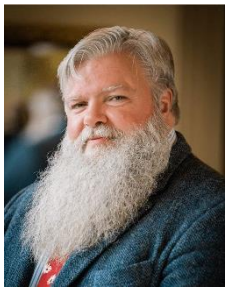
BEECHWOOD SCHOOL

Sixth Form Booklet

2024-2026

Contents

Welcome to the Sixth Form at Beechwood School



Being in the Sixth Form will be a new phase in your life and will feel different from anything you have experienced at school so far. Your relationships with your teachers will change, as you will be expected and encouraged to take more responsibility for your own learning. Your tutors will work closely with you to help you to develop both academically and as a person, to make sure you achieve your very best, and encourage you to take up a wide range of opportunities to prepare you for the future.

As part of the Sixth Form, you will have more freedom, but with the added responsibility of being a respected senior member of the school, perhaps prefect or house captain. You will have more choice of what to wear, take more control over your own time and have the use of the Sixth Form common room and its facilities. This is a time for making preparations for your life beyond school by learning to balance responsibilities and freedom.

The last two years at school are the most important in any pupil's school career. Results achieved in A-Level examinations determine much more than just a choice of university course. Your final two years at school will help to shape your future, allowing you to fulfil your ambitions and to succeed at whatever you choose in the years to come.

Wishing you every success.

Mr Justin Foster-Gandey
Head Teacher

Meet the Sixth Form Pastoral Team

Mrs Katie Porter- Head of Year 13, Director of Music

Mr James Crittel- Head of Year 12, Head of PE

Why choose Beechwood?

Small Class Sizes

Small class sizes at Beechwood mean every pupil is known and valued. In our small groups, we can support and teach you more effectively.

Careers Advice

Every pupil needs help and advice when selecting courses and writing their application to Higher

Education. Beechwood Sixth Form tutors are highly experienced and together with the Head and Deputy Head of the Sixth Form and careers professionals, they will help you with course selection, application forms, interviews and any other matters pertaining to university admission.

Personal Development

Your tutor and Head of Sixth Form will know you personally. They will guide you and monitor your work and progress throughout your last two years of school. With their help, your teachers' expertise and your commitment, you will be able to make the most of your time in Beechwood Sixth Form and look forward to a happy and successful future.

Confidence

Being part of a small group means that you will have support and grow in confidence in important areas useful to you in later life, such as public speaking, organising people and in interpersonal skills; you will also have the chance to know people from different cultural backgrounds.

Leadership

All our Sixth Formers are relied on to carry out duties; many become prefects or are elected into other senior roles. In our small Sixth Form you will have more chance to show leadership and take on responsibilities.

Beechwood Values

Beechwood Sixth Form is a supportive team in which everyone is valued for themselves. Sixth formers are seen as role models and ambassadors to younger pupils offering support and advice.

Life in the Sixth Form

As Sixth Formers you will be trusted and valued as leaders of the school. Younger pupils will look up to you as their role models. You will have more independence and privileges, such as the freedom to leave the school at lunchtimes, within our guidelines.

You will have the opportunity to organise your time to meet study deadlines. There is no school uniform for Sixth Formers. You will have the freedom to choose what to wear, within the Sixth Form dress code.

In your study periods you will use the Sixth Form Study Centre for additional study but you also have some freedom to choose how you spend your time, whether that be booking a driving lesson or simply taking a break in the Common Room. Specialist A-Level teachers will work closely with you, to ensure that you develop your potential to the full.

Sixth Form Enrichment

Sixth Form Enrichment is designed to broaden the awareness and experience of Sixth Formers and prepare them more fully for the future.

We aim to present a cohesive program of study to supplement the Sixth Form curriculum with elements of the Extended Curriculum that have worth that can be measured in UCAS points or additional qualifications, including the EPQ and Gold Arts Award.

Outside speakers will keep you well-informed and help you to develop your opinions on topical issues. Whilst a dedicated games afternoon allows you to take part in a variety of sports, including football, fencing and rock climbing.

Careers and University Entrance

It may seem strange to be thinking about university courses and careers before you have taken GCSEs, but your choice of A-Level subjects could be an important factor in determining your future.

Many subjects offered will be familiar to you already, although the depth of study will be different from GCSE. New subjects include: Business Studies, Film Studies, Photography and Psychology. Information is given about all these courses in this booklet and you can speak to the teachers for further details and advice.

The careers guidance in the Sixth Form is outlined in the Careers programme. It is important to begin your research early in Year 12. Sixth Form tutors and the Head of Sixth Form are there to help. Psychometric profiling, including aptitude and ability testing, is offered to all pupils.

In Year 12 you will attend a careers fair and be advised on the University application procedures. You will make your application for Higher Education at the beginning of Year 13 and there will be training in interview techniques and preparing a CV.

You will see from the destinations of our recent leavers that Beechwood students are very successful in gaining places on a wide variety of courses.

Careers Programme

Year 12	Autumn	Advice on A-level subject choices
		Careers Fair
		Introduction to UCAS procedure
	Spring	Choosing Universities & Courses
	Summer	Advice of Higher Education courses with grade predictions
		UCAS personal statement workshop
		Registration on UCAS Apply
		Open Day visits
		Gap Year talk

Year 13	Autumn	Completion of UCAS online application
		Preparation of CVs
		Interview training
	Spring	Budgeting & student loans
		Advice on making decisions about firm and insurance offers
	Summer	Advice and help following A-Level results

Destinations of 2021-23 Leavers

UNIVERSITY	COURSE

Oxford Brookes	Business & Management
Birmingham	Accounting & Finance
Nottingham Trent	Fine Art
Reading	Philosophy
Falmouth	Fine Art
Edinburgh	Textiles
Ravensbourne	Art Foundation
Royal Holloway	Drama & Music
Queen Mary, London	Russian & Business Mgt.
Reading	History & Politics
Queen Mary, London	Mathematics
UAL	Media Communications
Nottingham	Geography
Ravensbourne	Fashion Design Foundation
Reading	Business & Management
Hong Kong Design Institute	Fashion Textiles
Goldsmiths	Fine Art
Hertfordshire	Film & TV Production
King's College, London	Biochemistry
Bristol	Architecture & Environmental Engineering
Winchester	Liberal Arts & Drama
Kent & Medway Medical School	Medicine
Staffordshire	Games Art
Reading	Construction Management
London Metropolitan	Digital Forensics & Cyber Security
King's College, London	War Studies
King's College, London	Classical Studies
Edinburgh	Business Management
Cardiff	Business Economics
Manchester	Mechanical Engineering
Aberystwyth	Economics & Politics
Leeds Arts	Fashion Design
Westminster	Pharmacology & Physiology
Barcelona	Business Administration
Oxford Brookes	Business & Management
Swansea	War & Society
Winchester	Primary Education
Queen Mary, London	Economics & Finance

Choose your course

We expect Sixth Formers to achieve a total of 45 points at GCSE level. To study A Level Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) and Maths, Grade 7 or above in the relevant subject is required. For all other subjects, a GCSE Grade 6 or above in that subject is preferable.

Pupils at Beechwood choose three A Level subjects at A Level although additional subjects can be studied if requested. In addition, there may be an opportunity to study for an EPQ.

You should ask yourself a number of questions before deciding on which courses to study:

Do I enjoy this subject?

Subject enjoyment, interest, involvement and examination success go hand in hand. It is difficult to motivate yourself to do well if you do not enjoy the subjects you are studying.

Do I know enough about the course?

By reading this booklet and talking to the A-Level teachers you can find out what is involved. You could also visit the exam board website for more details.

Do I need this subject to fulfil my career plans?

The table below is intended to guide you about the subjects that are required for particular courses by the majority of top universities. To check entry requirements go to www.ucas.ac.uk/students/coursesearch or ask Head of Sixth Form.

All students receive advice from the Director of Studies and Head of Sixth Form at the start of Year 12 to help them make sensible choices. The timetable uses five option blocks from which subjects must be chosen. The wishes of Year 11 pupils are taken into account when devising these blocks but once the timetable is completed changes to subject options become more difficult.

UNIVERSITY SUBJECT	COMPULSORY A-LEVEL SUBJECTS	DESIRABLE AT A-LEVEL	COMMENTS
Architecture	Art	Maths	Art not compulsory for all courses. Art portfolio may be required
Biochemistry, Pharmacy	Chemistry	Biology	
Biological Sciences	Biology	Chemistry	Chemistry essential for some courses
Chemistry	Chemistry & Maths	Physics, Biology	
Economics	Maths		
Engineering	Maths & Physics	Further Maths	Further Maths A-Level essential for Cambridge
Law	None		Additional Tests: for some universities
Management Science	None	Maths	Business Studies useful for Management Studies
Maths	Maths	Further Maths	Further Maths A-Level essential for top courses
Medicine	Chemistry & Biology		Additional tests: UCAT for most medical schools; BMAT for some universities. Strong portfolio of work experience essential
Physics	Physics & Maths	Further Maths	Further Maths A-Level essential for top courses
Psychology	None	At least one science, Maths	Wide variation in courses. Science based course will require science. Psychology A-Level displays engagement with the subject.
Veterinary Medicine	Biology & Chemistry & either Physics or Maths		Additional tests: BMAT for some. Strong portfolio of work experience essential.

Guide to choosing options

A Level qualifications are assessed through either examination, coursework or a mixture of both. This means that, within some subjects, work produced from the very start of the course is directly assessed by the class teacher and could form a part of your final grade. It is important then that you start your A Level choice subjects organised and ready to learn.

You should consider the following when choosing your options:

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DOs

- Choose subjects that you enjoy studying
- Choose subjects in which you are successful
- Choose subjects that will lead to a desired career or course in further education
- Talk to people who are already studying that course
- Listen to advice from your teachers
- Do your research properly: Find out everything you can about the subjects you are considering

DON'Ts

- Don't choose subjects because you like the member of staff teaching you, they may not be teaching you next year
- Don't choose subjects just because your friends are or in order to stay with your friends

We hope that the information contained within this booklet and that you gain whilst talking to staff allows you to make the right choices that will see you well placed to succeed over the next two years and beyond. If you need any further support please contact either myself or Mr Awdry

Mr Millward

Deputy Head

Biology **AQA COURSE CODE 7402**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

This is a course for people interested in the study of living things, who enjoy practical work and hands-on learning. The volume of facts and terminology mean that you will require a good comprehension of the English language. Students will also need to have passed higher tier GCSE Mathematics or equivalent.

What will I study?

Year 12

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

Year 13

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

The understanding and interpretation of practical work will be assessed within the written exams accounting for 15% of the total marks. Practical skills will be assessed by teachers and indicated as a pass on the certificate.

What skills will I learn?

The course focuses on developing your laboratory skills and your expertise in gathering and analysing data, evaluating experimental practice and the claims made in relation to scientific evidence. You will also be encouraged to improve as a communicator of science.

What could I do at the end of my course?

Students may go to university to take degree courses in plant, animal and medical sciences; sports science; physiotherapy; pharmacy or psychology.

***A minimum of Grade 7 at GCSE Biology is required to study the subject at A Level.**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

Someone who is keen to analyse business problems, keep up to date with current affairs and who will be prepared to read the business press regularly will enjoy this course. No prior knowledge of the subject is necessary, as it will be taught from scratch.

What will I study?

Year one of course covers the principles of business, leadership and decision-making within financial, marketing, operations and human resource functions. In the second year, we further explore business strategy and the impact of the external environment. Three two-hour exams will be taken at the end of Year 13. The first two papers are on specific themes within the syllabus, and the final paper covers the whole specification and is based on a pre-released case study.

What skills will I learn?

You will develop the skills needed in analysing information, problem solving, decision-making, planning and essay writing.

What could I do at the end of the course?

There is a vast range of career and Higher Education options. On entering the business world you will have an excellent knowledge of how a business operates in the context of competition and other external forces. You could take a degree in Business Studies perhaps combined with another subject such as Law, Accountancy, Marketing, Languages or Social Science. Such courses prepare you well for a career in either commerce or your chosen profession and may exempt you from the first stages of a professional institute examination.

Chemistry **AQA COURSE CODE 7405**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

Someone who likes practical work, solving puzzles and thinking about things they cannot see may enjoy studying Chemistry. To study A Level Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) and Maths, Grade 7 or above in the relevant subject is required.

What will I study?

The A-Level course builds on the knowledge gained at GCSE using the Periodic Table as a model for understanding the behaviour of elements and compounds. Chemistry will be studied in a contemporary context with practical work at the heart of the teaching.

Year 12

Physical: Atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics;

Inorganic: Periodicity, Group 2 and Group 7 elements; Organic: Alkanes, alkenes, haloalkanes and alcohols

Year 13

Physical: Thermodynamics, rate equations, equilibria and electrode potentials;

Inorganic: Period 3 oxides and transition metals;

Organic: Aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acids, aromatic, amines, proteins, DNA and spectroscopy

The understanding and interpretation of practical work will be assessed within the written exams accounting for 15% of the total marks. Practical skills will be assessed by teachers and indicated as a pass on the certificate.

What skills will I learn?

You will increase your ability to think logically, manipulate abstract ideas and use an analytical approach to problem solving. Your practical skills of observation and your manual dexterity will also improve.

What could I do at the end of my course?

An A-Level in Chemistry is highly regarded by universities for entrance into a wide variety of courses and it is essential for medicine and pharmacy. Chemistry graduates are employed in a range of fields from art restoration, textiles and cosmetics to research and development of drugs and in many professions including forensic science, law, politics and accountancy.

***A minimum of Grade 7 at GCSE Chemistry is required to study the subject at A Level.**

Classical Civilisation **OCR H408**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

This A-Level course will appeal to a variety of students. A study of Classical Civilization complements many other popular A-Levels including Art, Theatre Studies, History and English Language. Classics is taught using entirely English primary sources and texts. Previous study of GCSE Classics is not essential to study this at A-Level. Obtaining a grade 6 or higher in GCSE History, English or Drama would be an indication that this subject is suitable for A-Level study.

What will I study?

All learners will study material from both Greece and Rome and their surrounding worlds, drawn from diverse time periods ranging from Archaic Greece to Imperial Rome. This material will encompass aspects of literature, visual/material culture and classical thought in their respective social, historical and cultural contexts. Learners will study a range of evidence, and use this to form substantiated judgements and responses.

Unit One: The World of the Hero: Homer's Iliad and Virgil's Aeneid (40%) Unit Two: Culture and The Arts: The Imperial Image in the reign of Emperor Augustus (30%)

Unit Three: Love and Relationships in the Ancient World including Plato, Sappho and Ovid (30%)

What skills will I learn?

Through the study of Classical Civilization you will improve on your written and spoken skills of analysis. Additionally, your essay writing skills will become further developed.

What could I do at the end of my course?

This discipline will enable you to study the subject at degree level. It would also help with applications for many other subjects and professions such as History, Drama, Art and Journalism.

Computer Science **OCR COURSE CODE H446**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

Students with a keen interest in using and understanding computers will enjoy exploring this academic subject. A GCSE in Computer Science or some experience in programming is useful but not essential for those with good mathematical skills. This course will develop theoretical understanding of Computer Science as well as improve skills in solving a range of problems using programming techniques.

What will I study?

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices
- Software and software development
- Exchanging data
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems

What skills will I learn?

You will learn skills that apply to the management of any complex process in addition to technical processes and industry standard programming languages and database techniques including:

- Database design
- SQL
- Python 3
- HTML, CSS and JavaScript
- Developing a working solution for a project

What could I do at the end of my course?

Studying Computer Science will be of benefit for many other careers or areas of study as computers and big data infiltrate almost every business and are relied upon at an increasing rate. Jobs using data including those in pharmaceuticals, research and finance are requiring the skills of computer scientists of which there is a deficit in the UK and across the globe. There are also many creative and interesting avenues such as games designing, CGI, A.I., Government agencies and of course, Computer Scientists have started up some of the world's most successful businesses. Computer Science graduates at degree level are, on average, the second highest earners (behind Law) so choosing A-Level Computer Science can lead to a lucrative, interesting, and satisfying career.

Criminology **WJEC LEVEL 3 ADVANCED CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

Are you interested in law, sociology AND psychology, but can't decide which to study in the Sixth Form?

This course offers an exciting and interesting base from which students will gain the required knowledge and understanding of areas linked to the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales. If you are interested in why people commit crimes, the criminal justice system and criminal related cases in the media, then this modern course offers an interesting mixture of topics.

What will I study?

- Unit 1 - Changing awareness of crime: different types of crimes; perceptions of crime; unreported crime. Media representations of crime and official data on crime. Crime prevention and awareness campaigns. Assessment: NEA coursework 25%
- Unit 2 - Criminological theories: understanding why people commit crimes based on theories from biology, psychology and sociology and how to prevent crime. Assessment: External exam: 25%
- Unit 3 - Crime scene to Courtroom: the criminal justice system from investigation to verdict – personnel and techniques involved in criminal investigation. You will also develop an understanding and skills required to examine information in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases. Assessment NEA coursework: 25%
- Unit 4 -Crime and Punishment: apply your understanding of the awareness of criminality, criminological theories and the process of bringing the accused to court in order to evaluate the effectiveness of social control to deliver criminal justice policy. Assessment: external exam: 25%

What skills will I learn?

You will develop the skills in researching and analysing information, problem solving, decision-making, planning and essay writing.

What could I do at the end of my course?

The qualification will allow students to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the police service. It can also be used to access higher education degree courses, particularly if you are interested in studying Criminology at University.

Drama & Theatre Studies **AQA COURSE CODE 7262**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

Students who wish to pursue their interests and develop their skills in a range of practical drama elements, in particular acting and directing, would enjoy this course. There will be regular visits to the theatre in order to build a portfolio of reviews and performance analysis in preparation for both the written and practical work.

What will I study?

Component 1 – Drama and theatre

Drama and Theatre (written exam) involves: knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre; the study of two set plays; analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers. (40% of A Level)

Component 2 – Creating original drama

Creating original drama (practical) involves: the process of creating devised drama; the performance of devised drama. The devised piece must be influenced by the work or methodologies of one prescribed practitioner. (30% of A-Level)

Component 3 – Making theatre

Making theatre (practical) involves: practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts each taken from a different play; a reflective written report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts; methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3. Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece. (30% of A-Level)

What skills will I learn?

You will learn to communicate, work collaboratively as a member of a team, debate, discuss, analyse and be creative – important skills for your future education or employment. You will develop a variety of dramatic and theatrical skills, enabling you to grow creatively and imaginatively in both devised and scripted work. You will learn to communicate meaning to an audience as well as engaging them in the dramatic work.

What could I do at the end of my course?

The requirements of the course will enable students to gain entry to courses in higher education in the area of Drama and Theatre Studies, or in other subjects at degree level, as it is perceived as both creative and academic.

English Literature **OCR COURSE CODE H472**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

English Literature A-Level is a rigorous, stimulating and challenging qualification which incorporates a range of texts from the past and present and includes elements of independent study. The coursework assessments allows learners to pursue more detailed work of particular personal interest, offering excellent preparation for study at undergraduate level. It will appeal to students with a love of reading in which they will analyse, engage and form personal and informed opinions on a range of texts through lively debate, research and discussion.

What will I study?

Exam 1: Shakespeare – Measure for Measure

Drama and Poetry Pre-1900

Henrik Ibsen: A Doll's House and Christina Rossetti: Selected Poems

Exam 2: Comparative and contextual study of American Literature 1880-1940

F. Scott Fitzgerald – The Great Gatsby and John Steinbeck – The Grapes of Wrath

Students are expected to independently read around this area of the course. Books include – Henry James: The Portrait of a Lady, Mark Twain: Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Theodore Dreiser:

Sister Carrie, Willa Cather: My Ántonia, Edith Wharton: The Age of Innocence, William Faulkner: The Sound and the Fury, Ernest Hemingway: A Farewell to Arms, Richard Wright: Native Son.

Coursework: Close reading and analysis of Poetry from Seamus Heany; Comparative essay on The History Boys and The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie.

What skills will I learn?

Your powers of communication will be enhanced by a study of English at this level. You will learn to express informed and independent opinions on a wide range of literary texts, to write in a variety of styles and to work collaboratively with others.

What could I do at the end of my course?

English Literature can be studied as a single subject in Higher Education or combined with others. An A-Level or degree in English Literature is highly valued and could lead to careers in journalism, media or law.

Economics **AQA COURSE CODE 7136**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

Economics is sometimes called the "Science of money". With the City of London (UK financial services) a 45-minute train ride away and accounting for 14% of the UK economy (London as a whole is 25% of the entire UK's output, income and spending) it seems sensible to know how the economy works! You will need to be able to understand statistics and perform simple calculations (percentage changes etc.) but you do not need any skill at pure maths for 'A' level Economics. Similarly, you will need to be able to write essays and so will need to be able to express logical chains of reasoning but you do not need to have done well at English literature at GCSE.

What will I study?

Economics divides into:

a) Microeconomics which looks at individual firms and markets. This includes issues of environmental economics (such as the costs and benefits of fossil fuels vis a vis nuclear vis a vis renewable energy), free markets against state intervention ("It is not the benevolence [kindness] of the butcher, the brewer or the baker that puts your dinner on the table but their regard to their own self-interest [profit motive]" Adam Smith 1776) and the behaviour of firms within different market structures. Issues of wage differentials (e.g. by occupation and by gender) and equality vis a vis inequality are also covered.

b) Macroeconomics which looks at the economy as a whole including issues of unemployment, inflation, calculating income tax and the current UK national debt of £2.7 trillion.

What skills will I learn?

The economic discipline involves the evaluation of costs against benefits, the concept of opportunity cost (the achievement of one thing can prevent the achievement of another), the correct interpretation of statistics, the ability to construct a logical chain of reasoning and a consideration of live issues that face the UK in the next decades (net zero or traditional growth, cut spending or raise borrowing or tax, inflation or unemployment, closer ties to the EU or to other parts of the world, import or produce here) as well as practical abilities to work out income tax or buy a house or make an investment.

What could I do at the end of my course?

Economics has direct application to daily life re. tax, house purchase, running a business. An understanding of Economics is also crucial to making an informed decision when voting in a Liberal Democracy. Economics and the skills involved is applicable to jobs in business, financial services, accounting etc.

Film Studies **EDUQAS A670QS**

As well as gaining an appreciation of film as an art form in terms of its visual storytelling, studying film can enhance your understanding of the world. For example, film represents different time periods and moments in history, showing alternative and revealing viewpoints of different cultures and people. It can challenge you to think in new ways and question your perspective on a range of issues, such as race and gender. The creative production element of the course enables you to put what you have learned into practice by making a short film or a screenplay.

Previous study of Media Studies or Film is not necessary but interest and/or skills in areas such as film, art, music, design and photography would be helpful. The course is based on the analysis of film, a similar skill to studying literature and there are elements of history, business, politics, marketing and sociology.

What will I study?

You will study whole films, in addition to a variety of clips and examples from a range of media platforms such as music video, advertising, YouTube and news. This will help you to learn the key elements of film including cinematography, mise en scene, editing, sound, performance and aesthetics. You will also study the contexts of the films and consider what the film is revealing about history and society of the time, in addition to engaging in critical debates surrounding film.

There are two exams, each worth 35% and a 30% assessment of production work. You will study films from the following areas:

- Hollywood 1930 – 1990 American Independent film British Film
- European Film Global Film (outside Europe) Documentary Silent Film Experimental film Short Film

What skills will I learn?

Film Studies is both creative and academic. You will develop a wide range of transferable skills for further education, work and life:

- Creative thinking Critical thinking Emotional intelligence
- Film analysis Textual analysis Communication
- Research skills Literacy Technical competencies (general computer skills, cinematography, photography, editing)

What could I do at the end of my course?

Employment in the screen industries has grown by over 20% since 2009 and there are still skills shortages in this sector. Career paths for students of Film may, of course, include practical avenues such as film-making, directing, producing and editing, but also film criticism, journalism, advertising, marketing and education. The study of film is highly regarded. Oxford and Cambridge offer Masters and PHD courses in Film Studies and Screen Arts. Russell Group universities accept Film Studies as an appropriate A level qualification when applying to study a humanities or arts related disciplines.

Fine Art **OCR COURSE CODE H601**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

This course in Fine Art would appeal to someone who is creative yet sensitive; someone who is dedicated, spontaneous and imaginative and capable of being a self-disciplined and independent learner. GCSE Art is not essential but students will need to have enough basic skill and understanding to benefit and gain enjoyment from the course. This will result in pupils without the GCSE having an exceptional work ethic inside and outside the subject.

What will I study?

Tailor-made projects will enable you to develop your existing talents and expand upon your skill. You will study in detail the artists who influence your work.

A-Level:

Personal Investigation You will submit one major in-depth project that has a personal significance which has been thoroughly investigated with experimental work, justifying outcomes and a conclusion of such to the theme.

The investigation includes a related personal study that must be between 1000 and 3000 words

Controlled Assignment After planning and preparing, you will have 15 hours to realise your ideas to a final outcome.

What skills will I learn?

Art provides opportunity for personal expression, encourages imagination and sensitivity and perceptual thought. You will increase your powers of observation, your analytical ability and your practical skills especially drawing, painting, photography and art history.

What could I do at the end of my course?

You could take a one-year foundation course at Art College before applying for a degree course. The study of Art also gives you transferable skills useful in advertising, marketing, architecture, publishing and the media; whichever path you choose, studying Art can be a very rewarding beginning.

Level 3 Food Science & Nutrition **WJEC 4563QC Certificate or 4563QD Diploma**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

This course is ideal for students who are creative and enjoy cooking, although you do not need to be Mary Berry or Michel Roux Jnr. GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is not essential either, although the course builds on previous knowledge. It would help if students had some scientific background, particularly chemistry as the course covers the structure of each nutrient and the chemical changes during cooking processes. An interest in food and food establishments is essential as there will be visits to food shows, shops and markets as well as talks and demonstrations from food professionals.

What will I study?

This Level 3 course has three units:

Unit 1: Meeting Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups, completed in Year 12 involves a controlled assessment and a written examination. The unit deals with real life scenarios and case studies involving a spa, care home, café or hotel and there is an examined practical where food suitable for a specific nutritional need is prepared.

Unit 2: Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat, is completed in Year 13 has an internal assessment completed under timed conditions. This involves analysing all the risks in a particular food setting such as a food festival or buffet.

Unit 3: Experimenting to Solve Food Production Problems or Unit 4: Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition is completed in Year 13 and is chosen by the student. It involves a controlled assessment. Unit 3 deals with a problem such as how to avoid soggy pastry or meringues that break too easily, and the work involves carrying out experiments which would result in how to make the best pastry or meringue. Unit 4 could be an investigation into a contemporary issue such as vegan foods, healthy school meals or eating healthily on a budget.

If you choose to complete Unit 1 only in Year 12 you will be awarded a Certificate of Food Science and Nutrition.

The course covers the following topics: Nutritional needs; Nutrient structure; Energy balance; Dietary planning; Current health factors and concerns; Health promotion; Dietary needs of individuals; Influences of Culture; Food choice; Current issues; Food safety and hygiene; Food science; Food Production; Food poisoning; Risk Assessment and Sensory Analysis.

An additional food hygiene qualification will also be studied online to support this course content.

What skills will I gain?

You will gain a wealth of knowledge about the food and nutrition industry. You will have the opportunity to learn about the relationship between the human body and food as well as practical skills for cooking and preparing food. The practical skills will deal with high level preparation, cooking and presentation skills.

You will solve problems relating to serving food safely, develop the ability to think independently, carry out and analyse case studies, present work and make plans to enhance your time management.

What could I do at the end of my course?

Being a chef is not an option as this is not a catering qualification, though it can lead directly to further study in many areas linked to Food. It is recognised by universities as it is awarded UCAS points and the range of higher education courses include Consumer Service Management, Food Science, Resource Management and Nutrition. This could lead to careers including teaching, dietetics, catering, food production, food retail and management.

Geography **AQA COURSE CODE 7037**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

This course will appeal to students with a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in the environment, sustainability, current affairs and a willingness to explore new ideas. You do not need to have studied Geography at GCSE as every topic is taught from scratch. Geography A-Level combines extremely well with both Science and Humanities subjects and is highly regarded by universities.

What will I study?

Physical Geography: Water and carbon cycles; Coastal systems and landscapes; Hazards

40% of A-Level – 2hr 30min examination

Human Geography: Global systems and global governance; Changing places; Resource security

40% of A-Level – 2hr 30min examination

Questions in the exams will be a variety of multiple choice, short answer and extended longer answers.

Geographical Investigation

A report of 3,000-4,000 words; Fieldwork write up

20% of A-Level

Integral to the Geography A Level course is a required residential trip that will cost approximately £250.

What skills will I learn?

You will develop a wide variety of transferable skills including collecting and analysing data, decision making, statistical analysis, communicating findings in different ways and exploring links between topics.

These skills along with, working with others, and problem solving are intrinsic to success in Geography A-Level and beyond.

What could I do at the end of my course?

Studying Geography opens up a wide range of career opportunities, an understanding of global issues and is increasingly important in today's work place. As a bridge subject between Science and Humanities, Geography supports applications for many science-based degrees such as Engineering, Biology, Psychology or Geology, as well as providing a useful understanding of global issues.

History **AQA COURSE CODE 7042**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

The study of History in the Sixth Form is both challenging and enjoyable. It will appeal to someone who is imaginative, interested in current affairs, and willing to do independent study. Ideally students should have a grade 6 or above in GCSE History.

What will I study?

Contemporary Twentieth Century History will be studied with thematic history topics from other eras. Topics are:

- The Tudors: England, 1485–1603
- Italy and Fascism, c1900–1945
- Component 3: Historical investigation (non-exam assessment) (A-level only)
  Topic: The Russian Revolution. 1917. Students will choose from a selection of questions related to this topic.

What skills will I learn?

You will develop your powers of expression, your critical awareness and your ability to construct a reasoned argument. You will learn to respond intelligently and analytically to historical evidence, ask pertinent questions and make valid comparisons.

What could I do at the end of the course?

The skills developed through studying History are highly valued, and form a sound basis for a wide scope of options in Higher Education, as diverse as Law, Media Studies, Social work, Journalism, Medicine or Psychology and Politics.

Maths & Further Maths **EDEXCEL COURSE CODE 9371**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

The A-Level Mathematics course will appeal to anyone who has enjoyed Higher Tier GCSE or iGCSE Mathematics and gained at least grade 7. The course is also useful in supporting subjects that use Mathematics e.g. the Sciences, Geography and Business Studies. A-Level Further Mathematics is for those who have been particularly successful at GCSE, gaining at least a grade 8.

What will I study?

You will build on the topics you have learnt at Key Stage 4.

In Mathematics you will study Algebra, Trigonometry and Calculus (particularly useful to Chemistry); in Statistics you will analyse numerical data (particularly useful in Biology and Geography); in Mechanics you will study the motion of objects (particularly useful to Physics.

Mathematics: Pure Mathematics, Statistics & Mechanics.

Further Mathematics: as above plus Core Pure & options of Mechanics, Statistics, Decision and Further Pure.

What skills will I learn?

You will learn many methods of solving problems and develop your ability to think logically, interpret statistics and communicate your ideas concisely.

What could I do at the end of my course?

A-Level Mathematics is essential for Higher Education courses in Engineering, Operational Research and other Mathematics related subjects. It is desirable for degrees in Economics, Business Studies, Psychology, Law and Science subjects and useful for courses in subjects allied to medicine. It is highly valued as evidence that you can retain and apply skills in many different situations and that you can show rigour in your academic work. Further Mathematics is desirable for degree courses in Mathematics, Engineering and Physics.

Interestingly, a recent survey has revealed that five years after graduation, those with A-Level Mathematics were earning 10-20% higher salaries than those without.

***A minimum of Grade 7 at GCSE Maths is required to study the subject at A Level.**

Modern Languages French, German, Spanish **AQA**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

This course will appeal to someone who is interested in another culture and way of life and who enjoys languages and communicating. At least a grade 6, but preferably a grade 7 at GCSE, in the chosen language, is recommended and you should feel confident at this level in listening, reading, writing and speaking. A secure understanding of grammar is essential for translation skills.

What will I study?

The course includes a study of the society in which the language is spoken through a variety of topics such as music, film, fashion, sport and relationships. You will read magazines, newspapers and books in the chosen language and listen to the contemporary language from sources such as news reports, interviews and discussions. Learning grammar, words and phrases will help you to hold conversations and write essays.

First year of A-level topics: One aspect of the society of the language studied; Artistic culture; One film

A-Level topics: A further social issue and trend from the TL country; A theme from political life from the TL country; One literary text; Individual research project for speaking assessment (IRP).

What skills will I learn?

You will learn to communicate at a higher level in the chosen language and you will have a better understanding of the country and its people. Learning a foreign language also equips you with a variety of skills such as summarising, listening for gist and detail and succinctly analysing and producing information – all skills which are in demand in a variety of professions. Critical thinking skills are developed through analysis and evaluation of texts and films. Students will learn specific translation skills which will prepare them well in a career working with languages

What could I do at the end of my course?

You could choose to study the language at degree level, perhaps combined with another subject such as Law or Business Studies. An A-Level in a modern language would also prove useful if you ever work for an international company. Many employers look favourably upon candidates with a foreign language.

Music **EDEXCEL COURSE CODE 9MUO**

The Advanced Level Music course is a good choice for any student interested in performing, creating or listening to music of any style or period. If you already learn an instrument and have reached Grade 6 standard, you can put your skills to good use as part of this course. The new specification covers a wide range of styles, from classical and jazz to musical theatre and popular music.

What will I study?

The course focuses on three main elements: understanding music through listening and analysing, performing in any style, including improvising and studio techniques, and creating music, through composition and set exercises in various styles. Composition and Performance are submitted as course work and controlled assessment; any style of music is acceptable.

What skills will I learn?

You will continue to develop your skills as a performer and have opportunities to play or sing in public concerts organised in School. You will learn about the fundamentals of composition and have the opportunities to improve your abilities with the use of Sibelius software and Cubase Artist 6.5 in School. Through harmony and analysis you will study a group of pieces set by the board covering a very wide range of styles and genres

What could I do at the end of my course?

Music A-Level is an excellent preparation for music at college or university. Not only that, a Music A-Level is widely acknowledged as an excellent qualification for entry into other subjects at degree level, as it combines academic rigour with creativity and a practical approach to performance. This combination of abilities says a lot about you to anyone interviewing for a university place or career in the arts.

Even if you don’t study music for A-Level, there is a huge amount of extra curricular activities students can take part in, as well as learning any musical instrument and/or taking vocal lessons.

Photography **OCR Photography (H603)**

If you are you good at time management, enjoy practical work and learning about artists and photographers, you will find this course interesting. You will have the opportunity to take risks with ideas/techniques and use your creativity to develop personal ideas and responses.

What will I study?

You will learn how to use a camera, how to print black and white photographs and digital colour; you will experiment with a range of photographic processes and techniques and learn to present your work effectively to communicate your ideas; you will record the development of your ideas, techniques learnt and analysis of your own and others' work in a work journal and gain an understanding of the history of photography and its role in society.

A-Level

Personal Investigation: This allows you to develop a personal practical project with preparatory studies leading to finished work. You will relate your work to that of other photographers using visual and written elements, and produce a 3000-word study on photographers or artists who are influencing your practical photography.

Externally set task: This unit takes the form of a timed test (15 hours) responding to a theme set by the Exam Board plus preparatory studies. In the examination you can choose any techniques and process you wish to produce the final photography work.

What could I do at the end of my course?

You could go on to study Photography at Art College. Photography A-Level could also be useful in desktop publishing and editing, creative advertising or any design orientated work situation.

Physical Education **Pearson Edexcel 9PE0**

Our A level PE qualification will develop students' understanding of how the mind and body works in relation to performance in physical sport whilst also engaging them with key issues and themes relating to contemporary global influences on physical education.

What will I study?

Designed to enable all students to further their understanding of the subject though application, students will be encouraged to engage in physical activity and sport by contextualising the theory and applying their knowledge to their practical performance as a performer or coach.

The course consists of four components:

- Component 1 - you will learn about the physiological and biomechanical workings of the body. You will be introduced to the anatomical make-up of a performer and how this works alongside training, nutrition and recovery to impact performance.
- Component 2 you will develop knowledge of the psychological and social principles that underpin physical education and sport. You will explore the role that sports psychology has in facilitating optimal sporting performance of an individual athletes and sports teams.
- Component 3 you will develop your practical skills in the role of either a player or a coach. You will demonstrate a range of skills, tactics and strategies or compositional ideas while under pressure, in both a conditioned practice and a formal/competitive situation.
- Component 4 you will undertake an independent study to complete a Performance Analysis and a resulting Performance Development Programme (PDP) in your chosen sport as a performer or coach.

What skills will I learn?

- The interdependence of various areas of sport and physical education
- How athletes need to adapt physically and mentally to the changing sports environment
- How to refine and analyse your own performance
- How to make decisions about what to do in your own fitness and training

What could I do at the end of my course?

Studying Physical Education will prepare you for a multitude of courses at university or moving into the world of work. You will:

- Become skilled in making decisions, solving problems, communication, and working with both quantitative and qualitative data
- Gain a greater understanding of your own practical performances in order to support progression to the next level of study
- Develop a blend of scientific and social knowledge which will allow you to access the numerous higher education programmes. Courses could include sports science, sports marketing, sports technology, leisure and sports coaching

Physics **AQA COURSE CODE 7408**

If you are attracted to the idea that a very small number of theories can help explain and predict what will happen in a huge range of situations you will enjoy A-Level Physics. To study A Level Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) and Maths, Grade 7 or above in the relevant subject is required.

What will I study?

The A-Level Physics course builds upon the areas of study introduced at GCSE: Forces, Waves, Electricity and Radioactivity. The subject content is relevant to the real world, aiming to nurture a passion for Physics as well as lay the groundwork for further study in science or engineering. You will have many opportunities to use practical experiences to link theory to reality.

Year 12

- Measurements and their errors (analysis and evaluation of practical work); Particles & radiation;
- Waves;
- Mechanics & materials;
- Electricity

Year 13

Further Mechanics & Thermal Physics; Fields & their consequences; Nuclear Physics.

Plus a choice from the following: Astrophysics; Medical Physics; Engineering Physics; Turning points in Physics; Electronics.

Understanding and interpretation of practical work are assessed within the written exams accounting for 15% of the total marks. Practical skills are internally assessed and indicated as a pass on the certificate. The AS and A-Level are stand-alone qualifications with A-Level grades based on exam results received at the end of the course.

What skills will I learn?

You will develop your thinking skills and imagination as well as your ability to calculate and estimate. You will also become adept at working with a wide range of apparatus and at drawing meaningful conclusions from data.

What could I do at the end of my course?

A-Level Physics provides an excellent foundation for studying sciences, medicine and engineering at university; it is also good preparation for courses such as finance, law and business.

***A minimum of Grade 7 at GCSE Physics is required to study the subject at A Level.**

Product Design (3D design) **AQA COURSE CODE 7552**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

Someone who is both creative and practical, who works independently and enjoys exploring ideas. Someone who is interested in design, materials and manufacture and the ways in which these combine to create good products. This subject works well with both Art and Sciences, as well as subjects such as Business Studies for budding entrepreneurs.

What will I study?

Students will work with a variety of materials such as timber and board, a range of plastics and casting media. The use of computers in designing and making is a key factor, with small scale computer design and manufacture as a possible part of individual projects. The course consists of in depth student- led coursework projects, arising from the student's own research, and culminating in making and testing a product as well as producing in depth design folders. Theory work covers all aspects of materials science, environmental and consumer issues and leads towards a final written examination.

What skills will I learn?

The skills involved in the Product Design course range beyond simple making skills, as in addition to using tools and materials to manufacture products the students will develop the ability to think independently, to select and assess research, to present work well, and to think in a practical way in order to plan construction and manage deadlines.

What could I do at the end of my course?

Product Design leads directly to many areas of engineering and design, with students going on to study subjects as diverse as product or industrial design, graphics, automotive engineering, mechanical or civil engineering, and architecture.

Psychology **AQA COURSE CODE 7182**

As psychology is the scientific study of human mind and behaviour, anyone who is interested in the motivations behind our thoughts and actions would enjoy this course. You should be confident in English as you will need to write well supported essays, and secure in mathematics as a significant part of the examination is mathematical skill and research methods. More importantly, you need an inquiring mind and an open attitude to conflicting explanations of human behaviour – often there are no 'right' answers, and we do enjoy a good debate to help sort through the differing opinions and approaches studied.

What will I study?

We use the AQA Specification for Psychology. It is a linear course, meaning that there will be no external examination at the end of year 12 but three two-hour examinations at the end of year 13. The course content includes:

Year 1: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Approaches in Psychology, Psychopathology and Research methods.

Year 2: Issues and Debates in Psychology, Biopsychology, Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology**.**

Through studying this course you will have opportunities to understand how and why we remember some things but not others, how we develop attachments to key people around us and what these attachments mean for our development and relationships in later life. You will also explore mental health and illness, including the different treatments and therapies available. Above all you will find that every topic has some relevance to people and everyday life.

What skills will I learn?

You will learn to become more independent in your research skills and approaches to study, and more confident in analysing and writing about the strengths and limitations of theories and research studies in a focussed way. The skills you learn will prepare you for Higher Education. Psychology is compatible with most other A Levels.

What could I do at the end of my course?

You could go on to study Psychology at University, which could lead to a variety of careers within Psychology such as Criminal or Educational Psychology. It is also a useful subject if you wish to study any subject related to people, for example within medicine, health and social care, law, media and organisations and management.

Religious Studies **OCR H573A**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

Someone who has an enquiring mind and a critical approach to the study of religious and philosophical issues would enjoy this course. You do not need to have studied GCSE Religious Studies but it helps and you must have a good grasp of English.

What will I study?

Learners will study:

(01)Philosophy of Religion – 120 marks, 2 hour written paper, 33%

- Ancient philosophical influences
- The nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- The nature and impact of religious experience
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issues in religious language

(02)Religion and ethics – 120 marks, 2 hour written paper, 33%

- Normative ethical theories
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- Ethical language and thought
- Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of development in religious beliefs

(03-07) Developments in Religious thought – 120 marks, 2 hour written paper, 33%

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority
- Practices which shape and express religious identity and how these vary within a tradition
- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society

What skills will I learn?

You will learn to research information independently, to express your views coherently, orally and in written work and to make connections between different areas of study.

What could I do at the end of my course?

Religious Studies is regarded highly by universities as it develops many of the skills required in

Higher Education, particularly for the study of subjects such as Philosophy, History, Law and Medicine.

Textiles **OCR H604**

Someone who is keen to develop their capacity to design and make textile products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing would enjoy this course. Someone who is practical, has a keen eye for design but can also manage their time well.

What will I study?

Students will be expected to work with and study a variety of textile materials so that they understand the working characteristics, physical properties, cost and availability that influence the choice of materials in design situations.

You will learn to present your work effectively to communicate your ideas. You will need to record the development of your ideas, techniques learnt and analysis of your own and others' work in a journal in order to gain an understanding of the history of textiles and its role in society.

A-Level:

Personal Investigation: This allows you to develop a personal, practical project with preparatory studies leading to finished work. You will relate your work to that of designers and produce a 3000 word study on the designers and styles that have influenced your personal investigation.

Externally Set Task: This takes the form of a 15 hour test responding to a theme set by the Exam Board, plus preparatory studies. In the examination you can choose any techniques and process you wish to produce the final piece.

What skills will I learn?

Students will experience the design process so that they can develop their ideas from conception, through to the final product. You will gain an understanding of industrial and commercial practices within the area of design and market influences.

What could I do at the end of my course?

Students can choose to continue their studies through courses in textile construction, fashion management, fashion design and manufacture.

English as an Additional Language **IELTS**

What kind of student would enjoy this course?

The English as an Additional Language department provides specialist language tuition. Each student is assessed on arrival at Beechwood and classes are arranged according to the level of English.

Students are taught in small groups from diverse cultural backgrounds; they attend at least five lessons weekly within the curriculum. Extra lessons may be recommended for students requiring more language support to ensure that they achieve their full potential in their A-Level subjects.

An integrated approach encourages the development of English in the four major skills:

Listening skills and comprehension **Speaking**

Reading skills and comprehension **Writing**

Students in Year 12 and Year 13 sit the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examination, an entrance requirement for British Universities and affiliated colleges.

Extended Project Qualification

What is the EPQ?

EPQ stands for extended project qualification. It is a level 3 qualification, and at Beechwood this is delivered as a standalone qualification. Students are required to plan, research and carry out a project of their own choosing, deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience and provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.

A project product which consists solely of a research based written report should be approx.5000 words e.g. report of a scientific investigation, exploration of a hypothesis, extended essay or academic report. Where the chosen product is an artefact there must also be a research based written report of approx.1000 words. You may also like to include photos of each stage of development.

Why do an EPQ?

The EPQ is worth 50% of an A Level, gaining UCAS points, where an AS is worth 40% of an A Level. It will help develop your research skills and therefore prepare you better for life at University or other further study. You may have a particular interest in an area that isn't covered with the A Level options on offer, and the EPQ is a great opportunity to turn this interest into a qualification.

How will the EPQ be taught?

The guidelines from AQA are that there are 30 taught hours and 90 independent hours to complete your research and project. You will receive a minimum of 30 taught hours over the year, teaching you the necessary skills such at IT skills, researching, using an academic library and writing references. You will also have 1:1 mentoring sessions fortnightly to help support your independent work and keep you on track to meet deadlines.

The EPQ course will run from the January of Year 12 until the December of Year 13.