

Biddenham International School & Sports College

Key Stage 5 Curriculum 2020 - 2021



Sixth Form Information

At Biddenham, we have a large and inclusive Sixth Form in which everyone is encouraged to fulfil their academic and personal potential. Despite our steady growth, we pride ourselves on understanding the individual as well as being a friendly place to learn. Students settle in quickly and easily, whether or not they have been with us in Year 11.

We pride ourselves on our successful careers programme, with the vast majority of our students leaving school with good qualifications and clear guidance on their chosen career pathways. As a sixth form we actively encourage our students to explore the range of career pathways available to them at university or through higher level apprenticeships. It was noted in our most recent Ofsted inspection (March 2019) that “Current students are making good progress in the sixth form overall, and particularly strong progress in their vocational courses. A high proportion of students go on to university.”

We understand the many pressures that are placed on young people in today's society and believe that our pastoral care and focus on student health and wellbeing is second to none. Our students have access to a wide variety of extra-curricular activities across many aspects of school life from STEM subjects through the Performing Arts, as well as weekly wellbeing sessions for all sixth form students.

It is important that the student experience at Biddenham is not solely focussed on their academic potential but also their personal development. All students are part of our ‘Essential Life Skills’ programme delivered during weekly tutor sessions. These are key to ensuring that each student has access to the most up to date information on study skills, university/apprenticeship applications, wellbeing, career development and can gain a wider understanding of today's society.

The information within this options booklet is broken down into course information for both the Level 2 and the Level 3 courses. The entry requirements for each course and for specific subjects are as follows:

Level 2 Course

Entry onto this course requires a minimum of grade 3 in English or Maths along with a minimum of four other Level 2 qualifications at grade 2 or above.

The aim of the Level 2 course is for the students to improve their suite of GCSE and/or BTEC Level 2 qualifications in order to progress to GCE (AS) and/or BTEC Level 3 qualifications.

Students will have subjects selected from five option columns. If a student has not achieved a grade 4 or above in English and/or Maths they will be expected to retake these subjects alongside their appropriate programme of study.

Level 3 Course

This course is for students who have achieved a grade 4 English Language and Maths qualifications and a minimum of three other Level 2 qualifications at grade 4 or above.

OR

Who have achieved a grade 4 English Language and a minimum of six other Level 2 qualifications at grade 4 or above.

Please note that some subjects will also have specific entry requirements due to the nature of the course.

All subjects in this booklet are subject to availability.

Level 2 Course Subject Information

(All course subjects are subject to availability)

As an inclusive sixth form we aim to provide further educational opportunities for a wide variety of students. We believe that students deserve the chance to develop their academic qualifications to allow them a greater chance of progression after sitting Level 2 qualifications. These options may include moving on to a Level 3 course or to progress into apprenticeship opportunities. Our Level 2 course is the ideal environment for students to achieve these goals by giving them a structured learning experience and ongoing support, advice and guidance in relation to their career possibilities.

Entry Requirements:

Entry onto this course requires a minimum of grade 3 in English or Maths along with a minimum of four other Level 2 qualifications at grade 2 or above.

ALL students are required to study GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English if they do not have a grade 4 or above at Level 2.

Subjects available to study on the Level 2 Course:

- GCSE Art & Design
- GCSE Combined Science
- GCSE Sociology
- BTEC Workskills
- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Media
- Functional Skills in Mathematics: at Level 1 and Level 2
- Functional Skills in English Language: at Level 1 and Level 2

GCSE Art, Craft & Design

What will I learn?

You will learn the broad skills, knowledge and understanding of Art, Craft & Design including drawing for practical art and design work.

This course provides a basic understanding of the creative process in the visual arts and the relevant skills for progression to Art, Craft and Design at Level 3: Applied Art & Design Level 3, A Level Art & Design or employment in the Art & Design sector.

The critical elements for an artist or designer are the successful communication of a message through the organisation of words, symbols and images. Areas covered will be Illustration, Typography (lettering) and Printmaking as well as drawing painting and mixed media. It encourages candidates to develop the skills of problem solving, interpreting visual material, analysis and evaluation. The specification is relevant to everyday life through the study of relevant moral and ethical areas of Art & Design.

What are the entry requirements?

GCSE grade 4 Art & Design Unendorsed is desirable. The main requirement is that you have an interest in learning how to draw using a variety of media, enjoy developing ideas and have a desire to learn practical skills. You need to be prepared to master technical skills and work to deadlines.

How will I be assessed?

There are two components to the course of study as follows:

Unit 1: Personal Portfolio - coursework is 60% of qualification.

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment - Practical examination is 40% of qualification.

NB: The paper is given out eight school weeks prior to the examination.

There are four assessment objectives:

- AO1: Develop ideas through visual investigations, fed by your artists and contextual research, showing analytical and cultural understanding.
- AO2: Refine, improve and make better the first idea, through experimenting and by selecting suitable techniques, media, materials and processes. Move your idea forward by reviewing your techniques.
- AO3: Record visual ideas and observations (drawing etc.) from primary and secondary sources, with written insights as necessary to explain your intentions. Make a relevant selection of visual elements (e.g. line, tone, colour, texture etc.), to record; to support and communicate your ideas.
- AO4: Present a personal and meaningful final piece making analytical and critical connections with your preparation. Organise your supporting studies to show your design journey.

What are the costs?

We may visit local or national places of interest which may incur travel costs.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Although there are many skills to learn, your teacher will use a variety of methods to deliver the subject. There will be teacher input and demonstrations, question and answer sessions, practical work, individual work, group work, discussions and student presentations. You will be expected to read a lot to reinforce your knowledge and understanding, apply yourself to solve creative problems and issues; carry out independent research, contribute to class discussions and activities and be committed to hard work.

Future opportunities

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to progress onto Level 3 Applied Art & Design, AS/A2 Art & Design or employment.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mr Alexis paul.alexis@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCSE Combined Science Retake

What will I learn?

This course is the GCSE OCR Gateway A combined Science course which is designed to inspire students, nurture their passion for the subject and lay the foundations for further study and in the workplace. The specification is flexible, and allows the teachers to choose the context and applications to bring science to life in the way that best suits the needs of our students.

What are the entry requirements?

Students achieving grade 3 in either combined science or any of the separate sciences would be ideally suited to the course.

How will I be assessed?

Six structured and closed question papers assessing knowledge across the entire course. These papers will be sat in June. There will be no coursework for this qualification, it is entirely exam based.

Paper 1: Units 1-3 of Biology, 1 hour 10 minutes - 16.7% of the GCSE
Paper 2: Units 4-6 of Biology, 1 hour 10 minutes - 16.7% of the GCSE
Paper 3: Units 1-3 of Chemistry, 1 hour 10 minutes 16.7% of the GCSE
Paper 4: Units 4-6 of Chemistry, 1 hour 10 minutes - 16.7% of the GCSE
Paper 5: Units 1-3 of Physics, 1 hour 10 minutes - 16.7% of the GCSE
Paper 6: Units 4-6 of Physics, 1 hour 10 minutes - 16.7% of the GCSE

Future opportunities

The course prepares students for progression onto A level Sciences which could lead them into biological, medical and other science related degrees, jobs or apprenticeships.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs Squair suzanne.squair@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [OCR](#)

GCSE English Language Retake

What will I learn?

The specification offers a skills-based approach to the study of English Language. This enables candidates to make fresh and individual responses to each element of assessment. The course enables students to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly.

What are the entry requirements?

All students who did not achieve at least grade 4 at the end of year 11 will study GCSE English Language.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed over a 3½ hour period, split equally across two papers, giving them time to express their true abilities and achieve their best possible grade. Paper 1 will assess a literature fiction text looking at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers. Paper 2 will assess two literary non-fiction texts in order to focus on writers' attitudes and viewpoints. Both papers are 1 hour and 45 minutes in length, and each account for 50% of the qualification.

Future opportunities

A good command of the spoken and written word is vital for success in other subject areas. English is a must have subject for college, university, work and life.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs Burton caroline.burton@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
Mrs Steward laura.steward@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCSE English Literature Retake

Description

The specification takes a skills-based approach to the study of English Literature that is consistent across the genres; it has been designed to inspire, challenge and motivate every student, no matter what their level of ability.

What are the entry requirements?

Level 2 course entry

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is spread over two papers, grouping similarly structured questions together, to allow students to maintain their focus. Paper 1 takes the form of a 1 hour 45 minute written exam on a Shakespeare text and a 19th century novel (40% of the qualification). Paper 2 takes the form of a 2 hour 15 minute written exam on a modern text, an anthology of poetry and unseen poetry (60% of the qualification).

Is there anything else I need to know?

Being a literate reader widens horizons and opens up a lifetime of opportunities. Reading enables students to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know.

Who should I contact for further information?

Course contact: Mrs Steward laura.steward@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
Mrs Burton caroline.burton@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

Functional Skills English: at Level 1 and Level 2

Functional Skills English qualifications are designed to give learners the skills to operate confidently, effectively and independently in education, work and everyday life. They have been created in response to employers' perceptions that many learners are not achieving a sufficiently firm grounding in the basics.

The aims of these qualifications are to develop learner understanding and skills in:

- Demonstrating the ability at an appropriate level to read, write, speak, listen and communicate in English.
- Applying this knowledge and these skills in familiar situations.
- Listening, understanding and responding to verbal communication in a range of familiar contexts.
- Acquiring an understanding of everyday words and their uses and effects, and applying this understanding in different contexts.
- Reading with accuracy straightforward texts encountered in everyday life and work, and developing the confidence to read more widely.
- Writing straightforward texts and documents with clarity and effectiveness, and demonstrating a sound grasp of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

How will I be assessed?

Each level (Level 1 or Level 2) is externally assessed either on screen or paper. A speaking, listening and communicating assessment is internally assessed at both levels.

What extra costs are involved?

There are no additional costs for this qualification.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Students will be entered at the appropriate level for their ability.

Future opportunities

A pass of Level 1 and Level 2 will give a great grounding to pass the GCSE exam.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs Burton caroline.burton@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
Mrs Steward laura.steward@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Pearson](#)

GCSE Sociology

What will I learn?

Sociology will help you to develop a wide range of knowledge and understanding about society, and how sociologists study and understand its structures, processes and issues. You will study six units:

- Studying society
- Families
- Education
- Crime and Deviance
- Mass Media
- Power

What are the entry requirements?

Level 2 course entry

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: The Sociology of Families and Education - 1 hour 45 minutes

Unit 2: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification - 1 hour 45 minutes

What are the costs?

There are no compulsory additional costs. However there is the opportunity purchase the textbook.

Future opportunities

GCSE Sociology is an excellent introduction to Sociology and leads directly onto the A Level Sociology course. Sociology leads onto careers within teaching, social work, journalism, criminology, policing and many others. The opportunities are dependent upon whether you decide to pursue the subject at a higher level.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course Contact: Mrs Gill deena.gill@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Mr Evans ed.evans@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCSE Mathematics Retake

Mathematics is concerned with the nature of numbers and space, pattern and relationships, and is a major tool in helping people make sense of, and describe, the world as well as to solve problems new and old, real and abstract. We believe that Mathematics is a creative and useful activity requiring not only facts and skills, but also understanding gained through exploration and application.

What will I learn?

We aim to provide relevant mathematical knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable students to have the necessary independence in adult society as well as promoting the ability and willingness to contribute actively and positively to that Society. We aim to give each student the confidence and satisfaction derived from a sense of achievement and to promote in them a lively and enquiring mind, capable of rational judgement and disciplined imagination.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE is assessed by three exams (two calculator and one non calculator paper) during the autumn examination session (October/November) for students who achieved grade 3 at the end of year 11, or during the summer examination session for all other grades.

What extra costs are involved?

Students will be required to bring their own scientific calculator to each lesson. They cannot use a mobile phone for this purpose in Mathematics as mobile phones are not allowed in examinations and they need to be familiar with using their own calculator.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Students will be entered at the appropriate level for their ability. Both levels have the opportunity to gain grade 5 at GCSE.

Future opportunities

A good result in this GCSE is imperative for future career progression. It is a pre-requisite for entry to every university course.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mr Strzelec piotr.strzelec@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

Functional Skills Mathematics: at Level 1 and Level 2

Functional Skills Mathematics qualifications are designed to give learners the skills to operate confidently, effectively and independently in education, work and everyday life. They have been created in response to employers' perceptions that many learners are not achieving a sufficiently firm grounding in the basics.

The aims of these qualifications are to develop learner understanding and skills in:

- Representing: selecting the mathematics and information to model a situation.
- Analysing: processing and using mathematics.
- Interpreting: interpreting and communication the results of the analysis.

How will I be assessed?

Each level (Level 1 or Level 2) is externally assessed either on screen or paper based.

What extra costs are involved?

Students will be required to bring their own scientific calculator to each lesson. They cannot use a mobile phone for this purpose in Mathematics as mobile phones are not allowed in examinations and they need to be familiar with using their own calculator.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Students will be entered at the appropriate level for their ability.

Future opportunities

A pass of Level 1 and Level 2 will give a great ground to pass the GCSE exam.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mr Strzelec piotr.strzelec@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Pearson](#)

GCSE Media

What will I learn?

Media Studies at GCSE level introduces ideas and practice to students who desire to understand the meanings behind the images seen in film, television, magazine and on e-media platforms. The focus for the students will be surrounding their pre-production/planning skills; which could entail storyboarding, poster design, print advertising design and scripting for film, television and radio. Secondly, they will look at putting this into practice with their production skills which will give the opportunity to create still images, use video/digital cameras and finally use editing techniques to produce finished products. Finally, evaluation skills will be demonstrated to effectively evaluate their production work in light of media practices.

As a candidate you will learn the four key concepts which form the basis of the subject content. This includes media language, forms and conventions, institutions, audiences and representation. Looking at these areas will be supported by contemporary examples within the media to help with the students learning.

How will I be assessed?

- Written Assessment 1: Questions will focus on issues and debates in the media. A topic will be released in advance of the exam. Students will be expected to use any relevant elements of the theoretical framework in order to explore the ideas in the paper. 2 hours. 35% of A level.
- Written Assessment 2: Questions will focus on the analysis of media products, through the lens of the theoretical framework. Students will be expected to refer to the Close Study Products (CSPs) provided by AQA and other products they have studied. They will also be expected to demonstrate understanding of the contexts in which the products were created. 2 hours. 35% of A level.
- Non-Written Assessment - Creating a Media Product: Application of knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework. Practical skills relating to the media format of their choice. 30% of A level.

The assessments for the NEA allow the students to be as creative and develop their own ideas within a framework, which would be an ideal foundation for studies in Media into AS/A2 level.

Future opportunities

The opportunities which are available for those students who study Media can lead to higher education, newspaper design, magazine design, journalism, television production, radio production, marketing, editing, 'new media' jobs, e-media development, teaching and lecturing as well as many other vocations.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mr Smith ali.smith@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

BTEC Workskills

What will I learn?

Workskills is an Edexcel BTEC qualification that has been developed after a lot of research and consultation with employers, training providers, schools and colleges. The aim of Workskills is to help you improve your knowledge, understanding and skills needed to gain and retain a job.

A recent survey from the CBI showed that most employers want employees with a positive attitude and wider employability skills to succeed in the workplace. The survey suggested that, 'these wider employability skills should include: general communication skills, applied numeracy, team working, problem solving and integrity'. Workskills provides these skills.

The course consists of 18 credits, the equivalent to one GCSE. All the work is completed over one year and is related to employment based situations. This allows you to learn by completing assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations. You will use independent learning skills to research information from a variety of sources and have the opportunity to explore case studies from different types of jobs.

The course introduces you to different areas of employment and provides a good basis to progress to advanced work-related qualifications. We have excellent links with local employers and they will also be involved in assessment.

What are the entry requirements?

No prior knowledge is required. The units build on the skills taught in schools and colleges and offer the opportunity to recognise these skills with a formal BTEC qualification.

How will I be assessed?

Each unit is assessed and graded by a portfolio piece of work. You will receive feedback on your progress throughout the course. Evidence of coursework can be recorded through a number of means such as PowerPoint presentations, wall displays, word reports, role play assessment and working in teams.

What extra costs may be involved?

There will be visits connected to the course which will be used as case studies to enhance knowledge, skills and understanding of the units being studied.

Anything else I need to know?

The course will appeal if you:

- Would like to gain more information and experience of work related skills and knowledge.
- Want to find out more about career progression through research, teamwork and independent study.
- Enjoy studying an area that will broaden your experiences.
- Want the opportunity to apply the theory of the course to practical work in the workplace.
- Enjoy discovering about yourself in 'hands-on' situations.
- Wish to study a course which is active, fun and enjoyable.

Future opportunities

Study further BTEC and other qualifications or apprenticeship.

Progress into a career in a wide range of jobs having experienced the skills that are used in any workplace.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs Darlow beverley.darlow@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Exam board: [Edexcel](#)

Level 3 Courses

Level 3 Course

This course is for students who have achieved grade 4 English Language and Maths qualifications and a minimum of three other Level 2 qualifications at grade 4 or above.

OR

Who have achieved a grade 4 English Language and a minimum of six other Level 2 qualifications at grade 4 or above.

Please note that some subjects will also have specific entry requirements due to the nature and content of the course.

The aim of the Level 3 Course is for students to develop their academic knowledge to fully prepare themselves for further study, post 18, apprenticeships or the world of work.

Courses	Additional Course Entry Requirements
16-19 Level 3 Courses GCE (A level)	
GCE Art, Craft and Design	Art, Graphics or Textiles GCSE at grade 4 or above. Students who have not studied Art for 12 months or more will need to complete a portfolio of tasks which would be independently assessed.
GCE Biology	GCSE Maths at grade 6 or above. (Students with a 5 should speak to Mrs Squair/ Dr McGrath). Combined Science GCSE or Biology GCSE at grade 6 or above. English Language or Literature at grade 5 or above.
GCE Chemistry	GCSE Maths at grade 6 or above. (Students with a 5 should speak to Mrs Squair/ Dr McGrath). Combined Science GCSE or Chemistry GCSE at grade 6 or above. English Language or Literature at grade 5 or above.
GCE Computer Science	Physics or Chemistry GCSE at grade 6 or above AND Maths GCSE at grade 6 or above. OR Computing GCSE at grade 5 or above.
GCE Dance	Dance GCSE at grade 5 or above OR appropriate relevant Dance experience assessed by audition where necessary.
GCE Drama	Drama GCSE at grade 5 or above OR appropriate relevant Drama experience assessed by audition where necessary.
GCE English Literature	English Language and Literature GCSE, both at grade 5 or above. Students who achieve grade 4 will be considered on an individual basis.
GCE French	French GCSE at grade 6 or above.
GCE Geography	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements ideally including GCSE Geography at 5 or above. Students who achieve grade 4 will be considered on an individual basis.
GCE German	German GCSE at grade 6 or above.
GCE Graphic Design	Design Technology GCSE, Art & Design GCSE, Textiles GCSE, at grade 4 or above. English GCSE (Language or Literature) at grade 5 or above. Students who have not studied one of these subjects for 12 months or more will need to complete a portfolio of tasks which would be independently assessed.
GCE History	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements ideally including GCSE History at 4 or above if taken.

	English Language or Literature at grade 5 or above.
GCE Law	16-19 Level 3 Course entry requirements.
GCE Mathematics	Maths GCSE at grade 7 or above.
GCE Core Maths	Maths GCSE at grade 4 or above.
GCE Further Mathematics	Maths GCSE at grade 8 or above.
GCE Media Studies	16-19 Level 3 Course entry requirements.
GCE Photography	Preferably Art related GCSE at grade 4 or above, or evidence of own creative work. English Language or Literature at grade 5 or above. NB: Students must provide their own camera.
GCE Physics	Maths GCSE at grade 7 or above. (Students with a 6 should speak to Mrs Squair/ Dr McGrath). Combined Science GCSE or Physics GCSE at grade 6 or above. English Language or Literature at grade 5 or above.
GCE Politics	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements ideally including an essay based GCSE, for example History or Geography, at grade 4 or above. English Language or Literature at grade 5 or above.
GCE Psychology	Maths grade 4 and a Science/Biology at grade 5 or above. English Language or Literature at grade 5 or above.
GCE Religious Studies	GCSE Religious Studies at grade 4 or above English Language or Literature at grade 5 or above.
GCE Sociology	16-19 Level 3 Course entry requirements.
GCE Spanish	Spanish GCSE at grade 6 or above.

Applied Level 3 Courses	Course Entry Requirements
BTEC Business	16-19 Level 3 Course entry requirements.
BTEC IT	16-19 Level 3 Course entry requirements.
WJEC Level 3 in Criminology	16-19 Level 3 Course entry requirements.
BTEC Sport	PE GCSE at grade 4 or above. OR Dance GCSE at grade 4 or above. If no PE/Dance then a Science at 4 or above.
Cambridge Technical in Health & Social Care	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements and at least 4-3 in Combined Science.

Core Curriculum

GCE Core Mathematics

What will I learn?

Level 3 Mathematical Studies is an accredited Core Maths qualification. This was brought in by the Government in 2014. Core Maths is designed for students with grade 4 or above in GCSE Maths who want to take the subject further, but are not moving forward with another post-GCSE Maths course. The use of real-life scenarios will appeal to students who prefer a less academic approach and appreciate the value of everyday maths and problem-solving skills. Mathematical skills learned during this course will also support other A levels starting from Biology, Chemistry, Business, Psychology and even PE. Furthermore, it supports students through further/higher education and is useful in future employment.

It is all about using and applying Maths. With 80% of the maths content taken from the new GCSE, the emphasis is on helping students to use the maths they already know to explore, understand and solve problems. Another 20% of content is taken from Maths AS Level to extend students' knowledge.

The qualification has the same UCAS tariff points as an AS level.

What are the entry requirements?

- Maths GCSE grade 4 or above.
- 16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 (compulsory content, taken by all students) assesses:

- Analysis of data
- Maths for personal finance
- Estimation

And

Paper 2 (optional content - students take **one** paper only)

Either:

Paper 2A assesses:

- Critical analysis of given data and models, including spread sheets and tabular data.
- Statistical techniques.

Or

Paper 2B assesses:

- Critical analysis of given data and models, including spread sheets and tabular data
- Critical path and risk analysis

Or

Paper 2C assesses:

- Critical analysis of given data and models, including spread sheets and tabular data
- Graphical techniques

What are the costs?

There are additional costs (around £6) associated with this course. Each student will be asked to buy a workbook with practice exam questions and homework. Workbooks are available to purchase online or from the Maths department.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mr Strzelec piotr.strzelec@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

Extended Project Qualification

What will I learn?

This is half an A Level qualification and is graded A* to E. An A* is worth 28 UCAS points. The Project can be on any topic you wish (but your supervisor will have to approve your choice).

What are the entry requirements?

16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed on three things:

- A Project Log which records your plans and how they changed, the key decisions you made, and the problems you solved.
- A Product, which can be:
 - A performance.
 - A dissertation (a written report like a long essay).
 - An investigation (for example a series of experiments).
 - An artefact (something you make, such as a piece of art or a website).
- A Presentation which can be in a variety of formats but will evaluate your Project.

You will be taught important Project skills:

- ICT skills to improve your Project Log, your Product and your Presentation.
- Research skills.
- Project Management skills including planning and time management.
- How to write an academic project.
- Technical skills appropriate to the project you have chosen.

During the process, students will develop as independent, reflective learners and acquire knowledge and transferable skills that are invaluable for further study and the workplace.

What are the costs?

There are no additional costs associated with this course

Future Opportunities

The Extended Project Qualifications provide students the opportunity to develop extended writing skills which support all forms of further education, training and employment. Additionally, some universities have reduced their offer requirements for certain courses based upon a student's success in their EPQ qualification.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs Burton caroline.burton@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
Mrs Steward laura.steward@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

Level 3 Subject Information

(All course subjects are subject to availability)

BTEC Business

What will I learn?

The aim of the course is to provide learners with a broad understanding of the business world on a local, national and international scale. BTEC Business is a practical, work-related course which is ideal for students who have an interest in business, management, accounting, human resources or marketing. Alternatively it is suited to those students seeking to be self-employed or those that see themselves as the next Richard Branson or Jane Asher. This course is suitable for students who enjoy a wide variety of learning styles as it combines a range of internally and externally assessed units.

The course is as follows:

Year 12

Unit 1: Exploring a Business (written internally assessed coursework)

Unit 2: Developing a Marketing campaign (written externally assessed controlled task).

Year 13

Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance (written externally assessed examination)

Unit 8: Recruitment and Selection Process (written internally assessed coursework)

What are the entry requirements?

Previous knowledge of Business Studies is not necessary. Students will gain valuable insight from following the news, current affairs and documentaries. Programmes such as Dragons' Den and The Apprentice are useful too.

How will I be assessed?

The course consists of four units of study, comprising of one internal coursework unit and one externally assessed unit each year.

The content of the units covered in the first year will include:

- Exploring a business (enterprise, types of business ownership, aims and objectives of business, groups of people who have an interest in business and factors that affect the environment in which they operate)
- Developing a marketing campaign (how businesses market products, limitations on marketing, uses of market research, market segmentation, targeting groups and the marketing mix).

The content of the units covered in the second year will include:

- Personal and business finance (the role and function of money, different ways to pay, current accounts, managing personal finance, features of financial institutions, purpose of accounting and types of income and expenditure, sources of finance, breakeven, cash flow, balance sheets and liquidity ratios).
- Recruitment and selection process (recruitment of staff, selection process, ethical and legal considerations in recruitment, job applications and interviews and skills).

What are the costs?

There will be visits connected to the course which will be used as case studies to enhance knowledge, skills and understanding of the units being studied.

Is there anything else I need to know?

The course will appeal if you:

- Have a genuine interest in business
- See yourself as the next Richard Branson, James Caan or Jane Asher
- Enjoy studying a subject that will broaden your experiences
- Envisage working for yourself in the future
- Want the opportunity to apply the theory of the course to practical work outside the classroom
- Enjoy discovering about yourself in 'hands-on real life' situations
- Want to find out more about the subject through research, teamwork and independent study
- Wish to study a course which is active, fun and enjoyable

Future Opportunities

Careers include both public and private sector employment opportunities in specific areas such as marketing, ICT, human resource management, planning and accountancy, and general administrative/managerial trainee posts in both the public sector and with large organisations.

Alternatively, study Business Studies/Management at university as a degree or combining it with other degrees such as Accountancy, Human Resources, ICT and Marketing.

Business Studies is also a good foundation for students who at some future point may wish to go self-employed. It also prepares students for a whole range of higher education courses.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Ms Buckingham gemma.buckingham@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Exam board: [Edexcel](#)

WJEC Level 3 in Criminology

What will I learn?

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology. The WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Criminology is a qualification with elements of psychology, law and sociology. Learning will be focused on the following key questions:

Not all types of crime are alike. What different types of crime take place in our society? How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? What is the difference between criminal behaviour and deviance? How do we explain why people commit crime? What happens to those who commit a crime? Why and how do we punish people? What organisations do we have in our society to control criminality?

The course will allow learners to learn in such a way that they develop:

- Skills required for independent learning and development
- A range of generic and transferable skills
- the ability to solve problems
- the skills of project based research, development and presentation
- the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment
- the ability to apply learning in vocational contexts

What are the entry requirements?

16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed using a combination of internal and external assessment as follows:

Level 3 Certificate in Criminology (Year 12)			
Unit Number	Unit Title	Assessment	Grading
1	Changing Awareness of Crime	Internal controlled assessment	A to E
2	Criminological Theories	External 90 minute examination	A to E
Level 3 Diploma in Criminology (Year 13)			
3	Crime Scene to Courtroom	Internal controlled assessment	A* to E
4	Crime and Punishment	External 90 minute examination	A* to E

Each unit within the qualification has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for the learning in the unit. The applied purpose demands learning related to authentic case studies. It also requires learners to consider how the use and application of their learning impacts on themselves, other individuals, employers, society and the environment.

All units are equally weighted.

What are the costs?

Students will be expected to purchase textbooks. They may be expected to pay towards any necessary trips or visits. There will be two conferences that they will be invited to attend in London. These are organised by external bodies. The cost of these conferences is £20 and £12.50. In addition there will be travel costs into London. We may also visit a prison and the local and central London law courts.

Is there anything else I need to know?

The course is designed to give you a clear understanding of criminology. You will be given class notes, your teacher will deliver the main aspects of each topic, and you will be expected to undertake individual and group work based on the teacher's delivery. This may involve carrying out more detailed research.

There will be a variety of methods to deliver the subject. There will be lectures, question and answer sessions, individual task work, group work, discussions, role-play, student presentations in preparation for the controlled assessment for unit 1 and 3, timed exam questions and mock exams for units 2 and 4. You will be expected to make your own comprehensive revision notes; you will have to read a lot to reinforce your knowledge and understanding; apply the law to problems and issues; carry out independent research; willingly contribute to class discussions and activities and be committed to hard work.

Future opportunities

The Criminology course has elements of Psychology, Law and Sociology that complement studies in humanities.

The main purpose of the qualification is to support access to higher education degree courses, such as:

- BSc Criminology
- BA Criminology
- BA Criminology and Criminal Justice
- BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology
- LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology
- BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology
- BA (Hons) Criminology
- BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology
- BSc Criminology with Law

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs Saggu kuldip.saggu@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [WJEC](#)

BTEC Information Technology

BTEC Level 3 Certificate in IT and BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in IT (Year 13)

Why study IT?

- For 2020, the critical issue remains that the demand for IT skills is outpacing the growth of the talent pool.
- The Government estimates that digital skills will be needed for 90% of jobs in 20 years' time.
- Employment in the IT industry is forecast to grow 5 times faster than the UK average with over half a million new IT and Telecoms professionals needed over the next 5 years.
- IT and Telecoms professionals currently earn 41% more than the national average salary.

What will I learn?

Unit 1: Information Technology systems - you will explore the relationships between the hardware and software that form an IT system, and the way that systems work individually and together, as well as the relationship between the user and the system. You will examine issues related to the use of IT systems and the impact that they have on organisations and individuals.

Unit 2: Creating systems to manage information - you will examine the structure of data and its origins, and how an efficient data design follows through to an effective and useful database. You will examine a given scenario and develop an effective design solution to produce a database system. You will then test your solution to ensure that it works correctly. Finally, you will evaluate each stage of the development process and the effectiveness of your database solution. To complete the assessment tasks within this unit, you will need to draw on your learning from across your programme.

Unit 3: Using social media in business - you will explore different social media websites, the ways in which they can be used and the potential pitfalls when using them for business purposes. You will develop a plan to use social media strategies for business purposes to achieve specific aims and objectives. You will then implement the plan, developing and posting content and interacting with others. Finally, you will collect data on the business use of social media and review the effectiveness of your efforts.

Unit 5: Data modelling - you will investigate the fundamentals of the decision-making process. You will find out how using data modelling provides the computational ability to compare consequences, and determine a preferred course of action. You will develop the skills and techniques necessary to create complex spread sheets in order to produce accurate information that informs decision making. You will examine a scenario and then design, develop and test a spreadsheet; you will review your spreadsheet and make refinements based on user feedback, providing an evaluation of the effectiveness of the alternatives produced.

What are the entry requirements?

16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements.

How will I be assessed?

Certificate in IT - The Units covered in Year 12:

Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information - Externally set and assessed 5 hour controlled assessment.

Unit 3: Using social media in Business - Internally assessed coursework.

The Units covered in Year 13:

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems - External written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes.

Unit 5: Data Modelling- Internally assessed coursework.

Who is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for learners who wish to learn through applied learning techniques, therefore applying learning which will be directly beneficial for the workplace or future studies in the digital IT Industry. You will need to have a strong interest in IT and the digital world today.

Future Opportunities

Studying BTEC Nationals in IT builds a good foundation for a range of career options including:

- Starting up your own business being self-employed
- Further education
- Joining the IT industry
- IT apprenticeships

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs Cadman shelley.cadman@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Pearson BTEC](#)

BTEC Sport

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Sport (Two year course)

What will I learn?

The course will aim to offer an engaging, student-centred and differentiated learning experience. The emphasis is on student participation, ranging from carrying out challenging research exercises and practical activities to exam question structured lessons. Those students working towards merit and distinction level are offered extension activities or more challenging case studies to ensure they are able to meet the higher grading criteria.

The Units covered over the two years:

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health Sport and Well being

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Unit 6: Sport Psychology

What are the entry requirements?

PE GCSE grade 4 or above, **OR** Dance GCSE grade 4 or above.

If no PE/Dance then a Science at 4 or above.

How will I be assessed?

67% of the course is assessed through two exams. Unit 1 is an unseen exam paper sat at the end of year 12. Unit 2 has pre-released material where you will prep for the exam using the scenario given and take your notes into the exam. You will sit this exam in January of year 13. Both papers have one re-sit opportunity.

The two other units will be coursework throughout the two years (33% of the course) which builds up into a portfolio of evidence. Students are set assignments which involves completing a series of tasks within a specific deadline. As well as written assignments, students can be assessed through group work, laboratory reports, phase tests, presentations and practical tests. Students will also develop their skills during either a residential at Derby University using their Sport Science labs or at St George's Park. Cost of these visits to be confirmed.

Who is the course for?

This course is suitable for students who wish to learn through applied learning techniques, therefore applying learning which will be directly beneficial for the workplace, the sports industry.

Students need to have a strong interest in sport and the physical ability to develop a range of sporting activities. There are several units which require students to perform to a high level and be able to influence their own performance and that of others.

Future opportunities

Courses like the BTEC Sport develop students skills, enabling them to exit into roles from each level of the courses offered. The skills students develop will prepare them for life within the sports industry, but these skills are not exclusive and can be easily transferred into a wide variety of occupations. There are opportunities to progress into employment areas such as public and private leisure/health careers. This course will also enable successful students to access higher education, for example degrees in Sports Science/Studies, Coaching, PE Teaching, Physiotherapy, Sports Psychology are a few examples of a huge number of course choices this qualification can open the doors to.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mr Evans michael.evans@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Edexcel](#)

GCE Art, Craft & Design: Fine Art, Graphics & Textiles

What will I learn?

Do you enjoy exploring ideas and looking at things in a different way?

At Biddenham we offer a broad-based course exploring practical, critical and contextual work through a range of 2D and 3D processes and media. The course is practical in nature and will give you the ability and skills to appreciate the visual world and respond in an imaginative and personal way.

If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, then there is a career opportunity waiting for you. The course prepares students for employment and/or further studies beyond A Level Art and Arts related courses.

There are two components in this course:

Component 1: Undertaken in the first year deals with improving practical skills and deeper analysis of Art & Design methods. In the second year students begin a personal investigation into a specific area of art & design of the students choosing.

Component 2: Is an Externally Set Assignment set by the exam board a period of preparation students will undertake a 15 hour exam.

Fine Art: Drawing, painting, mixed media, Sculpture and digital photography.

Textiles: Working with a range of materials and techniques, e.g. shibori, dyeing, printing, weaving and fashion.

Art Craft & Design: You must work in a minimum of two areas in unit one.

For the first term you will experience all three subject areas and be introduced to a range of associated skills. As the course proceeds you will be able to select the direction that you want to study in more depth.

The three routes are linked by emphasis and similarity in terms of Creative Thinking. Drawing techniques will be on aspects of visual investigation and used for the development of ideas.

In lessons the skills developed will be varied: Among them will be a working knowledge of materials, processes and techniques. Imaginative powers and critical abilities will be developed experientially. Lessons will involve drawing/photographing various stimuli for the formation and development of visual ideas. You will practice various techniques and then experiment to extend and apply these skills. This creative process is annotated to interlink practice and critical thinking (e.g. what makes Modern Art modern?), and takes the form of a visual diary.

A Levels are practical courses in which you learn by doing. You will learn a range of practical techniques and processes and develop your creativity and independent thought; learn to express yourself visually. Whatever practical area is chosen it will be underpinned by drawing techniques and the investigation of relevant art and design theory to support the development of ideas. Art & Design is a great companion to all other subjects as imagination and problem solving skills can give you insights for your other studies.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Personal Investigation, 60%

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment, 40%

The lower sixth year will be building up skills. In the upper sixth year students will write a Personal Study and pursue more personal lines of enquiry.

NB: Students who have not studied Art for 12 months or more will need to complete a portfolio of tasks which would be independently assessed.

The best foundation for success in Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE in Art is a good grade at GCSE. However, if you have aptitude for the subject, are creative or good at drawing, you may have the basic skills to succeed. However, this course is not an easy option and you should be prepared to work hard at developing your abilities. You should have an understanding of the basic elements of art and also some understanding of the place of art and design in the world, its history and its purpose. Above all you should have enthusiasm for the subject.

Future opportunities

There are many careers in Art & Design. You may want to take A Level Art, Craft & Design for its' own sake or perhaps to form the basis of a future specialist interest or as part of a range of other subjects. You might wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of Art & Design or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in such fields as advertising, marketing, design, architecture, publishing and media. The study of art can also help you develop transferable skills you can take

into any career or job. Many students go on to study the Foundation Course in Art & Design before specialising in Art or Design at degree Level.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mr Alexis paul.alexis@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCE Art & Design: Digital Photography

What will I learn?

Students should be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of photographic media, techniques and processes. They should be made aware of both traditional and new technologies. Students should explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of art, craft and design, from the past and from recent times, including European and non-European examples. This should be integral to the investigating and making processes. Students' responses to these examples must be shown through practical and critical activities that demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions. Students should use sketchbooks/workbooks/journals to underpin their work where appropriate.

Areas of study

Students are required to work in one or more area(s) of photography, such as those listed below. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas:

- Portraiture
- Landscape photography (working from the urban, rural and/or coastal environment)
- Still life photography (working from objects or from the natural world)
- Documentary photography, photojournalism
- Fashion photography
- Experimental imagery
- Multimedia
- Photographic installation

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs including English grade 5 or above and preferably a portfolio of related Art & Design work. A Bridge or DSLR Camera.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio - The contents of the portfolio will be determined by the nature of the course of study. The emphasis of this component will be on the development of understanding and skills using an appropriate range of materials, processes and techniques. Students should produce a collection of materials that exemplifies work carried out during the AS course.

Each student must include in their portfolio:

- A selection of thoughtfully presented work that demonstrates the breadth and depth of the course of study.
- At least one extended collection of work or project, based on an idea, concept, theme or issue. This should demonstrate the student's ability to sustain work from an initial starting point to a realisation. It should include evidence of their ability to research and develop ideas and link their work in a meaningful way to relevant critical/contextual materials.

Portfolios may also include:

- Critical/contextual work, which could include written material such as journals, reviews, reflections and evaluations, annotations and historical background material. Evidence may be included from books, journals, moving images, photographs, digital presentations and the internet, as well as studies made during a residency, site, gallery or museum visit.
- Sketchbooks, workbooks, journals. Alternatively, students may wish to present a series of related images mounted on sheets.

Component 2: Externally set assignment

Separate question papers will be provided for each title. These will consist of a choice of five questions to be used as starting points. Students are required to select one. Students will be provided with examination papers on 1st February, or as soon as possible after that date.

Preparatory period - from 1st February:

Following receipt of the paper students should consider the starting points and select one. Preparatory work should be presented in any suitable format, such as mounted sheets, design sheets, sketchbooks, workbooks, journals, models and maquettes. Supervised time -10 hours following the preparatory period, students must complete 10 hours of unaided, supervised time.

Future Opportunities

Studying photography related degree at university will give you all sorts of exciting career opportunities, including: photojournalism, freelance photographer, photographer's assistant, education, picture editor, publishing, media fashion, advertising, creative arts.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mr Alexis paul.alexis@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCE Biology

The AQA course is approved by the QCA. The study of Biology at Biddenham provides an academic, practical and broad experience of one of the most relevant and exciting areas in the Sciences. With a broad range of topics in the subject, GCE Biology provides many natural links to other subjects providing an extremely useful and supportive basis for them. Subjects commonly taken with Biology include Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Health & Social Studies, Mathematics, PE and Geography, although many other subjects have been studied with Biology at Biddenham such as History, Art and English. The GCE runs over two years.

What will I learn?

Students will study:

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange of substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms responses to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression and DNA technology

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Combined Science (or Single Biology), grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics* and grade 5 or above in GCSE English.

**Students with a grade 5 or above in Maths wishing to study A level Biology, please speak to Dr McGrath or Mrs Squair on results day.*

How will I be assessed?

A Level Examination (7402): There are three, two hour exams. The first assesses content from the first year topics as well as practical skills and contributes 35% to the A level. The second exam also contributes 35% to the A level and assesses content from the second year topics as well as practical skills. The final exam assesses content from the two years and practical skills and contributes 30% to the A level.

10% of the total A level mark requires the use of Level 2 (Higher tier GCSE) mathematical skills.

Students will also be assessed on their practical skills throughout the two year course and will be awarded a pass or a fail based on their competencies. Whilst this does not make up part of their A level, they will be assessed on their practical knowledge and understanding in the written exams and a pass would be necessary to demonstrate skills for scientific courses at university.

What time commitments will there be?

- Nine hours of class work time a fortnight.
- A minimum of five hours homework/independent study a week.
- Optional (sometimes compulsory) catch-up sessions

The demands of the course

Most students find the course demanding. Students will need to be committed and willing to work hard. Lots of students find the maths requirements surprising and demanding - around 10% of the course is mathematics based.

What are the additional costs?

It is advised that you purchase a textbook and a revision guide, we will offer deals on the suggested books. A scientific calculator is essential if you do not already own one.

Future opportunities

The obvious choice would be a biological based degree such as Biology, Marine Biology, Botany, Zoology, Microbiology, Genetics, Sport Science and many more! Lots of A level Biology students who take other A level sciences take a career in Medicine, Law, Veterinary Science, Engineering and Pharmacy. Many universities value the A level sciences, and are therefore a good choice, even if you do not want to take a scientific degree or career. For full specification: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402>

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Dr McGrath sally.mcgrath@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCE Chemistry

A Level Chemistry will give you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of Chemistry. It covers the key concepts of Chemistry and practical skills are integrated throughout the course. This combination of academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A Level Chemistry highly appealing. You will learn about Chemistry in a range of different contexts and the impact it has on industry and many aspects of everyday life. You will learn to investigate and solve problems in a range of contexts.

What will I learn?

In year 12:

- Module 1: Development of practical skills in chemistry: Practical skills assessed in a written examination.
- Module 2: Foundations in chemistry; Atoms, compounds, molecules and equations; Amount of substance; Acid–base and redox reactions; Electrons, bonding and structure.
- Module 3: Periodic table and energy: The periodic table and periodicity; Group 2 and the halogens; Qualitative analysis; Enthalpy changes; Reaction rates and equilibrium (qualitative).
- Module 4: Core organic chemistry: Hydrocarbons; Alcohols and halo alkanes; Organic synthesis; Analytical techniques (IR and MS).

In year 13:

- Module 5: Physical chemistry and transition elements: Reaction rates and equilibrium (quantitative); pH and buffers; Enthalpy, entropy and free energy; Redox and electrode potentials; Transition elements.
- Module 6: Organic chemistry and analysis: Aromatic compounds; Carbonyl compounds; Carboxylic acids and esters; Nitrogen compounds; Polymers; Organic synthesis; Chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR).

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Combined Science (or Single Chemistry), grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics* and grade 5 or above in GCSE English.

*Students with a grade 5 or above in Maths wishing to study A level Chemistry, please speak to Dr McGrath or Mrs Squair on results day.

How will I be assessed?

There will be three exams at the end of year 13. Two of the exams are 2 hours 15 minutes long and each contributes 37% of the final grade. The first of these is on the periodic table, elements and physical chemistry which covers topics taught in modules 1, 2, 3 and 5. The second exam is on synthesis and analytical techniques which covers topics from modules 1, 4 and 6. The final of the three exams is 1 hour 30 minutes long and is worth 26% of the final mark and is synoptic, potentially covering any area from the course.

Students will also be assessed on their practical skills throughout the two year course and will be awarded a pass or a fail based on their competencies. Whilst this does not make up part of their A level, they will be assessed on their practical knowledge and understanding in the written exams and a pass would be necessary to demonstrate skills for scientific courses at university.

What time commitments will there be?

- 9 hours per fortnight of class time.
- A minimum of five hours homework/independent study a week.
- Optional (sometimes compulsory) catch-up sessions.

The demands of the course

The sixth form is a bridge between school and university. Students will be responsible for their own learning. Teachers are there to help students learn how to learn. AS level will be a continuation of GCSE Chemistry, but at a consistently higher standard and in more depth. The student must be committed to understanding the fundamental concepts of Chemistry in order to make satisfactory progress, through problem resolution.

The A2 course is even more demanding, where the entire course (AS and A2) is synoptically assessed. It is essential to understand the AS topics in order to make the necessary links between topics that become more complex. However, it is normally at this stage that Chemistry begins to make sense, where all the aspects of atomic structure, chemical bonding and the reasons why chemical reactions happen merge together into a coherent pattern of events. Almost all students find the Chemistry course a challenge. Due to the rigorous nature of the course, homework is set at the end of every lesson.

What are the additional costs?

It is advised that you purchase a textbook and a revision guide, we will offer deals on the suggested books. A scientific calculator is essential if you do not already own one.

Future opportunities

With a qualification in Chemistry a student could go on to further or higher education, studying Chemistry or one of the other Sciences or related subjects, such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Law, Veterinary Science, Chemical Engineering, Forensic Science, Civil Service, Environmental Science or Agriculture. Many science-based industries are now looking to recruit GCE level students who show an aptitude for Chemistry and have the right attitude towards a working environment, with a view to giving students the opportunity to study at a higher level through one day a week release.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Dr McGrath sally.mcgrath@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [OCR](#)

GCE Computer Science

What will I learn?

This course has been designed for students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where knowledge of computing would be beneficial. One can study computing and go on to a career in medicine, law, business, politics or any type of science. Students following this course do not need to have any prior knowledge of computing, but it would be of substantial advantage. The new course places a much stronger emphasis on problem solving and applied Mathematics.

The course is not about learning to use tools or just training in a programming language. Instead, the emphasis is on computational thinking. Computational thinking is a kind of reasoning used by both humans and machines. Thinking computationally means using abstraction and decomposition and is an important life skill. Computer Science involves questions that have the potential to change how we view the world. For example, we may be computing with DNA at some stage in the future, with computer circuits made of genes. This leads to the question, does the natural world 'compute'?

Computing is about designing new algorithms to solve new problems. In this sense Computer Science is no more about computers than astronomy is about telescopes. Many great challenges lie in the future for computer scientists to solve. This course, with its emphasis on abstract thinking, general problem-solving, algorithmic and mathematical reasoning, scientific and engineering-based thinking, is a good foundation for understanding these future challenges.

In the A Level specification the unit content includes:

- 10 Fundamentals of programming.
- 11 Fundamentals of data structures
- 12 Fundamentals of algorithms
- 13 Theory of computation
- 14 Fundamentals of data representation
- 15 Fundamentals of computer systems
- 16 Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
- 17 Consequences of uses of computing
- 18 Fundamentals of communication and networking
- 19 Fundamentals of databases
- 20 Big Data
- 21 Fundamentals of functional programming
- 22 Systematic approach to problem solving
- 23 Non-exam assessment - the computing practical project

What are the entry requirements?

Physics **or** Chemistry GCSE grade 6 or above **and** Maths GCSE grade 6 or above **or** Computing GCSE grade 5 or above.

How will I be assessed?

There are three papers and each has its own assessment:

Paper 1:

- This paper tests a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of Computer Science from subject content 10-13 above and the skills required from section 22 above.
- On-screen exam, 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of A level.

Paper 2:

- This paper tests a student's ability to answer questions from subject content 14-21 in the specification.
- Written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of A level.

Non-exam Assessment:

- The non-exam assessment assesses a student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem. Students will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem solving, as shown in section 22 of the specification.
- 75 marks, 20% of A level

Is there anything else I need to know?

This course has been designed to encourage candidates to develop a broad range of skills and knowledge of computing as a basis for progression into further learning, including progression from AS to A2, and/or employment in computing-related fields.

A level specifications in Computing should encourage students to develop:

- The capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- An understanding of the organisation of computer systems including software, hardware, data, communications and people.
- The ability to apply skills, knowledge and understanding of computing, including programming, in a range of contexts to solve problems.
- Project and time management skills.
- The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of the subject and perceive their field of study in a broader perspective.
- An understanding of the consequences of uses of computing, including social, legal, ethical and other issues.
- An awareness of emerging technologies and an appreciation of their potential impact on society.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs Cadman shelly.cadman@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCE Dance

What will I learn?

Students study all aspects of dance including choreography, performance and appreciation through practical and written work. The specification for A level allows for more variety in the curriculum and a practical approach to the teaching of theory. Theory for A level includes: analysis of professional dance works, dance history, the theory of choreography and reflective practice. Visits to the theatre and practical workshops form an important part of this course.

What are the entry requirements?

- Dance GCSE grade 5 or above **or** appropriate relevant dance experience assessed by audition where necessary.
- English GCSE grade 5 or above.

NB: Students must also be willing to perform in front of others.

Who can take the course?

- Anyone interested in dance, the arts and theatre, and would like to broaden their knowledge.
- People hoping to go into theatre, teaching or dance as a profession.
- People who would like a creative contrast to a scientific or mathematical course of study.

How will I be assessed?

A Level - Component 1: Performance & Choreography Practical Exam - 50% of A level:

- Solo performance linked to a specified practitioner within an area of study (choreographed with/by the teacher - 2- 3 minutes).
- Performance in a quartet (choreographed with/by the teacher - 3-4 minutes).
- Group choreography (choreographed by the student - 3-4 minutes).

A Level - Component 2: Critical Engagement: Written Exam (2 hours 30 minutes) - 50% of A level

- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two set works: *Christopher Bruce's Rooster in the context of Rambert Dance Company* and *Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's Sutra in the context of the Independent Contemporary Dance Scene in Britain*.
- Questions - Two sections:
Section A: Short answer questions (25 marks) and one essay question (25 marks) on one of the set works.
Section B: Two essay questions on the second set work/area of study (25 marks for each essay).

What are the costs?

Theatre trips to see live dance works will be arranged throughout the year and where possible workshops from dance professionals. It is expected that students will attend as many as possible. The cost is kept as reasonable as possible, with each trip cost approximately £25 (including transport and tickets).

Rather than financial cost, students are required to make some personal commitments of their own time. There is a huge range of extra-curricular activities and performances run through the dance department and sixth form students are expected to be involved in at least one of these activities and at least one performance. Such activities include:

- Street dance club
- Biddenham Dance Company
- Body conditioning (fitness training)
- Theatre trips (Milton Keynes, Cambridge, London etc)
- Choreographic workshops at the University of Bedfordshire
- School musical
- Internal Drama showcase
- 'Spring into Dance' internal dance production
- Performances at the University of Bedfordshire
- Supporting and teaching lower and middle school students
- Assisting in GCSE lessons

Future Opportunities

A level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. All of these are sought after skills by higher education and employers and will help them stand out in the workplace whatever their choice of career. The analytical nature of dance theory, the problem solving inherent in choreography, the ability to communicate and the importance of self-presentation in dance, students will be well equipped for succeeding in today's workplace, anywhere.

Specific opportunities could include: dance performer; choreographer; teacher; dance therapist; arts administrator; dance company education department; a sales environment; marketing and any career involving the need to be self-motivated, creative and to be able to work on own initiative.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Miss Wiltshire hayley.wiltshire@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCE Drama

What will I learn?

A level Drama emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. Students learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for themselves. Students are introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as they explore plays practically, devise and work on performances. Students choose to develop as a performer, designer (set, costume, puppets, etc), director or a combination of these. Whichever option they choose, students will gain many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand their horizons.

What are the entry requirements?

- Drama GCSE grade 5 or above **or** appropriate relevant Drama experience assessed by audition where necessary.
- English GCSE grade 5 or above.

NB: Students must also be willing to perform in front of others.

How will I be assessed?

A Level - Component 1: Drama and theatre - Written Exam (three hours, open book) - 40% of the A level

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre through the study of two set plays.
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.
- Section A: one question (from a choice) on one of the set plays (25 marks).
- Section B: one three part question on a given extract from the other set play (30 marks).
- Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (25 marks).

A Level - Component 2: Creating original drama - Written coursework and practical exam - 30 % of A level

- Process of creating devised drama.
- Performance of devised drama (*students may contribute as performer, designer or director*). The devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one practitioner.
- Working notebook (40 marks - coursework).
- Devised performance (20 marks - practical performance).

A Level - Component 3: Making theatre - practical exam and written report - 30 % of A level

- Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts each taken from a different play. The methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to the final extract.
- The final extract is to be performed as a final assessed piece (*students may contribute as performer, designer or director*). (40 marks - practical performance).
- Reflective written report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts. (20 marks)

What are the costs?

The Drama department aims to offer you theatre trips and workshops each year at a cost to cover travel and ticket for events. All students will be required to attend at least one theatre trip in order to prepare for the written examination and to inform their understanding of theatre.

There is a rich range of activities to get involved in from workshops, performing arts tuition and performances. Students are encouraged to take part in running events and activities in Drama to support their experience. All students are required to be involved in at least one extracurricular activity.

Future Opportunities

Higher education institutions value and respect the skills drama and theatre qualifications give students by incorporating the approach universities take with drama and theatre undergraduates into this A level; students will be really well prepared for the demands of university and beyond.

Students of drama and theatre develop skills that are not just essential for drama but applicable to a wide range of higher education subjects and in the workplace. This course refines students' collaborative skills, their analytical thinking and their approach to research. Students grow in confidence and maturity as they successfully realise their own ideas. They learn to evaluate objectively and develop a sound appreciation of the influences that cultural and social contexts can have on decision making. Whatever the future holds, students of A level Drama and Theatre emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills preparing them for their next steps.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Miss Wiltshire hayley.wiltshire@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk (Head of Performing Arts)
Miss Wozniak sarah.wozniak@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk (Drama Lead)

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCE English Literature

What will I learn?

The English Literature A specification encourages students to develop an interest in and enjoyment of English Literature. Students will be encouraged to read widely, critically and independently, across centuries, genre and gender. They will experience an extensive range of views about texts and how to read them. This specification has a clear philosophy of reading and meaning, and aims to encourage candidates to develop as informed, independent readers and critics of literary texts. A selection of the following texts has traditionally formed a core part of the curriculum:

- Othello, by William Shakespeare.
- The Great Gatsby, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- An anthology of love poetry through the ages
- Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, by Tennessee Williams
- Skirrid Hill, by Owen Sheers
- The Help, by Kathryn Stockett
- The Bell Jar, by Sylvia Plath
- A Doll's House, by Henrik Ibsen
- The Yellow Wallpaper and other stories, by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- Wide Sargasso Sea, by Jean Rhys

What are the entry requirements?

- GCSE English Language grade 5 or above and GCSE English Literature grade 5 or above.
- Students achieving grade 4 will be considered on an individual basis.

How will I be assessed?

In total, 20% of the A level qualification is coursework based and the remaining 80% of the course is exam based. At the end of the A level course, there are two written exams; paper one lasts for 3 hours, and paper 2 lasts for 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Future opportunities

A2 English Literature is a highly regarded qualification which provides a very good basis for the study of literature at degree level (including joint degrees). It is also seen as a good measure of academic potential by universities when allocating places on degree courses for humanities subjects (including Law). English Literature enables you to develop your ability to think critically and write analytically; the skills you will develop studying this subject will never be wasted and are likely to be viewed favourably by future employers too. Studying English Literature at degree level can lead to a variety of careers, including journalism, teaching and those in the communications industry.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs Steward laura.steward@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
Mrs Burton caroline.burton@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCE French

What will I learn?

This specification is designed to be taken over two years. The course aims to develop an understanding of up to date language and contemporary issues from authentic sources, such as newspapers, magazines, radio, television, songs and the Internet. The target language is used most of the time, in the classroom and in conversation with a native speaker. 'Taking part' is vital for success. Students are encouraged to visit a country where the language is spoken. In addition, A level linguists are encouraged to apply for the county work experience scheme, whereby you can spend two weeks working in a French firm. In previous years, Biddenham students have worked in offices, factories and banks gaining tremendous experience and giving themselves a most interesting CV.

Subject content:

1. Social issues and trends
 - Aspects of target language-speaking society: current trends
 - Aspects of target language-speaking society: current issues
2. Political and artistic culture
 - Artistic culture in the target language-speaking world
 - Aspects of political life in the target language-speaking world
3. Grammar

Topics covered at Year 1:

1. Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
 - The changing nature of family
 - The 'cyber-society'
 - The place of voluntary work
2. Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
 - A culture proud of its heritage
 - Contemporary francophone music
 - Cinema: the 7th art form
3. Grammar

Topics covered at Year 2:

1. Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
 - Positive features of a diverse society
 - Life for the marginalised
 - How criminals are treated
2. Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world
 - Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment
 - Demonstrations, strikes - who holds the power?
 - Politics and immigration
3. Grammar

During the two years the students will also study a film and a literary text and will complete an individual research project. In previous years, students have studied the film *Au revoir les enfants* and the book *Bonjour tristesse*.

It cannot be denied that there is quite a leap between GCSE and the A level Year 1/AS level course, but no more in Languages than with any other subject. A level courses demand a greater level of self-motivation and an ability to act on your own initiative; if you possess these qualities then we would welcome you to the Languages Department to discuss your plans. We will be happy to show you the course books and would encourage you to chat to students who are currently following the course.

What are the entry requirements?

French GCSE grade 6 or above.

How will I be assessed?

This is a linear qualification. Linear means that in order to achieve the award, students will sit all their exams at the end of the course and in the same series.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing - 50% of A level. 2 hours 30 minutes. 100 marks.

- Assessment of the four sub-themes: current trends, current issues, artistic culture, aspects of political life.
- Grammar

Paper 2: Writing - 20% of A level. 2 hours. 80 marks.

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification.
- Grammar

Paper 3: Speaking - 30% of A level. 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes of preparation time). 60 marks.

- Discussion of one of the four sub-themes with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5-6 minutes).
- The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks)
- Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9-10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks)
- No access to a dictionary during the assessment (including 5 minutes preparation)

Assessments will be conducted by the centre examiner and marked by an AQA examiner.

Students may take the assessment only once before certification.

What are the costs?

You are expected to have a good, sixth form-standard, bilingual dictionary and a grammar workbook (the title of which you will be told at the start of the course).

It is anticipated that students will travel to the target language country either through trips arranged by the Department or via the country run exchanges or work experience. Costs will vary depending on the nature of the trip.

Day trips to language immersion conferences take place in year 13. The cost of this is usually less than £20, plus travel into London.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Please refer to entry requirements above.

Future Opportunities

Statistics show that students of foreign languages have access to a greater number of career possibilities and develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. The benefits to society are many: individuals fluent in other languages enhance our economic competitiveness abroad, improve global communication, and, some would add, maintain our political and security interest.

Universities offer degree courses in one or more languages. Some degrees integrate the study of a language with other subjects such as European/ International Studies, Business Studies or Leisure and Tourism. Other courses combine language study with another subject e.g. Marine Sciences with French, Spanish and Computer Science. You may even take specialist language options which relate directly to your main course of study e.g. French for lawyers, German for Engineers.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Miss Calvete estefania.calvete@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCE Geography

What will I learn?

AQA A level Geography is made up of three components, two of which are examined. This A level course has been designed to excite your mind, challenge perceptions and stimulate your investigative and analytical skills; thus providing you with the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm sought by higher education and employers. We have students every year progressing onto university to read Geography or Geography related degrees.

What are the entry requirements?

- Geography GCSE grade 5 or above
- English and Maths GCSE grade 4 or above

Overview of the course: what will I study?

There are three components:

1. Physical Geography
2. Human Geography
3. Geographical fieldwork and investigation

Year	Winter Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Fieldwork/ geographical skills
1	Changing Places	Contemporary Urban Environments	Coasts	Geographical investigation and geographical skills.
2	Water and carbon cycles	Global systems and global governance	Hazards	Geographical investigation and geographical skills.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Physical Geography

Section A: Water and carbon cycles
Section B: Coastal systems and landscapes
Section C: Hazards

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes, 120 marks, 40% of A level

Component 2: Human Geography

Section A: Global systems and global governance
Section B: Changing places
Section C: Contemporary urban environments

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes, 120 marks, 40% of A level

Component 3: Geographical fieldwork investigation

You will complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The exam board requires four days of compulsory fieldwork to do this. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by you that relates to any part of the specification content.

3000-4000 words, 60 marks, 20% of A level which is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

By studying Geography it will enable you to develop a range of key transferable skills which will be essential for whatever post-18 opportunities you pursue. The key skills you will be able to develop during this course are:

- Critical thinking and critical questioning skills
- Informed decision making skills
- Data analysis and evaluation skills
- Information Technology
- Problem solving and lateral thinking skills
- Teamwork and leadership
- Independent learning and research skills
- Effective communication skills (written and verbal)
- Time Management
- Report and essay writing

What are the costs?

To fulfil the fieldwork requirements set by the exam board we offer a residential field trip to the Dorset coastline which we kindly ask the students to pay for. Further information regarding this can be obtained from the Geography department.

Additional opportunities

Currently the Geography department is running a trip overseas. The students will spend four days in Sicily, Italy looking at a range of different components of the specification including hazards, walking up Mount Etna. Ecological impacts and people in the environment, snorkelling in the Mediterranean Sea. Looking at tourism and the impact on local communities.

Future opportunities

All good universities and post-18 institutions look upon Geography as a subject that links the Arts and Sciences; as such it opens up a wide range of higher education and career opportunities. It does not force you to make an early commitment. It invariably counts as a 'second Science' and/or a 'second arts' subject for most courses at good universities.

Geography combines well with almost all other A level subjects. Taken with sciences like Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, Geography supports applications for almost any science-based university course like Engineering, Psychology, Environmental Sciences and Geology. Taken with Humanities like English, French, History or Economics, Geography supports an equally wide range of university courses such as Business, Law, Media, Politics and Philosophy.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs Buckingham gemma.buckingham@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCE German

What will I learn?

This specification is designed to be taken over two years. The course aims to develop an understanding of up to date language and contemporary issues from authentic sources, such as newspapers, magazines, radio, television, songs and the Internet. The target language is used most of the time, in the classroom and in conversation with a native speaker. 'Taking part' is vital for success. Students are encouraged to visit a country where the language is spoken and to take part in the county sixth form exchange programme. In addition, A level linguists are encouraged to apply for the county work experience scheme, whereby you can spend two weeks working in a German firm. In previous years, Biddenham students have worked in offices, factories and banks gaining tremendous experience and giving themselves a most interesting CV.

Subject content:

1. Social issues and trends
 - Aspects of target language-speaking society: current trends
 - Aspects of target language-speaking society: current issues
2. Political and artistic culture
 - Artistic culture in the target language-speaking world
 - Aspects of political life in the target language-speaking world
3. Grammar

Topics covered in Year 1:

1. Aspects of German-speaking society
 - The changing state of the family
 - The digital world
 - Youth culture: fashion and trends, music, television
2. Artistic culture in the German-speaking world
 - Festivals and traditions
 - Art and architecture
 - Cultural life in Berlin, past and present
3. Grammar

Topics covered in Year 2:

1. Multiculturalism in German-speaking society
 - Immigration
 - Integration
 - Racism
2. Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world
 - Germany and the European Union
 - Politics and youth
 - German re-unification and its consequences
3. Grammar

Also, during the two years the students will study a film and a literary text and will complete an individual research project. In previous years, students have studied the film *Good Bye, Lenin!* and the book *Der Besuch der alten Dame*.

It cannot be denied that there is quite a leap between GCSE and the A Level Year 1/AS level course, but no more in Languages than with any other subject. A level courses demand a greater level of self-motivation and an ability to act on your own initiative; if you possess these qualities then we would welcome you to the Languages Department to discuss your plans. We will be happy to show you the course books and would encourage you to chat to students who are currently following the course.

What are the entry requirements?

German GCSE grade 6 or above.

How will I be assessed?

This is a linear qualification. Linear means that in order to achieve the award, students will sit all their exams at the end of the course and in the same series.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing. 50% of A level. 2 hours 30 minutes. 100 marks.

- Assessment of the four sub-themes: current trends, current issues, artistic culture, aspects of political life.
- Grammar

Paper 2: Writing. 20% of A level. 2 hours. 80 marks.

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification.
- Grammar

Paper 3: Speaking. 30% of A level. 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes of preparation time). 60 marks.

- Discussion of one of the four sub-themes with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5-6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).
- Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9-10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).
- No access to a dictionary during the assessment (including 5 minutes preparation).

Assessments will be conducted by the centre examiner and marked by an AQA examiner.

Students may take the assessment only once before certification.

What are the costs?

You are expected to have a good, sixth form-standard, bilingual dictionary and a grammar workbook (the title of which you will be told at the start of the course).

It is anticipated that students will travel to the target language country either through trips arranged by the department or via the county run exchanges or work experience. Costs will vary depending on the nature of the trip.

Day trips to language immersion conferences take place in Year 13. The cost of this is usually less than £20 plus travel to London.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Please refer to entry requirements above.

Future opportunities

Statistics show that students of foreign languages have access to a greater number of career possibilities and develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. The benefits to society are many: individuals fluent in other languages enhance our economic competitiveness abroad, improve global communication, and, some would add, maintain our political and security interests.

Universities offer degree courses in one or more languages. Some degrees integrate the study of a language with other subjects such as European/International Studies, Business Studies or Leisure and Tourism. Other courses combine language study with another subject e.g. Marine Sciences with French, Spanish and Computer Science. You may even take specialist language options which relate directly to your main course of study e.g. French for lawyers, German for Engineers.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Miss Calvete estefania.calvete@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCE Graphic Communication

What will I learn?

Students should be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of graphic communication media, processes and techniques. They should be made aware of both traditional and new media. Students should explore the use of drawing for different purposes, using a variety of methods and media on a variety of scales. Students may use sketchbooks/workbooks/journals to underpin their work where appropriate. Students should explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of art, craft and design, from the past and from recent times, including European and non-European examples. This should be integral to the investigating and making processes. Students' responses to these examples must be shown through practical and critical activities that demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions. Students should be aware of the four assessment objectives to be demonstrated in the context of the content and skills presented. They should be aware of the importance of process as well as product.

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs Including English grade 5 or above and preferably a portfolio of related Art & Design work

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio

The contents of the portfolio will be determined by the nature of the course of study.

The emphasis of this component will be on the development of understanding and skills using an appropriate range of materials, processes and techniques. Students should produce a collection of materials that exemplifies work carried out during the AS course.

Each student must include in their portfolio:

- A selection of thoughtfully presented work that demonstrates the breadth and depth of the course of study
- At least one extended collection of work or project, based on an idea, concept, theme or issue. This should demonstrate the student's ability to sustain work from an initial starting point to a realisation. It should include evidence of their ability to research and develop ideas and link their work in a meaningful way to relevant critical/contextual materials.

Portfolios may also include:

- Critical/contextual work, which could include written material such as journals, reviews, reflections and evaluations, annotations and historical background material. Evidence may be included from books, journals, moving images, photographs, digital presentations and the internet, as well as studies made during a residency, site, gallery or museum visit.
- Sketchbooks, workbooks, journals. Alternatively, students may wish to present a series of related images mounted on sheets.

Component 2: Externally set assignment

Separate question papers will be provided for each title. These will consist of a choice of five questions to be used as starting points. Students are required to select one. Students will be provided with examination papers on 1 February, or as soon as possible after that date.

Preparatory period - from 1st February

Following receipt of the paper students should consider the starting points and select one. Preparatory work should be presented in any suitable format, such as mounted sheets, design sheets, sketchbooks, workbooks, journals, models and maquettes. Supervised time - 10 hours following the preparatory period, students must complete 10 hours of unaided, supervised time.

Future Opportunities

Studying a graphic communication related degree at university will give you all sorts of exciting career opportunities, including: marketing, publishing, production designer, scientific or medical, illustrator, studio manager, teacher, typographer, web and app designer, advertising, animator, designer for film and television, exhibition designer, graphic designer, illustrator, interior and spatial, design.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mr Alexis paul.alexis@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

Cambridge Technical Health and Social Care

Course Title

Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care

What will I learn?

Building positive relationships in health and social care, this unit aims to introduce you to the many different relationships that you will encounter within the health and social care sector, whether with colleagues, senior members of staff, other professionals within the sector and individuals who require care and support. By doing this unit you will gain an understanding of how context can impact on relationships and the many factors that influence the building of positive relationships.

Equality diversity and rights on health and social care, this unit will help you to understand the implications of diversity on practice and also the effects of discriminatory practice on individuals who require care or support. You will also gain an appreciation of how legislation and national initiatives can support and promote anti-discriminatory practice.

Health safety and security in health and social care, this unit introduces you to health, safety and security in health and social care. You will acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to equip you in maintaining a safe working environment for yourself, your colleagues and individuals who require care and support. You will learn how legislation, policies and procedures work to reduce risks in health and social care and the consequences of not following them. You will also learn how to respond to different incidents and emergencies with health and social care settings.

Anatomy and physiology for health and social care, this unit aims to introduce you to the basic structure and functions of the body systems involved in everyday activities and maintenance of health, including cardiovascular, respiratory and digestive systems. You will also understand the part played by organs such as the pancreas, liver and kidney. You will investigate the systems and organs involved in detecting and responding to change such as the nervous system as well as the eyes and ears.

Nutrition for health, this unit introduces nutritional health and the components of good nutrition. You will have the opportunity to scrutinise different foods, consider their health benefits and investigate how to support other people to impact their health and well-being.

Psychology for health and social care (unit is still being developed).

What are the entry requirements?

16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements and at least 4-3 in Combined Science.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Building positive relationships in health and social care - internally assessed

Unit 2: Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care - externally assessed

Unit 3: Health, safety and security in health and social care - externally assessed

Unit 4: Physiology and anatomy for health - externally assessed

Unit 24: Public Health- Internally assessed

Unit 22: Psychology for health and social care - internally assessed

Future Opportunities

Careers that are possible with Cambridge Technical Health and Social Care: childcare, nursing, paediatrics, midwifery, social work, teaching/similar careers, Police Officer, Probation Officer/YOT, medicine, Paramedics, health visitor, mental health, counselling.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs Speight abigail.speight@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Ms Buckingham gemma.buckingham@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [OCR](#)

GCE History

Why study History at A Level?

Wherever you will go in the future, whether it is to university or an apprenticeship or into the world of work people will know and value your education when you tell them you have done A level History. This is because History is a challenging and exciting discipline that develops not only your deeper understanding of the present by exploring the past but it also enhances your analytical and evaluative skills and teaches you how to gather together all of your knowledge and understanding and formulate your own supported argument.

In the past students of History have gone on to study a variety of subjects at university including politics, law, education, international relations, anthropology, archaeology, sociology, criminology, literature and business as well as ancient, medieval and modern history. History graduates have had success in fields like politics, entertainment, media, writing and law.

An A level in History shows that you have a wide range of higher-order thinking skills such as the ability to research independently and build a strong argument. These are transferable skills that can be applied to any future discipline or employment. However, more than anything, History is a fascinating voyage into a past filled with colourful characters, stories, inventions, adventures, comedies and tragedies, all of which have shaped who we are today.

What will you study?

The exam board is Edexcel. There are four units - three exam units and one independently researched coursework unit. The units are split across two years and cover a mixture of historical periods from the 18th century onwards. All lessons are taught by history specialists who have expertise in the areas covered by the specification.

Year 12

Britain Transformed, 1918-1997

Starting in September of year 12 you will be studying the first half of your linked units on democracies in change. In the 20th century liberal democracies came under increasing challenge from both within and without. Through learning about Britain, you will be able to understand the nature and effectiveness of the response to these challenges. The unit focuses on the social, political and economic impacts of these and covers everything from the impact and the end of WWI to the rise and fall of Margaret Thatcher and her legacy.

Ireland and the Union, c1774-1923

The second unit studied in year 12 comprises two parts: the breadth focus on long-term changes in Ireland's relationship with the United Kingdom and the more in-depth focus on key episodes of history during this period. The unit focuses on the political and social impact of the changes from the start of rebellion in the late 18th century through to the end of the Irish Civil War.

Year 13

The USA, 1950-1992: Conformity and Challenge

The second of the two democracies in change units, this one consists of a depth study of the USA in the post-WWII period, focusing on the growing affluence of white suburbia in the 1950s through the racial and political protests of the 1960s to the rise of right-wing groups in the 1980s and the development of bitter divisions between Democrats and Republicans. This unit, like the one on Britain, focuses on social, political and economic changes and challenges.

Interpretations of the Past through Coursework

The coursework unit will link to the work done on Ireland in year 12; this ensures that you will have a very solid foundation upon which to build your independently researched historical enquiry. As you delve deeper into Anglo-Irish history you will be able to see how historians have formulated their arguments and use that historiographical understanding to structure your own.

Why did we choose these topics?

The topics that were chosen play to the strengths and interests of the teachers who will be helping you through your History A level, but more than that they ensure that you are taught topics that will be of interest to you and are easy to engage with. The sense of slight familiarity with the periods covered will help you because it means you will start with a preconception about the period and the people who lived then, be it good or bad; most of us will know of Martin Luther King Jr, John F Kennedy, Margaret Thatcher and the NHS.

What are the entry requirements?

- English GCSE grade 5 or above and if History GCSE was taken, grade 4 or above.
- An interest in and enjoyment of history.
- A desire to challenge yourself to develop skills of analysis, research, evaluation and argument.
- A desire to take part in class discussion and independent projects.

- An acceptance of the high level of reading required.
- The ability to work independently and do independent study each week.

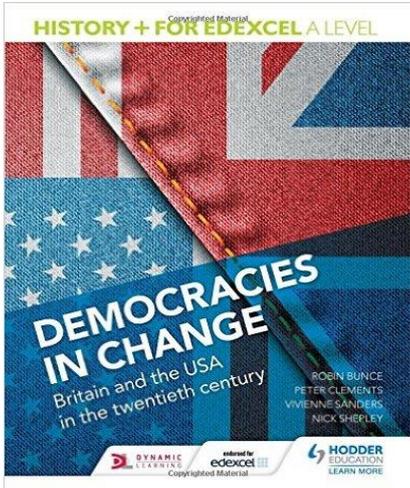
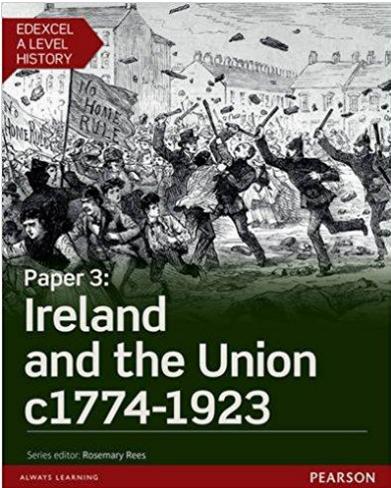
How will you be assessed?

The History specification has recently undergone several changes to meet the new government guidelines. As a result the assessment schedule has changed significantly. Paper 1, 2 and 3 are exam units and will be assessed at the end of year 13. The coursework unit will be completed part way through year 13 but will be typed and include a bibliography.

- Paper 1: 1H Britain Transformed, 1918-97, 30% of A level.
 Paper 2: 2H.2 The USA, 1955-92: conformity and challenge, 20% of A level.
 Paper 3: H6 36.2 Ireland and the Union, c1774-1923, 30% of A level.
 Coursework: 04 Coursework on Anglo-Irish History, 20% of A level.

What are the costs?

You will be expected to purchase the textbooks for the unit and use these to help you with your study. There are two textbooks; one covers both Paper 1 and Paper 2 and the second covers Paper 3. As of September 2018 the two books were priced at:

	
£24.51	£15.96 (includes access for 3 years to an e-book version)

Students will take part in a number of trips, which will need to be paid for by them. You will need to provide your own stationary for use in lessons (i.e. pen and paper).

Is there anything else I need to know?

History is a challenging subject and will require considerable reading and plenty of writing. The pay-off is that in addition to learning a lot about the world and its history, a History A level is held in very high regard by university admissions tutors and employers.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs Vaughan reann.vaughan@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Edexcel](https://www.edexcel.org/)

GCE Law

What will I learn?

Law aims to develop an understanding of both public and private law in England and Wales. Students will study the dynamics of legal decision making that will equip them with the skills necessary to study law at higher education. It has a broad focus to enable students to experience a range of legal disciplines. It is advisable for anyone who is considering a career in law, to study law so that they can make an informed choice about their career.

What are the entry requirements?

- 16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements.
- An interest in current affairs.
- A willingness to work independently and read around the subject.
- A desire to develop skills of reasoning, analysis, research, evaluation and argument.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is based on three external examinations in year 13 as follows:

Component 1: The Nature of Law and the English Legal System. Written examination - 1 hour 30 minutes, 25% of qualification

- Section A: Law making and the nature of law. Two short answer questions and one scenario based question.
- Section B: The English legal system and the nature of law. One question from a choice of two essay type questions, each consisting of part a) and b).

Component 2: Substantive Law in Practice. Written examination - 2 hours 15 minutes, 37.5% of qualification

One scenario based question from three different sections, selected from:

- Section A: Law of contract (private law)
- Section B: Law of tort (private law)
- Section C: Criminal law (public law)
- Section D: Human rights law (public law)

Component 3: Perspectives of Substantive Law. Written examination - 2 hours 15 minutes, 37.5% of qualification

One essay based question from each of the three different sections selected for component 2:

- Section A: Law of contract (private law)
- Section B: Law of tort (private law)
- Section C: Criminal law (public law)
- Section D: Human rights law (public law)

What are the costs?

Students will be expected to purchase an up to date textbooks and revision guides. In addition, we may visit the local and central London law courts, the Houses of Parliament and attend conferences organised by the exam board which will incur travel costs.

Is there anything else I need to know?

You will be given class notes, your teacher will deliver the main aspects of each topic, and you will be expected to undertake individual and group work based on the teacher's delivery. This will involve carrying out more detailed research. There will be a variety of methods to deliver the subject. There will be lectures, question and answer sessions, individual task work, group work, discussions, role-play, student presentations, timed exam questions and practice exams. Much of the information will be reproduced in diagrammatic form to make learning easier. You will be expected to make your own comprehensive revision notes, you will have to read a lot and watch some videos with exercises to complete to reinforce your knowledge and understanding, apply the law to problems and issues; carry out independent research, willingly contribute to class discussions and activities and be committed to hard work.

Future opportunities

A large majority of our students go on to study Law at university. The study of Law at A level allows students to make an informed choice about whether a career in the law is the right option for them. Those students who go on to study other subjects at university have through the study of Law developed essential skills to equip them for higher education. Law graduates go on to train as solicitors or barristers or alternatively find employment in most areas - legal, local government, public sector, administration, business, personnel, banking, retail, tourism etc.

Comments written by Law students

"Law is an interesting subject, and even if you are not considering a job in law when you're older, it can help you in everyday life, and inform you of your rights."

"Law is a challenging subject, it has opened my eyes to the laws that govern the land and the courts and the running of the whole country. The most challenging part of the subject is trying to remember cases that give examples of the law in action. The lessons are always interactive and light-hearted. I think it is an excellent subject to start with afresh."

"In my first year I perceived law as a difficult subject with too many concepts to focus on. However, as the course progressed. I developed a liking for it. It is indeed an interesting discipline and affects our lives without us realising. If you are a person who likes to prove a point, win an argument and feel strongly about certain issues then law would be a wise choice for you. I now enjoy law so much I have decided to study law at university."

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs Saggu kuldip.saggu@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Eduqas](#)

GCE Mathematics

What will I learn?

A level Mathematics provides a framework within which a large number of young people continue the subject beyond GCSE level. It supports their mathematical needs across a broad range of other subjects at this level and provides a basis for subsequent quantitative work in a very wide range of higher education courses and in employment. It also supports the study of AS and A level further Mathematics. A level Mathematics builds from GCSE level Mathematics and introduces calculus and its applications. It emphasises how mathematical ideas are interconnected and how mathematics can be applied to model situations mathematically using algebra and other representations, to help make sense of data, to understand the physical world and to solve problems in a variety of contexts, including social sciences and business. It prepares students for further study and employment in a wide range of disciplines involving the use of mathematics.

What are the entry requirements?

Maths GCSE grade 7 or above

How will I be assessed?

The A level course consists of 2 modules:

1. Pure Mathematics (taking GCSE topics slightly further and making students aware of the proper notation and language used for certain topics).
2. Application module: Statistics and Mechanics

Paper 1 and 2: Pure Mathematics - any pure mathematics content can be assessed on either paper.
2 hours each, 100 marks each.

Paper 3: Section A: Statistics - 50 marks
 Section B: Mechanics - 50 marks
 In total 2 hours, 100 marks

What are the costs?

A scientific calculator will be essential for this course: recommended Casio fx-991EX - ClassWiz (around £20).

Future opportunities

It has been shown that students with a good grade at A2 Mathematics earn on average £15,000 per annum more than those without. It is a pre-requisite for entry to university courses to study finance, engineering or medicine.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mr Strzelec piotr.strzelec@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Edexcel](#)

GCE Further Mathematics

What will I learn?

Further Mathematics is designed for students with an enthusiasm for mathematics, many of whom will go on to degrees in mathematics, engineering, the sciences and economics. The qualification is both deeper and broader than A level Mathematics. As well as building on algebra and calculus introduced in A level Mathematics, the A level Further Mathematics core content introduces complex numbers and matrices, fundamental mathematical ideas with wide applications in mathematics, engineering, physical sciences and computing. The non-core content includes different options that can enable students to specialise in areas of mathematics that are particularly relevant to their interests and future aspirations. A level Further Mathematics prepares students for further study and employment in highly mathematical disciplines that require knowledge and understanding of sophisticated mathematical ideas and techniques.

What are the entry requirements?

Maths GCSE grade 8 or above.

How will I be assessed?

Qualification	Component	Overview	Assessment
A level Further Mathematics	Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1	Any core pure mathematics content can be assessed in either paper	 1.5 hours  75 marks
	Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2		 1.5 hours  75 marks
	Paper 3: Further Mathematics Option 1	Students take one of the following four options: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further Pure• Further Statistics• Further Mechanics• Decision Maths	 1.5 hours  75 marks
	Paper 4: Further Mathematics Option 2	Students take one of the following four options: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further Pure• Further Statistics• Further Mechanics• Decision Maths	 1.5 hours  75 marks

What are the costs?

It is expected that each student will own a display calculator: recommended CASIO FX-CG50 (around £70). It could also be useful to individual students to have a revision guide for each module taken.

Future Opportunities

There is research to suggest that someone who has Mathematics A level earns more than £15,000 more per year than someone who does not. An AS level in Further Mathematics is an entry requirement for some university courses. It is beneficial to have studied to this level for some careers especially those of a heavy mathematical nature including engineering and aeronautics.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mr P Strzelec piotr.strzelec@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Edexcel](https://www.edexcel.com/)

GCE Media Studies

What will I learn?

Studying this subject will mean you study a comprehensive range of media theory and practice. There is a strong focus on new technologies and you will look at the audience as both consumers and producers of media texts. There are opportunities for you to investigate an area of the media that interests you, as well as having the opportunity to carry out practical productions throughout the course.

As a candidate you will learn the basics of deconstructing media forms by looking into media representations, institutions, audiences, news values, moral panics, semiotics, Structuralism and Post-Structuralism, Post-Modernism and its critiques, gender and ethnicity, Marxism and hegemony, Liberal Pluralism, Colonialism and Post-Colonialism, audience theories, genre theories.

The media platforms studied include broadcasting, digital/web-based media (e-media) and print media. There is also the opportunity to learn how to capture moving images effectively and use up to date editing software to compile it all into an original piece.

What are the entry requirements?

16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Questions will focus on issues and debates in the media. A topic will be released in advance of the exam. Students will be expected to use any relevant elements of the theoretical framework in order to explore the ideas in the paper. Some short answer and long answer questions arguing to a theme.

Paper 2: Questions will focus on the analysis of media products, through the lens of the theoretical framework. Students will be expected to refer to the Close Study Products (CSPs) provided by AQA and other products they have studied. They will also be expected to demonstrate understanding of the contexts in which the products were created.

NEA: Creating a media product: Practical element of the course where students create a media product in line with a brief received from AQA. Students will complete a statement of intent in and create a product in line with their research of the specific form.

The NEA assessments surround a coursework module which allows the student to be creative. This can include filming, still camera work, radio presenting and website creation.

What are the costs?

All technology is provided to the students free of charge on a loan basis (i.e. cameras, tripods and stabilizers). Brand new editing software will be available to the students within school at any time during the school day. Revision guides will be suggested closer to the examination date.

Future opportunities

The opportunities which are available for those students who study Media can lead to higher education; newspaper design, magazine design, journalism, television production, radio production, marketing, editing, 'new media' jobs, e-media, development, teaching and lecturing as well as many other vocations.

Who do I contact for further information?

Course contact: Mr Smith ali.smith@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCE Physics

What will I learn?

Content is in six modules:

- Module 1: Development of practical skills in physics
- Practical skills assessed in a written examination
 - Practical skills assessed in the practical endorsement
- Module 2: Foundations in physics
- Physical quantities and units
 - Making measurements and analysing data
 - Nature of quantities
- Module 3: Forces and motion
- Motion
 - Forces in action
 - Work, energy and power
 - Materials
 - Newton's laws of motion and momentum
- Module 4: Electrons, waves and photons
- Charge and current
 - Energy, power and resistance
 - Electrical circuits
 - Waves
 - Quantum physics
- Module 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics
- Thermal physics
 - Circular motion
 - Oscillations
 - Gravitational fields
 - Astrophysics and cosmology
- Module 6: Particles and medical physics
- Capacitors
 - Electric fields
 - Electromagnetism
 - Nuclear and particle physics
 - Medical imaging

Students gain practical skills throughout the course. These are assessed in the written examinations and in the practical endorsement.

What are the entry requirements?

In order to gain access to A Level Physics you need the following GCSE grades: Maths* grade 7 or above, Combined Science grade 6 or above, or Physics grade 6 or above, English GCSE (Language or Literature) grade 5 or above.

**Students with grade 6 or above in Maths wishing to study A level Physics, please speak to Dr McGrath or Mrs Squair on results day.*

How will I be assessed?

Component	Marks	Duration	Weighting	
Modelling Physics (01)	100	2 hours 15 minutes	37%	Assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5
Exploring Physics (02)	100	2 hours 15 minutes	37%	Assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6
Unified Physics (03)	70	1 hour 30 minutes	26%	Assesses content from all modules (1 to 6)
Practical endorsement in Physics (04)				Non-exam assessment

Time Commitments:

- Lesson time - 9 hours per fortnight.
- Independent study time - 5 hours per week minimum; to complete homework, research, projects and independent study.
- Optional (sometimes compulsory) catch-up sessions.

The demands of the course

A level Physics is widely considered to be one of the most challenging A Level courses available, and students are responsible for their own learning. It is intended that year 12 will be a continuation of GCSE Physics although new mathematical methods are introduced at this level, and students should be prepared to use extensive mathematics to solve a variety of physics problems. Year 13 can be more demanding. Students who take A level Maths in conjunction with A level Physics are at a distinct advantage. Students taking A level Physics will be expected to demonstrate a high level of effort and commitment. To support students, A level Physics teachers offer additional support sessions. Almost all students find the Physics course a challenge. Due to the rigorous nature of the course, homework is set and checked regularly.

What are the costs?

It is advised that you purchase a textbook and a revision guide, we will offer deals on the suggested books. A scientific calculator is essential if you do not already own one, and a geometry set is preferred

Future Opportunities

Physics is a seriously useful subject for the majority of [STEM](#) (science, technology, engineering and maths) careers and you'll find physicists everywhere, in industry, [transport](#), [government](#), universities, the [armed forces](#), the secret service, games companies, [research](#) labs and more. Physics is especially helpful for jobs that involve building things and developing new technologies, including: engineering (flight, buildings, space, you name it...), astronomy, robotics, renewable energies, computer science, communications, space exploration, science writing, sports and games technology, research and nanotechnology.

A spokesperson for the Institute of Physics says: "Physicists are involved in finding solutions to many of our most pressing challenges - as well as studying atoms or making sense of the extra-terrestrial, physicists diagnose disease, [model the climate](#), design [computer games](#), predict markets and design hi-tech goods. Studying physics opens doors."

Who do I contact for further information?

Course contact: Dr McGrath sally.mcgrath@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [OCR](#)

GCE Politics

What will I learn?

Following recent changes to the A level, Politics has been restructured to take into account the ever changing nature of both domestic politics and international relations. There are three exam units covered by the new Edexcel Politics specification. Two of the three units focus on Britain and domestic politics while the third focuses on global politics.

Unit 1: UK Politics

The first unit is worth 33.3% of the overall A level grade and focuses specifically on politics within the UK. With this unit covers students will be introduced to political participation in the UK by studying how democracy has been put into practice and what affects participation. Students will also learn about political parties, the various electoral systems we use in the UK, voting behaviour and the media. Alongside this, the unit contains the core political ideologies of conservatism, socialism and liberalism and how they have and continue to influence politics in the UK. The exam will take place at the end of the second year and is two hours long.

Unit 2: UK Government

For the second of the two units taught in the first year, students will begin to see how the political parties and ideologies they have learned about have been applied in the United Kingdom. As part of this students will study the UK constitution and its origins and makeup as well as both the House of Commons and House of Lords and the offices within parliament, the role of the Prime Minister and the executive and the relationships between the different branches of government. We will also study feminism as a political idea and look at how it has been treated politically historically and contemporarily. As with the previous unit, this one is worth 33.3% of the overall A level grade and is assessed through a two hour written examination at the end of the second year.

Unit 3: Global Politics

For the third and final exam unit, which is covered in the second year, students will focus on global politics and comparative theories. This unit, which like the other two, is worth 33.3% of the overall grade, covers a variety of global political issues. We begin with the idea of sovereignty and look at how it has been impacted by globalization before moving on to global governance. For global governance we focus on the political and economic sphere, human rights and environmental sphere, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union.

Finally, as part of this unit, we focus on comparative theories wherein we can look at the UK political and governance systems and compare them to those of other countries and regions in the world. The exam for this unit is also two hours but is structured differently in that there are two shorter-answer essays and one longer essay.

What are the entry requirements?

16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements, ideally including an essay based GCSE, for example History or Geography grade 4 or above. English Language or Literature grade 5 or above.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Students who take politics are expected to be informed of current events at home, in the UK and abroad. Each student is responsible for maintaining a blog through Google Blogger and for sharing interesting political news stories they have come across as well as for commenting on each other's blogs and the blog maintained by the Politics Department.

Students are expected to purchase their own copy of the textbook published by Pearson and endorsed by Edexcel. The book can be purchased online for £35 or ordered through a local bookstore using the ISBN: 978-1292187020. For students who are unable to purchase a copy, a reference copy will be available for use in the school Library.

Future Opportunities

Studying Politics enables students to develop a wide range of highly valued skills including the ability to comprehend, synthesise and interpret information; analyse and evaluate knowledge; identify connections, similarities and differences between the areas studied; select relevant material and construct and communicate arguments clearly and coherently using appropriate vocabulary. Politics A level students choose a wide range of degree courses including: Public Policy, International Relations, Law, PPE, SPS and Management as well as Politics itself and double honours programs where Politics is linked with another topic.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs Vaughan reeann.vaughan@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Edexcel](https://www.edexcel.org/)

GCE Psychology

Psychology is the study of mental processes and human and animal behaviour.

What will I learn?

In studying psychology you will learn about different approaches to studying the science of the mind and behaviour, ranging from behaviourism to positive psychology. Within each approach you will explore the assumptions that underpin the approach, a therapy, a classic piece of research and a contemporary debate. The course focuses on research through scientific principles. There is also an opportunity to explore different psychological theories to explain a range of themes within psychology, including criminal behaviour, stress and schizophrenia. Alongside these units you will learn the principles of psychological research, conduct your own practical research and use statistical techniques to analyse your findings. You will develop descriptive, analytical, evaluative and practical research skills.

Component 1 (Year 1)	Component 2 (Years 1 and 2)	Component 3 (Year 2)
Psychology past to present <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Biological approach▪ Behaviourist approach▪ Cognitive approach▪ Psychodynamic approach▪ Positive approach	Investigating Human behaviour <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Research methods▪ Statistical Tests▪ Social approach▪ Developmental approach	Psychology in the real world <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Criminal behaviour▪ Stress▪ Schizophrenia▪ Controversies in Psychology

What are the entry requirements?

- Maths grade 4 and Science/Biology grade 5 or above.
- English Language or Literature grade 5 or above.

How will I be assessed?

The A level course is entirely exam based and there will be three equally weighted exams at the end of year two. One element of the examination is based upon two pieces of student research that will be carried out in year 13.

What are the costs?

There are minimal extra costs involved in this course. However there is also the opportunity to purchase the course textbook.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Student Comments:

"Lots of work - lots to learn and memorise, but very interesting."

"Psychology is a challenging subject, but equally rewarding. It wasn't what we expected but it broadened our knowledge and we are having fun along the way."

Future opportunities

A level Psychology is an excellent introduction to a career in psychology, including: counselling, sports, educational or forensic. Psychology is a science based subject that bridges the gaps with the Arts and as such combines well with subjects such as Biology, Sociology, Criminology and Law. A highly regarded subject, A level Psychology can lead students to university or employment.

Who do I contact for further information?

Course contact: Mr Brown alan.brown@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Edugas](http://www.edugas.co.uk)

GCE Religious Studies

What will I learn?

A level Religious Studies helps to students develop their understanding of religion and belief including religious, philosophical and/or ethical thought and teachings. It also helps students to understand the influence of beliefs, teachings and practices on individuals, communities and societies. Students will also analyse the cause and significance of similarities and differences in belief, teaching and practice and the different approaches to the study of religion and belief. Students will be encouraged to deal with controversial ideas about beliefs and values and to have the confidence in their ability to express their own beliefs and values supported by reasoned argument and evidence. They will focus on exploring common ground and controversy in dealing with issues that arise in morality and religion and on using the writings of key scholars to explore differing viewpoints about the development of ideas.

Component 1	Component 2	Component 3
A Study of Religion - Islam: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Religious figures and sacred texts.Religious concepts and religious life.Significant social and historical developments in religious thought.Religious practices and religious identity.	Philosophy of Religion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Arguments for the existence of God.Challenges to religious belief.Religious experience.Religious language.	Religion and Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ethical thought.Deontological ethics.Teleological ethics.Determinism and free will.

What are the entry requirements?

- GCSE, Religious Studies grade 4 or above.
- GCSE English grade 5 or above.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is by written examination. There are three papers, one for each component. Each exam is two hours long and worth 33⅓% of the qualification. On each paper, learners will be expected to answer one question from Section A out of a choice of two and one question from Section B out of a choice of three in this component. Questions can be taken from any area of the specification.

What are the costs?

Students will be asked to purchase a copy of the recommended text book.

Future opportunities

Religious Studies is a highly regarded A level qualification and is on the list of subjects approved by Russell Group universities. Students who study Religious Studies at A level go on to study a wide range of subjects including humanities and sciences.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Mr Forster paul.forster@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Eduqas](#)

GCE Sociology

What will I learn?

Sociology, essentially, is the study of society. We talk about how society works and who the different groups are that make up our society. During the two year course students study:

- Family and Households
- Education
- Research Methods
- Media
- Crime and Deviance
- Theory and Methods

The questions that we will consider in the first term are:

- Why do we go to school?
- What impact does education have on our life chances?
- How does the government influence our education?

What are the entry requirements?

16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements.

How will I be assessed?

The A level course is entirely exam based and there will be internal exams at the end of year one and external exams at the end of year two. As this is now a linear course, the whole course will be examined at the end of year 2.

What are the costs?

Students will be asked to purchase a copy of the recommended textbook.

Future opportunities

Students with Sociology A level are accepted onto a range of degrees, from nursing and social work to journalism and social sciences. One of our past students is currently taking an Architecture degree at Manchester University! Sociology is a good course for progression into public services like the Police as the study of Crime and Deviance, for example, fosters a good understanding of the workings of wider society.

Who do I contact for further information?

Course contact: Mrs Gill deena.gill@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCE Spanish

What will I learn?

This specification is designed to be taken over two years. The course aims to develop an understanding of up to date language and contemporary issues from authentic sources, such as newspapers, magazines, radio, television, songs and the internet. The target language is used most of the time in the classroom and in conversation with a native speaker. Taking part is vital for success. Students are encouraged to visit a country where the language is spoken and to take part in the county sixth form exchange programme. In addition, A level linguists are encouraged to apply for the county work experience scheme, whereby you can spend two weeks working in a Spanish firm. In previous years Biddenham students have worked in offices, factories and banks gaining tremendous experience and giving themselves a most interesting CV.

Subject content:

1. Social issues and trends
 - Aspects of target language-speaking society: current trends.
 - Aspects of target language-speaking society: current issues.
2. Political and artistic culture
 - Artistic culture in the target language-speaking world.
 - Aspects of political life in the target language-speaking world.
3. Grammar

Topics covered in Year 1:

1. Aspects of Hispanic society
 - Modern and traditional values
 - Cyberspace
 - Equal rights
2. Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
 - Modern day idols
 - Spanish regional identity
 - Cultural heritage
3. Grammar

Topics covered in Year 2:

1. Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
 - Immigration
 - Racism
 - Integration
2. Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world
 - Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens
 - Monarchies and dictatorships
 - Popular movements
3. Grammar

Also, during the two years the students will study a film and a literary text and will complete an individual research project. In previous years, students have studied the film *Volver* and the book *Las bicicletas son para el verano*.

It cannot be denied that there is quite a leap between GCSE and the A Level Year 1/AS level course, but no more in Languages than with any other subject. A level courses demand a greater level of self-motivation and an ability to act on your own initiative; if you possess these qualities then we would welcome you to the Languages Department to discuss your plans. We will be happy to show you the course books and would encourage you to chat to students who are currently following the course.

What are the entry requirements?

Spanish GCSE grade 6 or above.

How will I be assessed?

This is a linear qualification. Linear means that in order to achieve the award students will sit all their exams at the end of the course and in the same series.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing. 50% of A level. 2 hours 30 minutes. 100 marks.

- Assessment of the four sub-themes: current trends, current issues, artistic culture, aspects of political life
- Grammar

Paper 2: Writing. 20% of A level. 2 hours. 80 marks.

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

Paper 3: Speaking. 30% of A level. 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes of preparation time). 60 marks.

- Discussion of one of the four sub-themes with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5-6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).
- Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9-10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).
- No access to a dictionary during the assessment (including 5 minutes preparation).

Assessments will be conducted by the centre examiner and marked by an AQA examiner. Students may take the assessment only once before certification.

What are the costs?

You are expected to have a good, sixth form-standard, bilingual dictionary and a grammar workbook (the title of which you will be told at the start of the course).

It is anticipated that students will travel to the target language country either through trips arranged by the Department or via the county run exchanges or work experience. Costs will vary depending on the nature of the trip.

Day trips to language immersion conferences take place in Year 13. The cost of this is usually less than £20 plus travel into London.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Please refer to entry requirements above.

Future opportunities

Statistics show that students of foreign languages have access to a greater number of career possibilities and develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. The benefits to society are many: individuals fluent in other languages enhance our economic competitiveness abroad, improve global communication, and, some would add, maintain our political and security interests.

Universities offer degree courses in one or more languages. Some degrees integrate the study of a language with other subjects such as European/International Studies, Business Studies or Leisure and Tourism. Other courses combine language study with another subject e.g. Marine Sciences with French, Spanish and Computer Science. You may even take specialist language options which relate directly to your main course of study e.g. French for lawyers, German for engineers.

Who do I contact for further information?

Course contact: Miss Calvete estefania.calvete@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)