2025/26

The Whitby Sixth Form







Grow
Belong
Succeed

Welcome



Mrs G. Fraser
Headteacher



Mrs H. Waites
Deputy Headteacher



Mr P. Merryweather
Director of Sixth Form



Welcome to The Whitby High School Sixth Form!

We are thrilled to showcase our comprehensive curriculum offer, exciting enrichment opportunities, and state-of-the-art facilities. **We are proud to share that we have achieved our best Sixth Form results in the last three years**, making us the place to be for your post-16 education. Our curriculum offer is diverse, with options to study A level courses or Applied/ Vocational courses tailored to your strengths and interests.

We welcome students into our Sixth Form from both our own Year 11 cohort, but also students who have not previously studied with us. Our students are taught by specialists who have a passion for their subject and are experts in the delivery of their respective course. We are proud that the vast majority of our students leave us to take their next steps at their preferred Post-18 destination; whether this be university, on an apprenticeship, or obtaining full time employment. Importantly, they do so as confident, independent and well-rounded individuals, fully prepared for a rapidly changing world.

Our overall Sixth Form entry requirement is 4 x Grades 9-4 at GCSE. For students studying vocational courses, a Level 2 Pass is equivalent to a Grade 4 at GCSE. All the courses offered at our Sixth Form can be found in this booklet, each with its own subject-specific entry requirements.

We highly recommend that you carefully review these requirements to ensure you meet the necessary criteria for successful enrolment in your chosen courses. It is important to note that universities and employers readily accept all qualifications offered, and each course carries UCAS Points for future university applications.

Our students choose three subjects to study in Year 12, making choices based on enjoyment, academic success, and future aspirations.

At our Sixth Form, we also provide the unique opportunity to undertake the Extended Project Qualification, which sets our students apart and can significantly impact university acceptance. Additionally, we offer a comprehensive Maths and English re-sit course for students who did not achieve Grade 4 in these key subjects at the end of Year 11, providing specialist support for re-sit exams.

We are dedicated to ensuring that each student has the opportunity to excel and realise their ambitions in our Sixth Form. The Sixth Form team work closely alongside a committed and experienced team of teachers and tutors to ensure that students achieve academically and are offered unique opportunities to develop personally.

Our careers advice and guidance programme is a real strength of our provision, ensuring all students are supported with their future aspirations. We invite you to explore all that our Sixth Form has to offer and discover the endless possibilities for your future success.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have about our provision, you can get in touch by emailing:

sixthformoffice@
whitbyhs.cheshire.sch.uk

Courses

9 Art & Design
10 Business Studies
11 Criminology
12 Design Technology - Product Design
13 Engineering
14 English Language & Literature
15 Ethics & Philosophy
16 Food & Nutrition
17 French
18 Geography
19 German
20 Health & Social Care
21 History
22 Information Technology
23 Mathematics
24 Performing Arts
25 Photography
26 Physical Education
27 Politics
28 Psychology
29 Science - Applied Science
30 Science Biology
31 Science - Chemistry
32 Science - Physics
33 Sociology

Departments

- English
- Humanities
- Mathematics
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Science
- Social Sciences
- Physical Education
- Design Technology
- Visual & Performing Arts

PROGREDIAMUR



The place to learn

Step into our stunning new Sixth Form Learning Centre

Our Sixth Form students now enjoy a state-of-the-art, dedicated learning space, carefully designed to support every style of study, collaboration, and relaxation. The centre has been divided into three distinctive areas, each tailored to create an inspiring and flexible environment:

Collaborative Study & Classwork Area 1

Perfect for group projects, discussions, and lessons, this area features multi-level conference/class spaces, low seating around tables, booths, and large conference tables. Every workspace includes ample power outlets and connections, fully supporting our brand-new suite of laptops. For those who prefer desktop work, a suite of high-level PCs with internet café style seating are also available.



2 Independent Study Zone

Designed for focus and concentration, this self-contained area offers booths for one or two students, with ambient lighting, soundproofing, and USB charging. It's ideal for private study, research, or completing coursework in a distraction-free environment.









Adding to the inspiring environment, stunning photography created by our students, celebrating their creativity and achievements. The new Sixth Form centre also includes dedicated bathrooms as well as a vending machine to supplement our Sixth Form cafe, ensuring convenience alongside comfort.

With state-of-the-art equipment, modern furnishings, and beautifully designed learning zones, our Sixth Form Centre offers a truly inspiring space where students can thrive academically, socially, and creatively.

Social & Relaxation Space 3

A welcoming space with comfortable soft furnishings, where students can learn informally, socialise, or unwind during breaks. This area encourages collaboration and peer interaction in a relaxed setting.



The place to grow

Sixth Form students are offered a rich and varied programme of enrichment activities designed to enhance their learning, personal development, and future prospects.

All students benefit from comprehensive and personalised careers advice, with guidance carefully tailored to individual goals from our dedicated school careers officer. Each student can access as many careers meetings as they feel they need throughout their Sixth Form journey, whether they are aspiring to attend university, secure a competitive apprenticeship, or enter the workforce with confidence.

In addition to ongoing one to one support, students attend a careers fair in Year 12, where they meet a wide range of employers, training providers, and higher education representatives. They also take part in visits to several universities, including Edge Hill University and others across the North West, giving them valuable insight into university life and helping them make well informed decisions about their future pathways.

The academic year begins with a welcoming induction programme, featuring outdoor team building days at Barnstondale Outdoor Activity Centre. Activities such as archery, axe throwing, abseiling, rifle shooting and climbing help students build confidence, strengthen friendships, develop teamwork skills and settle smoothly into Sixth Form life.



There are also exciting opportunities for students to take part in international visits to destinations such as New York, Iceland, and Germany, offering experiences that go far beyond the classroom. These trips not only enrich students' cultural awareness but also bring subjects like history, geography, and modern foreign languages to life, giving real world context to their studies. Our annual ski trip is always a highlight of the year, providing both a memorable adventure and a chance for students to develop independence, teamwork, and resilience.

Students can also enhance their personal development by signing up for our successful Duke of Edinburgh's programme, and taking on leadership roles within the school community. Positions on the Sixth Form Council and as Subject Ambassadors allow them to represent their peers, share ideas that contribute to school improvement, and support younger students in academic and pastoral areas. These experiences foster confidence, communication skills, and a strong sense of responsibility, helping to prepare them for life beyond Sixth Form.

Physical wellbeing is also a key part of Sixth Form life. Students have access to a range of sports clubs and fitness activities, as well as free use of the on site gymnasium. Our much loved staff versus Sixth Form sports matches are a highlight of each term, creating a fantastic sense of camaraderie and school spirit.

Together, these opportunities ensure that every student leaves Sixth Form not only with excellent academic outcomes, but also with the confidence, experience, and transferable skills needed to thrive in their chosen future paths.









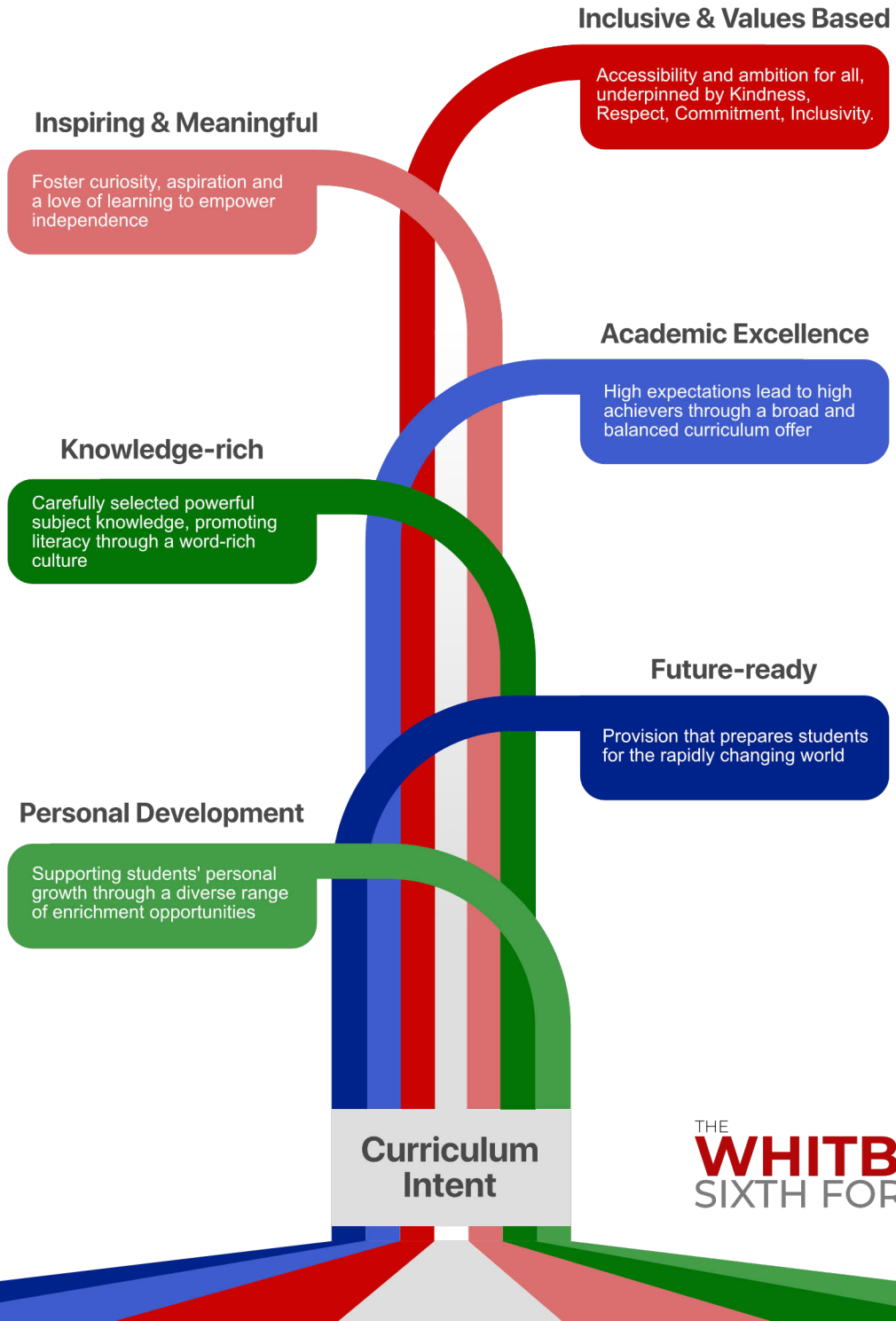
Curriculum Intent

Key Stage 5

- **Deep subject expertise in chosen subjects**
- **Advanced critical thinking, problem solving**
- **Focus on self-directed and independent learning**
- **Leadership development**
- **Support and preparation for next steps, life after The Whitby High School**
- **Respectful and responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.**
- **World of work skills and attitudes developed through work experience**
- **Role models to all students at The Whitby High School**
- **Outcomes empower students to progress to High Education.**

Curriculum underpins success. It opens minds and expands horizons. We prepare our young people for an exciting future full of opportunity and choice. The Sixth Form curriculum is rooted with a clear intent. It is inspiring and meaningful to enable our young people to foster curiosity, a love of learning and to have the confidence for independence. It is driven through academic excellence and is knowledge-rich to ensure readiness for future academic success and future choices.

Our curriculum has six core strands, all carefully designed for the context of The Whitby High School. It ensures all students encounter and engage with ambitious content considered important for a rounded education. Our Curriculum Intent is summarised in our six key strands that feature in our infographic shown here:



THE WHITBY SIXTH FORM

BTEC Level 3

Art & Design

Course Content

Students will explore the use of drawing for different purposes, using a variety of methods and media on a variety of scales. Students will use sketchbooks / workbooks / journals to underpin their work where appropriate.

Unit 12: Fine Art Materials, Techniques and Processes:

This unit is delivered through workshops where processes will be taught and materials explored. Mini assignments will be given where students will apply their knowledge of the techniques taught.

Unit 3: The Creative Process: This unit is the practical and main basis of the course. Students will explore materials and processes based on a theme set by the department, where they will develop ideas, produce an outcome and evaluate the processes they have learnt.

Unit 2: Critical and Contextual Studies in Art and Design: The content for the unit is set out under four areas; conducting research and investigation, visual analysis through deconstruction of imagery, understanding how contextual factors influence the work of others, and reaching conclusions and judgements.

Unit 1: Visual recording and communication: Students will develop their understanding of the visual elements through how artists use them to communicate.

They will apply their understanding through developing their visual communication through 2d and 3d which will be extended into a themed based project and then evaluated.

Unit 1, 2 and 3 are all mandatory.

Entry Requirements

Ideally Grade 9 - 5 at GCSE, but students with Grade 4 are welcome provided they show motivation and commitment. Students with no GCSE in art are also welcome, but should also show commitment, and prove they have an aptitude for the subject. Students will need to show a portfolio of their own work.

Career Opportunities

Everything has been designed by somebody - the art and design industry is huge, employing a vast number of people. For example, Interior/Industrial Design, Commercial Design, Television, Theatre and Film Industry Special Effects, Costume, Make-Up, Set Design, Animation, Architecture, Teaching and Illustrator - to name but a few.

Which Subjects Link Well?

Photography which is particularly suitable for those students wishing to pursue a career in Art, Product Design, Graphics and Textiles. Mathematics especially for those considering Architecture.

BTEC Level 3

Business Studies



Course Content

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business is an Applied General qualification. It is for post-16 students 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. The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level and aims to provide a coherent introduction to study of the business sector.

The learning programme covers the following content areas:

- business environments
- finance
- marketing

The optional units have been designed to support choices in progression to business courses in higher education and to link with relevant occupational areas:

- human resources
- accounting
- marketing
- law

Entry Requirements

A minimum of a grade 4 in GCSE English and Maths.

Career Opportunities

This course will support entry to many higher education courses, depending on the other qualifications learners have taken. The qualification can also support progression to employment directly, or via an Apprenticeship. It will prepare students well for the business sector.

Studying Business Studies prepares students for a wide range of careers by giving them a strong foundation in how organisations operate and how decisions are made in the business world. It opens doors to many fields such as Leadership & Management, Marketing & Advertising, and finance & accounting.

Which Subjects Link Well?

Science, Psychology, and other Applied Vocational courses.

Course Content

Criminology requires you to critically analyse crime and the underlying reasons for criminal behaviour, drawing upon theories from both psychology and sociology to form a well-rounded understanding.

This course provides a thorough and comprehensive exploration of crime, criminal behaviour, and the broader justice system. Students will not only examine various types of crime but also investigate why certain crimes remain unreported and how these issues are portrayed by the media and perceived by the public.

They will further delve into criminological theories, considering how definitions and perceptions of crime shift over time and between different cultures. The course also covers the intricate processes behind criminal investigations, the protection of individual rights, and the many factors that can influence the outcomes of criminal trials.

In addition to these topics, students will gain insight into how laws are created, how the criminal justice system operates in practice, and the different methods of punishment for criminal activity, assessing how effective these policies are in achieving justice and preventing further crime. To build practical skills, students will also have the opportunity to design and develop their own campaigns aimed at influencing legal change and reform.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of a grade 4 in English and Maths.

Career Opportunities

Future career opportunities may include National and Local Government, Human Resources, Healthcare, Social Work, Voluntary Agencies, Education, Criminology, and Management.

Which Subjects Link Well?

Criminology has links to other Humanities subjects and Psychology.



L3 Applied Diploma

Criminology



Course Content

A-Level Product Design develops creative, analytical, and technical skills through a focus on iterative design approaches used in industry. Students explore how professional designers and engineers take ideas from concept to final manufacture, using a combination of hands-on prototyping, Computer-Aided Design (CAD), and Computer-Aided Manufacture (CAM) to produce high-quality, functional outcomes.

Students will study a wide range of design and technology topics including materials and their applications, manufacturing processes, digital design and emerging technologies, and sustainability. They will also explore user-centred design, ergonomics, and the social, ethical, and environmental impact of design decisions.

The course encourages creativity, innovation, and problem-solving through an iterative design process, supported by practical modelling, testing, and evaluation. Students will develop a professional design portfolio and prototype, demonstrating skills highly valued by universities and employers.

Assessment includes two written exams and one major coursework project (NEA):

- **Paper 1 – Technical Principles**
  (2h 30m, 30%)
- **Paper 2 – Designing & Making Principles**
  (1h 30m, 20%)
- **Non-Exam Assessment (NEA – Iterative Design Project)**
  (50%)

Entry Requirements

A minimum of a grade 4 or above in GCSE Product Design, Engineering, or Art is recommended.

Career Opportunities

Leads to careers and higher education in Product Design, Architecture, Industrial Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, Marketing, and Creative Industries.

Which Subjects Link Well?

Art and Design, Mathematics, Sciences, Humanities, and Computer Science.

Alternative Academic Qualification

Engineering

Course Content

Engineers are in great demand in the UK. The Northwest area and in particular Ellesmere Port have an abundance of opportunities for young people in engineering and manufacture. Engineering courses at Whitby have proved to be very successful in providing valuable knowledge, skills and experience for students wishing to pursue a career in Engineering. With students progressing to destinations such as University degrees and apprenticeships with Rolls Royce, Airbus and Urenco.

The current offering is an OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) - *Cambridge Advanced National in Engineering* (Extended Certificate). It has 360 guided learning hours (GLH) allocated to it and is the equivalent to one A level.

There are 5 units of study to complete over the 2 year duration of the course.

- F130 Principles of engineering - this is an exam that students will sit in the summer of year 12.
- F132 Engineering in practice – this is a coursework assignment that will be completed by the summer of year 12.
- F133 Computer Aided Design (CAD) - this is a coursework assignment that will be started in the summer of year 12 and submitted at Christmas of year 13.
- F136 Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM) - this is a coursework assignment that will be submitted in the summer of year 13.
- F131 Materials science and technology - this is an exam that students will sit in the summer of year 13.

Entry Requirements

Strong GCSE grades in Maths and Science/ Physics. Minimum Grade 5.

Career Opportunities

On successful completion of the Level 3 course there are opportunities for employment in numerous sectors nation and world-wide and entry into either university courses or degree apprenticeships.

Which Subjects Link Well?

Maths, Physics and Design and Technology.



A Level

English

Course Content

The stimulating English Combined course draws on the academic field of Stylistics in order to create a shared English Language and Literature course that brings together literary and non-literary discourses.

This A-Level course integrates literary and linguistic fields via shared concepts about the way language choices create representations, both in literary and non-literary texts: words create worlds, both in literature and elsewhere.

A wide range of texts are studied including:

- The Handmaid's Tale
- A Street Car Named Desire
- The Great Gatsby (creative writing element)
- Poetry by Carol Ann Duffy
- Anthology
- NEA (Language investigation coursework)

Using literary and linguistic methods and concepts, students will analyse the above texts and their use of genre and mode and will gain insights into the different discourses and ideas about creativity. As such, students develop and enhance their skills as producers and interpreters of language by creating texts themselves and critically reflecting on their own process of production.

Entry Requirements

Students will need minimum GCSE grade 5 in English Language and grade 6 in English Literature.

Career Opportunities

This course is a valuable foundation for careers in areas such as: Teaching, Publishing, Human Resources, Journalism, Public Services, Business Development, Social Media Management, Media Researcher and Web Content Management.

English is an exciting and important qualification which will enable students to develop skills and abilities, providing progression routes to higher education, employment or further training.

Which Subjects Link Well?

History, Geography or the Sciences as these disciplines share the skills of essay writing, reasoning and accuracy.

Course Content

Ethics and Philosophy is an inspiring and challenging course. It engages with a diverse collection of philosophical, ethical and religious concepts. Although this subject has its roots in ancient Greece, it is has never been more relevant in today's modern world.

Ethics deals with issues of right and wrong. Throughout the course you will learn about a variety of ethical theories from influential thinkers such as Kantian ethics and Utilitarianism. This will then be applied to contemporary moral issues (e.g. euthanasia) where you will understand different approaches to moral decision-making.

Philosophy is often understood as the 'love of wisdom'. The course involves studying philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief.

These include ancient philosophical influences such as that of Plato and Aristotle. Students will have the opportunity to explore interesting arguments surrounding the existence of God and religious experiences.

The course involves studying elements of philosophy of religion, religion and ethics, and developments in religious thought.

Entry Requirements

A minimum GCSE grade 5 in English and Ethics & Philosophy GCSE. We will consider students that have not studied Ethics & Philosophy at GCSE as long as a minimum grade 5 has been achieved in another Humanities subject.

Career Opportunities

Studying Ethics and Philosophy can lead to a wide range of university and career opportunities such as:

Advertising, the arts, broadcasting, computing, criminal psychology, journalism, marketing, nurses, law, politics, and teaching.

Which Subjects Link Well?

Ethics and Philosophy link well to a range of other subjects such as psychology, history and English. It allows students to develop the ability to analyse, persuade and evaluate effectively whilst building up a multitude of other transferable skills such as creative, critical and independent thinking.

A Level

Ethics & Philosophy



Alternative Academic Qualification

Food & Nutrition

Course Content

This is an Extended Certificate: Alternative Academic Qualification which is the equivalent to one A level. This means it is designed primarily to support students progressing to university. It is mainly designed for those wanting to pursue careers or learning in related areas such as the food industry production. This course is made up of two internal (coursework) assignments and two externally assessed exam papers. If students would like to know more, they should speak to either Mrs Gunning or Mr Gunning.

Unit 1: Nutritional needs across the life stages. (External exam unit)

Unit 2: Developing practical food production skills. (Internal coursework unit)

Unit 3: Principles of food hygiene and food safety in food production. (External exam unit)

Unit 4: Experimenting to solve food production problems. (Internal coursework unit)

Entry Requirements

The range of units available would support students' progression from study at GCSE, but in particular GCSE's in Food and Nutrition, Biology, Sport and Humanities, however a qualification at this level is not essential.

Career Opportunities

An understanding of food science and nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Care providers and nutritionists in hospitals use this knowledge, as do sports coaches, fitness instructors, dieticians, food manufacturers and government agencies also use this understanding to develop menus, food products and policies that that support healthy eating initiatives.

Many employment opportunities within the field of food science and nutrition are available to students who complete this course.

Which Subjects Link Well?

Biology, Sport, Humanities and Health and Social Care.

A Level

French

Course Content

Throughout the course, there will be a real emphasis on France and the French speaking world. Students will study about families and citizenship, youth trends and personal identity. Students will also complete units on education, employment and regional culture including media, art, film and music.

Students will study a French film and a book. In addition students will cover topics such as diversity and difference and the post-war years in France 1940 - 1950.

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or above at GCSE French.

Career Opportunities

Choosing a Modern Foreign Language at A Level has the potential to change lives and lead the student down an exciting path. There are numerous career opportunities from foreign languages, obvious examples are banking, marketing, advertising and tourist industries. Secretaries, sales staff, telephonists and airline staff all need languages.

A foreign language is very desirable for scientists, engineers and accountants. Students will have a distinct advantage in the job market if they can offer a foreign language.

Which Subjects Link Well?

A Modern Language links well with a wide variety of subjects including English, History, Art, Economics, Sciences & Engineering.



A Level

Geography

Course Content

Geography is highly valued by universities as an A Level choice. It combines well with both arts and science subjects.

Students will study the following topics:

• Coasts and urban processes and change.

• Global Systems and Global Governance.

• Oceans and Migration.

• Contemporary Themes in Geography.

• Tectonics, Ecosystems, China, African Nations and Weather and Climate.

• Non Examined Assessment - Project based.

Students will be taught using a number of different methods and there will be four compulsory days fieldwork, which will culminate in the production of a 4000 word project.

Entry Requirements

To be able to follow this course you will require a GCSE grade 5 or above in Geography, Maths and English.

Career Opportunities

For careers in sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location, managing the effects of hazards and climate change, geography is an obvious choice.

In the world of business, an understanding of global economics forms an important part of geography. If students are thinking of a career in law, human rights, international relations or welfare then geography gives the opportunity to consider relevant issues such as: How do we measure development? What are the consequences of migration on societies? If students are working towards a future course in medicine or veterinary medicine then geography is a good choice to give A Level options the breadth that universities seek, as students will gain a clear understanding of how the environment affects health and survival of people, animals and ecosystems as well as enhancing their skills of writing essays and extended reports.

Which Subjects Link Well?

Biology, Sport, Humanities and Health and Social Care.

A Level

German

Course Content

Throughout the course, there will be a real emphasis on Germany and the German speaking world. Students will study about families and citizenship, youth trends and personal identity. Students will also complete units on education, employment and regional culture including media, art, film and music.

Students will study a German film and a book. In addition students will cover topics such as diversity and difference and the making of modern Germany from 1989 onwards

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or above at GCSE German.

Career Opportunities

Choosing a Modern Foreign Language at A Level has the potential to change lives and lead the student down an exciting path. There are numerous career opportunities from foreign languages, obvious examples are banking, marketing, advertising and tourist industries. Secretaries, sales staff, telephonists and airline staff all need languages.

A foreign language is very desirable for scientists, engineers and accountants. Students will have a distinct advantage in the job market if you can offer a foreign language.

Which Subjects Link Well?

A Modern Language links well with a wide variety of subjects including English, History, Art, Economics, Sciences & Engineering.



Alternative Academic Qualification

Health & Social Care

Course Content

This qualification is equivalent in size to one A-Level.

The course covers aspects of science that relate to health such as the immune system and infectious disease, the cardiovascular and respiratory systems and the biology of common diseases such as cancer and diabetes. This scientific content is studied alongside aspects of social care practice such as the role of social workers and organisation of the NHS.

The course consists of the following units:

Year 12

Unit 1: Human Growth and Development - *1 Exam paper - Externally assessed* Explore physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development across life stages, and how factors like genetics, environment, and lifestyle influence growth.

Unit 2: Human Health and Biology - *1 Exam paper - Externally assessed* Learn about body systems (cardiovascular, respiratory, immune), common diseases (e.g. cancer, diabetes), and how biology underpins health and wellbeing.

2 x 1 week work experience within Health and Social Care settings.

Year 13

Unit 3: Principles of Health and Social Care Practice *Internally assessed* - Coursework unit - Understand professional values, safeguarding, communication, and ethical practice in health and social care settings

Unit 5: Promoting Health Education 90 Optional *Internally assessed - coursework unit* - Students explore the purpose of health education, models and approaches to educating the public and encouraging behaviour change in the population.

Coursework: Develop research, analytical, and reflective skills through written assignments and case studies.

Exams: Test your understanding of key concepts and ability to apply them in real-world scenarios.

Work Experience: Work placements to help you gain practical insight into the sector

Entry Requirements

A minimum Grade 4+ in English and Science/ Biology at GCSE level is required.

Career Opportunities

This course will prepare students well for many science, health and social care careers including Medicine, Nursing, Paramedic Science, Occupational Therapy, Public Health, Social work, Childcare, Physiotherapy etc.

Which Subjects Link Well?

Science, Psychology, and other AAQ courses.

Course Content

On this course, students will study: The Making of a Superpower: USA 1865-1975, The Era of Reconstruction & The Gilded Age, From Civil War to World War, Populism, Progressivism and Imperialism Crisis of Identity, Crises and the Rise to World Power, The Superpower, The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007, Building a New Britain, The Affluent Society, The Sixties, The End of Post-War Consensus, The Impact of Thatcherism, Modern Britain Towards a new Consensus, The Era of New Labour, Historical Investigation - 'The Revolution'.

Through undertaking the Historical investigation students will develop an enhanced understanding of the nature and purpose of history as a discipline and how historians work.

Entry Requirements

A minimum grade 5 in GCSE Geography, History or Ethics & Philosophy, and a minimum grade 5 in GCSE English.

Career Opportunities

Whilst studying history students learn the skills to be able to take in large amounts of written or visual information and analyse how and why things happened, whilst developing excellent written communication skills.

Regarded as a 'facilitating subject' by many universities, History is often studied alongside Sociology, Psychology, Business, English and Economics.

History can lead on to a large range of careers from Law, Politics and Business through to Creative Media, Journalism, Broadcasting and Tourism management.

Which Subjects Link Well?

Humanities, English, Business and Psychology.



Alternative Academic Qualification

Information Technology

Course Content

The qualification has four mandatory units covering the following topics:

- Information Technology Systems –including the relationship between software and hardware, and the issues related to IT systems – exam external assessment
- Cyber Security and Incident Management – Types of cyber security attacks, the vulnerabilities in networked systems and how to plan and respond to attacks- exam external assessment
- Website Development – The development tools, techniques and processes used in website development and how to test usability, functionality and fitness for purpose – internal assessment unit
- Relational Database Development – Structure of data, data design and database management systems (DBMS)- internal assessment unit.

Aims of the course

- Digital skills are required in every industry as well as in everyday life and, with the acceleration of automation and AI in industry it is critical for students to understand how digital technologies are relevant and applied in the context of the sector they are studying. The 5 skills are covered below:
- Problem Solving – The use of digital tools to analyse and solve problems
- Digital Collaboration and Communication – Using digital tools to communicate and share information with stakeholders
- Transacting Digitally – Using digital tools to set up accounts and pay for goods/services
- Digital Security – Identify threats and keep digital tools safe
- Handling Data Safely and Securely – Follow correct procedures when handling personal and organisational data.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of a GCSE grade 4 in English and a GCSE grade 4 or Level 2 Pass in ICT/Computer Science is preferred.

Career Opportunities

This qualification can lead to progression in any IT careers or higher education degrees in:

- BA Business Studies
- BSc Information Systems
- BSc Computer Science

Which Subjects Link Well?

Maths, Science, Photography, Business Studies.

Course Content

The course gives students the opportunity to understand mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence, fosters enjoyment and provides a strong foundation for progress or further study.

The course covers GCSE content in greater depth and new topics including:

- Algebra and Functions
- Coordinate Geometry in the XY plane
- Proof
- Sequences and Series
- Trigonometry
- Exponential's and Logarithms
- Calculus
- Vectors
- Numerical Methods
- Mechanics
- Statistics

Entry Requirements

A strong grade 7 in GCSE Maths and a strong grade 6 in English are required to study A Level Mathematics.

Career Opportunities

Students in the last few years have gone on to study the following subjects at University:

- Mathematics
- Mathematical Sciences
- Accountancy and Finance
- Medicine
- Business Information Technology
- Engineering
- Architecture
- Law
- Medical Engineering
- Civil Engineering

Which Subjects Link Well?

Biology, Psychology, Physics, Business and Geography.

A Level

Mathematics



BTEC Level 3

Performing Arts

Course Content

BTEC Level 3 National in Performing Arts is an exciting course that allows students to develop their understanding of theatre and performance in a practical and theoretical way. There is a focus on practical aspects of theatre which is supported by the theory behind it.

The course requires students to work independently and as part of a collaborative theatre company, developing skills that are transferable to a range of situations and careers. Students will develop the skills and confidence they need to take ownership of their future. There are a combination of assessment styles allowing students to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding through work-related contexts.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts content:

• Unit 1 Investigating Practitioners' Work - Students investigate the work of performing arts practitioners and develop critical analysis skills and contextual understanding of how practitioners communicate themes in their work.

• Unit 2 Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance - Students explore technical performance skills with a focus on developing skills and techniques in at least two performance styles, assessment of both practical and written work creates the overall mark for the unit.

• Unit 3 Group Performance Workshop - Students explore and integrate creative, physical and vocal skills and techniques, working collaboratively to create a performance in response to a given stimulus.

• Unit 19 Acting Styles - Students develop acting methods by exploring different acting styles. They will apply techniques to the development, rehearsal and performance of their practical work.

Entry Requirements

It is preferred that students hold a Drama BTEC Level 2 Pass or Grade 4 if you have studied GCSE Drama, although studying Drama at Key Stage 4 is not a necessity.

If you have not studied Drama/Performing Arts at KS4 then you will need an interest in the Performing Arts and hold English at a GCSE grade 5 or above.

Career Opportunities

There are many career opportunities that can be linked to drama and performing arts, obvious ones such as Actor, Designer, Director, Presenter and Teacher.

However, there are many others such as Entertainer, Producer, Tour Manager, Police Officer, Lawyer, Events Manager, Image Consultant, Screenwriter, Journalist, Social Media Influencer, Drama Therapist, Community Arts Worker, Community Education Co-ordinator, Cabin Crew, Cruise Ship Staff, Stage Management, Lighting Designer, Set Designer, Costume Designer, Hair and Makeup Designer.

Which Subjects Link Well?

English, Media, Psychology, Art, Music, Health and Social Care.

A Level

Photography

Course Content

Photography is taking photographs and refining/ manipulating them in computer software to produce personal and creative outcomes.

Traditional and/or new media can be used to undertake documentary work, photojournalism, experimental imagery, photomontage, photographic or digital installation, animation, video and film.

The A Level is a two year course. All examination assessment work is undertaken in the second year of the course after students have acquired a wide range of personal skills through their assignments in year one.

In the second year of the course, students will complete a Personal Investigation, (which also includes a written study), and an Externally Set Practical Task. The personal investigation and the study together account for 60% of the final examination grade -the externally set task accounts for the remaining 40% of the examination grade.

Entry Requirements

An interest in Photography is essential. A grade 4 or above in GCSE Photography or Art would be beneficial. Ownership of a camera is not essential as students can borrow from a range of cameras provided by the school.

However, students having their own cameras have the advantage of being able to take photographs at any time and not just when there are cameras available for loan. (Phone cameras seldom produce images of sufficient quality due to an inability to control aperture and shutter speed).

Students do not need to have completed a GCSE in this subject to take it at A Level but they do need to be able to control and direct their own work. The nature of the subject is 100% coursework meaning that self-motivation and planning are crucial to ensure success.

Career Opportunities

Studying Photography at A level can open the door to a range of career opportunities with the creative industry. It can lead to further study in fields such as fine art, fashion photography, photojournalism, or film and media production at university or art school.

With the skills gained, students might pursue careers as freelance photographers, content creators, or graphic or visual designers. Additionally, it can support roles in advertising, marketing, and publishing, where strong visual communication is highly valued.

Which Subjects Link Well?

The course links very well with IT and other Art courses. The course uses digital cameras and image editing software to produce creative outcomes from photographic images - it is not a pure photography course. Students will learn how to use digital cameras and will learn how to use a range of image editing and presentation software.

The full specification for the subject can be found by searching for OCR Art and Design Photography H603.



BTEC Level 3

Physical Education

Course Content

The qualification prepares students for a range of higher education courses and job roles related to the sports sector.

There are four units on the course of which two will be assessed through producing presentations, reports and administrating fitness tests. The remaining two units will be externally assessed through examinations. One of the exams will be based around the physiology of sport and the other health, lifestyle and training methods.

Topics include:

- Skeletal, muscular, respiratory, cardiovascular and energy systems
- Nutrition specific to sport and exercise
- Types of fitness training
- Fitness testing

Entry Requirements

A minimum grade 4 at GCSE PE, or equivalent Level 2 Pass if you have studied a Sports Vocational course.

Students who have not studied GCSE PE or BTEC Sport at Key Stage 4 are also welcome, but they will need a passion and enthusiasm for developing their knowledge, and an understanding of sport, health and exercise.

Career Opportunities

Previous students have gone on to careers including Physiotherapist, Personal Trainer, Nutritionist, PE Teacher, Sports Coach, Sports Scientist and Sports Journalist.

Which Subjects Link Well?

Biology, Heath and Social Care, Applied Science and Food and Nutrition.

Course Content

We live in an era where politics is at the forefront in young people's minds all across the UK and indeed across the Globe. Lively, relevant, controversial... there are many ways to describe A-level Politics.

There's no denying that it's one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose. By covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, it helps you understand how the UK is run and develops research, written communication and debate skills. It also helps students grow in confidence through debating.

There are three broad areas of study in this specification:

• The Government and Politics of the UK

• The Government and Politics of the USA

• Political Ideas including Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism

The examinations are entirely essay based and therefore there is a focus throughout the course on extended written work, accurate and independent note taking and of course, essay writing.

Entry Requirements

A minimum GCSE grade 6 in History and English.

Career Opportunities

This is an ideal choice if students are considering studying history, politics, sociology, ethics, advertising or journalism at university and is a highly regarded qualification by employers in industries including politics, international organisations, the media, government and the civil service.

Which Subjects Link Well?

Humanities, English, Business and Psychology.

A Level



Politics

A Level

Psychology

Course Content

The course consists of three main elements: research methods, psychological themes and research and applied Psychology.

Students will be expected to be able to carry out small-scale research projects, planning activities and collecting data, then presenting their findings in a formal written research report. They must be able to use statistical techniques to analyse the data.

Students will also develop their critical thinking and independent learning skills through the analysis and evaluation of research studies and theories in Psychology. Students will study research that represents a variety of research methodologies, issues and debates. They will be expected to be able to discuss the inter-relationship between the different areas and justify differing positions in debates, such as free-will/ determinism, using research to illustrate their viewpoint.

Understanding of Psychology is further developed through the study of how psychological research is used to help our understanding of issues such as mental health and criminality. The application and contribution of Psychology to society and the economy is considered and learners should be able to relate applications to novel situations.

This course enables students to understand different areas of the subject, for example social, biological or cognitive Psychology, and to develop an understanding of scientific methods. Competence and confidence in mathematical and problem solving skills is developed and students are prepared for careers associated with the subject.

Entry Requirements

A minimum GCSE grade 5 or above in English and Maths and Science.

Career Opportunities

Educational Psychologist, Criminal Psychologist, Organisational Psychologist. Any career in which understanding other people is an integral part e.g. Teaching, Police, HR, Healthcare and Childcare.

Which Subjects Link Well?

PE, English, Philosophy, Biology, History, Maths. Any subject that needs you to analyse and think critically.

Course Content

Students will be studying Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Applied Science (Extended Certificate)

Principles and applications of Biology

Principles and applications of Chemistry

Principles and applications of Physics

Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques

Science Investigation Skills and Contemporary issues in Science

Entry Requirements

Students should achieve a minimum GCSE grade 4 in Combined or Separate Science and a minimum GCSE grade 4 in Maths.

Career Opportunities

Studying AAQ Applied Science provides students with the required knowledge to gain a place at university in many Science based degrees such as Forensic Science. There is also a great opportunity to gain employment or apprenticeships in Chemical or Science industry with this qualification.

Students who study this course should be good independent learners, have good attendance and be able to manage their time effectively.

Which Subjects Link Well?

AAQ Applied Science links well with other Science subjects and other AAQ Level 3 courses. This is a useful course for students who have an interest in Science, are organised, hardworking and good at coursework completion.

Alternative Academic Qualification

Applied Science

A Level

Science Biology

Course Content

In Biology, students will develop practical skills by planning experiments, collecting data, analysing experimental results and making conclusions. Students will also learn how scientific models are developed, the applications and implications of science, the benefits and risks that science brings and the was in which society uses the science to make decisions. Students will study the following topics:

- Biological molecules Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
- Energy transfers in and between organisms (A-level only)
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments (A-level only)
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems (A-level only)
- The control of gene expression (A-level only)

Entry Requirements

It is expected that students obtain at least a grade 6 in GCSE Biology or GCSE Combined Science.

Students will need a GCSE grade 6 in Maths and English as numerical and mathematical skills are important in Biology.

Career Opportunities

Biology leads on to a wide range of courses and careers. This could include an undergraduate degree in Life Sciences, Medicine, Environmental Science, Forensic Science and related courses.

Employment could be in the areas of Biological Testing, Biotechnology, Independent Research, the Food Industry, Conservation, Environmental Management, Communication and Education.

Which Subjects Link Well?

Other Science subjects, including Applied Science, and Physical Education.

Course Content

This is a two year course building on the Chemistry studied at GCSE in greater depth. Students will study the Chemistry that is in the media and part of every day life.

Year 1

Atoms Bonds and Groups:

- Atoms and Reactions
- Electrons, Bonding and Structure The Periodic Table Chains

Energy and Resources:

- Basic concepts and Hydrocarbons
- Alcohols, Halogen and Analysis Energy

Year 2

Rings, Polymers and Analysis:

- Rings, Acids and Amines Polymers and Synthesis, Analysis Equilibrate, Energetic's and Elements
- Rates, Equilibrium and pH
- Energy, Transition Elements

Entry Requirements

It is expected that students should have a minimum GCSE grade 6 in Chemistry or Combined Science, and a GCSE grade 6 in Maths.

Vocational course grades not considered.

Career Opportunities

Many university courses have a significant proportion of Chemistry content and a GCE in Chemistry will be useful.

Whilst many job opportunities specifically using Chemistry require higher qualifications, most laboratory-based jobs benefit from a chemistry qualification, for instance Dental Assistant or Veterinary Assistant. Many employers view success at GCE Chemistry as a clear indication of sound academic ability.

Which Subjects Link Well?

Most other subjects link well but especially Maths and other Science subjects.

A Level

Science Chemistry



A Level

Science Physics

Course Content

Physics A Level builds on the GCSE Physics qualification in more depth, and also covers new topics.

In Year 1 you will study:

- Working as a Physicist
- Mechanics
- Electric Circuits
- Materials
- Waves and particle Nature of Light

In Year 2 you will study:

- Further Mechanics
- Electric and Magnetic Fields
- Nuclear and Particle Physics
- Thermodynamics
- Space
- Nuclear Radiation
- Gravitational Fields
- Oscillations

Entry Requirements

It is expected that students should have a minimum GCSE Grade 6 in Chemistry or Combined Science, and a minimum GCSE Grade 6 in Maths. Vocational course grades not considered.

Career Opportunities

With A Level Physics students could aim for one of these diverse careers: Game designer, Coding, Architect, Healthcare, Hardware technician, Forensic Scientist, Meteorologist, Engineering.

Which Subjects Link Well?

Mathematics and Science subjects.

Course Content

Sociology is, in essence, the study of people in society. It examines the values, attitudes, culture and organisation of the society in which we live and explores how these influences impact on our social behaviour. Sociologists are interested in how people interact in social situations from the very small-scale group to within large-scale institutions. This makes sociology a very large and complex, but ultimately fascinating, area of study. Sociology is an academic subject and has a strong theoretical content.

Students study 5 content topics over two years.

Topic 1 – **Families and households**. This topic will examine roles in families, demographic changes to families in UK society, and effects on health, work, poverty and welfare.

Topic 2 – **Education and methods in context**. This topic will examine how education shapes the society we inhabit, how education works, how culture impacts on outcomes in education and how government policy affects the way young people are educated
.

Topic 3 – **Theory and methods.** This topic will examine consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories including the concepts of modernity and post-modernity in relation to sociological theory.

Topic 4 – **Crime and deviance.** This topic will analyse theories of crime and control, examine the demography of crime and interrogate the global nature of modern crime and crime prevention.

Topic 5 – **Global Development.** This topic considers important global issues such as under-development, inequality, aid, urbanisation and demographic change.

Entry Requirements

Minimum GCSE grade 5 in English. Desirable if students have studied at least one Humanities subject and achieved a grade 5.

Career Opportunities

Sociology offers a broad range of career opportunities because it provides strong analytical, research, and communication skills, as well as a deep understanding of social systems, institutions, and human behaviour. Here are some key career paths for someone with a background in sociology:

- Crime scene investigator Social worker
- Counsellor
- Solicitor
- Policy Analyst
- Demographer
- Social Science Researcher
- Teacher
- Police officer

Which Subjects Link Well?

Humanities, English, and Ethics & Philosophy.

A Level



Sociology

Notes


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www.whitbyhigh.org

0151 355 8445

The Whitby High School, Sycamore Drive, Whitby,Ellesmere Port, CH66 2NU

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