POST-16
CURRICULUM
2025–2027

@CARLTONSIXTH

The Carlton Academy

REDHILL ACADEMY TRUST
Equality and Achievement

An introduction from the Headteacher of The Carlton Academy

Welcome to our Sixth Form Curriculum booklet. Its aim is to provide you with all of the key information about the courses that we offer here at The Carlton Academy.

For those currently in Year 11 at Carlton, we know that there are many advantages in continuing your studies in our community. Working with teachers you already know, and who already know you, in a caring and supportive environment, which will challenge you to be and achieve your very best, is essential for your continued successes. Although you will remain within the fabric of the school building, the two workspaces and more flexible timetable will help you to develop your independence and resilience in a nurturing way. Relationships are important in achieving success, and by staying with us you not only get high-quality teaching but a continuance of those strong and fruitful relationships.

Equally, we warmly welcome students from other schools into our Sixth Form community and have been delighted to welcome new students into the Academy over the last few years. Our core purpose is achieving high standards of academic success, and our results have continued to improve. Our broad curriculum enables you to build on the strengths you have established in your GCSEs and to sample new subjects and gain new qualifications. We are confident that we provide a combination of subjects which are both interesting and challenging, allowing you to achieve their goals beyond Sixth Form.

The Sixth Form years are some of the most formative in a young person's educational journey. It is here that you will make some of the most important decisions about your direction beyond school and college. Our curriculum is well positioned to support you in making these crucial decisions. Over the last five years, the number of students going onto university has increased at The Carlton Academy and we expect this to continue again this year. We work hard to ensure that every Sixth Form student has the highest quality of guidance on making choices for the future, whilst providing opportunities for them to play a lead role in the day-to-day life of the Academy. We encourage you to make a wider contribution to other students in the Academy and also to enrich your own skills and experiences.

So, soak up the information in this booklet, ask lots of questions of the staff both at the Open Evening and in your lessons, and ensure that you are fully informed about what life at The Carlton Academy Sixth Form is like.

Mr G Hillyard
Head of School

Our Sixth Form

At The Carlton Academy Sixth Form our first aim is to enable our students to fulfil their academic potential. Whilst we emphasise the importance of academic achievement, we also strive to support students in becoming independent, responsible members of their community.

At The Carlton Academy, we believe in nurturing the possibilities open to our students. Students are given a chance to develop into young adults ready for the challenges ahead, whether going to university, taking a gap year, embarking on an apprenticeship or moving into the world of work. We provide extensive extracurricular opportunities and a dedicated programme focused on personal, social and emotional development.

Our Sixth Form leadership team, tutors and support staff all work together to ensure students receive the support they need to be successful, supporting and enabling them to achieve excellent results and grow into a person who will successfully take their place in society. We aim to inspire a passion for possibility in our students and believe everyone should have the chance to reach their full potential.

Our Sixth Form students are actively encouraged to become involved in the broader life of the school and offer a range of enrichment opportunities that help produce well-rounded individuals ready to take on the world.

Minimum entry requirements for Post-16 study

- All students must attain five 9-4 grades at GCSE. Individual subjects may require a particular grade to study them at A-Level with further details included in this booklet.
- All students will be expected to choose 3 A-Levels which they will study for 2 years. All students without a grade 4 in either English Language or Mathematics will be required to follow a course which will enable them to achieve this whilst in Sixth Form.
- All students will be interviewed by a member of the Sixth Form or Academy leadership team. This will enable them to make an informed choice about the best subjects to suit their individual needs. Parents are welcome to discuss these choices with the Sixth Form team following interview.

How to apply

If you are interested in submitting an application to the Sixth Form, please complete an online application. This can be found on the Sixth Form section of the website.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Ms A Jennings
Head of Post-16

BTEC Applied Science

Why BTEC Applied Science?

Students that study Applied Science are typically those who have an interest in Science but are more comfortable taking a practical course that is assessed through coursework and written exams rather solely through written exams. The Carlton Academy has a fantastic record in supporting students to achieve great grades in Applied Science.

What can I expect?

The Applied Science BTEC Level 3 offers a cross disciplinary approach to Science. During the course, students will study units in Applications of Science, Scientific Procedure and Technique and Laboratory Techniques. The qualification is designed to develop the necessary skills for a wide range of jobs and for further education. The programme is portfolio based and is therefore assessed through a range of different styles of assignments, investigations and examination. Students who successfully complete the course achieve either a pass, merit, distinction or distinction* grade.

What do I need?

To study BTEC L3 Applied Science, you must have achieved at least a grade 4 in either Combined or two Triple Science GCSEs.

What about the future?

A BTEC in Applied Science can lead to a range of further study and career opportunities. Students can go on to study Forensic Science and related courses at university, as well as a range of courses in areas such as Health Care, Animal Care, Social Care and Education.

"Science is a way of life. Science is a perspective. Science is the process that takes us from confusion to understanding in a manner that is precise, predictive and reliable - a transformation, for those lucky enough to experience it, that is empowering and emotional."

Biology

Why Biology?

Studying Biology allows you to better understand the world around us from the biological molecules that make up organisms, down to the macrostructure of an ecosystem. An in-depth understanding of Biology gives you the skills and knowledge needed to make informed decisions in a rapidly advancing technological age about contentious issues such as cloning, stem cell research and xenotransplantation.

What can I expect?

Skills that you will develop are:

- Practical skills required to manipulate scientific equipment with precision to gather accurate results
- Analytical skills required to analyse and evaluate data and draw conclusions
- Problem-solving skills which allow you to apply the knowledge that you have gained to unfamiliar situations.

What do I need?

To study A-level Biology, it is desirable that you have studied the higher tier and achieved at least a grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science or a grade 6 in GCSE Biology. A grade 5 is also desirable in GCSE Mathematics to study Biology due to the mathematical elements of the course.

What about the future?

Biology can be used as an entry qualification for a wider variety of courses at higher education. These include traditional scientific subjects including Medicine, Dentistry, Midwifery, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Environmental Science, Forensic Science etc. Students with an A-Level in Biology have also gone on to study non-scientific subjects such as Art, History, Law, Music, Foreign Languages etc.

"Until we recognise the essential role of biology, our attempts to truly unify the universe will remain a train to nowhere"
Robert Lanza

Business

Why A-Level Business?

Studying A-Level Business provides a comprehensive understanding of real-world commerce, from marketing strategies to financial decision-making. It cultivates analytical skills crucial for evaluating business environments and fosters entrepreneurial thinking. This qualification equips students with practical knowledge applicable across industries, preparing them for higher education or entering the workforce

What can I expect?

With a focus on helping you to become a good decision maker, you'll learn essential managerial skills, alongside techniques to help you become an analytical problem solver. These skills are all highly sought after and valued in a wide range of careers.

You will study the following content:

3.1.1 Business and objectives

3.1.2 Forms of business and stakeholders

3.1.3 Marketing management

3.1.4 Financial management

3.2.1 Operations management

3.2.2 People management

3.2.3 Managing business culture (A-level)

3.3.1 Business and society

3.3.2 Business and the external environment

3.3.3 Strategy

3.3.4 Change

Assessment will include the following:

3 exam papers

- Each paper is worth 90 marks
- Each exam paper will have 2 case studies
- Each case study has 45 marks available

What about the future?

If you'd like to study business, finance or management at university, A-level Business provides an excellent foundation. The skills you learn are transferable across a broad range of subjects and careers.

Whatever you choose to do in the future, you'll find that the things you learn in this course will help. For example, you'll probably work with lots of different people, so knowledge of motivational theory will help you to work well with others and help them achieve their potential. You might have ambitious plans to start your own business. If that's the case, you'll find the marketing and finance topics particularly useful.

BTEC Business

Why BTEC Business?

Studying BTEC Level 3 in Business offers practical, career-focused learning, blending theory with hands-on experience. It covers key areas like marketing, finance, management, and entrepreneurship, making it ideal for students seeking real-world skills. The course emphasizes coursework over exams, promoting independent research and critical thinking. With strong links to industry, BTEC Business prepares students for university, apprenticeships, or direct entry into the workforce, offering flexibility for various career paths in business and management.

What can I expect?

In a BTEC Level 3 in Business, expect a mix of coursework, projects, and practical assessments covering topics like marketing, finance, and management. You'll gain hands-on experience, develop problem-solving skills, and engage in real-world business scenarios, preparing you for higher education or a career in business.

You will study the following content:

- Unit 1– Exploring Business
- Unit 2– Developing a Marketing Campaign
- Unit 3– Personal and Business Finance
- Unit 8– Recruitment and Selection Process

Assessment will include the following:

Unit 1– Exploring Business

3 Internally assessed pieces of coursework

Unit 2– Developing a Marketing Campaign

1 External assessment in the form of a typed exam

Unit 3– Personal and Business Finance

1 External assessment in the form of a 90-minute exam

Unit 8– Recruitment and Selection Process

2 Internally assessed pieces of coursework

What about the future?

After completing BTEC Level 3 Business, you can pursue higher education in business-related degrees, such as marketing or management. Alternatively, you can enter apprenticeships in fields like accounting or business administration. Many also choose to start a career in roles like marketing executive or launch entrepreneurial ventures.

Chemistry

Why Chemistry?

The A-Level Chemistry course develops the subject further by looking at the bonding and dynamics of elements in groups and an increased emphasis on understanding and application rather than recall. The basic concepts of hydrocarbons are also studied, incorporating alcohols and some biochemistry. In the second year, Organic Chemistry is studied in depth with particular focus on Ring Chemistry and functional groups and how the functional groups can be synthesized and tested for.

What can I expect?

The course involves the study of Organic and Inorganic Chemistry. It gives the knowledge required to study any type of Chemistry at university. The course is linear with AS being Four modules and full A-Level being six modules. Popular topics include: atoms and groups, chains and energy resources, rings, analysis, equilibrium and energetics. The assessment is through both examinations and practical work.

What do I need?

To study A-level Chemistry, it is desirable that you have studied the higher tier and achieved at least a grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science or a grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry. A grade 5 is also desirable in GCSE Mathematics to study Chemistry due to the mathematical elements of the course.

What about the future?

Chemistry can be used as an entry qualification for a wide variety of courses at higher education. These include traditional chemical topics: Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacology, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Environmental Science and Pharmaceutical Drug Representatives to name a few. Students with Chemistry A-Level have also gone on to study non-scientific subjects such as Art, History, Law, Music and Foreign Languages.

“Living organisms are created by chemistry. We are huge packages of chemicals.”

Computer Science

Why Computer Science?

This course will provide insight into, and experience of how computer science works, stimulating learners' curiosity.

What can I expect?

Key content that the course follows:

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices
- Software and software development
- Exchanging data
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues
- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

The learner will choose a computing problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification.

- Analysis of the problem
- Design of the solution
- Developing the solution
- Evaluation

The course contains two exam papers (Computer systems and Algorithms and programming) that are worth 40% each of the qualification. Each paper contains the following:

· 140 marks

· 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper (no calculators allowed)

The course also includes a non-exam assessment worth 20% in the form of a programming project. This will be submitted in the form of a report that will contain the solution to a problem, selected by the learner or center, written in a suitable programming language

What do I need?

It is desirable to have studied higher GCSE Maths due to the Mathematical content within the course

What about the future?

The OCR A-Level in Computer Science will encourage learners to be inspired, motivated and challenged by following a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It will provide insight into, and experience of how computer science works, stimulating learners' curiosity and encouraging them to engage with computer science in their everyday lives and to make informed choices about further study or career choices. Studying Computer Science can lead to opportunities in software development, data analytics, network engineering, cybersecurity and IT consulting.

Design & Technology

Why Design and Technology?

Do you want to…

- Design a new product that will resolve a problem ?
- Research ways to bring people and technology together?
- Learn the technical skills required to create your vision?
- Develop your computer aided design skills?

Are you…

Inquisitive? A problem solver? Creative? Enthusiastic?

"Design and technology should be the subject where mathematical brainboxes and science whizz-kids turn their bright ideas into useful products."

What can I expect?

This course gives you the chance to get creative and innovative as you develop your product design skills and learn about the complex relationships between design, materials, manufacturing and marketing.

What do I need?

To study A-Level Design and Technology it is desirable to have studied the course at GCSE.

What about the future?

Studying Design Technology can lead to opportunities in Architecture, Automotive Design, Engineering, Ergonomic Design, Graphic Design, Product Design and Teaching.

Drama & Theatre Studies

Why Drama & Theatre Studies?

This course offer learners the chance to, on one hand, widen their knowledge of contemporary theatre, while on the other, gain a practical and analytical understanding of the history of Drama and the theoretical approaches to it. Learners will be encouraged to develop their own performance skills and work creativity with others, and they will be supported to further enhance their own ability to reflect critically on their own personal experience. The Drama and Theatre Studies course will improve a learner's critical thinking and problem-solving skills and develop in them a lifelong appreciation of the arts both from a performer's and audience member perspective.

What can I expect?

- Theoretical appreciation and working understanding of the art of performance.
- Analytical and historical understanding of a range of play texts.
- The practical experience of exploring and performing a broad range of plays for formal and public examination.

What do I need?

The ability to work creatively with others both in and outside of the timetabled lesson time, together with an enthusiastic approach to course content. Experience of performing to an audience would be helpful, and it is desirable to have studied Drama at GCSE.

What about the future?

Career opportunities for students who study A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies include Arts/theatre administration, arts Journalism, Director, Actor, Designer, Playwright, Stage Management, Theatre Management, Theatrical Agent, Technician, Broadcasting, Media Presenting, Education, Drama Therapy and Scriptwriting.

English Language

Why English Language?

If you have enjoyed studying English Language at GCSE, this is a great course for deepening and developing your analytical skills. The A-Level English Language specification will enable students to build on the skills they've developed at GCSE, by engaging creatively and critically with a wide range of texts and discourses. As a result, the content of what you study will turn you into a critically and socially aware person.

What can I expect?

Language is woven into every aspect of our lives. This course will help you to deepen and develop your analytical skills, enabling you to study language beyond its surface meaning, as well as understanding how language is constructed and used to create meaning and influence perception and behaviour, both in the spoken and the written word. You will study Textual Variety and Representation, Children's Language Development, Language Diversity and Change, Language Discourses, Writing Skills, Language Investigation and Original Writing.

What do I need?

To study A-Level English Language, it is desirable to have achieved a grade 5 in GCSE English.

What about the future?

By studying language in depth, you will develop critical awareness and gain invaluable skills for your future working life – vital communication, analytical and critical skills. But importantly, such critical awareness will allow you to be a conscious, critical human being who is able to challenge taken-for-granted assumptions, understand the role of language in social control, propaganda and manipulation, and be able to use this understanding to make the world a less oppressive, more equal and just place.

English Language students often go into the creative arts, media and publishing, using their skills as writers and analysts. Typical job roles include: Journalist, Advertising Account Executive, Copywriter, Charity roles, Public Relations Officer. Practically everything we do in our day-to-day life involves using English Language to a certain extent.

"Learn your language well and command it well, and you will have the first component to life."
Edward Roscoe Murrow

English Literature

Why English Literature?

English Literature at A-Level offers you the opportunity become a more independent reader. Through reading the core and recommended texts, you will develop your skills of analysis, inference and deduction. You will critically analyse a wider and more diverse range of texts than you have at GCSE. The course is designed to develop your interest in and enjoyment of literature and literary studies.

What can I expect?

You will study a range of texts, including a Shakespeare play, pre-1900 drama and poetry, and two prose texts. You will also be required to complete two pieces of coursework – one of which can, but does not have to be, re-creative writing. You will be required to work more independently that at GCSE and encouraged to develop your own interpretations of texts.

Studying English Literature helps to sharpen your analytical skills. If you can take a text and find the themes plus connect it with other texts, theories and historical events, you are showing that you can handle complex ideas, search for patterns and interpret information in a wider context. You will also develop your planning and research skills as well as gain knowledge of history, culture, philosophy and even human behaviour.

What do I need?

To study A-Level English Literature, it is desirable to have achieved a Grade 5 in GCSE English.

What about the future?

English Literature offers a lot of transferable skills. Literature students often go into the creative arts, media and publishing, using their skills as writers and analysts. Career paths include: Teaching, Journalism, Writing, Publishing, Marketing and Advertising.

"Literature is where I go to explore the highest and lowest places in human society and in the human spirit, where I hope to find not absolute truth, but the truth of the tale, of the imagination and of the heart."
Salman Rushdie

Fine Art

Why Fine Art?

This course offer learners an opportunity to fully develop and explore the chosen specialism of Fine Art whilst expanding knowledge, understanding and skills in a range of specialist areas. It is designed to encourage learners to develop skills, creativity, imagination and independence based on personal experience. It provides an opportunity for learners to take a personal interest in why Art and Design matters and to be inspired and changed by studying a coherent, worthwhile course of study. Learners will gain experience of the working practices of individuals, organisations and creative and cultural industries.

What can I expect?

The course involves the completion of several different projects that include extensive preparation work, sketchbook work, a study of materials and techniques and an appreciation of the work of other artists and what their experience has to offer in terms of the development of a personal vision. Several trips to exhibitions are organised to support the development of a personal way of working. The work at A-Level is intended to extend and develop students' own interests and enthusiasms. The emphasis on direct observation as a major area of work will be further encouraged; some of the course material for this work will be thematic. However, students will also be encouraged to provide their own material and to relate this to their project work, making connections with their Personal Study where appropriate. This year is all about showing how an individual perception has grown, and how personal artistic ideas have developed. It involves high-level enquiry with students expected to explore the subject in considerable depth.

What do I need?

You must have a genuine interest in Art and Design and a desire to study Fine Art in great depth. It’s desirable to have studied Art at GCSE.

What about the future?

Possible career routes include: Fine artist, Architect, Landscape Architect, Interior Designer, Art Critic, Art Teacher, Cartoon Animator, Decorator, Art Therapist, Concept Artist – Video Games, Film, Fashion Designer, Fabric Designer, Graphic Designer, Film Animator, Jewellery Maker, Photographer, Product Designer, Package Designer, Store Artist, Website Designer, Toy Designer, Tattoo Artist, Industrial Designer, Make-up Artist.

French

Why French?

The study of languages has a broad educational value. Language is central to human understanding – the course develops communication and grammar skills together with an ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate texts and spoken language. Speaking a new language helps you not only to get to know other people and their cultures but it opens your mind to new ideas and new ways of looking at the world. Universities nowadays look for candidates who can speak a second language and sometimes they make it a basic entry requirement.

What can I expect?

The A-Level course in French builds upon, rapidly expands and enhances knowledge gained at GCSE. Communication skills flourish, along with knowledge of grammar for an in-depth understanding of the language and the cultural knowledge. You will work more independently than at GCSE, although you are well-supported throughout the course. Throughout the 2-year course, you will also act as a Film Critic which will culminate your understanding through the analysis of both the film industry and their Literary production.

What do I need?

To study A-Level French, GCSE French at least Grade 4 is essential along with a commitment to the subject and its requirements.

What about the future?

There is a wealth of opportunities for students with French at A-Level and beyond. Language skills are highly prized in business and even small businesses can require staff who can communicate on the European platform. Finance, Marketing, Sales, Customer Services, Engineering and IT businesses, Teaching, Translation and interpreting, Travel and Tourism, Business Management all regularly require Modern Foreign Language speakers in high profile roles.

The department could inform the students on how to do school experience abroad through a highly renowned agency that will help you understanding the cultural elements of the course and will offer you the opportunity to work abroad. Universities are becoming highly interested in similar programmes and will positively value this extra experience in your applications.

A bientôt!

Further Mathmatics

Why Further Mathematics?

Mathematics is essential for many higher education courses, however in Further Mathematics we aim for students to extend their skill set and see the links between different areas of the subject. The pure content includes topics such as complex numbers, matrices and vectors, whilst the mechanics and statistical elements cover a range of concepts that can be applied in many careers.

What can I expect?

The Further Maths A-Level course aims to fully prepare students whose future pathways involve Mathematics. It is taught alongside A-Level Mathematics, which means there may be times when a topic is covered in both lessons. This allows for a deeper understanding and gives students opportunities for discovery and independent study. The more content that students cover in this A-Level, the clearer the links between all areas of Mathematics become, allowing students to build an awareness of how the mathematics can be applied in other fields of study. All of the topics develop logical approaches to problem solving and allow for opportunities to recognise and correct incorrect reasoning. Students will be asked to draw on a range of techniques in order to help them visualise and solve problems. An example of this would be when a student a sketch of a graph may be used to understand why a function behaves in the way it does.

Paper 1 and Paper 2 are both 2-hour pure exams scored out of 100 marks each. Paper 3 is another 100-mark exam and is made up of two booklets, one Statistics and one Mechanics.

What do I need?

To study this A-Level, you must have achieved at least a Grade 7 in Higher GCSE Mathematics. You must also be studying A-Level Mathematics.

What about the future?

Studying A-Level Further Mathematics can lead to a wide range of career paths at university, including engineering, finance, data analysis, statistics, actuarial science, and teaching. It helps students develop a logical approach to problem-solving and mathematical knowledge and skills, making it useful preparation for a wide range of degree courses

Graphics

Why Graphics?

Graphic Communication is a creative activity focusing on the commercial, promotion-based aspects of Art and Design. It combines quality image-making with real-life situations and challenges. Graphic Communication spans the fields of advertising, typography, packaging, book/magazine illustration and posters, to name but a few.

What can I expect?

This course offers learners an opportunity to fully develop and explore the chosen specialism of Graphic Communication whilst expanding knowledge, understanding and skills in a range of specialist areas. It is designed to encourage learners to develop skills, creativity, imagination and independence. It provides an opportunity for learners to take a personal interest in why Graphic Communication matters and to be inspired and changed by studying a coherent, worthwhile subject, together with gaining experience of the working practices of individuals, organisations and creative and cultural industries. You will experience project themes in one or more areas of Graphic Communication, such as with image and typography, illustration, advertising, packaging, experimental imagery, signage and abstract approaches.

What do I need?

To study A-Level Graphics, it is desirable to have achieved at least a grade 4 in an Art-based subject. Candidates must have a genuine interest in Art & Design and a desire to study Graphic Communication in great depth. You are expected to put in a considerable amount of study time, both in lessons and at home due to the nature of the course and to fulfil content.

What about the future?

Learners are able to tailor their course to fit their individual needs, choices and aspirations in order to follow their chosen progression route through to Further or Higher Education or the workplace.

Although not entirely necessary, some degree courses require a diploma in foundation art and design, or a BTEC National Diploma in general art and design (or equivalent) following A-Level study. This will help you to build up the portfolio you need when applying to creative arts degree courses.

Possible career routes include (but are not limited to): Fine Artist, Architect, Landscape Architect, Interior Designer, Art Critic, Art Teacher, Cartoon Animator, Decorator, Art Therapist, Concept Artist – Video Games, Film, Fashion Designer, Fabric Designer, Graphic Designer, Film Animator, Illustrator, Scientific Illustrator, Jewellery Maker, Photographer, Mural Designer, Product Designer, Package Designer, Store Artist, Website Designer, Toy Designer, and Tattoo Artist.

“Graphic design is the paradise of individuality, eccentricity, heresy, abnormality, hobbies and humour”

Geography

Why Geography?

A-Level Geography is a must for a citizen in the 21st century. It gives you an in-depth insight into the world and its issues.
Geography opens up a variety of career opportunities from engineering and marketing to teaching and tourism.
It effectively bridges the gap between the sciences and arts and is recognised as a subject that provides the necessary academic rigour for potential university placement. It is a solid qualification that has merit both in the workplace and academia.

What can I expect?

You will learn in a wide variety of ways such as by using maps, GIS skills, data analysis, photos, videos and podcasts. You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher level thinking skills and show your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing. You will improve or gain an ability to work constructively in a team environment.
You will gain cultural awareness, learn project management skills, including effective time management and learn research and critical thinking skills.

What do I need?

To study A-Level Geography it is desirable to have studied GCSE Geography. Students will require an interest in the world and a desire to know more.

What about the future?

Geography combines well with both arts and science subjects. You may already be thinking ahead to potential university and career choices so it is worth bearing in mind that geography is a broad-based subject that really fits well for your future progression. For example, for careers in sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location, managing the effects of hazards and climate change geography are an obvious choice. For careers in the world of business an understanding of global economics forms an important part of Geography.

Level 3 CACHE Health & Social Care

Why Level 3 Health & Social Care?

This course is designed to provide students with a broad introduction to the Health and Social Care sector. The qualification aims to develop and sustain an interest in health, early years (care and education), social care and issues affecting the care sector.

What can I expect?

This course is ideal for those students who know that they want a job which involves helping people in some way, even if they are not sure which type of employment they wish to enter. The vocational placement part of the course gives students the opportunity to gain an insight into a number of different job roles, as well as allowing individuals to gain the actual hands-on experience that is so important to universities and employers. The course is very generic, allowing students to study a variety of different topics.

You will study nine units over the two-year course and sit one controlled assessment. The topics are wide ranging and include human growth and development, working in health and social care, psychological and sociological perspectives, communication, safeguarding, equality, diversity and rights and infection prevention.

What do I need?

It is desirable for students to have studied the Level 2 CACHE course.

What about the future?

Past students who have taken these qualifications in Health and Social Care have either gone straight into a job role or have gained entry to a university course of their choice. Many are now working towards careers in teaching, social work and nursing / midwifery, whilst others have enrolled on an apprenticeship programme.

“It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.”
Mahatma Gandhi

History

Why History?

Knowledge of History is vital for understanding key issues in the world today. It is an interesting course which covers topics that the you are both familiar with and also ones which you may have never studied before.

What can I expect?

History is an exciting and well-respected A-Level. You will study three really interesting periods in great depth:

- The Tudors , 1485-1603 (examined at the end of Year 13 and worth 40% of your mark)
- Weimar & Nazi Germany 1918-45 (examined at the end of Year 13 and worth 40% of your mark)
- Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855-1953 (this is a coursework element and worth 20% of your mark)

As part of your study of A-Level History you will learn how to analyse and interpret a wide range of historical sources. You will also be expected to contribute regularly in group discussions, debates and presentations.

What do I need?

Desirable to have studied GCSE History. You will need to enjoy reading and possess strong writing skills.

What about the future?

The skills gained in History are required for a wide variety of careers: including Law, Media and Journalism, Banking, the Civil Service and many others. It is recognised by the Russell Group of Universities as being a 'facilitating' subject (one that helps with all others). Adding an A-Level History qualification to your C.V. is always impressive to both prospective employers and higher education institutions.

BTEC AAQ Information Technology

Why Information Technology?

Studying BTEC Level 3 AAQ in Information Technology equips students with practical, industry-relevant skills in areas like programming, cybersecurity, and data management. The course emphasizes hands-on experience, allowing students to solve real-world IT problems. With a focus on coursework over exams, it fosters independent learning and critical thinking. This qualification is highly valued by employers and universities, offering pathways into higher education, apprenticeships, or direct employment in roles such as IT support, web development, or systems management.

What can I expect?

You will study the following content:

Unit 1– Information Technology Systems

Unit 2– Cyber Security and Incident Management

Unit 3– Website Development

Unit 4– Relational Database Development

Assessment will include the following:

Unit 1– Information Technology Systems

1 External assessment lasting 2 hours

Unit 2– Cyber Security and Incident Management

1 External assessment lasting 2 hours 15 minutes

Unit 3– Website Development

3 Internal assessments including analysing and producing a website to a set design brief

Unit 4– Relational Database Development

3 Internal assessments including analysing and producing a database to a set design brief

What about the future?

After studying BTEC AAQ in Information Technology, you can pursue various options. Many students continue into higher education, studying degrees in IT, computer science, or cybersecurity. Alternatively, you can enter IT-related apprenticeships, gaining hands-on experience in areas like network management or software development. This qualification also opens opportunities for direct employment in roles such as IT support technician, web developer, or systems analyst, offering a solid foundation for a tech-driven career.

Mathematics

Why Maths?

Mathematics contributes vastly to our every-day lives. Students who study A-Level Mathematics will be introduced to, and given the opportunity to investigate, the high level of Mathematics that is being used in many industries. The course allows numerous opportunities to look at mathematics in context, which will prepare students for a variety of university courses and careers. Students will also have the opportunity to improve their understanding of everyday mathematics, develop new mathematical ideas and explain their solutions.

What can I expect?

The A-Level course begins by recapping and extending some aspects of GCSE algebra. This leads students into the Pure Mathematics element of the A-Level, which is a selection of high-level algebra including Euclidean Geometry, Calculus and Trigonometry. Later in the course students will begin to study Statistics, which involves developing methods of analysing data to find different types of averages, expected results, deviations and variations. There is also a large data set that students will need to be familiar with, alongside being able to use software to analyse various results for the data. Students will also look at different types of probabilities, such as conditional probability which is based on a series of outcomes. Finally, the students will study Mechanics involving kinematics of particles, in other words: how things move in the physical world. It has similar topics to A-Level Physics and it is essential for those wanting to study engineering or architecture

What do I need?

To study the A-Level, it is desirable that you have achieved at least a Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics on the higher tier. A full understanding of the more complex topics studied at GCSE such as solving quadratic equations, transformation of graphical functions and the more advanced trigonometry (using the sine and cosine rules) is essential to the course.

What about the future?

A-Level Mathematics opens the door to many professions such as Engineering, Actuary Sciences, Architecture, Physics, Games Designers and many, many more. Those with a greater mathematical understanding will be more successful in these career choices.

“Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas."
Albert Einstein

“Either mathematics is too big for the human mind or the human mind is more than a machine.”
Kurt Gödel

Media Studies

Why Media Studies?

A-Level Media Studies offers a varied and engaging content, enabling you to develop research and problem-solving skills as well as increasing your creativity. You will gain a deep appreciation and understanding of the role media plays in day-to-day life. You will also refine your debating skills through the discussion of contemporary issues from a range of perspectives. You will gain an insight into the different elements of the media and how they target specific audiences. This subject will help you to be more analytical when thinking about different media texts and give you the opportunity to be more creative when producing your own texts.

What can I expect?

You will gain the ability to prove your critical thinking and analytical skills. You will demonstrate an appreciation and deep understanding of the media and their role, both historically and currently in society, culture, politics and the economy. The Theoretical Framework for A-Level Media studies includes Media Language; Representation; Audience and media industries.

What do I need?

This is a popular two-year course in which students have achieved high grades in recent years. Desirable but not essential to have studied GCSE Media Studies, but an interest in the wider media landscape is essential.

What about the future?

Media Studies A-Level is accepted by all universities. Media Studies is a popular course at Universities and can lead you into a number of different career pathways, such as (but not limited to) Public relations, Advertising, Journalism, Marketing, Multimedia specialisms and the Entertainment Industry. But remember every business will have to deal with the media in some way.

Music

Why Music?

The A-Level Music course is designed to be accessible with the opportunity to incorporate music technology if required. Students have the chance to choose one of the areas of study and therefore have more of an input into the course.
The three main areas of music are covered (performance, composition and understanding and listening) with a slight emphasis on performing. Students can choose to do solo or ensemble performances and have the option of choosing the area of focus for composition.

What can I expect?

A written examination testing listening skills, knowledge and understanding and requiring students to write in depth about a set work and music from a selected area of study.
The study of compositional techniques, or composition using and developing the student's own musical ideas, or an arrangement of a given piece of music. Demonstration of performing skills as soloists, in ensembles and/or using music technology.

What do I need?

You must be confident playing an instrument or singing – minimum equivalent to grade 5. You must be competent in reading musical notation.

What about the future?

Many career choices look for creative people; people that can think on their feet, can work as part of a team, are well practiced in pressurised situations and understand different cultures. A solid musical education can massively improve these skills. Students that have a history of music will regularly participate in extra curricular activities and play a leading role in university life and the student union.

PE

Why PE?

This course provides students with a programme aimed at understanding and evaluating sport and physical activity. Strong emphasis is placed on the application of theory to practical issues such as participation, performance and skill acquisition. If you love playing and watching sport, keeping fit and healthy and are interested in how the body works, you will enjoy this course.

What can I expect?

Content includes: applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sport psychology, in society, exercise physiology, sport and society and sport and technology. The exam element of the course is worth 70% of the final grade. The majority of your lessons will be theory based.

This is assessed through three separate exam papers.

The practical: The practical element of the course is worth 30% of the final grade. The student is assessed in one sport, as either a performer OR coach (15% of final grade). They must also complete a piece of coursework, this is a performance analysis and evaluation (15% of final grade).

What do I need?

It is essential that you actively partake in one sport and have a general interest in sport.

What about the future?

A-Level PE is excellent preparation for university, you will have to work independently and be responsible for much of your practical grade. It sits very well with Biology, Physics and Psychology as there are cross over topics on these courses. A-Level PE is an excellent academic qualification for those considering studying it further at university or perhaps wanting a career in the sport industry. Past students have gone on to university, become physiotherapists, personal trainers, sport coaches, PE teachers, joined the army, become professional sports people, managers of leisure facilities and sports psychologists.

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

Why PRE?

PRE offers students the opportunity to question the philosophical and ethical ideas that are present within different religious and non-religious worldviews. These are important as, even if we are not from a religious tradition, as humans, they inform and shape the society and the values that we live by. Everyday life reflects these dilemmas of thought. These problems have been the source for some of the most influential and persistent of human questions; how should we live? What are we here for? Are we free? Is there a purpose to it all? What is right and what is wrong and on what basis can we make these decisions? PRE explores a wide variety of answers to these questions, encouraging students to come to their own conclusions.

What can I expect?

The course consists of three components which are individually assessed. These components are; 'Philosophy of religion', 'Religion and ethics' and 'Developments in religious thought'. In 'Philosophy of religion' learners will study philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and beliefs. These include arguments regarding the existence or non-existence of God and the problems of evil and suffering in the world, as well significant wider philosophical concepts and the works of key philosophical thinkers both ancient and modern. The study of 'Religion and ethics' is not only about moral theories but applications of these theories to modern issues such as euthanasia and human sexuality. 'Developments in religious thought' provides an opportunity to study one religious tradition exploring religious beliefs, values, teaching and practices as expressions of human identity. Also, in this component we will consider ways in which religious traditions have evolved and developed over time, including the religious responses to challenges and significant social issues. All components are assessed in three separate final written examinations.

What about the future?

PRE offers students the opportunity to question the philosophical and ethical ideas that are present within different religious and non-religious worldviews. PRE develops desired skills such as critical thinking, analysis and the ability to form and communicate arguments which are desired in many fields including the medical profession, the Civil Service, Advertising and Marketing, Journalism, Investment Banking and Politics.

Photography

Why Photography?

We live in a world incredibly rich in visual information: pictures and photographs in newspapers, magazines, posters, advertising, television, film, and printed books. Photographs change the way we see the world. As our ability to record has become less technically difficult, more and more people have taken advantage of it. Many more photographs are being produced. Stripped of its technical complexities, the 'art' of photography has become increasingly important; photography is as much about seeing and thinking, as it is about content.

What can I expect?

This course offers learners an opportunity to fully develop and explore the chosen specialism of Photography whilst expanding knowledge, understanding and skills in a range of specialist areas. It is designed to encourage learners to develop skills, creativity, imagination and independence. It provides an opportunity for learners to take a personal interest in why Photography matters and to be inspired and changed by studying a coherent, worthwhile course of study, together with gaining experience of the working practices of individuals, organisations and creative and cultural industries. Learners will experience one or more areas of Photography, such as with portraiture, landscape photography, commercial photography, still-life photography, documentary photography, experimental imagery, editorial photography, photographic installation, the photographic process and the moving image.

The following are some of the techniques available to learners in Photography: digital technology; the use of camera equipment and lenses; lighting and exposure techniques; moving image; image manipulation and printing.

What do I need?

You must have a genuine interest in Art and Design and a desire to study Photography in great depth. You are expected to put in a considerable amount of study time, both in lessons and at home due to the nature of the course and to fulfil content.

What about the future?

Possible career routes include: Portrait Photographer, Landscape Photographer, Commercial Photographer, Scientific and Medical Photographer, Documentary Photography, Editorial Photographer, Fashion Photographer, Photojournalist, Aerial Photographer, Fine Artist, Graphic Designer, Teacher, Forensic Photographer, Advertising and Marketing Communications, Film, Television and Games.

Physics

Why Physics?

A-Level Physics studies forces, energy, materials, waves and electricity in greater depth than covered in GCSE. These are studied in context to see how Physics applies to world around us. You will be expected to do more independent learning than before, with regular maintenance of notes and reading around the subject. There will be a good deal of practical work and you will learn to think critically about aspects of Physics that impact on everyday life. You will also develop synoptic thinking skills being able to see how different aspects of Physics and other sciences link together as well as realising the limitations of Mathematical models. Problem solving and mathematical skills are also built upon, through both theoretical and practical work, and are assessed through both the Practical Endorsement and the A-Level examinations.

What can I expect?

This course will appeal to students who have an interest in developing their knowledge and understanding of Physics. Physics tries to explain all parts of the Universe - from the biggest to the smallest, from the way they interact with each other to the results of these interactions. If you've ever had an interest in how things work or wondered why the Universe behaves as it does, then you should be studying Physics.

What do I need?

To study A-Level Physics, it is desirable that you have studied the higher tier and achieved at least a grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science or a grade 6 in GCSE Biology. Strong mathematical skills equivalent to grade 5 at GCSE is also desirable. 40% of the exam papers assess mathematical ability.

What about the future?

From Accounting, Banking, Computing, Designing, Engineering to Pharmacology or even Zookeeper - the range of possible careers is much wider than you might think! You could study degrees in different areas of Physics, such as Astrophysics, Specialist Physics, Medical Physics or Theoretical Physics. Other degrees which often look for candidates with Physics at A-Levels are Mathematics and Medicine.

"Science is beautiful when it makes simple explanations of phenomena or connections between different observations. Examples include the double helix in biology and the fundamental equations of physics."
Stephen Hawking

Politics

Why Politics?

Lively, relevant, controversial… there are many ways to describe A-level Politics. There's no denying that it's one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose. Covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, it helps you understand how the UK country is run and develops research, written communication and debate skills. It also helps grow your confidence. Politics affects all of us, from the tuition fees for university study to decisions about funding for the NHS. At a time when the UK prepares to leave the EU, students need to know how decisions are being made about their future, who is making them and why. The study of Politics enables students to scrutinise the decisions being made and consider alternative solutions. This course aims to help students to think, to critically evaluate and to be creative in thought, and to be prepared to be active young citizens.

What can I expect?

Students will explore the way in which both the UK and USA are governed and will draw comparisons and contrasts between them. We will study how leaders are elected and how they use their skills to lead. A study of political ideas including liberalism, conservatism and socialism and one other ideology to be selected will underpin the course. This course aims to bring real issues alive in the classroom, with independent thought, debate and discussion encouraged.

What do I need?

Politics students tend to come from a written background rather than Maths or Science, as essay writing skills are essential to exam success. This course works particularly well with History as there are many common themes, especially in Year 13. The most important factor to consider is whether you have a genuine interest in current affairs and political issues.

What about the future?

An A-Level in Politics can lead to a range of further study and career opportunities. Students can go on to study Politics, social policy, PPE and related courses at university, with potential employment including working in the civil service, politics itself or any career that requires up-to-date knowledge of the modern world.

Psychology

Why Psychology?

Psychology is the study of human behaviour and is therefore directly relevant to everyday life. It is also a very interesting subject as it focuses on why people behave as they do. For example, what causes anorexia, or why do we sleep, how do we measure intelligence and why are emotions useful? If you have an interest in why people behave in the way they do, then this is the course for you! Remember, Psychology is a Science subject and so you will be expected to undertake practical projects and learn about how to carry out your own research.

What can I expect?

A-Level students will study topics such as Social influence, Memory, Attachments, Psychopathology and Research Methods. In addition to these topics, those students studying the full two-year course will go on to study topics such as Relationships, Forensic Psychology and Schizophrenia. Studying Psychology will help you learn to work independently and carry out research. It will also train you to evaluate debates and research effectively. Studying Psychology will increase your understanding of how people relate to each other in many different circumstances. Many of these skills can be used in a wide range of careers.

What do I need?

To study A-Level Psychology, it is desirable to have achieved at least a grade 4 in Combined Science or Triple Science and Maths. 30% of the course is Maths and Science. You also need an enthusiasm for learning about human behavior.

What about the future?

Psychology provides a useful foundation for any job, as you will always be dealing with people, whatever career you follow. However, it is particularly valuable as a preparation for Teaching, Journalism, Drama, Social Work, Law, Medicine and Advertising. There are so many different careers that involve psychology, for example, counsellors, forensic psychologists, police officers and lawyers to name a few.

“Psychology is the science of the intellects, characters and the behaviour of animals, including man.” Edward Thorndike

Sociology

Why Sociology?

In terms of the history of the Earth, its only yesterday that mankind was living in the caves, and the day before that when we were swinging from branch to branch with the other creatures! And yet in what is really the blink of an eye, we have developed into a complex society with a wide number of problems and opportunities to live with. And it's those factors which affect how our species, and the tribes and family groups within it, works on a day-to-day basis. Over a fascinating two-year period you'll cover a spectrum of subjects which, between them, will make sense of the society we live in and understand the culture and identity issues which affect us all.

Do you like to think? Do you enjoy a good argument? Are you interested in questions like:
Do ASBO's reduce crime?
Why do young black boys underachieve at school?
Should we be "proud" to be British?

Well Sociology may be for you. We examine the culture we live in and look at a variety of viewpoints including your own. You must have lots of opinions and be interested in the world around you, including politics! This means listening to the views of others as well as expressing your own viewpoint. The subject is fun, lively and highly popular. The teaching methods are varied and include reviewing television programs, role play, debates and presentations. You must be prepared to do lots of writing as the course requires this. There is no coursework and the exam is essay based.

What can I expect?

When you study Sociology you will begin to see the world in a very different way. Sociology encourages you to question everything! Sociology lessons involve lots of debates which will help you to formulate arguments and help to develop your analytical skills. The exams in Sociology involve writing essays so this subject will help you to develop your essay writing style so that you are able to formulate a successful argument using knowledge, analysis and evaluation.

What do I need?

To study A-Level Sociology, it is desirable for students to have achieved a Grade 4 in English Language GCSE.

What about the future?

The subject is really useful for most careers and courses including Teaching, Nursing, Law, Politics, Journalism, TV and Drama, Leisure and Sport, The Police and Management. Previous students are currently employed as Solicitors, Police Officers, Social Workers, Nurses and Teachers! It is an academic subject accepted by all universities including Oxbridge.

Spanish

Why Spanish?

During your GCSEs you have developed some vital skills to be able to communicate in a Foreign Language. At this stage, in A-Level, we will present you with cultural knowledge for you to critically analyse and evaluate the new content learnt.
Spanish will turn into a creative subject in which communicating turns into a live debate on knowledge with no right and wrong answers but about how well informed you are to share your points of view using your developed speaking skills.

What can I expect?

This course will help you to deepen and develop your analytical skills and will improve your knowledge of both Spanish and English grammar. You will be taught by two native speakers: Miss O. Peragón Delgado, originally from Cádiz and Mrs P. Hermida Vidal, from Madrid, who will share their profound knowledge of their country for you to create a mature opinion and develop your evaluation skills when debating about the Hispanic world's traditions.

Throughout the 2-year course, you will also act as a Film Critic which will culminate your understanding through the analysis of both the film industry and their Literary production.

What do I need?

To study A-Level Spanish, it is essential to have achieved at least a Grade 4 at GCSE Spanish.

What about the future?

Having studied Spanish at A-Level creates a wealth of opportunities which can open doors and start new adventures. Some examples of career paths and further study can be in broadcast journalism, international development worker, diplomatic service officer, interpreter, tour manager to name a few.

BTEC Sport

Why BTEC Sport?

This stimulating and challenging vocational course is for students who intend to study for a degree or follow a career in Sport and Recreation. It covers a wide variety of topics including both the theory and practical aspects of sport.

This is a two-year course, equivalent to one A-Level.

What can I expect?

The course is delivered through a wide range of teaching and learning styles. Students will use the latest IT facilities to investigate aspects of the subject area, promoting research and independent leaning skills, which will be supported and put into use in real life situations both inside and outside of the college environment. An extensive range of employers from the industry area will be involved in the support and delivery of the subject material. Student involvement is encouraged at all times to help your learning and understanding. Theory elements will include Anatomy, Physiology and a fitness training programme.

What do I need?

Desirable to have studied GCSE PE or L2 BTEC Sport, but not essential. You must have an outgoing personality with good personable skills.

What about the future?

Opportunities for future careers and further study could lead to becoming PE Teacher, Sport / Exercise Scientist, Sports Psychologist, Sports Coach, Sports Development Officer, Sports Journalist, Sport Rehabilitator

The Carlton Academy

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