

Sixth Form

SIXTH FORM
INFORMATION 2025/26



ST. BEDE'S
COLLEGE
1876



Welcome to St Bede's



Mrs Maria Kemp

Headteacher

headteacher@stbedescollege.co.uk

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

Dr Anne McMonagle
Head of Sixth Form
amcmonagle@sbcm.co.uk



Thank you for expressing your interest in the Sixth Form at St Bede's College. Our community comprises students who have completed their GCSE studies at the College as well as those who have joined us from other schools.

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.

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.

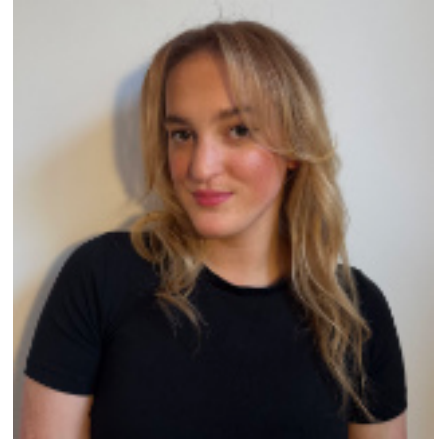
I am always happy to answer any questions you may have about life in the Sixth Form at St Bede's College.

Hear From Former Students

Isobel M - Class of 2023

Undergraduate student of Theatre Studies at the University of Glasgow

I discovered my passion for theatre at St Bede's College, where the wonderful drama department allowed me to develop creatively and academically inside the classroom and out of it. The support from teachers over the years gave me the confidence I would never have had to pursue a degree in Theatre, something now I couldn't imagine not doing. I will always be grateful for the support and guidance given to me at Bede's and I truly believe it is a place where students are encouraged to thrive whether their interests lie in science, sports or the arts.



Charlotte C - Class of 2024

Undergraduate student of a Combined Honours Degree in Social Sciences at Durham University



In 2022, I came to St Bede's Sixth Form from an all girls' grammar school, and the first thing that struck me about the school was the sense of community. Year and class sizes are much smaller, so not only do all of the students know each other, but the staff know all of the students too. At my previous school, to be known meant you had to stand out especially, for good or bad reasons, but at St Bede's it was just the norm. It means that there is a far greater number of staff and peers that you know and can turn to for support, and so many of my friends come back to school events, such as the theatre productions and fairs, despite having left the school, because of this community- once a Bedian, always a Bedian. Not only are the staff supportive academically and pastorally, they really will do anything necessary for you to achieve- I realised late (after half a term!) that the degree I wanted to pursue required Further Maths; by the time half term was over, I had a new timetable and Further Maths was being taught to me, one on one, because that was what I needed to achieve my goals. There truly are no words for how grateful I am that I moved to St Bede's, and I hope to continue to make the Bedian Family proud.

Samson T - Class of 2024

Undergraduate student of Psychology with Innovation at the University of Bristol

Having been at St Bede's College since the age of 4, I can say with great confidence that the College has shaped me into the person I am today. The unwavering support over the years from dedicated teachers, mentors, and the many friends I made on my journey has nurtured a confidence to thrive at university. Thanks to the close-knit and welcoming environment that St Bede's provides in abundance, I have found it easy to settle into student life. The school motto, Nunquam Otio Torpebat ("Never Rest in Idleness"), is now forever hardwired into my approach to learning and has set a strong foundation for my future growth.

I have nothing but gratitude for everything St Bede's College has done for me. I am incredibly proud to be a Bedian.



Life in Sixth Form

A group of young women are captured in a dynamic pose, likely during a dance or performance. The central figure is a young woman with long, dark, wavy hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt with a large black bow at the neck and a black skirt. She has her arms raised, and her hands are clasped with those of the woman next to her. To her left, another young woman with long blonde hair is wearing a grey and white patterned top and a bright pink beaded necklace. To the right, a young woman is wearing a black and white horizontally striped shirt and a red headband. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the performers.

Be Inspired
Be Committed
Be Grateful



The Sixth Form at St Bede's offers a supportive environment in which students transition from the highly structured GCSE framework to a more independent approach to learning. During the initial weeks of the Lower Sixth (Year 12), students are guided through this shift, supported by small class sizes that ensure each individual is known and valued.

Students are encouraged to use their non-contact time effectively, develop independent research skills, and read widely. Each department provides an extensive supercurricular list to help students engage with material beyond the A Level curriculum. The step up from GCSE to A level is often a significant one, but we encourage students to embrace this challenge. Learning to navigate such changes builds the resilience and adaptability essential for future success. It is important that students remain mindful of their purpose in studying and begin to reflect on how they might contribute meaningfully to the world beyond A levels.

The Common Room offers a welcoming space for students to socialise or collaborate on group work, while the Quiet Room provides the ideal setting for focused, individual study. Sixth Formers also have exclusive access to the Maher Library, which features a dedicated study area and a wide selection of Senior Fiction texts to support and enrich their reading.



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.

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 Kian, Samson and Arran attended a celebration at Buckingham Palace where they received their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.





7 reasons to choose St Bede's

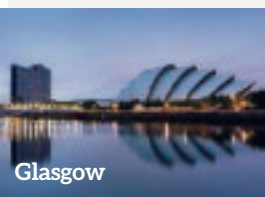
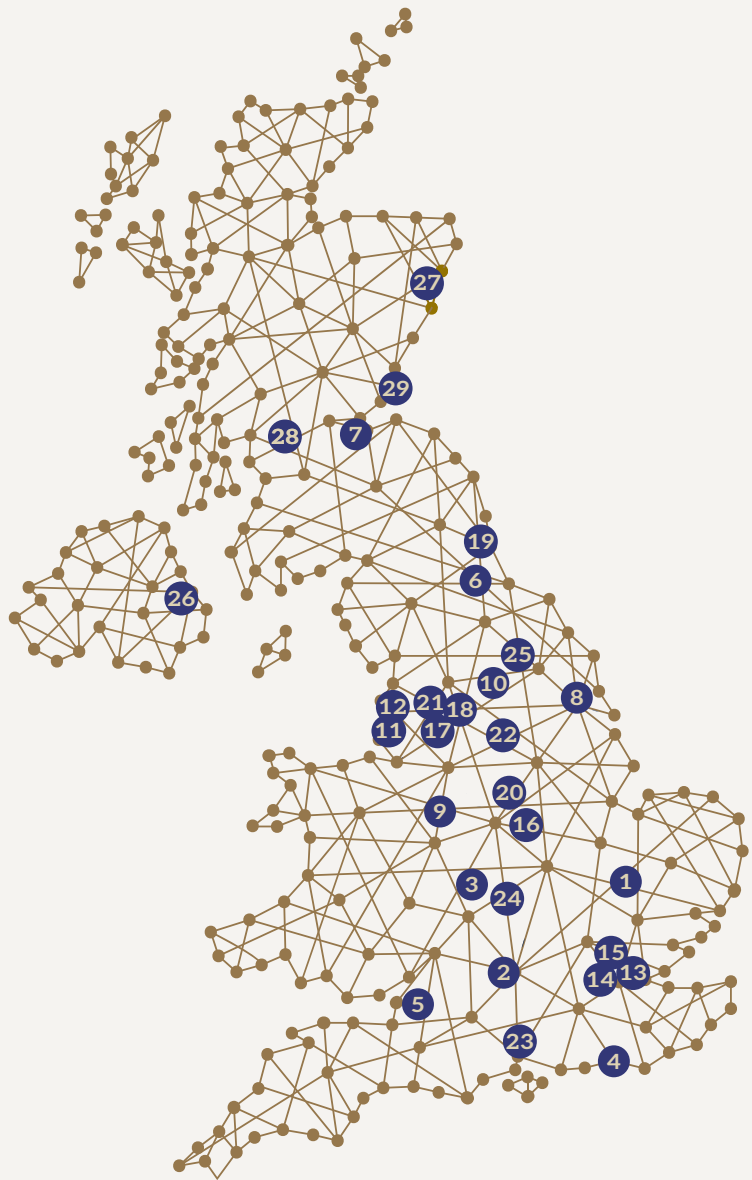
1. **Small teaching groups and individual tuition** - classes rarely exceed 10 pupils (other Colleges have an average of 28 pupils per class).
2. **Teachers who know you**, your strengths and individual **Ability to participate in a wide variety of sports teams as well as music and drama productions.**
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. **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.



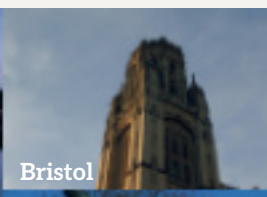
University destinations

In the last two years, our students have been offered places at the following universities:

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



Glasgow



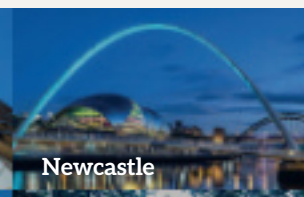
Bristol



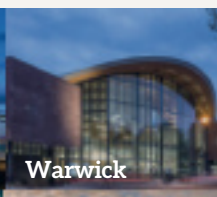
Manchester



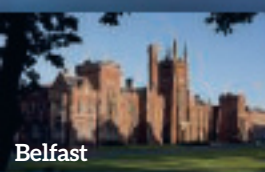
Sheffield



Newcastle



Warwick



Belfast



Nottingham



Cardiff



Salford



Durham



Liverpool



Edinburgh



Oxford



London



Cambridge




























York



Birmingham

A Levels

All subjects in the option process:

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

minimum of three GCSE subjects, accompanied by at least five additional GCSEs at Grade 6 and above. A 30% fee reduction is granted for three Grade 9s, with an extra 10% for each additional Grade 9. Scholarships will be automatically granted upon receipt of GCSE grades. The College expects students to conform to our high expectations and standards of behaviour, embrace the Catholic ethos of our College, and maintain an excellent attitude to academic work.

Bursaries

We offer means-tested bursary funding to successful applicants; if you wish to apply, please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions Office (admissions@sbcm.co.uk) or on 0161 226 3323 and they will be happy to help. Further support is available from organisations such as the Emmott Foundation and the Thornton-Smith and Plevins Trust: <https://educational-grants.org/>

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

Entry Requirements

We ask that students attain at least Grade 6 in the subjects to be studied at A level, with the exception of Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics where a minimum of Grade 7 is required. 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. Establishing a strong foundation at GCSE level is paramount to providing students with the optimal chance for success in their chosen A level pursuits and beyond.

Scholarships and Bursaries

Academic Scholarships

The College is pleased to extend Academic Scholarships to students securing Grade 9 in a



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 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 - 91marks - 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 - 91marks - 35% of A level

Paper 3

- Any topics from Paper 1 and 2
 - 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





Business

A level Business is the starting point to become 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 perhaps, or Rihanna?

■ Why choose Business?

Whether you want to run your own company, work in a business or manage an area of public service, these areas are all underpinned by the principles studied in Business. This A level will give you an understanding of the world around you and prepare you for the challenges of the 21st century in terms of globalisation, digital technology, ethics and enterprise. Close analysis of 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. The expertise and competence acquired during the Business A level course 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

Students follow the Edexcel A level Business course which comprises:

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, retail, marketing, franchising and start up companies.
- Personal support and individual attention through 'drop ins'.
- Specialist trips to support learning eg New York & LA, Munich and Jaguar Land Rover.
- Opportunities to enter competitions such as Global Investor and apply theory in practice through simulations and co-curricular activities.

■ What could I do at University after 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 areas 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 range of skills.





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.

■ Assessment Information

A-level Chemistry is assessed through three written papers and the end of Upper Sixth:

Paper 1: Physical and Inorganic Chemistry

- Assesses content from across the course with an emphasis on practical techniques, data analysis, and critical thinking.

Paper 2: Physical and Organic Chemistry

- Covers kinetics, equilibria, thermodynamics, rate equations, organic reactions, spectroscopy, and organic synthesis.

Paper 3: Synoptic and Practical Skills

- Assesses content from across the course with an emphasis on practical techniques, data analysis, and critical thinking.

All three papers are 2 hours long and include multiple-choice, short, and extended response questions. Practical skills are also assessed through core experiments completed over the two years.

There is no formal coursework for this subject. However, you will complete 12 required practicals, and your performance in these will be assessed throughout the course. At least 15% of the marks in the final exams will be based on the practical skills and knowledge you develop during these activities.

■ Why Choose Chemistry at St Bede's?

- Teaching by four highly experienced subject specialists
- Access to three brand new Chemistry laboratories
- Enrichment from University experts and specialist equipment to enhance spectroscopy units
- Small class sizes, allowing close support during practical work
- Excellent personal support, including weekly drop-in sessions, comprehensive online resources, and holiday revision classes
- Tailored guidance for students applying to Oxbridge or competitive courses such as Medicine
- Opportunities to take part in national challenges, including the Chemistry Olympiad and the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge





Classical Civilisation

The study of Classical Civilisation explores a varied range of topics from ancient philosophy, history, politics, religion, literature, and the arts. Our journey through the culture of the ancient world helps students to develop vital skills for academic and scholarly research, whilst fostering and promoting intensive curiosity.

■ Why choose Classical Civilisation?

Throughout our course of study, we will delve into such issues as the nature of ancient warfare, the voyages of epic heroes, the role of the divine, and the activities of political masterminds. Designated a desired subject by Russell group universities, the study of Classical Civilisation teaches many highly transferable skills that are required by many courses.

Who better to teach you how to refine your public image than the first Emperor of Rome, Augustus? Who better to teach you the skills of strategy and composition than the poets Homer and Virgil? Combining an appreciation of literature with incisive and analytical thinking, Classicists can always see differing perspectives of an argument and provide a convincing case for 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 led 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

■ **Exam Board:** OCR (H408)

Objectives:

- 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

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

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, and looks at the natural world through a digital prism. A level Computer Science 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.

■ 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

By studying A level Design Technology you will be encouraged to develop your capacity to design and make products, as well as to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture, sustainability and marketing.

The course is aimed at students who wish to pursue a design and manufacturing based course, with an emphasis on resistant materials or engineering. It is a natural progression from GCSE Design Technology and you will find the course structure similar.

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

- Our Design Technology Department has won a number of National Awards for the standard of work produced by students, including the AQA A Level Technology Award.
- We have two purpose-built workshops with a wide range of facilities, including traditional woodworking and metalworking machinery and CAM outputs such as a laser cutter and 3D printer.
- The course is linked to industrial practice and develops skills in self-discipline, time-management and independence, which are essential for future courses and careers.
- The course is designed to develop creative thinking, as well as to build skills in the use of different materials and media, machines, equipment, processes and techniques.
- We run a range of trips, allowing you to explore how Design Technology is a part of life beyond the classroom.

■ Assessment Information

Exam Board and Specification: AQA, Design & Technology: Product Design (7552)

Paper 1

What is assessed? Technical principles.

How is it assessed? A written exam, 2 hours and 30 minutes. Questions are a mixture of short-answer and extended-response.

Worth 30% of the A level.

Paper 2

What is assessed? Designing and making principles

How is it assessed? A written exam (Section A and B), 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Section A: Product Analysis: 30 marks, up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of a product.

Section B: Commercial manufacture: 50 marks from a mixture of short and extended response questions.

Worth 20% of the A level.

Coursework

What is assessed? The Practical application of the technical principles and designing and making principles.

How is it assessed? Through the production of a substantial design and make project, presented as a written or digital design portfolio including photographic evidence of a final prototype.

Worth 50% of the A level.

■ Possible Careers

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





Economics

Economics is not just a subject – it's a lens through which to view the world. Whether you're reading the news, shopping online, or planning your future, economic forces are always at play. Increasingly, acute 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 concepts 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 world and your own future success.

■ Why study Economics?

Are you curious about why countries impose tariffs, why some businesses grow and others decline, or why governments intervene in markets by banning vapes but only taxing sugar? Studying Economics gives you the tools to understand the world and the power to shape it in the future. Economics is the study of how we make decisions – as individuals, businesses, and nations. It's not just about money; it's about understanding the forces that influence everything from job creation to climate policy. At St Bede's, you will debate and explore real-world issues, be taught by passionate subject specialists who will challenge, support, and inspire you to think independently. The Edexcel Economics A Specification is split into three components as follows:

Microeconomics - Learn how markets work and what happens when they fail due to externalities. Discover how industries are structured, make decisions, employ people, grow, make profit, or fail; and why economic agents vacillate between logical decisions and tempting but irrational behaviour. Investigate monopoly power, oligopolistic collusion, contestability and profit. Finally, learn how the government intervenes using taxes subsidies and regulations to achieve environmental, economic and social sustainability for all.

Macroeconomics - Study the drivers of economic growth, inflation unemployment poverty and inequality and discover the major fiscal, monetary and supply side policy tools governments can use to control shifts in Aggregate Demand & Supply. Discover the workings of the financial

sector and analyse its regulation. Evaluate the economic impacts of hot money flows, market investment and exchange rates on global trade and learn how the WTO negotiate global protectionist trends and the evolving balance between developing and developed nations.

Component 3 - This component draws on both themes, enabling students to think holistically and evaluate current affairs from multiple perspectives to analyse the impact an individual can have on the world. Topics are based on current affairs and address economic shocks resulting from war, protectionist tariffs, financial crisis, pandemics, cost of living crisis, nomadic global populations and the economic consequences of the AI revolution.

■ **Assessment Information; A Level Economics Examinations**

Papers 1 (Microeconomics) & 2 (Macroeconomics):

- Paper 1 & 2 are each worth 35% and follow the same format - 2 hours - 100 marks:
 - Section A - Shorter answers on five topics worth a total of 25 marks,
 - Section B - Data response worth 50 marks,
 - Section C - One extended essay drawing on industry knowledge from a choice of two worth 25 marks

Paper 3 (Synoptic) worth 30% - 2 hours 100 marks:

- Paper 3 is worth 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 extended essay question from a choice of two.

■ **Why Choose Economics at St Bede's?**

- Specialist teaching staff who are all experienced external 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 including Global Investor Simulated Stockmarket, Royal Economic Society Young Economist of the Year & John Locke Global Essay Competition in conjunction with Princeton and Oxford Universities.

■ **What could I do at university after this course?**

Economics is highly respected by universities and highly rewarded by employers. It opens doors to director level careers in finance, business, law, government and international relations. Economics is ideal for students who enjoy analytical thinking, current affairs, and exploring how the world works. No prior knowledge is required – just curiosity and a willingness to think critically.



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 English Language at A level will enable you to gain experience in thinking about and explaining how language functions 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.

■ What could I do at university after this course?

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. 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 will 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.

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 - AQA 7702

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

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 A level 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 in drama, prose and poetry. 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. Writing frequent essays and reading widely is an essential part of the course. There will also be 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, (2500-3000 words).



🎨 Fine Art

The A Level Art course provides the opportunity to explore and take inspiration from societies, cultures, values, beliefs, personal interests and the world around us, and develop ways to communicate our ideas through the visual language.

You will be encouraged to explore the work of artists from a wide range of styles, genres and generations, drawing inspiration for the development of your own work. Along the way you will refine and gain confidence in your practical skills in a range of media, techniques and processes, picking out your strengths and honing your own identity as an artist.

Working in your own allocated space in a studio environment, you will spend your time building a portfolio of work, through which you will be encouraged to develop your investigations from personally selected starting points, allowing you to choose your individual direction and specialisms.

It is a familiar and natural progression for GCSE Art students, and the course structure is almost identical.

■ Why Choose Fine Art at St. Bede's?

- Our Fine Art course is not merely training in how to produce technically accurate drawings or paintings. At St. Bede's we are invested in helping you to become an inspired, passionate and engaged artist, who can use art as a platform to express their ideas, opinions and feelings through visual media.
- Our experienced and enthusiastic teachers provide a high level of one to one support and individually tailored guidance.
- You will have your own personal workspace within our dedicated Sixth Form Art Studio.
- The Sixth Form Art Studio is open to students at any time during the school day and you are welcome to spend as much time as you wish making use of the facilities available in the department.
- Our dedicated Photography Studio is available for Fine Art students to make use of, with the support of our specialist Photography teacher.
- We run a range of gallery visits throughout the two years, providing exposure to a wide variety of historical and contemporary artwork.

■ Assessment Information

Exam Board and Specification: AQA, Art & Design - Fine Art (7202)

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 enquiry 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, set by the Exam Board, 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 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.





French

■ 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 employees as you are vital to any company that 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 - A800QS

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.

■ Studying French at St Bede's

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.

At St Bede's you can expect small class sizes, leading to more one-to-one speaking practice, individual feedback on your written work and the ability to get feedback on multiple drafts. You will have fortnightly oral sessions with a native speaker. The French department offers many opportunities outside the classroom, such as becoming a Language Ambassador and mentoring younger students, attending enrichment events at local universities and other schools and trips abroad.





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 can better target funding and resources, which 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

Exam board: AQA

Specification: A level Geography 7037

What is the 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.

■ Why study Geography at St Bede's?

- Specialist teachers
- Small classes
- Lots of individual attention and personal support
- Excellent online provision centred around Google Classroom
- Well resourced department





German

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

- Small classes making individual support easy.
- Fortnightly oral sessions with a native speaker.
- Access to fantastic resources and language-learning software.
- Opportunity to take on responsibilities such as mentoring younger students.
- Opportunities for enrichment both in Manchester and abroad; current trips include Munich and Berlin.

■ 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 investigate social issues such as immigration and the environment; 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.

A film and a novel are also studied and candidates write an essay of approximately 300 words on each of the two works they have studied.

■ Assessment Information

AQA German A level - 7662

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

- Written examination: 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 examination: 2 hours.
- 30% of A level.

Either one question in German 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.

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).





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 how it acts a vehicle for learning academic skills that complement 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 exciting and fascinating times both in British and European History. The course covers 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%



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. Mathematics at St Bede's is taught in small groups, typically containing less than 10 students.

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, so 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.

■ A level Mathematics

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

■ A level Mathematics Assessments

Edexcel A level Mathematics:

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 (2 hr exam)

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 (2 hr exam)

Paper 3: Applied Mathematics [50% Statistics, 50% Mechanics] (2 hr exam)

■ We also offer Level 3 Mathematical Studies: Core Maths

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.

Course: AQA Level 3 certificate in Mathematics (Core Maths):

Paper 1: Financial Maths and Estimation (1hr 30mins)

Paper 2: (optional paper) Either Statistical Analysis or Critical Analysis (1hr 30mins)

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; those considering doing Physics, Engineering or Economics at university should also 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 get the opportunity to discuss which combination of modules they will study. Many sixth form colleges will dictate which option books are taken, but due to our small class sizes and experienced teachers, we can allow students to make this decision themselves.

■ Assessment Information

A level Further Mathematics:

Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1 (1 hr 30 minute exam)

Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2 (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 (2 x 1hr 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 allocate a personal tutor who will support them with these papers and also prepare them for interviews.



Music

This A level is designed 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.

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





Philosophy, Ethics & Theology

If you've ever wondered about the meaning of life and its great questions, then Philosophy, Ethics & Theology 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 Philosophy, Ethics & Theology 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 Philosophy, Ethics & Theology 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

In A level Photography you will have the opportunity to engage with the work of photographers and artists from a wide range of backgrounds, genres and styles, developing your own opinions and working to create your identity as a photographer. Photographers notice the environment around them, and use photographic tools to capture and record the way the world looks when you photograph it. A level photography will help you to learn to look with new eyes and will, consequently, enhance your life

You will build upon your photographic skills both in the use of a camera and Photoshop, as well as a wide variety of other manipulation techniques. Your time will be spent building a thorough and highly personal portfolio, developing investigations from your own, individually-selected starting point. You will be given the freedom to be creative and develop your own ideas, whilst being fully supported and advised by staff. The projects allow you to explore a wide range of interests, develop and use skills that play to your own individual strengths and build confidence through the practice of technical processes.

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.

■ Aims of the Course

On this course you will develop:

- The ability to explore elements of visual language, line, form, colour, pattern and texture in the context of photography.
- Awareness of intended audience or purpose for your chosen area(s) of photography.
- The ability to respond to an issue, theme, concept or idea, or work to a brief or answer a need in photography.
- Appreciation of viewpoint, composition, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement.
- Appropriate use of the camera, film, lenses, filters and lighting for work in your chosen area(s) of photography.

- Understanding of the techniques related to the production of photographic images and, where appropriate, presentation and layout.

■ Why Choose Photography at St Bede's?

- Our Photography course is not merely about training in how to complete practical, technical processes. At St. Bede's we are invested in helping our students to become inspired, passionate and engaged photographers.
- We have a dedicated Photography IT suite, fully equipped shoot spaces and a traditional dark room, allowing for exploration and experimentation with a wide range of techniques and processes.
- We go on multiple gallery visits to a wide variety of different locations throughout the two years.
- Our Photography facilities are available to Sixth Form students at almost any time during the school day and you are welcome to spend as much time as possible in the department.
- Our specialist Photography teacher is highly enthusiastic, with years of experience in the photography industry.
- We provide exceptional one to one support and guidance from dedicated and experienced staff in small classes.
- As well as traditional photographic techniques, we encourage experimental and creative presentation of photography, including moving image, installation and mixed-media.

■ Assessment Information

Exam Board and Specification: AQA, Art & Design - Photography (7206)

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 are 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 (Examination)

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, 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.



1. Exercise physiology, training and performance
 - Cardio-vascular, respiratory and neuro-muscular systems
 - Diet and nutrition
 - Training and responses to exercise
 - Injury prevention and rehabilitation
2. Movement analysis, technology and biomechanics
 - Movements analysis
 - Newton's laws
 - Levers
 - Studies of motion and fluid mechanics
 - Performance analysis and technology
3. Sport Psychology
 - Personality and attitudes

- Goal setting
- Stress, arousal and anxiety
- Psychological factors influencing an individual and their performance
- Group dynamics
- Confidence and motivation

4. Skill Acquisition

- Theories of learning
- Skill development
- Use of guidance, feedback and practice
- Models of memory and information processing

5. Sport and Society

- Sport, culture and society
- History of sport
- Ethics and deviance in Sport
- Sport, commercialisation and the media
- Organisation of sport from mass participation to excellence

■ Assessment Information

Eduqas A-Level Physical Education

All assessment takes place at the end of Upper Sixth

Examination component (worth 70%) involves:

Two written examinations both 2 hours each

- **Paper 1:** Exploring concepts in Physical Education - 35%
- **Paper 2:** Evaluating Physical Education - 35%

Practical Non-exam assessment (worth 30%) involves:

- Students are assessed in one practical element as either a player/performer or a coach (15%)
- Written coursework involving analysis and evaluation of personal performance (15%)

■ Why Choose Physical Education at St Bede's?

The A Level Physical Education Course gives you an excellent grounding in the subject content needed to progress to higher education to study degree courses, including Sports and Exercise Science, Sports Studies and Sports Development, or opt for more vocational courses. PE is an excellent foundation for any degree course or employment requiring teamwork, communication and problem solving skills and can lead to careers into the fast growing leisure and recreation industry, such as Sports Science, Sports Psychology, Performance Analysis, Sports Coaching, Sports Development, Physical Education Teaching and Sports Therapy amongst others. With small classes and highly specialised teachers, students can gain individualised assistance with their studies bespoke advice as to further study and career advice within the industry. There may also be the chance to represent the College in a variety of sporting disciplines, giving students the chance to unleash their competitive side.



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 built up at GCSE. Success at A level requires a good foundation – a grade 7 in Separate Science Physics or Combined Science and a grade 7 in Mathematics is recommended.

A level Physics will give you incredibly strong analytical and research skills. You'll be able to come at problems and solve them in a methodical and logical way. You'll also learn to investigate theories, devise tests and explore new ideas. Such strong problem-solving skills are highly sought after. Due to the heavily mathematical element in Physics, it's often recommended to be 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, and even games companies and cutting-edge research labs.

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).

"I chose Physics because I love a challenge, and it definitely delivers! But the 'Drop-In' sessions and teacher support mean you're never stuck for long."

"A Level Physics equips you with powerful problem-solving abilities, preparing you for any challenge, academic or professional."

Our Physics alumni have gone on to study Engineering at Imperial College, Astrophysics at Durham, and Computer Science at Manchester, among many other exciting paths.

■ The Course

During your AQA A level Physics course, you'll be introduced to new concepts such as quarks (the fundamental building blocks of matter), quantum physics (the strange world of the very small), and relativity (the physics of space and time), opening up fascinating new perspectives. Other 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. You will also take part in practical work throughout the duration of your course.

■ Assessment Information

AQA Physics A Level

There is no coursework in this course. However, your performance during 12 required practicals will be assessed, with practical skills and data analysis being directly tested within the examinations, contributing at least 15% of the overall marks.

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)

■ Why choose Physics at St Bede's?

- 3 specialist teachers with years of combined experience.
- 3 Physics laboratories with specialist equipment and a designated Physics technician.
- Small classes - especially important when completing individual practical work.
- Excellent online provision using Google Workspace for Education.
- Isaac Physics Embedded School status at Gold level with Isaac Expert Teachers, meaning students benefit from targeted, online problem-solving practice and expert support.
- Lots of personal support including weekly 'Drop-Ins', personalised UCAS advice for all and extra support for Oxbridge candidates.
- Participation in challenges like the British Physics Olympiad and Isaac Physics Senior Physics Challenge





Politics

Politics is a subject that both unites and divides people: in that the issues that are directly relevant to all our lives. Health, education, crime, war, peace, and the economy are key areas for discussion and debate, in Politics we 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 it 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 is not expected. We follow the Edexcel A level course, studying British Politics in the Lower Sixth and American Politics in the Upper Sixth.. The course itself concentrates on the changing 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 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 prepared and willing to participate in political processes.

■ Assessment Information

Edexcel A level Government and Politics

Component 1: UK Politics

Component 2: UK Government

Component 3: Comparative Politics

3 Papers of 2 hours' duration



Ψ Psychology

The human brain is the most extraordinary and fundamental part of who we are. Every thought, every emotion, and every action begins with tiny electrical and chemical signals passing between brain cells called neurons. A level Psychology takes you on an exciting journey into understanding how this incredible organ shapes our behaviour and experience. But it's not all biology. Psychology explores the mind from a wide range of perspectives. It considers how we learn from our environment, how we process information, how society and culture shape us, and how unconscious thoughts and feelings can influence us without our awareness. This subject invites you to ask deep questions about what drives human behaviour and why people act the way they do. You will study the individual and the collective, the rational and the emotional, the conscious and the hidden. Even the study of animals helps to reveal where many of our own instincts and behaviours begin. Psychology is more than just a subject. It is a powerful tool for opening your eyes to new ways of thinking about yourself and the world around you.

■ Assessment Information

As most students will not have studied Psychology previously, prior knowledge will not be expected.

Students will follow the AQA A level Psychology Specification (7182) which requires students to sit three, two hour written exam papers. Each examination paper is equally weighted and represents one third of the overall grade awarded.

Exam papers include a variety of question types, ranging from multiple-choice and short-answer questions to extended essay-style responses. Students are also required to apply their knowledge to novel situations presented in the examination.

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health

96 marks, 2 hours, 33.3% of grade

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

- Approaches
- Biopsychology

- Research Methods

96 marks, 2 hours, 33.3% of grade

Paper 3: Issues and Options

- Issues and debates
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology
- Relationships

96 marks, 2 hours, , 33.3% of grade

■ Why Study Psychology at St. Bede's?

- **Expert teaching and assessment insight.** Psychology is taught by a specialist teacher with extensive experience in both teaching and examining, giving students a clear understanding of how assessment criteria are applied and how to succeed.
- **Support for high-achieving applicants.** Experienced Bedian alumni staff provide dedicated support for Oxbridge Psychology applicants, offering expert guidance on applications and interviews.
- **Small class sizes.** Classes are kept small to ensure a personalised learning experience, where every student receives the attention and tailored support they need to thrive.
- **'Brain Day' with Dr Guy Sutton.** Renowned neuroscientist Dr Guy Sutton visits St Bede's to deliver his cutting-edge 'Brain Day' workshop, featuring the latest in neuroscience research, some not yet published, including a live brain dissection, bringing theory vividly to life.
- **National essay competitions.** Students are encouraged to enter prestigious competitions such as the John Locke Essay Competition, where many have been shortlisted and invited to attend the prize-giving events.
- **Educational trips.** Visits such as the trip to Chester Zoo give students the chance to explore primate behaviour and see how psychological theories are used in real-world animal care and welfare.
- **Inspiring guest speakers.** Experts in fields like clinical and educational psychology, mental health, and new therapeutic approaches share their insights, showing students how psychology applies beyond the classroom.
- **Independent research opportunities.** Students are given the chance to design and carry out their own psychological research, developing valuable skills in investigation, analysis and critical thinking.

■ Careers in Psychology

Psychology provides a strong intellectual foundation by combining a wide range of essential skills. Students develop critical analysis, scientific reasoning, and the ability to interpret data using mathematics and statistics. These skills are not only academically valuable but also highly transferable across a wide variety of careers.

Most professions involve working with people in some way, so the insight into human behaviour that psychology offers is incredibly useful and widely applicable. Whether you go into business, education, healthcare, law, or public services, understanding how people think, feel, and act gives you a significant advantage.

For those interested in a psychology-specific career, there are many exciting pathways available, from Clinical Psychology, supporting individuals with mental health challenges, to Forensic Psychology, applying psychological theory to crime and justice. A background in psychology is also highly valued in careers such as education, social work, marketing, human resources, counselling, nursing, research and neuroscience.



Spanish

■ Why study Spanish?

Spanish is the third most commonly spoken language in the world, 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. In the Sixth Form our Spanish staff 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 universities in Manchester. 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 class sizes make individual support easy
- Fortnightly oral sessions with a mother tongue speaker
- Access to fantastic resources and language learning software
- Opportunity to become a Language Ambassador, help with department events and mentor younger students
- Opportunities for enrichment both in Manchester and abroad

Assessment Information

■ AQA Spanish A level - 7692

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 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)





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. In the last few years we have had students leave us and gain entrance to some of the world's leading Conservatoires for further training in the arts, notably East 15 Acting School and The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

■ Assessment Information

Theatre Studies at St. Bede's follows the Eduqas specification.

Component 1- Theatre Workshop

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated (20% of qualification). Learners are 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 are 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, by 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.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) fosters student-led, inspired critical thinking and self-guided learning. It gives students the chance to enrich their academic experience by conducting independent research to explore any topic of their choice in depth, culminating in an extended piece of writing or the creation of an artifact and a presentation of findings. The EPQ is as invaluable in helping a student stand out in the highly competitive university application process, as it is useful in demonstrating independent study habits.

■ Why study EPQ?

- Develop more advanced skills than those gained in academic A levels, including time management, research methods, report writing and presentation.
- Gain extra UCAS (university entry) points (EPQ is worth half an A level) and many Employers and Universities favour EPQ in the selection process with some making lower overall offers or allowing a good pass in the EPQ to compensate for a missed A level grade.
- Choose a topic that makes your personal statements stand out and provides a good basis for interview discussion.
- Follow a passion or subject interest outside of a rigid A level specification.

■ Support available at St Bede's College

- Dedicated weekly teaching time to acquire vital university level skills such as Harvard referencing, structuring academic reports, ethics and research methods.
- A membership of Manchester University's library and a visit to access their study spaces and extensive research archives.
- Mentorship from experienced supervisors from across the College covering all academic areas and some of the most generous supervision ratios in the country.
- Research support from our experienced librarian.

■ Assessment Information

The course requires commitment to carry out independent research and attend weekly taught sessions to acquire research skills as well as weekly meetings with an assigned supervisor. The outputs from the course include.

- a project log reflecting on research methods and skills acquisition.
- a presentation of research findings to a non-specialist audience.
- a 5,000 word written research report, or an 'artefact' (a creation such as a coded app, a painting or a play) plus a 1,000 word written reflection.
- The EPQ is assessed and marked internally and moderated externally. The marks are awarded as follows:
 - AO1 - 20% - Planning, Project and Time Management, working with a supervisor
 - AO2 - 20% - Research – the quality and breadth of research undertaken
 - AO3 - 40% - Analysis and Evaluation – the delivery and quality of the submission
 - AO4 - 20% - Critical Reflection of personal learning and growth

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

- Evaluate whether the current state of the UK education system prevents poorer students from escaping poverty.
- How effective is music in improving the motor impairments of patients with Parkinson's disease?
- Is there a possibility for Organic Photovoltaics to match or replace Silicon Variants?
- To what extent can patient DNA analysis replace the GP?
- How long will ornithological wing features remain relevant in civil and military aircraft?
- How significantly is the work of Wes Anderson influenced by the French New Wave?

The Bedian Research Programme (BRP)

The Bedian Research Programme (BRP), which runs throughout the College, from Upper Third to Lower Sixth, has a focus on independent project management, deep research and presentation skills development. It plays a central role in empowering our students to take ownership of their learning, their development, and ultimately, their futures.

As part of the Bedian Research Programme, Sixth Form students experience a series of short courses focusing on different development aspects to help prepare for the next stage of their lives.

■ Why study BRP?

- First Students are equipped with the essential skills required for success at A level and beyond. The programme introduces key academic foundations such as independent study techniques, effective Cornell note-taking, every day organisation, time management, and digital literacy. Alongside these, students develop the resilience and work ethic necessary not only to succeed academically but also to make meaningful contributions to the wider world.
- A bespoke course on Emotional Intelligence helps students to gain a deeper understanding of themselves as individuals. These lessons encourage thoughtful reflection on their motivations, aspirations, and true reasons for studying A Levels, while also fostering the ability to collaborate effectively and empathetically with others.
- A particularly enriching aspect of the BRP is the Oxford Character Project—a programme developed by the University of Oxford. Its mission is to cultivate a new generation of wise thinkers and principled leaders: individuals who combine character with competence to effect positive change across government, business, and civil society. The course focuses on the human dynamics of leadership and the core character qualities that underpin leadership in an increasingly complex and unpredictable world:

“**Character enables leaders to build trust, think with clarity, engage with diverse perspectives, empower others, exercise judgement, make hard decisions, and persevere through difficult times.**”

- Finally, in our commitment to nurturing confident and capable public speakers, students also learn to develop and deliver TED Talk presentations. Embarking on a course written by TEDed, students develop their oracy, presence and clarity of thought. The most compelling talks are showcased to an audience of parents and invited guests in the summer term, providing students with the opportunity to communicate their ideas to a wider unfamiliar audience with conviction and poise.



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