

Sixth Form

SIXTH FORM
INFORMATION 2022/23



ST. BEDE'S
COLLEGE



Welcome to St Bede's



Mrs Maria Kemp

Headteacher

headteacher@stbedescollege.co.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Kemp'.

A Warm Welcome

We are delighted and honoured to welcome you to become parents of our next generation of Bedians.

Working together with you, our parents, we are striving to become a hub where all the support, service and advice that you may need can be found. Committed to the holistic education of our pupils, we want them to not only achieve academic success but to also find the best opportunities to shape their futures, according to their uniqueness. Our founder, Cardinal Vaughan, opened the doors of the College on the 7th of January 1876; he was inspired by St Bede's search for knowledge and truth and founded the College based on a profound love of learning. Christ remains at the centre and heart of our school and our faith inspires us to look upon our pupils, no matter their background or their own personal faith journey, as children of God.

Our vision is to see our pupils grow as true leaders in the 21st century; we believe that character development will help them to achieve their potential, lead responsibly and build a better world. In order to develop their understanding of character in the years ahead, pupils will take part in our Virtue and Leadership Programmes, developing their inner strength to respond to life's challenges and a true understanding of our world and its needs. The College has a rich life, filled with opportunities accessed through the house system, co-curricular activities and pupils' own initiatives, all of which contribute to the positive growth mindset passed on by our founder.

On the verge of celebrating our 150th anniversary, leading St Bede's is an honour and a huge responsibility, which I could not take on without the great team that works with me. We look forward to meeting you soon and working together to provide the best future for your children.

Welcome to St Bede's Sixth Form



Mr Dominic Rose
Head of Sixth Form
drose@sbcm.co.uk

Thank you for expressing your interest in the Sixth Form at St Bede's College. Our Sixth Form community comprises students who have completed their GCSE studies at the College as well as those who have joined us from other schools. Whilst our student body is diverse, it is united in its commitment to academic study, its desire for inspiration and its gratitude for the wonderful range of academic and enrichment opportunities provided here.

Choosing the right combination of courses is vitally important to enjoying the Sixth Form and achieving your potential: we hope that this publication will assist you in selecting these as you plan your future career via university or an apprenticeship.

Our aim has always been to provide the best A Level results of which our students are capable and to produce young people of whom we can be justly proud. We recognise the importance of good A Level grades in a competitive world, but we believe that a Catholic education also prepares our Bedians to be leaders in society, to be confident in their abilities and to reach the highest levels in their chosen careers. many charitable affiliations and by assuming roles of responsibility in the College.

Our academic results place St Bede's Sixth Form as one of the best performing schools in the North West and most of our students go on to study at leading universities in the United Kingdom and overseas.

Bedians are supported in a friendly, inclusive environment and encouraged to grow as independent learners. They are expected to contribute to the wider community through our many charitable affiliations and by assuming roles of responsibility in the College.

We continue to promote the growth of our intellectual culture through the award of Academic Scholarships. A student who attains Grade 9 in three subjects and Grade 7 or Grade 8 in a further six subjects, is eligible to apply for the Academic Scholarship. Please contact the Admissions Office for further details: admissions@sbcm.co.uk.

I am always happy to answer any questions you may have about life in the Sixth Form at St Bede's College.

Life in Sixth Form

A photograph of three young women in a dance pose. The woman in the center is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt with a black bow at the neck and has her arms raised. To her left, a woman with long blonde hair wears a black top and a long pink beaded necklace. To her right, a woman wears a black and white striped shirt and a red headband. They are all looking towards the camera against a dark background.

*Be Inspired
Be Committed
Be Grateful*



We adopt a holistic approach to education, which is nurtured by a happy and harmonious learning environment where pupils are celebrated for their differences. Hard work, respect and personal growth are key to the St Bede's ethos. Our aim is to ensure that our students have the necessary skills, attributes and experience to help them excel and secure their future ambitions.

To this end, our co-curricular provision in the Sixth Form helps us to produce a young person who is well rounded, polite, disciplined, with good communication skills and possesses teamwork and leadership qualities in equal abundance. Our offer includes daily opportunities to learn new languages, join our public speaking and debating societies or participate in professional forums. There are a multitude of musical and theatrical productions, as well as opportunities to participate in team sports, both recreational and elite. The list is endless. We also want to offer students a gateway to explore the world around them. Offerings range from domestic activities, including art and drama, to history trips alongside the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Our students have access to a unique Leadership Programme from Oxford and Harvard Universities.

At lunchtime, our students have the opportunity to enjoy their freedom outside of school if they wish, or they can buy their lunch from their own Sixth Form cafeteria, which is open throughout the school day.



Our Sixth Form dress code allows an opportunity for individuality with a view to professionalism; students wear a suit of their own choice with boys wearing the College tie.

We encourage our students to take opportunities to be leaders and role models for younger students and to play active and visible roles in the running of the school. A large number of students are appointed to positions of responsibility within the College; these include Head Boy and Girl and Senior Prefect positions. Many other students play important roles as guides, who can offer prospective parents a useful insight into College life through their own experiences.

Sixth Form students form the committees that run various activities, such as the Upper Sixth Ball; they also organise and coordinate charity work in the College, help our Prep School with a variety of activities (such as Prep Sports Day) and act as ambassadors for the school at external events.

All students are placed in small tutor groups with one of our specialist team of Sixth Form tutors who meet with them on a daily basis to build the relationship necessary to guide and support them as individuals throughout their two years.



St Bede's students Joseph K and Jenny L attended a performance at Buckingham Palace where they received their Duke of Edinburgh Gold award.





7 reasons to choose St Bede's

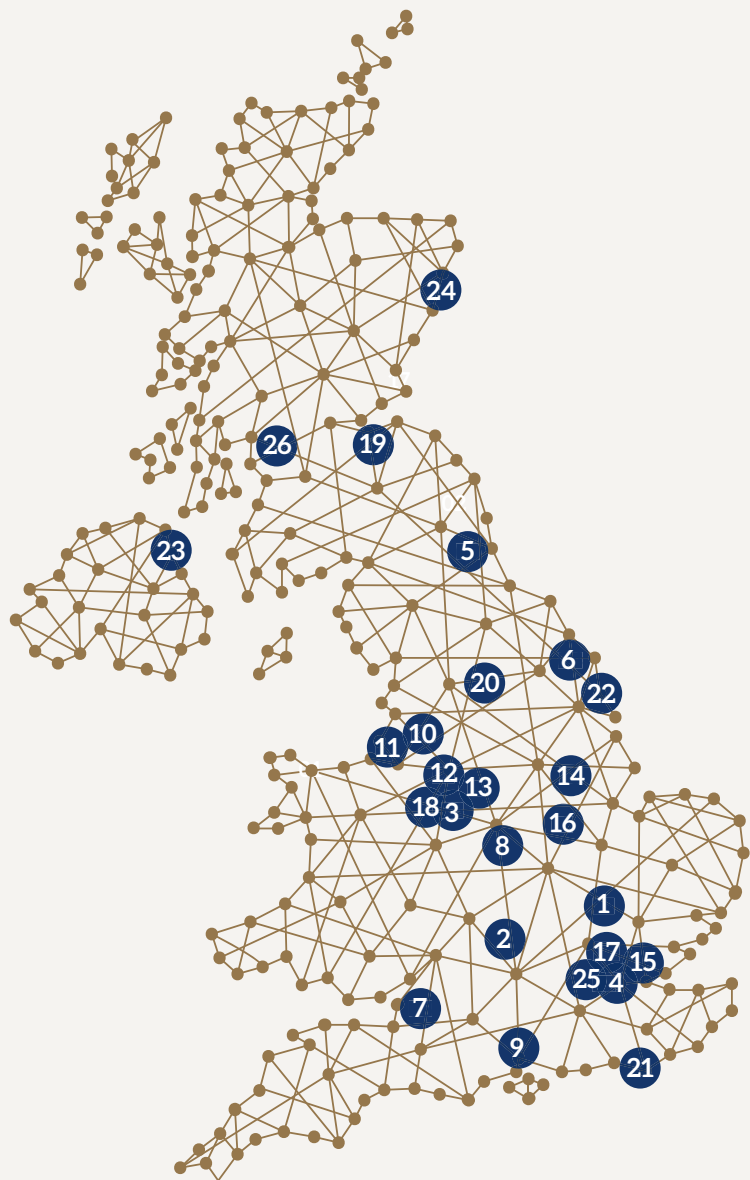
1. **Small teaching groups and individual tuition** - classes rarely exceed 10 pupils (other Colleges have an average of 28 pupils per class).
2. **Teachers who know you**, your strengths and individual needs.
3. **Dedicated spiritual enrichment** through retreats and weekly religious assemblies.
4. A proven track record of **successful entry to prestigious Russell Group Universities**.
5. **Many prefect and leadership opportunities, responsibilities and outreach programmes** throughout the College.
6. An **ability to participate in a wide variety of sports teams as well as music and drama productions**.
7. Excellent UCAS provision where **students receive specialist help and references written by their tutors together with a helpful careers programme** with experienced Careers Coordinator.



University destinations



























Our students often obtain places at the following universities:

1. University of Cambridge
2. University of Oxford
3. Birmingham
4. Newcastle University
5. Durham University
6. York University
7. Bristol University
8. University of Warwick
9. University of Southampton
10. University of Liverpool
11. Liverpool John Moores
12. University of Manchester
13. University College London
14. The University of Sheffield
15. London School of Economics
16. Nottingham University
17. Imperial London
18. University of Salford
19. University of Edinburgh
20. University of Leeds
21. University of Brighton
22. University of Hull
23. Queens Belfast
24. University of Aberdeen
25. Kings College London
26. University of Glasgow



A levels

All subjects in the option process:

	Biology
	Business
	Chemistry
	Classical Civilisation
	Computer Science
	Design Technology
	Drama and Theatre Studies
	Economics
	English Language
	English Literature
	Fine Art
	French
	Geography
	German
	History
	Latin
	Mathematics
	Further Maths
	Music
	Theology (Philosophy & Ethics)
	Photography
	Physical Education
	Physics
	Politics
	Psychology
	Spanish

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

In mid-November after the mock examinations, our current GCSE students will be sent a link to an online options programme where they can choose their four preferred subject choices.

Some students choose to sit four A Levels, but by the end of the Upper Sixth, three A Levels with an EPQ is the norm for the majority of students.

The Next Step

Once you have read through this booklet you will have a good idea of what is available at St Bede's College. However, nothing can ever replace a visit and we would recommend you come and see this is a very special place. We strongly encourage you to join us on one of our taster days.

You will be able to meet with the Headteacher and the Sixth Form Team and experience a day in the life of a College Sixth Form student. Taking the next step in our entrance procedure is to contact our Admissions Manager who is always happy to talk to you about the admissions process and clarify any points that you may need to discuss.

admissions@sbcm.co.uk

Applications to the Sixth Form will be considered on an individual basis by the Head of Sixth Form and the Headteacher. We recommend that students should attain Grade 6 in the subjects to be studied at A Level, with the exception of Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry or Physics where we recommend Grade 7. Applicants who wish to study Business or Economics, but have not had the opportunity to take a GCSE in either of these subjects, should ideally attain at least a Grade 6 in Mathematics. From September 2023, all students will commence the study of four A Level subjects, unless that is deemed not to be in their best interest upon admission; it is expected that many will drop a subject after the summer examinations, or earlier in the year if it becomes clear that it is in the student's best interest to do so.



The process for joining our Sixth Form

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 1. | Application form | 4. | Interview Head of Sixth Form |
| 2. | School references | 5. | Successful grades |
| 3. | Taster Day | 6. | Sixth Form |



Biology

By choosing Biology at A Level, you will be taking your first step to being a serious student of a subject which has a profound effect on all our lives. Biology is a subject that continues to prove popular amongst our cohort for its very interesting and challenging nature. Many students enjoy the practical nature of Biology and lessons will often see students carrying out varied activities such as dissection, microscopy and biochemistry, as well as having the opportunity for fieldwork as part of a residential trip. The Advanced Level course is designed to encourage students to develop essential knowledge of concepts in Biology. In addition, they recognise the value of Biology to society by encouraging understanding of scientific methods and an awareness of advances in technology.

■ Practical Work

Biology, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out many activities including:

- Microscopy to see the histology of tissues
- Dissection of animal and plant systems
- Aseptic techniques to study microbial growth
- Investigating biochemical activity within cells
- Investigating animal behaviour
- Investigating the distributions of species in the environment.

These experiments will give you the skills and confidence needed to carry out successful experiments in your future degree courses.

■ Assessment Information

Paper 1

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

2 hours - 91 marks - 35% of A Level

Paper 2

- Energy transfers between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environment
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

2 hours - 91 marks - 35% of A Level

Paper 3

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 78 marks - 30% of A Level

■ The top courses taken by students who have an A Level in Biology are:

Medicine & Biomedicine, Pharmacology, Physiology, Psychology, Veterinary Science, Marine Biology, Biochemistry, Sport Science, Dentistry, Anatomy, Pathology & Pharmacy.

■ Why choose Biology at St Bede's?

- Small classes allow for individual attention and more intimate sharing of ideas
- Knowledgeable and experienced staff with a record of success
- Specialist lab and access to advanced equipment
- Excellent online provision
- Extra opportunities, such as the Biology Olympiad
- Additional support, including weekly 'Drop-ins'
- Personalised UCAS advice for all, and extra support for Medicine and Oxbridge candidates
- Results





Business

A Level Business is the starting point to be an entrepreneur in the making who turns an idea into a new product or service, or the CEO of a major company that is shaping the marketplace. Could you be the next Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk or Rhianna?

■ Why choose business?

It will prepare you for the challenges of the 21st century in a dynamic world of business globalisation, digital technology, ethics and enterprise. Analysis of the Finance, Marketing, Operations and Human Resource functions, leads to skills in communication, problem-solving, time management and decision-making. Business courses are theoretical in foundation but applied in delivery, meaning that research into real life businesses is fundamental to core knowledge value. Upon completion, the acquisition of expertise and competence provides a wide range of graduate opportunities and successful careers.

■ Content Information

Theme 1: Marketing & People

- Meeting customer needs
- The market
- Marketing mix & strategy
- Managing people
- Entrepreneurs & leaders

Theme 2: Managing Business Activities

- Raising finance
- Financial planning
- Managing finance
- Resource management
- External influences

Theme 3: Business Decision & Strategy

- Business objectives and strategy
- Business growth
- Decision-making techniques
- Influences on business decisions
- Assessing competitiveness

- Managing change

Theme 4: Global Business

- Globalisation
- Global markets and business expansion
- Global marketing
- Global industries and companies

■ Assessment Information

Paper 1: Marketing, People & Global Businesses - Written examination = 35%

Paper 2: Business Activities, Decision & Strategy - Written examination = 35%

Paper 3: Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment - Written examination = 30%

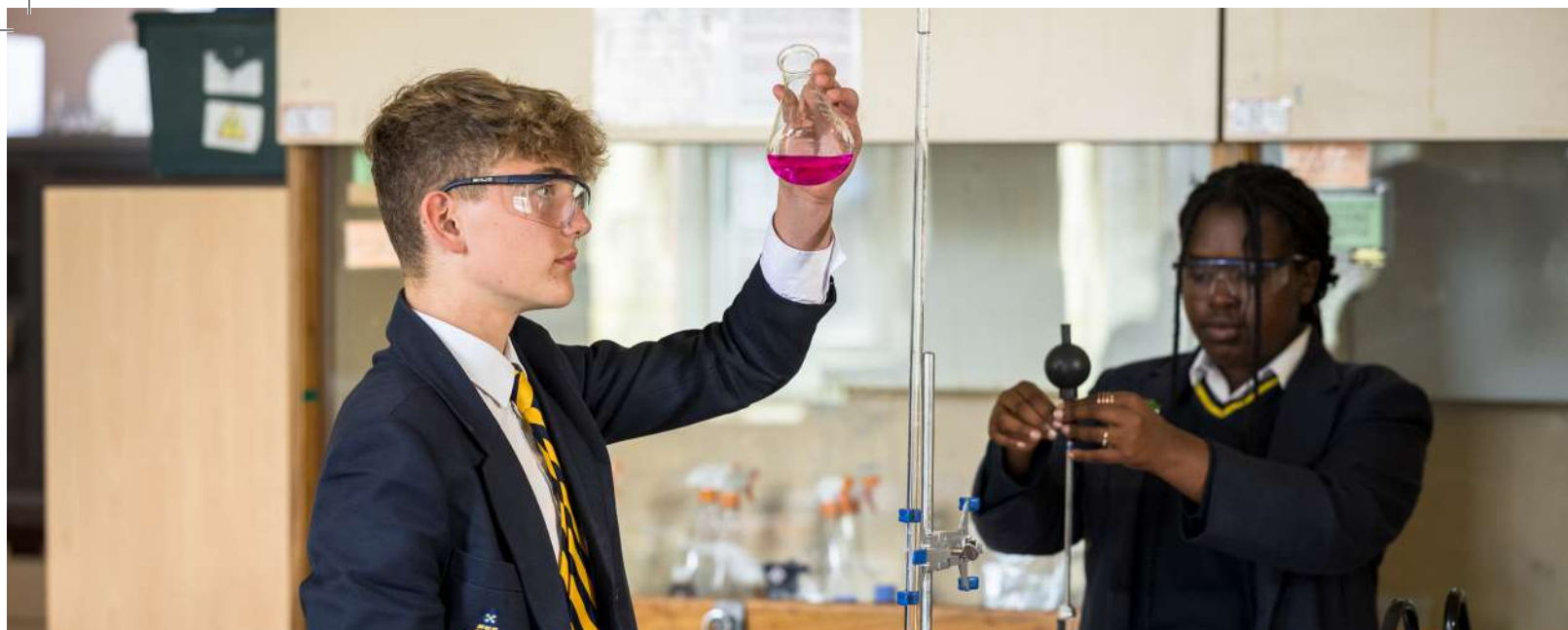
■ Why Choose Business at St Bede's?

- Three specialist teachers who are all subject examiners
- Established links with Businesses and Industry speakers from areas such as banking and finance, and social media
- Personal support and individual attention through 'drop ins'
- Specialist trips to support learning
- Opportunities to enter competitions such as Global Investor and Amplify Me to gather real life experience of the world of finance

■ What could I do after A levels at University with this course?

A Business qualification opens up a vast array of possible paths to follow. You may wish to study Business further as a complete subject at degree level or you may discover a particular interest in one area and specialise in vocations such as Finance, Marketing or Human Resource Management. It is also a great subject to combine with most others, e.g. languages to open up a broader range of opportunities post University. Business is a widely accepted subject thanks to its diverse subject content and varied skills acquisition.





Chemistry

A Level Chemistry attempts to answer the big question ‘what is the world made of?’ and it’s the search for this answer that makes the subject so fascinating. From investigating how one substance can be changed drastically into another, to researching a new wonder drug to save millions of lives, the opportunities that Chemistry provides are endless.

Chemistry is a popular choice at St Bede’s. The course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills at GCSE. Success requires a good foundation – a grade 7 is recommended in Separate Science Chemistry or Trilogy Science in order to take up the A Level.

■ Why choose Chemistry?

‘To help pursue a specific career’

Chemistry is **essential** for Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Studies, Pharmacy, Chemical Engineering, Materials Science and Forensic Science; highly useful for Nursing, Engineering, Geology, Biology and Physiotherapy; and useful for Maths, Accountancy, Law and many more careers.

‘To make you attractive to wide range of employers’

Chemistry A Level combines analytical, communications and practical skills – it is highly regarded by employers.

‘Because it explains the world around you’

Chemistry can be frustrating at GCSE – often you don’t get the full answer. At A Level we go into greater detail and show how atoms and molecules combine to produce the wide range of materials we use today – from pharmaceuticals to fuel cells.

‘Because it’s enjoyable’

Chemistry A Level contains a great mix of practical and theoretical work and provides a lot of intellectual challenge. Chemistry fits well with other Science subjects, but also provides an interesting intellectual contrast to subjects such as Art, English or Theology.

■ Assessment Information

Paper 1: Marketing, People & Global Businesses - Written examination = 35%

Paper 2: Business Activities, Decision & Strategy - Written examination = 35%

Paper 3: Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment - Written examination = 30%

There is no coursework in this course. However, your performance during 12 required practicals will be assessed. Within the examinations listed above, at least 15% of the marks are based on what you learned in your practicals.

■ Why Choose Chemistry at St Bede's?

- 4 specialist teachers with many years of experience
- 3 specialist laboratories with the latest equipment, plus visiting experts & equipment from the University of Manchester to support spectroscopy studies
- Small classes - especially important when completing individual practical work
- Lots of personal support including weekly 'Drop-Ins', extensive online material, Saturday revision sessions and Oxbridge / Medicine application support
- Participation in the national Chemistry Olympiad





Classical Civilisation

The study of Classical Civilisation touches on a varied range of topics from ancient philosophy, history and politics to religion, literature and the arts. Delving into such issues as the nature of heroism, the principles of democracy and the qualities of good leadership, our journey through the culture of the ancient world helps students to live truly and enjoy their existence to the full, whilst developing vital skills for academic study and life beyond.

■ Why choose Classical Civilisation?

First and foremost, Classics is the most interesting subject available in school (along with Latin of course). Where else can you learn about the clashes between great generals, titanic legal battles, the voyages of epic heroes and the tragedies upon which much of Western drama is based? Beyond this, Classical Civilisation is also supremely useful – designated a desired subject by Russell group universities, the study of Classics teaches many skills required by many courses. Who better to teach you how to construct an argument than the foremost lawyer in Rome, Marcus Tullius Cicero? Who better to teach you the skills of strategy and leadership than Alexander the Great or Caesar? Combining an appreciation of literature with incisive and analytical thinking, Classicists can always see both sides of an argument and sway their audience to their point of view. Classicists from St Bede's and beyond have prospered not only in their university applications but also in whatever career path the discipline leads them to, whether that be in the media, in literature, in business, in the law, in education, in research, in philosophy, in accountancy, in politics, in diplomacy... The list goes on and on.

■ Assessment Information

- To recall and deploy relevant knowledge and understanding of literary, cultural, material or historical sources or linguistic forms, in their appropriate contexts
- To analyse, evaluate and respond to classical sources literary, cultural, material, historical or linguistic as appropriate
- To select, organise and present relevant information and argument in a clear, logical, accurate and appropriate form



Computer Science

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, that can look at the natural world through a digital prism. An A Level Computer Science qualification values computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

Have you ever wanted to create your own website? Program a game? Create an App?

■ Assessment Information

Unit 1

The A Level itself will focus on:

- Programming and emphasise the importance of computational thinking as a discipline
- There will be an expanded maths focus, much of which will be embedded within the course
- The ICT content will be appropriate to a Computer Science qualification
- The AS will consist of two components, weighted at 50% each*
- The A Level will consist of three components, two question papers making up 80% of the qualification

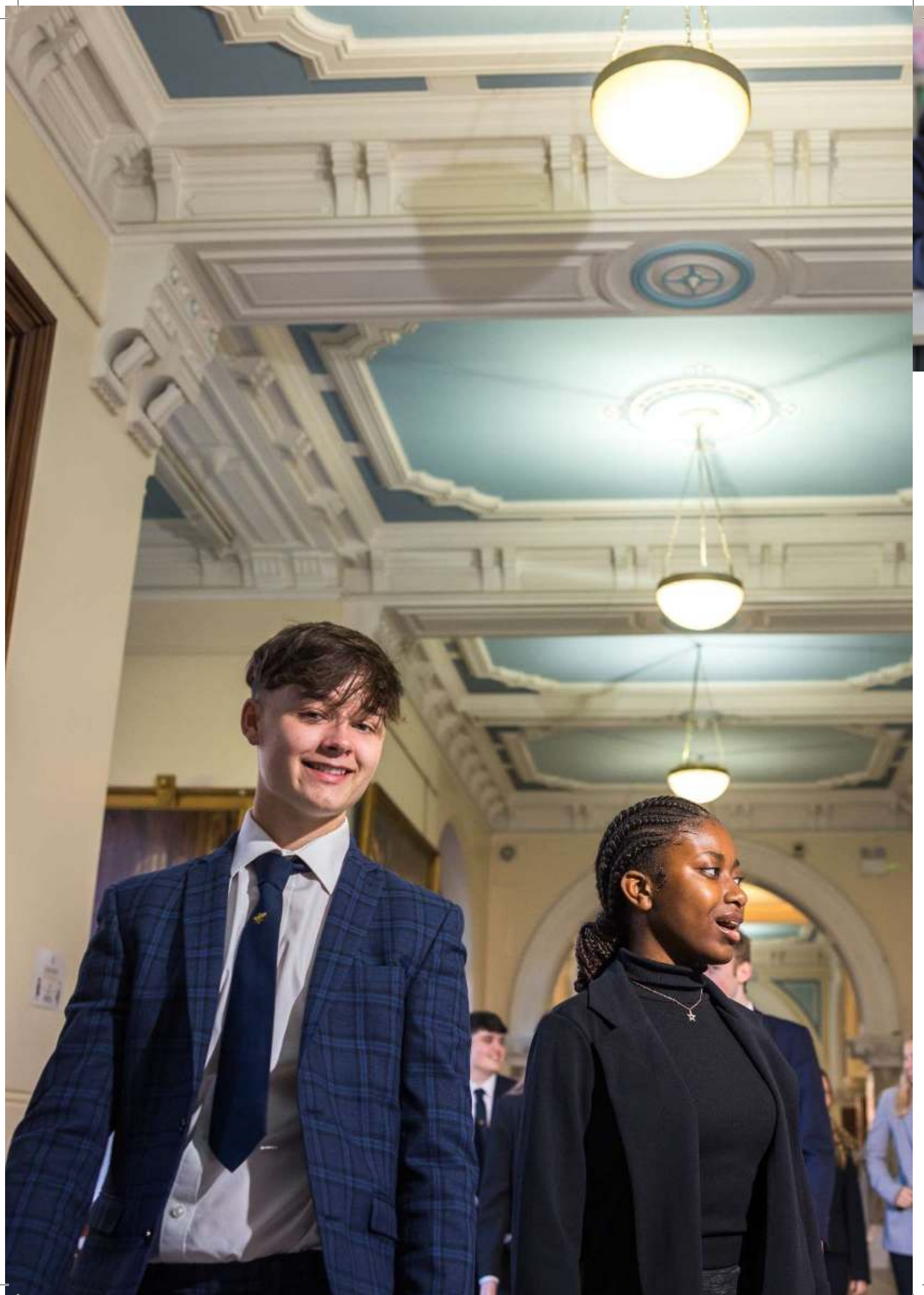
The other 20% will be the coursework project, emphasising coding and programming a real world solution

** The AS will not have a coursework component.*

How does it work?

You will learn about the Hardware, Software, Web Technologies, Networks, and basically what makes everything tick including your phone.

You will learn how to program HTML, CSS, JavaScript and Python and get to use a Raspberry Pi and also learn about Linux Operating Systems.





Design Technology

This course is aimed at students who wish to pursue a design and manufacturing based course with an emphasis on resistant materials and Engineering. It is a natural progression from GCSE Design and Technology. The two year course aims to encourage students to develop their capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

■ Why should I opt for an A Level course in Design & Technology?

- The Technology Department has won a number of National Awards for the standard of work produced by its students including the AQA A Level Technology Award. It has two purpose built Technology Workshops with ICT facilities
- The course is linked to industrial practice and it develops self-discipline skills, which are essential for any future university courses
- The course is designed to develop creative thinking, as well as to build up skill levels in using different materials, machines, equipment and media

■ Assessment Information

Paper 1

What is assessed? - Technical principles.

How is it assessed? - A written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes. 30% of A level.

Questions are a mixture of short answer and extended response.

Paper 2

What is assessed? - Designing and making principles

How is it assessed? - A written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes 20% of A level.

Questions - Mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Section A: Product Analysis: 30 marks. Up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of product(s).

Section B: Commercial manufacture: 50 marks. Mixture of short and extended response questions.

Coursework

What is assessed? - A Practical application of technical principles and designing and making principles.

How is it assessed? - Substantial design and make project. 50% of A level.
Evidence: Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype.

■ Possible Careers

- Architecture
- Engineering
- Fashion Design
- Product Design
- Aeronautical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Craft Designer
- Furniture Maker
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Teaching
- Luthiery





Drama and Theatre Studies

This subject is a stimulating mixture of practical drama, artistic exploration and the academic study of the whole process which transforms a play script into a theatrical experience. It also gives you a unique opportunity to develop your self-awareness and your collaborative communication skills whilst discovering the ways in which actors learn their craft and how a piece of theatre is created. The academic emphasis in the Eduqas specification means that, along with the development of analytical and evaluative thinking and inherent exploration of cultural and social contexts, this A Level is a good grounding for university study; many of our students have successfully gained entry to top universities to study a whole range of Arts and Science subjects.

■ What does the course involve?

The aim of the course is to provide you with an overall perspective of the work of actor, director, designer, practitioner and playwright. You gain this through a blend of written and practical work. There will be opportunities to visit Stratford and/or London during the two-year course where you will experience productions larger in scale than is viable for touring groups in Manchester.

There is also the opportunity to perfect your performance skills through involvement in our unrivalled range of co-curricular experiences.

■ What are the entry requirements?

The most important requirements are an interest in theatre and the kind of enthusiasm which will sustain you through the necessary rehearsals in the run-up to the practical examinations and extra curricular productions. You should also

be excited by the prospect of our regular compulsory theatre visits –approximately six per year, usually at the Royal Exchange or The Lowry but in recent years we have also ventured further afield to Bolton, Sheffield and Harrogate to see productions of particular interest to us. You will be expected to produce a number of essays so the standard of your written English should be good.

Most students choose acting or costume for their practical skill but those with prior experience of lighting, sound and set building may choose these skills as an alternative.

■ And after Theatre Studies...?

Students with this A Level go on to a wide variety of academic disciplines. Some have of course gone on to drama schools immediately after Sixth Form or after a degree in a different subject. Several alumni are now making a living through performance, directing and stage management and there is an above average representation of ex-Theatre Studies students amongst the ranks of Old Bedian barristers, teachers and media/entertainment executives in film and TV.

■ Assessment Information

Component 1 - Theatre Workshop

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated 20% of qualification Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text chosen from a list supplied by the board. The piece must be developed using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. Learners must produce a realisation of the performance or design and a creative log and will be expected to refer to plays seen during the course.

Component 2 - Text in Action

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner 40% of qualification Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus supplied by the board:

1. a devised piece using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company (a different practitioner or company to that chosen for Component 1)
2. an extract from a text in a different style chosen by the learner. Learners must realise their performance live for the visiting examiner. Learners produce a process and evaluation report.

Component 3 - Text in Performance

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes 40% of qualification Sections A and B: Open book: Clean copies (no annotation) of the two complete texts chosen must be taken into the examination. Two questions, based on two different texts, Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen and Accidental Death of an Anarchist, by Dario Fo. Section C Closed book: The extract of text required for answering the questions will be printed on the examination paper. A question based on a specified extract from: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Mark Haddon, adapted by Simon Stephens will be released during the first week of March, in the year in which the examination is to be taken.



Economics

Increasingly, critical economic issues are dominating the news and shaping the world we live in. This course encourages critical thinking and the analytical approach required to understand micro and macro economic functions at both a domestic and global level. Studying how consumers, firms and governments make decisions that determine how resources are allocated will better equip you to understand your own role and the impact you can have on the economic climate and your own future success.

■ Why study Economics?

Increasingly critical economic issues are dominating the news and shaping the world we live in. This course encourages critical thinking, the technical tools and analytical approach required to understand micro and macro economic functions at both a domestic and global level. Studying how consumers, firms and government make decisions that determine how resources are allocated will better equip you to understand the role you play and the impact you can have on the economic climate and your own future success.

Component 1 Microeconomics - enables you to discuss and evaluate how markets work, are structured, employ people, grow, make profit or fail and how the government intervenes to change this.

Component 2 Macroeconomics - facilitates understanding of the macroeconomic objectives of every government and how policy is used to influence aggregate supply and demand whilst evaluating the limitations and conflicts that these policies present. The course studies the economic impacts of Global trade and its contrasting effects on developing and developed nations, on poverty and inequality.

Component 3 - this component is synoptic in nature drawing on content from both microeconomics and macroeconomics to analyse the impact an individual has on the world. Topics are based on current affairs and address economic shocks the world has experienced in recent years.

■ Assessment Information A Level Economics Examinations

Component 1 - Microeconomics Written Paper - 35% - 2 hours 100 marks – Section A shorter answers on five topics worth 25 marks, Section B Data response worth 50 marks, Section C one essay from a choice of two worth 25 marks

Component 2 - Macroeconomics Written Paper - 35% - 2 hours 100 marks – Section A shorter answers on five topics worth 25 marks, Section B Data response worth 50 marks, Section C one essay from a choice of two worth 25 marks

Component 3 - Themes in Economics Written Paper - 30% - 2 hours 100 marks – Two separate data response themes from topics across the course. Each Data Response is worth 50 marks in total broken down into several questions of varying size and one essay question from a choice of two.

■ Why Choose Economics at St Bede's?

- Specialist teaching staff who are all subject examiners
- Links with Businesses and Industry speakers from areas such as banking and finance, and social media
- Personal support and individual attention through small class sizes and 'drop ins'
- Specialist trips to support learning
- Opportunities to enter competitions such as Global Investor and Amplify Me to get real life experience of the world of finance as well as the Royal Economic Society Essay competition

■ What could I do after A Levels at university with this course?

An Economics qualification opens up a vast array of possible paths to follow. You may wish to study Economics further as a complete subject at degree level or you may wish to add an additional subject such as Mathematics, Politics or a Language. Economics is a widely accepted and respected subject thanks to its diverse subject content and critical thinking and analytical skills acquisition.





English Language

Wondering about English Language?

Curious about how children learn to read and write? Intrigued by how tweeting and texting affect language use? Interested in speech as well as writing?

If so, this could be the course for you!

The study of language at A Level will enable you to gain experience and ability in thinking about and showing how language works in various situations and in different ways. Like English Literature, it is a highly respected subject, which combines well with other A level courses and is widely accepted by universities. It is a popular and successful course at St Bede's.

You will study, spoken, written and electronic language. You will also explore how factors such as gender and power influence language use. In addition you will develop your analytical and writing skills.

You will learn how English has changed over the centuries and will analyse texts from the seventeenth century to the present day. You will also read a range of media texts to explore the ways in which gender, power, occupation, ethnicity and social groups affect language and representation. Varieties of English both within the UK, such as British dialects and Multicultural London English, and across the globe are studied too. At A Level, you will be required to produce coursework as well as sit final examination papers. In lessons, which are shared between two teachers, you will be encouraged to develop your ideas in group and class activities and to become confident and skilful at presenting, discussing and defending them. In addition to essays and data response questions, you would be expected on the A level course to undertake research and produce writing for educational purposes.

You will find that your teachers' interest in you is not confined to the classroom and that they will be happy to discuss your work at pretty well any practical time.

So rather than just wondering about English Language, why not come and join us?

The coursework component (now called non-exam assessment) will require you to undertake an independent language project on an aspect of language which interests you and produce your own piece of original writing in a particular style and for a particular audience, with an accompanying commentary. You will gain valuable skills and experience here which will stand you in good stead for Higher Education.

■ Assessment Information

A Level

Paper 1 - Language, the Individual and Society (40% of A level)

Section A – Textual Variations and Representations

Section B – Children’s Language Development

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

Paper 2 - Language Diversity and Change (40% of A level)

Section A – Diversity and Change

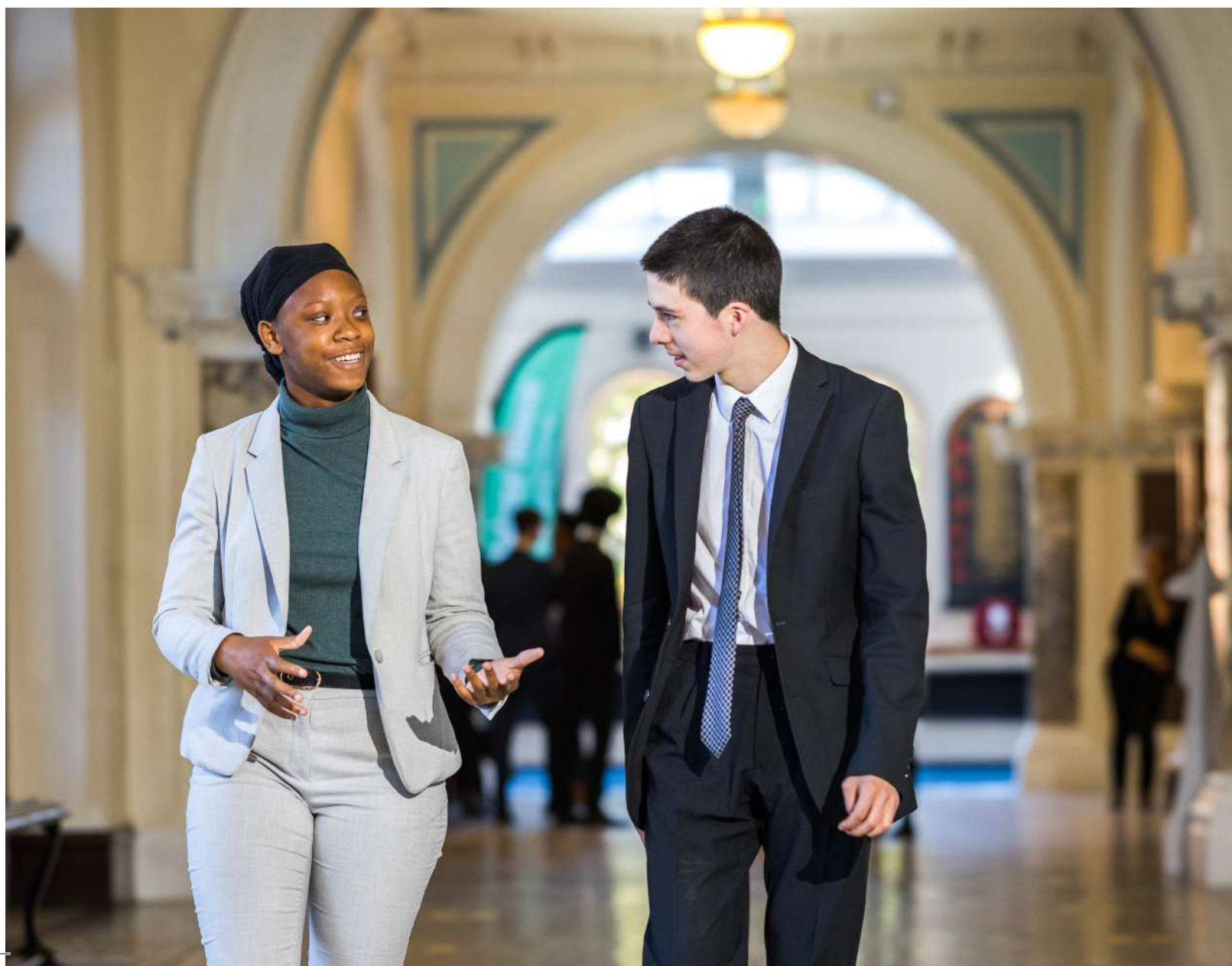
Section B – Language Discourses

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

Non-exam Assessment (20% of A level)

Language investigation - 2000 word count

Original Writing and commentary - 1500 word count





English Literature

Are you considering a course in English Literature?

Perhaps you have in mind one of the many careers for which English Literature is helpful or essential. Perhaps you see English Literature as going well with your other GCE Advanced subjects. Perhaps you believe that English Literature is worth doing for its own sake.

English Literature is ideal preparation for university - whatever you choose to study - and for life in general. You will learn to organise and synthesise ideas and to justify your critical interpretations.

The Sixth Form English Literature course at St Bede's is popular and successful. Our pupils find the experience demanding and enjoyable and continue to gain high grades in the subject. The essential requirement of the course is that you enjoy reading and want to increase your knowledge and love of literature. You will be expected to undertake reading in your own time, not only of set texts but also those which enable you to gain a wider picture of the topics you are covering at A level.

During the course of study you will develop skills of comparison and close analysis in both set and unseen texts. You will also read and respond to a range of critical opinions.

The A level course consists of three externally assessed components:

- Drama: you will study a Shakespeare play and one other play under the themes of tragedy or comedy
- Prose: you will study two novels, one of which is pre-1900
- Poetry: post 2000 and pre-1900 anthologies

There is also a coursework module where you will write a comparative essay on any two texts of your choice. This accounts for 20% of the overall qualification.

You will be encouraged to develop your ideas and to become adept at presenting, discussing and defending them. You will be expected to write frequent essays and reading widely is an essential part of the course.

You will also have the opportunity to experience live theatre through the regular trips run by the department. Your teachers' enthusiasm will inspire you and they will be happy to discuss your work and texts at any mutually convenient time.

■ Assessment Information

Edexcel A Level English Literature (9ETO)

Component 1 - Drama: 30% of A level

Shakespeare and one other play, either comedies or tragedies e.g. 'Hamlet' with 'Dr Faustus'

Component 2 - Prose: 20% of A level

You will study two prose texts linked by a particular theme e.g. Colonisation and its Aftermath; Women and Society; the Supernatural

Component 3 - Poetry: 30% of A level

Post-2000 and pre-1900 anthologies with some unseen poetry

Component 4 - Coursework: 20% of A level.

You will write a comparative essay on two texts of your choice. These may be any combination of poetry, prose, drama or literary non-fiction. You will write between 2500-3000 words.





Fine Art

Our A level art course is a familiar and natural progression for GCSE students. Students will be involved in building a portfolio in which they are encouraged to develop their investigations from personal starting points, allowing them to find their own direction and specialism.

- One to one time with experienced staff and individually tailored support.
- We have dedicated sixth form studio spaces for every student.
- A Level students are welcome in the department at any time during the school day to make use of the facilities available.
- Use of a Departmental IT suite.
- Gallery visits throughout the course, including trips to Manchester and London galleries.

■ Assessment Information

Component 1 - Personal Investigation (coursework)

Students build a body of work on a theme of their own choice, selected through discussion with their teacher. Work is developed through sustained investigation of personal lines of inquiry developing creative, visual ideas, exploring and experimenting with media and processes, applying skills, researching, recording and analysing ideas and the work of a variety of artists and creating refined, personal outcomes. Alongside their practical work, students are also required to complete a supporting essay of 1000-3000 words. Worth 60% of the A Level.

Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment (Exam)

The Externally Set Task begins in February of the Upper Sixth year. This Component offers the choice of one of eight different topics presented in the exam paper, set by the Exam Board (AQA). All questions offer broadly-based, thematic starting points which allow students the opportunity to interpret them in their own way. Students again produce a range of experimentation and development of ideas, influenced by the work of appropriate artists. Though students must make their own decisions on how to develop their exam projects, they will still be fully supported by teaching staff, in order to help them to develop cohesive and successful projects. Through the production of this preparatory work, students will provide themselves with a clear plan of the outcomes they wish to produce during the 15-hour, timed element of the exam (usually taking place in May), which they must complete unaided.

Worth 40% of the A Level.



FR French

Financial crises. Unemployment. Immigration. Inequality. Globalisation. Why, as economies grow richer, are people often not any happier? Throughout this course you will be required to discuss the latest topical debates.

■ Why study French?

Did you know that:

- French is the lingua franca of culture, including art, cuisine, dance and fashion
- France has won more Nobel Prizes for literature than any other country in the world and is one of the top producers of international films
- French is the second most frequently used language on the internet and is ranked the second most influential language in the world
- French played a key part in the founding of the United Nations, the Olympic movement and the European Common Market, hence its status, alongside English, as the language of diplomacy
- English may be described as the world's business language, but 200 million people speak French around the world, and it is an official language in 32 countries
- Having a language can increase your salary from 8 to 20% and gives you a head start on other potential employees as by speaking another language you are vital to any company who does international business
- Many universities offer the opportunity to study French in conjunction with a wide variety of other subjects as diverse as Law and Chemistry. Students can also use French in a range of occupations such as translation, management, commerce, education, the EU, tourism, resource management.

■ Assessment Information

EDUQAS French A Level

Component 1 - Speaking

Non-exam assessment: 21-23 minutes 30% of qualification

Task 1

- (a) Presentation of independent research project - (2 minutes)
- (b) Discussion on the content of the research project - (9-10 minutes)

Task 2

Discussion based on a stimulus card relating to one of the themes studied followed by 5-6 minutes discussion)

Component 2 - Listening, Reading and Translation 50% of qualification

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

Section A: Listening

Section B: Reading

Section C: Translation – from French into English and English into French

Component 3 - Critical and analytical response in writing (closed-book) 20% of qualification

Written examination: 2 hours

Two essays – one based on a literary work and the second on an additional literary work or film from the prescribed list. Candidates write an essay of approximately 300 words on each of the two works they have studied.

If you study French at A Level you will develop confident, effective communication skills in French and a thorough understanding of the culture of countries and communities where French is spoken.





Geography

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

■ Why study Geography?

- Geography is a subject for our times. It is inherently multidisciplinary and unique in bridging the natural sciences (Physical Geography) with the social sciences (Human Geography). Physical Geography concerns the understanding of the dynamics of physical landscapes and the environment. Human Geography concerns the understanding of the dynamics of cultures, societies and economies.
- Geography puts understanding of physical and social processes within the context of places and regions, recognising the great differences in cultures, political systems, economies, landscapes and environments across the world and making links between them.
- Geography provides an ideal framework for relating other fields of knowledge. It is not surprising that those trained as geographers often contribute substantially to the applied management of resources and environments.

■ Demand for Geography

Skills, knowledge and understanding are wanted by employers. Geographers are numerate, literate, good team workers, can think analytically and critically and are highly computer literate. The nature of the subject combined with the training in higher education make graduate geographers employable.

In a modern world where an estimated 80% of business decisions are underpinned by location, it is not surprising that geospatial industry is growing rapidly and is of significant importance to the UK's technology base and international competitiveness. Knowledge of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and its applications in the business world and in the public sector to better target funding and resources, means that Geography graduates who are able to show an understanding of these technologies are increasingly sought after. The buoyant employers' demand for geographers reflects a need for people who can work across the physical and human sciences, with strong transferable skills.

■ Do we do fieldwork?

Yes, absolutely! There will be a compulsory 3-day residential field course as well as day trips during the course. We plan on going to the Cranedale Centre in North Yorkshire, for Physical and Human Geography fieldwork. We also arrange awe-inspiring foreign field tours with Iceland, Italy or Croatia as potential destinations.

■ What else is on offer by the Geography Department?

You will be part of the UK Geographical Association and hopefully get the opportunity to visit Manchester University for conferences and lectures which are relevant to your course.

■ Assessment Information

What is the AS/A level course like?

The current A level specification started in September 2016, There are three units, covering Physical and Human Geography themes, some of which will likely be an extension of GCSE work while some may be completely new to you.

All topics have an emphasis on sustainability and will be contemporary - relevant to you!

Physical topics include Coastal Systems and Landscapes, Hazards, and Water and Carbon Cycles. Human topics include Changing Places, Global Systems and Global Governance, and Contemporary Urban Environments.

■ Is there coursework?

Yes. At A level there is a compulsory piece of coursework; an individual investigation (3000-4000 words) which is marked by teachers and moderated by examiners.





German

■ Why should I study German at St Bede's?

- Small teaching groups mean that you have a lot of individual attention and can feel more comfortable speaking in German during the lesson
- We use a wide variety of materials and students are encouraged to use online resources and develop their research and analytical skills through a range of tasks
- There is an extensive collection of resources in the library and the history department to enable you to gain a more in-depth understanding of the political and cultural background of Germany

■ What will I learn?

At AS the focus is on life in a German-speaking country, looking at family, education, work and training, health, communication and transport to name a few areas.

At A2 we look more at social issues such as immigration and the environment, and students are encouraged to develop their knowledge and opinions on these topics whilst learning more about the social conditions and history of modern day Germany.

Two films are also studied and students are given the independence to choose an aspect of the film that interests them the most and write an extended piece of work on it.

■ Assessment Information

EDUQAS German A Level

Component 1: Speaking

Non-exam assessment: 21-23 minutes - 30% of qualification

Task 1

(a) Presentation of independent research project (2 minutes)

(b) Discussion on the content of the research project (9-10 minutes)

Task 2

Discussion based on a stimulus card relating to one of the themes studied followed by 5-6 minutes discussion)

Learners are not permitted to use dictionaries in any part of the assessment.

Component 2: Listening, Reading and Translation Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes
50% of qualification

Section A: Listening

Section B: Reading

Section C: Translation – from German into English and English into German Learners are not permitted to use dictionaries in any part of the assessment.

Component 3: Critical and analytical response in writing (closed-book)

Written examination: 2 hours - 20% of qualification

Two essays – one based on a literary work and the second on an additional literary work or film from the prescribed list Learners are not permitted to use dictionaries or texts in any part of the assessment.





History

History is one of the most popular subjects at A level and attracts many of the most able students. This is partly because of both the esteem in which the subject is held by universities and employers and also as it acts a vehicle for learning academic skills that compliment future areas of study. This includes learning how to review facts and apply logical and relevant information in a concise argument.

The periods of History chosen for study encompass an exciting and fascinating time both in British and European History.. The course will cover the 1445 – 1509 'Lancastrians and Yorkists' along with the 1894 - 1941 topic of Russia and its Rulers. Our thematic and interpretation study specifically focuses on The Witch-Craze of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

■ What skills will I gain?

The new History course has been designed to equip students with the skills they will need to prosper at degree level. Students will have the opportunity to hone their critical thinking as they tackle source work, study periods in depth as well as breadth with a new, refreshing emphasis on developing the ability to carry out independent research.

■ What jobs can a History qualification help me to obtain?

There are historians in all walks of life: from professional historians, to politicians, journalists, lawyers and even famous television personalities and comedians. For any job you can think of which requires analytical and critical skills, history is a huge bonus. The Topic Based Essay (coursework) is all about sources and interpretations: researching, selecting, analysing and evaluating.

■ Assessment Information

Lower Sixth

Period Study & Enquiry: Lancastrians and Yorkists: The Wars of the Roses - 25%

Non-British Period Study: Russia and its Rulers - 15%

Upper Sixth

Thematic Study: Social Life and the Witch Craze in Early Modern Europe 40%

Coursework: Independent Investigation - 20%



SALVE



Latin

■ Why choose Latin?

The study of Latin has been a cornerstone of teaching throughout the history of education. Latin gives you a valuable insight into an ancient language and opens the door to the study of a myriad of ancient cultures, authors and historians.

Latin ameliorates the study of all languages and it also gives a valuable insight into the development of Western European cultures, of Western literature, of jurisprudence and morality – not for nothing is Latin called the language of education. Jobs for Latin graduates abound but Latin gives the added boon of impeccable problem solving skills; appealing to the scientific and mathematical mind as much as the literary. It also furnishes you with impeccable problem solving skills which can slice to the heart of any problem. Put simply, through the study of Latin, you can go anywhere you choose!

At A level level our Latin students have the opportunity to build on the language skills at GCSE and delve deeper into the technicalities of the Latin language. We stretch the minds of students and augment our knowledge of grammar through unseen translation and comprehension. Our students study some of the most compelling texts ever written which inspired the great writers and forms the basis for all Western literature, philosophy and political thought.

■ Assessment Criteria

- To recall and deploy relevant knowledge and understanding of literary, cultural, material or historical sources or linguistic forms, in their appropriate contexts
- To analyse, evaluate and respond to classical sources (literary, cultural, material, historical or linguistic), as appropriate
- To select, organise and present relevant information and argument in a clear, logical, accurate and appropriate form



Mathematics

Mathematics is an important subject in its own right as well as being valuable for a wide range of careers, and it is recognised by all universities as being an academically rigorous A Level. It is also a valuable support subject for many other disciplines such as Science, Engineering, Economics, Business, Architecture, Geography, Geology and Psychology. Recent studies have shown that having an A Level in Mathematics has a significant long-term effect on one's earning power and employability.

The skills, logical thinking, problem solving and statistical analysis which Mathematics students develop are widely applicable and highly valued. Students in the Sixth Form will find that the work covered in Lower Sixth in particular, builds on the skill base gained from GCSE/IGCSE Mathematics. Success at Advanced Level needs a good foundation and hence we strongly suggest that a 7-9 grade at GCSE/IGCSE Mathematics is an appropriate starting point for such studies. Having done GCSE Statistics or GCSE Further Mathematics will undoubtedly be a help, but it is by no means a necessity.

■ We are also offering Level 3 Mathematical Studies: Core Maths

The Core Maths is recognised by UCAS as an equivalent to an AS level. It bridges the gap between the Mathematics learnt at GCSE and its applications to real life situations.

The course includes applications of Financial Mathematics for personal finance and in business, looking at mortgages, loan applications and taxation. It also examines the use of GCSE Mathematics in modelling and probability, and how this is applied in a variety of industries such as building, architecture and healthcare.

The methods taught improve a student's ability in critical analysis generally and specifically in project management. Core Mathematics is taught over one year and is assessed in the summer of Lower Sixth

■ We are also offering Level 3 Mathematical Studies: Core Maths

Three papers of equal weight, all of which are 2 hours, make up the final grade. The two Pure Mathematics papers will contain short and long answer questions that can come from any section of the Pure course. The third paper will contain short and long answer questions that can cover any of the Applied Mathematics topics.

■ We are also offering Level 3 Mathematical Studies: Core Maths

Edexcel A Level Mathematics (AS marks do not contribute to A level)

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 (1/3 of A Level: 2 hr exam)

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 (1/3 of A Level: 2 hr exam)

Paper 3: Applied Mathematics [50% Statistics, 50% Mechanics, half of the content is equivalent to AS]
(1/3 of A Level: 2 hr exam)



Further Maths

Students who are very able at Mathematics (i.e. those that have gained a 9 grade at GCSE/IGCSE) and who really enjoy the subject should consider taking Further Mathematics at Advanced Level in addition to Mathematics. This subject is again regarded as very serious from an academic point of view and students wishing to read Mathematics at university should really take Further Mathematics, and those considering doing Physics, Engineering or Economics at university should give it some very serious thought. This is particularly true of applications to Oxford and Cambridge. The course has more flexibility than A level Mathematics and on lesson one, students will discuss and choose which option books they wish to study. Many sixth form colleges will dictate which option books are taken, but due to our small class sizes and experienced teaching, we can allow students to make this

■ Assessment Information

A Level Further Mathematics (AS marks do not contribute to A Level)

Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1 (1/4 of A Level: 1 hr 30 minute exam)

Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2 (1/4 of A Level: 1 hr 30 minute exam)

Paper 3 and 4: Two papers from the following options: Decision Mathematics 1 and 2, Further Mechanics 1 and 2, Further Statistics 1 and 2, Further Pure 1 and 2 (each paper 1/4 of A Level: 1 hr 30 minute exam)

We also provide support for candidates applying to Oxbridge, Imperial college and other Universities that will require students to take an additional STEP paper or MAT paper. For these students, we will allocate a personal tutor who will support them with these papers and also prepare them for interviews.



Music

This A Level is designed to encourage a musical and practical approach to teaching and learning, and to promote integration between the skills of performing, composing and appraising.

A Level Music will be a good choice for you if you:

- enjoy playing music or singing on your own and with others
- enjoy composing your own music or song writing
- wish to discover more of the vast range of music which is available for us to experience today
- wish to follow a career in the Music industry in Performing, Sound recording, Music Teaching or Music related careers such as Performing Arts Administration

The course gives you the opportunity to work to your particular interests and strengths. You need to have an interest in and a willingness to explore music of all kinds, ranging from Western classical to music from many different world cultures and contemporary pop styles. The ability to play an instrument or to sing to Grade 6 Associated Board standard is necessary in order to complete the performance part of the syllabus. There is not a requirement to have passed a GCSE Music to embark upon this course; however, it is recommended that students should have studied to at least Grade 5 Theory or GCSE Music in order to access the theoretical aspects of the course. Modern and accessible – This course provides a contemporary, accessible and creative education.

The course is structured in a similar way to that of GCSE Music but students must demonstrate a more in-depth understanding. Pupils will study a range of topics including;

Areas of Study:

- Instrumental Music of Haydn or Mendelson
- Popular Song and Musical Theatre
- Developments in Instrumental Jazz 1910 to the present day
- Innovations in Music 1900 to the present day

In essence, there are all sorts of topics for all sorts of musicians – The range of topics will allow for practical and musical teaching and allow for differentiation to cater for all of the different musicians we find in our classroom.

■ Assessment Information

EDUQAS A Level Specification

Recital 30% AS Level

Minimum of 6 minutes and two contrasting pieces. Choice of:

- solo piece(s) on one or more than one instrument or voice
- ensemble performance
- accompanying
- realisation using music technology

Compositions 30% AS Level with a combined duration of around four minutes

- One to a brief set by WJEC
- One to a brief written by the learner

Listening and appraising 40% AS Level

- Analysing and evaluating music
- Familiar and unfamiliar pieces
- Prescribed works
- Questions based on aural extracts





Theology (Philosophy and Ethics)

If you've ever wondered about the meaning of life and its great questions, then Theology, Philosophy and Ethics may be for you. What is real? Does God exist? Why do some people become heroes and others villains? Why is Jesus still such an influential person? These are just a handful of the fascinating questions you will encounter if you are bold enough to embark on an adventure in thought that will equip you with valuable academic skills, as well as helping you navigate the most important areas of life.

■ The Course

We follow OCR's three-part A Level which explores the Philosophy of Religion, Moral Philosophy (Ethics) Ethics and Christian Theology.

In the Philosophy of Religion students study:

- Plato and Aristotle
- Ideas of soul, mind and body
- Arguments for and against the existence of God
- Religious experiences
- The problem of evil
- The nature of God

In Moral Philosophy Ethics students study:

- Different theories of right and wrong
- Applying ethical theories to practical moral questions e.g. euthanasia and business ethics
- Ethical language
- Ideas of conscience
- Sexual ethics

In Christian Theology students study:

- St. Augustine on human nature
- The afterlife
- Knowledge of God

- Jesus Christ
- Ethical ideas
- Christian action
- Tolerance, secularism and gender issues
- Marx and Liberation Theology

■ Where does it lead?

Many students have continued to study Theology at university. Others have taken other degree courses such as Law. The same careers are available to a Theology Philosophy and Ethics student as they are for other Arts subjects. Our previous students have gone onto careers in medicine, nursing, law and journalism. All employers value this A Level because it shows you can think critically, construct an argument and have an awareness of other cultures and belief systems.

Please come and ask any of the Religion Teachers for further information about studying Theology Philosophy and Ethics at A Level. Alternatively ask some of the present sixth form students for their views on the subject!

■ Assessment Information

- Each strand is worth 33.33% of the course.
- No coursework. Assessment is via essay in three exams.
- Each A level exam is 2 hours long.





Photography

The A Level Photography course closely follows the format of the Photography GCSE as well as the Fine Art GCSE and is therefore a relatively familiar option for those students who have studied either of these. Students build upon their photographic skills both in the use of their cameras and Photoshop, as well as other manipulation techniques. They will spend their time building a thorough and personal portfolio, developing investigations from individually selected starting points. Students will be given the freedom to be creative and develop their own ideas, whilst being fully supported and advised by staff.

- Gallery visits throughout the course
- We have a dedicated Photography IT suite
- We also have a fully equipped dark room
- A Level students are welcome in the department at any time during the school day to make use of the facilities available
- One to one support and guidance from dedicated and experienced staff

■ Assessment Information - A Level

Component 1: Personal Investigation (Coursework)

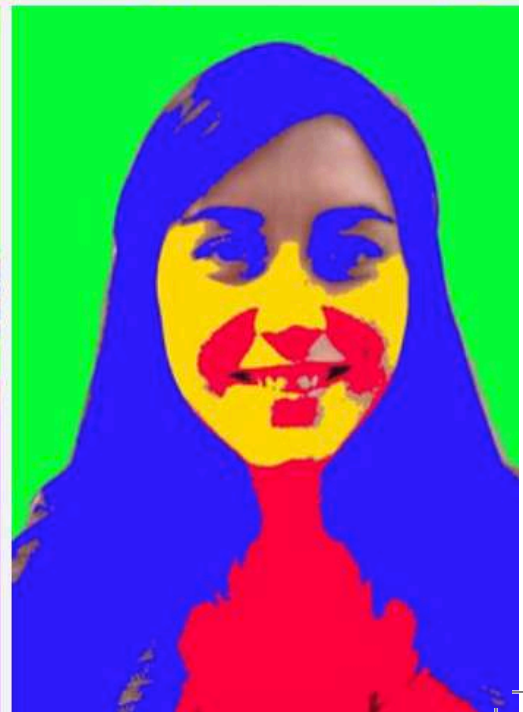
Students build a body of work on a theme of their own choice, selected through discussion with their teacher. The project will include a range of experiments, developing a variety of skills, techniques and processes, as well as refining their understanding of photographic techniques and processes. Students take inspiration from the work of many different, independently selected photographers, whose work can influence style, subject matter, narrative, composition and feeling. This body of work leads to the production of refined, personal outcomes. Throughout the project, students will be fully supported by teaching staff, providing them with a sound understanding of the structure and journey of a successful study. Alongside their practical work, students are also required to complete a supporting essay of 1000-3000 words. Worth 60% of the A Level.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (Exam)

The Externally Set Task begins in February of the Upper Sixth year. This Component offers the choice of one of eight different topics, set by the Exam Board (AQA), presented in the exam paper. All questions offer broadly-based, thematic starting points which allow students the opportunity to interpret them in their own way. Students again produce a range of

experimentation and development of ideas, influenced by the work of appropriate photographers. Though students must make their own decisions on how to develop their exam projects, they will still be fully supported by teaching staff, in order to help them to develop cohesive and successful projects. Through the production of this preparatory work, students will provide themselves with a clear plan of the outcomes they wish to produce during the 15-hour, timed element of the exam (usually taking place in May), which they must complete unaided. Worth 40% of the A Level

and feeling. This body of work leads to the production of refined, personal outcomes. Throughout the project, students will be fully supported by teaching staff, providing them with a sound understanding of the structure and journey of a successful study. Alongside their practical work, students are also required to complete a supporting essay of 1000-3000 words. Worth 60% of the A Level.





Physics

Physics is a popular choice at St Bede's. A Level Physics is an engaging yet challenging course that builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills of GCSE. Success at A level requires a good foundation – a grade 7 in Separate Science Physics or Combined Science and a grade 6 in Mathematics is recommended.

A Level Physics will give you incredibly strong analytical and research skills. You will be able to come at problems and solve them in a methodical and logical way. You will be able to investigate theories, devise tests and explore new ideas. Such strong problem-solving skills are highly sought after. In fact, qualifications in physics and maths are two of the most desirable qualifications for employers. Due to the heavily mathematical element in Physics, it is often studied alongside Mathematics at A Level.

■ Why study Physics?

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 (that's engineering on a seriously tiny molecular scale).

■ The Course

During your A Level Physics course, you will be introduced to new concepts such as quarks, quantum physics and cosmology. Topics you will study include mechanics and the properties of materials, oscillations, waves and the nature of light, fields, particle physics and current electricity, thermal physics, nuclear instability, astronomy and cosmology. You will also take part in practical work throughout the duration of your course.

■ Assessment Information

Paper 1: Particles and radiation, Waves, Mechanics and materials, Electricity and Periodic motion
(34% of A level: 2 hour exam)

Paper 2: Thermal physics, Fields and their consequences, Nuclear physics
(34% of A level: 2 hour exam)

Paper 3: Practical skills and data analysis and Turning points in physics
(32% of A Level: 2 hr exam)

There is no coursework in this course. However, your performance during 12 required practicals will be assessed. Within the examinations listed above, at least 15% of the marks are based on what you learned in your practicals

■ Why choose Physics at St Bede's?

- 3 specialist teachers with years of experience
- 3 specialist laboratories with the latest equipment
- Small classes - especially important when completing individual practical work
- Lots of personal support including weekly 'Drop-Ins'
- Excellent online provision
- Personalised UCAS advice for all and extra support for Oxbridge candidates





Physical Education

The A Level Physical Education course provides a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for those students who enjoy sport. It develops a positive attitude towards physical education and recognizes its importance in their own lives and society.

The course is very broad and varied and includes aspects of Biology, Physics, Biomechanics, Psychology, History, Training and Performance.

It is recognised by universities as an academically rigorous A Level. It also complements other subjects, and students have often commented that whilst they may find the course difficult, it is one of their most interesting as the topics are so varied. Many of our past students have gone on to study a range of degrees at University, most recently Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Geography, Law and Business-related courses.

■ Course content includes

- Exercise physiology
- Training and performance
- Movement analysis
- Technology and biomechanics
- Sports psychology
- Skill acquisition
- Sport and society

■ Assessment Information

Examination Board Eduqas

All assessment takes place at the end of year 2 (www.eduqas.co.uk)

Theory: 2 written examinations 2 hours each

Paper 1 - Exploring concepts in Physical Education - 35%

Paper 2 - Evaluating Physical Education - 35%

Practical Component 3

Practical performance or coaching in one activity from a set list - 15%

Written coursework- personal performance analysis in chosen practical activity - 15%

There is a wide and varied range of activities, from football, netball, rugby, hockey to gaelic football, dance, skiing, rock climbing, sailing and many more.

Students are expected to be regularly involved in their chosen activity, either in extra curricular activities in College or clubs outside of College. The lessons will be entirely theoretically based and therefore there will be no opportunity within the lessons to participate in the chosen activity.



Politics

Politics is a subject that both unites and divides people: unites in that the issues that are directly relevant to all our lives, Health, education, crime, war and peace, the economy are key areas for discussion and debate and divides where we must use our knowledge and analytical skills to argue rationally and articulately, staying up to date with the latest world and national developments.

Politics is in essence the study of power: who has it, how it is used and, most importantly, how we control those with power so that they do not abuse it or us. Politics really matters in all our lives as it is the process by which society decides its social, economic and moral priorities.

■ What will I study?

As most students will not have studied Politics previously, prior knowledge will not be expected. We follow the Edexcel A Level course, studying British Politics in Lower Sixth and American Politics in the Upper Sixth.. The course itself particularly concentrates on the changeable values of British Politics, including:

- Electoral systems and voting behaviour
- Features of a representative democracy
- Issues in British Politics Today
- Parties and Pressure groups
- Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Parliament
- The Government and Politics of the USA

The course is an excellent preparation for a wide variety of university courses and people orientated careers such as law, journalism, government, human resources, teaching and politics. Most of all, Politics prepares students to be active citizens, knowledgeable about their country and how it is governed and well prepared and willing to participate in political processes.

Edexcel A level Government and Politics A level Assessment

Component 1: UK Politics

Component 2: UK Government

Component 3: Comparative Politics

3 Papers each of 2 hours duration



Ψ Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of human mind and behaviour: how we think, feel, act and interact individually and in groups. That's how the British Psychological Society defines the subject. It's a very wide definition. It covers, for example, the reasons why you yourself are considering studying psychology, some of which you will already understand, but some of which will still be unclear to you. It's almost certainly true that you have a strong desire to know more about how you and other people think and feel, and about why you behave as you do. Psychology is the subject that equips you to begin to find answers to such questions.

■ What study Psychology?

What could be more interesting than the human mind? How do we study the mind scientifically, since the instrument with which we must study it is the mind itself? Studying psychology will give you the analytical tools and the methods you will need if you are serious in wanting to understand the human mind and behaviour.

Psychology provides a strong intellectual background for students considering careers ranging from Clinical Psychology (working with people with mental health problems) to Forensic Psychology (applying research to crime). There are also many other careers that a knowledge of Psychology would be valuable for such as:

- Clinical psychologists
- Counselling psychologists
- Educational psychologists
- Forensic psychologists
- Health psychologists
- Neuropsychologists
- Occupational psychologists
- Sport and exercise psychologists
- Teachers and researchers in psychology

Whatever field most interests you eventually, everyone must begin with a sound grasp of the basic general principles and methodology of the subject, and that is what AQA A Level Psychology seeks to give you.

■ Assessment Information

A Level 3 x 2 hour papers

Paper 1 Intro. Topics in Psychology 2 hour examination worth 35% of the overall grade

Paper 2 Psychology in Context 2 hour examination worth 35% of the overall grade

Paper 3 Issues and Options 2 hour examination worth 30% of the overall grade

■ Where might Psychology A Level lead?

Someone with a degree in psychology is attractive to employers in almost any field, since they can be expected to be skilled in analysing all aspects of human behaviour and in devising ways to help people work better and more productively. But most people who take psychology as their main subject hope to become a psychologist of one sort or another.

It may be that you have a strong wish to help people who are distressed or troubled; or you might be more interested in using your skills to improve how schools or hospitals work; or you think you are good at analysing evidence and could use that ability to solve problems. All of these and many more interests can be followed through studying psychology.

If you're endlessly interested in how your mind and the minds of others actually work, then this is the subject that begins to equip you to find out.





Spanish

■ Why study Spanish?

Spanish is the third most commonly spoken language in the world and with around 400 million speakers; it is without doubt a language of the future. Studying Spanish at St Bede's will afford you the opportunity to build on GCSE knowledge and acquire an excellent command of the language through the key linguistic skills. In the Sixth Form our Spanish staff can offer modules based on their expertise in the cultural, historical and literary aspects of Spain and Latin America. Pupils have many opportunities for enrichment through local events and courses run by cultural institutions such as the Instituto Cervantes in Manchester, the Spanish Embassy and the Manchester universities. Our annual visits to Spanish speaking countries include an Exchange to Madrid.

■ How does it build on GCSE knowledge?

Grammar and vocabulary are consolidated, with the added challenge of translation, study of literature and film, and independent research. Higher level topics with global relevance are studied.

■ Why choose St Bede's for Spanish?

- Small classes making individual support easy
- Fortnightly oral sessions with a mother tongue speaker
- Classes held in the language laboratories with access to fantastic resources and language learning software
- Topic based sessions designed exclusively for St Bede's by Spanish Embassy Foreign Language Assistants
- Opportunities for enrichment both in Manchester and abroad

■ Assessment Information

AQA Spanish A Level

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 40% of A Level

Listening and responding

Reading and responding

- Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words (20 marks).
- Translation into Spanish; a passage of minimum 100 words (20 marks).

Paper 2: Writing

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 30% of A Level

Either one question in Spanish on a set text from a choice of two questions and one question in Spanish on a set film from a choice of two questions or two questions in Spanish on set texts from a choice of two questions on each text.

Paper 3: Speaking

- Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
 - 30% of A Level
 - Discussion of a sub-theme 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)
- 40



The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) gives students the chance to carry out independent research on any topic of their choosing, complementing their academic studies. The EPQ is student-led the only requirement for the course is a commitment to carrying out independent research and attend regular support workshops and meetings with an assigned supervisor. An EPQ culminates in a presentation to fellow students as well as a 5,000 word written report or an 'artefact' (such as a painting) plus a 1,000 word written reflection.

■ Why study EPQ?

- Universities and employers want students to develop wider skills than those gained in academic subjects and are highly supportive of the EPQ.
- The course is worth half the UCAS (university entry) points of an A Level and some universities are now making offers that include an EPQ or allowing a good pass in the EPQ to compensate for a missed A Level grade.
- The course teaches skills such as time management, research, report writing and presentation skills that are highly valuable for all students.
- The EPQ provides an excellent topic for discussion at university or job interviews, especially for those aiming for Oxford or Cambridge Universities.
- Students can explore career options by choosing an EPQ topic that is outside of their academic studies.
- Many students enjoy the EPQ as they can follow a passion or interest outside of a rigid A Level specification.

■ Support available at St Bede's College

- Dedicated weekly teaching time
- Research workshop at Manchester University and access to Manchester University's library
- Experienced supervisors from across the College covering all academic areas
- Research support from our experienced librarian

■ Assessment Information

The EPQ is assessed and marked internally and moderated externally. The marks are awarded as follows:

- 20% Planning and Time Management – sticking to deadlines, working with a supervisor
- 20% Research – the quality and breadth of research
- 40% Analysis – the quality of the written report
- 20% Communication and Evaluation – the quality of the presentation and personal reflection

■ Examples of research projects studied at St Bede's recently:

- 'Why is there differentiation of teeth in mammals?'
- 'A field guide to the Geology of Park Bridge, Ashton-Under-Lyne'
- 'In today's society are men and women considered equal in the workplace?'
- 'Are mental health issues treated seriously enough in society?'



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