opportunities

This course provides a suitable foundation for the study of Sociology or a related area through a range of higher education courses (e.g. Criminology, Administration or Law); progression to the next level of vocational qualifications (e.g. Social Work or Nursing); or direct entry into employment. In addition, the specification provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for candidates who do not progress to further study in this subject.

# Spanish A level

## Overview

The new A Level in Spanish is assessed at the end of Year 13 through three exams:

**Unit 1 – The Oral exam:** Students are expected to research a topic of their own choosing, rooted in a country or community where the target language is spoken. Students give a 2 minute presentation on this topic and the visiting examiner will ask follow-up questions for a further 9-10 minutes. Following this, students will have a conversation lasting 5-6 based on a randomly selected photo-card, which could be based on any topic studied during the course.

**Unit 2 – Listening, Reading and Translating:** Students will face a variety of listening and reading texts from authentic materials. The topics will be based on any of the topics covered during the two years of study. Students will also be expected to translate two texts (100 words each), one from Spanish into English and the other from English into Spanish.

**Unit 3 – The writing exam:** Students will be expected to write two 300 word essays. One on the book studied during the course and the other on the film studied during the course.

## Will this course suit me?

The course is both interesting and academically demanding, however, it has the benefit of being a highly sought-after qualification and skill in the British business world. You will need to be willing to speak Spanish without worrying about the mistakes you will inevitably make and form opinions on a wide range of issues. You will also need to be willing to invest the time required for learning vocabulary and practising the grammatical structures you have learned in the classroom. A willingness to participate in the exchange programme will be of enormous benefit to prospective students.

## Opportunities

Studying Spanish complements almost any degree and advanced language skills are beneficial in a large array of careers such as; Business, Accounting, Engineering, Journalism, Finance, Marketing, etc. Language graduates are amongst the most employable in the UK and, on average, earn more than graduates who only speak English. In a post-Brexit Britain, language qualifications/skills will be even more in-demand than they currently are.

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SIXTH FORM

# Applied Science BTEC level 3



## Overview

The qualification is equivalent in size to one A level .

The content of this qualification has been developed to support progression to higher education and it is appropriate and consistent with current practice for learners planning to enter employment directly in the applied science sector.

There are three mandatory units:

- Principles and Applications of Science I
- Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques
- Science Investigation Skills

There is also an optional unit that will cover an aspect of Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

In Principles and Applications of Science I learners will study periodicity and properties of elements, structure and functions of cells and tissues and waves in communication.

Practical and Scientific Procedures involves learners being introduced to quantitative laboratory techniques, calibration, chromatography, calorimetry and laboratory safety, which are relevant to the chemical and life science industries.

Learners will also cover the stages involved and the skills needed in planning a scientific investigation: how to record, interpret, draw scientific conclusions and evaluate.

## Will this course suit me?

- If you want to continue education through applied learning post-16.
- If you want to progress to higher education to study applied science.
- If you want to progress to employment in the applied science sector.
- If you are interested in practical science and investigation skills.
- If you are a critical thinker and enjoy problem-solving.
- If you enjoy working collaboratively and have good communication skills.
- If you are an organised person.

## Opportunities

The requirements of this qualification will mean that learners develop the transferable and higher order skills which are valued by higher education providers and employers.

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting admission requirements for many courses if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of learning, including, but not exclusively, those which are science-related.

Applied science careers include:

- Health care: emergency medical technicians, medical laboratory technicians, radiological technologist
- Clerical: medical billing and coding
- Technical: analysts, network managers, diesel mechanics, automobile repair technicians
- Pharmacy technology
- Veterinary technology

# Business Studies BTEC level 3



## Overview

The course has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. Employers have also been to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent to enter employment directly in the business sector.

Learners taking this qualification will study three mandatory units and one optional unit covering the following content areas:

**Mandatory:** Business environments; Marketing and budgeting; Personal and Business Finance

**Optional:** Recruitment and Selection process; Investigation customer service; Market Research; The English Legal system; Work experience in business

## Will this course suit me?

The Pearson BTEC level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business is an Applied General qualification. It is suitable for all post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment in the business sector.

## Opportunities

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses if taken alongside other level 3 qualifications as part of a programme of learning. Depending on the other qualifications learners have taken, they can progress to a degree programme from a range of programmes in the business sector. Progression can be direct to an honours degree or to a Higher National, a Foundation Degree, or a Higher Apprenticeship.

The course also provides employability skills in the following three main categories:

**Cognitive and problem-solving skills:** use critical thinking, approach non-routine problems applying expert and creative solutions, use systems and technology.

**Intrapersonal skills:** communicating, working collaboratively, negotiating and influencing, self-presentation.

**Interpersonal skills:** self-management, adaptability and resilience, self-monitoring and development.

# Engineering BTEC level 3



## Overview

The BTEC level 3 in Engineering is designed for learners who are interested in a career in the engineering sector and want to progress to further study in the sector. Learners will take a practical, applied engineering course as part of their level 3 study programme, which gives them an introduction to the sector. They will be able to combine this with other qualifications, such as a GCE A level in Mathematics or Physics, which would allow them to progress to higher education to study engineering or other STEM-related programmes.

## Will this course suit me?

Engineering covers a broad variety of roles and it involves the application of scientific principles and practical knowledge to transform ideas and materials into products and systems safely and support them during their lifetime. This qualification has a focus on a broad range of engineering specialist areas. Learners taking this qualification will study content including:

- engineering principles and mathematics
- health and safety, team work and interpreting and creating computer-aided engineering
- drawings
- design and manufacture of products

## Opportunities

Progression from this qualification will lead to courses in higher education. The qualification is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many relevant courses in a variety of areas of the engineering sector, for example:

- BEng (Hons) in Engineering
- BEng (Hons) in Electronics Engineering
- BSc (Hons) in Computer Science
- BSc (Hons) in Mathematics

This qualification also supports progression to job opportunities in the engineering sector. Jobs that are available in these areas include:

- engineering operative
- manufacturing operative
- semi-skilled operative

This qualification also supports those following an apprenticeship in engineering who are looking to work and progress in the engineering sector as an engineering operative.

# Information Technology BTEC level 3



## Overview

The objective of this qualification is to give learners the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in IT systems, systems management and social media in business. This will enable learners to progress to further study in the IT sector or other sectors.

Learners will study three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Information Technology Systems (synoptic)
- Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information
- Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business

This qualification includes a choice of optional units, including:

- Unit 5: Data Modelling
- Unit 6: Website Development

This will allow progression to a variety of degrees when combined with other suitable level 3 qualifications.

## Will this course suit me?

The Pearson BTEC level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology is intended as an Applied General qualification covering 360 GLH and equivalent in size to one A level. It is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT.

Learners will develop a common core of IT knowledge and study areas such as the relationship between hardware and software that form an IT system, managing and processing data to support business and using IT to communicate and share information.

## Opportunities

This qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. As the content is equivalent in size to one A level, higher education representatives have confirmed that it is appropriate to allow learners to choose their optional units from a wide range so that they can explore their own choice of areas for further study. The qualification supports entry to, for example:

- HND in Business
- BA (Hons) in Computer Arts
- BSc (Hons) in Fashion Buying Management
- BSc (Hons) in Software Development for Animation
- BA (Hons) in Accounting and Finance

# Performing Arts BTEC level 3



## Overview

- Equivalent in size to one A level
- 4 units, of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external
- Mandatory content (83%)
- External assessment (58%)

Mandatory Units: Investigating Practitioners' Work; Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance; Group Performance Workshop

## Will this course suit me?

The Pearson BTEC level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts is intended as an Applied General qualification. It is designed for post-16 learners with an interest in performing arts who want to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education. The qualification is equivalent in size to one A level and is designed to occupy one-third of a typical study programme, which could include other vocational or academic qualifications, such as further BTEC Nationals or A levels.

This qualification gives a broad introduction to the performing arts sector with an emphasis on core knowledge and fundamental skills which are transferable across other sectors (including communication, presentation, physical and creative skills).

## Opportunities

In addition to the performing arts sector-specific content, this qualification provides learners with the opportunity to develop all-round performance skills and transferable skills such as self-confidence, self-presentation, personal discipline, time management and organisational skills which are highly regarded by higher education and employers.

- communication skills – performing, communicating and presenting ideas to an audience
- collaborative skills – with a focus on self-management, teamwork and participation in group performance which develops collaborative skills and confidence building

All of the content in the qualification will help prepare learners for further study.

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses when taken alongside other qualifications as part of a 2-year programme of learning. It combines well with a large number of subjects at level 3, whether academic or vocational. The qualification can be taken as part of a diverse programme leaving progression options fully open. It can also give context to subjects which would benefit from some sector background. This will depend on the combination of qualifications chosen. For example, taken alongside:

- BTEC National Diploma in Business Enterprise to progress to Business related courses
- A levels in Media and another subject to progress to Creative Events Management type courses

# Sport BTEC level 3



## Overview

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. Employers and professional bodies have also been involved and consulted to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice for learners who may choose to enter employment directly in the sport sector.

Learners will study three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology
- Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
- Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Learners will also choose one optional unit from a range which has been designed to support choices in progression to sport courses in higher education, and to link with relevant occupational areas.

## Will this course suit me?

The Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport is an Applied General qualification for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment in the sport sector. The qualification is equivalent in size to one A level, and it has been designed as a one-year, full-time study programme, or a full two-year programme when studied alongside a further level 3 qualification.

## Opportunities

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of study. It combines well with a large number of subjects and supports entry to higher education courses in a very wide range of disciplines (depending on the subjects taken alongside). For learners who wish to study an aspect of sport in higher education, opportunities include:

- BA (Hons) in Sport Studies and Business, if taken alongside A levels in Business and Maths
- BSC (Hons) in Sport Psychology, if taken alongside a BTEC National Extended Certificate in Applied Science and A level in Psychology
- BA (Hons) in Sports Education and Special and Inclusive Education, if taken alongside an A level in English Language and a BTEC National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts
- BA (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Science, if taken alongside a BTEC National Diploma in Applied Science

# How to apply...



To apply to The Marches Sixth Form please complete and return the application form (available on our website [www.marchesschool.co.uk/sixth-form/admissions/](http://www.marchesschool.co.uk/sixth-form/admissions/)) to:

**Mrs Boyes**  
**Head of Sixth Form**  
The Marches School  
Morda Road  
Oswestry  
Shropshire  
SY11 2AR

The deadline for applications is **Monday 19th February 2018.**

We are expecting courses to fill up very quickly, particularly in the Sciences and Maths. We strongly recommend that you submit your application form as soon as possible to secure your subject choices.

If you require any further details or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Boyes, Head of Sixth Form on:

**T.** 01691 664400

**E.** [boyes.c@marchesschool.net](mailto:boyes.c@marchesschool.net)

**Please note:** Provision of all courses will depend on demand. Course list correct at time of going to print [ October 2017 ].





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**SIXTH FORM**   
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