

IDSALL SCHOOL



Sixth Form Course Guide

Contents

Sixth Form Course Guide

Minimum Entry Requirements	4
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science	5
Art & Design	6
Biology	7
Business Studies	8
Chemistry	9
GCE Computer Science	10
BTEC Level 2 (Construction) Maintenance Operations	11
Economics	12
English Language	13
English Literature	14
French	15
Geography	16
German	17
History	18
BTEC Level 3 in ICT	19
Law	20
Mathematics	21
Further Maths	22
Media Studies	23
Level 2 Motor Vehicle	24
BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Music	25
BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts	26
Physics	27
GCE Product Design	28
Psychology	29
Religious Studies - Philosophy & Ethics	30
Sociology	31
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport	32
BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport & Exercise	33
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sport & Exercise	34

Minimum Entry Requirements

A Levels

- ◆ Students must achieve a grade total of at least 8 in English Language and Mathematics, with no grade less than a 4.
- ◆ Students must achieve a B grade in subjects they want to continue at A Level except in English Language and Mathematics.
- ◆ Additional individual subject requirements are detailed on the relevant pages in this booklet.
- ◆ An average point score of 42 is required using the following equivalences.

English Language, Literature and Mathematics			All other subjects		
Grade	=	Points	Grade	=	Points
1	=	16	G	=	16
2	=	28	F	=	22
3	=	34	E	=	28
4	=	40	D	=	34
5	=	44	C	=	40
6	=	48	B	=	46
7	=	52	A	=	52
8	=	56	A*	=	58
9	=	60		=	

- ◆ If a student wishes to study A Levels alongside any BTEC qualification they must achieve the minimum requirements to study A Levels and the criteria for the specific BTEC.

BTEC

- ◆ Students must achieve a grade total of at least 8 in English Language and Mathematics, with no grade less than a 4.
- ◆ Students must achieve 3 other C grades or equivalent in any other subjects.
- ◆ If a student has studied the subject at GCSE level they are expected to achieve a B grade or equivalent.

Level 2 Qualifications in our Skills Centre

Students must achieve a grade total of at least 5 in English and Mathematics, with no grade less than a 2. Successful applicants must also have a reference that communicates they have a good attitude to learning, good behaviour and a good attendance record. Applicants must demonstrate a hard working attitude and enthusiasm for the subject. If applicants do not achieve grade 4s in English and Maths they will have to continue studying these with enthusiasm during the course.

Extended Certificate in Applied Science

What topics will I study?

The BTEC National Extended Certificate is comprised of three mandatory units that all pupils must study and a further optional unit. Two of the Mandatory Units will be examined externally via examination.

Mandatory Units:

- ◆ Principles and Applications of Science I
- ◆ Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques
- ◆ Science Investigation Skills

The course is designed for learners who are interested in learning about the subject alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in Applied Science. This gives pupils the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for employment or further study.

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

This BTEC National Extended Certificate offers greater flexibility and a choice of emphasis through the optional units. It is equivalent in size to one A Level. If you want to study this qualification along with A Levels you must meet the criteria for studying A Levels and achieve at least a C in GCSE Science.

If you wish to study this BTEC along with 2 more BTECs you need to meet the BTEC entry requirements including achieving at least a C grade in GCSE Science and a total grade of 8 from English and Maths combined with no grade lower than a 4. Besides these entry requirements it is also vital that students have an organized approach to their work and good practical skills.

What other subjects should I study?

This BTEC National Extended Certificate should be combined with two or three A level subjects or their BTEC equivalent. Although the Subsidiary Diploma stands as a subject in its own right, it mixes well with Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics, giving a solid practical foundation to these more theoretical subjects.

What about choices after A Levels?

The BTEC National Extended Certificate offers an engaging programme of study for those who are clear about the area of employment that they wish to enter. These students may wish to extend their study and/or further specialize by completing a general qualification such as GCE A Level, additional specialist learning (for example, through another BTEC qualification) or other complementary course. For all students the BTEC National Extended Certificate can extend their experience in a particular sector of their interest.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of the BTEC National Extended Certificate, please contact Mr Middleton the Head of Science - mmiddleton@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk, or access the Edexcel/Pearson website and search for BTEC National Extended Certificate Applied Science 2016.

AQA

AS & A Level

Art & Design

What topics will I study?

AS Level (Year 12) is designed to be an experimental and exploratory year that emphasises process over product. Your creative abilities will be tested through experimentation in a range of fine art media (painting, drawing and sculpture) and will incorporate the study of artists of your own choice from different cultures and periods. Producing sketchbooks for personal research and observations are key activities. Observational drawing is a key element to this course.

A Level (Year 13) builds upon the AS experience. You will be expected to produce high quality finished pieces of work based upon structured research and development. So the emphasis is product over process. Group projects will be introduced from which you will be encouraged to develop your own individual work. Now you will be able to specialise in painting and drawing or sculpture. You will also be encouraged to use film, photography, printmaking and ICT.

Extras

Art staff will organise the following opportunities (dependent upon demand & funding) - life classes, artists' workshops, gallery visits (national and international), university visits (degree shows) and the ordering of sketch books and portfolios. Students will be expected to provide a minimum of two A2 size sketchbooks for each year of study.

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

GCSE Grade B or above is expected in one or both of the following:
Art – GCSE or BTEC in Art and Design
Design and Technology (Textiles) GCSE

What other subjects should I study?

All subjects can be relevant to Art and Design, but most useful are Design, English, History, Theatre Studies, Religious Studies and Media Studies.

What about choices after A Levels?

This course is relevant if you are considering a career in one of the aspects of art and design from a professional designer to a museum curator. Many of our students have been placed on degree courses, eg. Landscape Architecture, Graphics & Design, Fine Art, Stained Glass, Interior Design, Product Design, Art History, Photography, Computer Software Design.

Remember, Further and Higher Education courses in Art and Design have a strong vocational tradition, and are extremely successful in placing students in relevant employment.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of A Level Art, then please contact Mr A Baldwin (Head of Art) - abaldwin@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

AS & A Level

Biology

What topics will I study?

AS Level (Year 12)

Unit 1: Development of Practical Skills in Biology

A folder of practical skills will form the basis of the practical endorsement in written examinations.

Unit 2: Foundations in Biology

Cell Structure; Biological Molecules; Nucleotides & Nucleic Acids; Enzymes; Biological Membranes; Cell Division, Diversity & Organisation.

Unit 3: Exchange and Transport

Exchange Surfaces; Transport in Animals; Transport in Plants.

Unit 4: Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease

Communicable Diseases, Disease Prevention and the Immune System; Biodiversity; Classification & Evolution.

A Level (Year 13)

Unit 5: Communication, Homeostasis & Energy

Communication & Homeostasis; Excretion as an example of Homeostatic Control; Neuronal Communication; Hormonal Communication; Plant & Animal Responses; Photosynthesis; Respiration.

Unit 6: Genetics, Evolution & Ecosystems

Cellular Control; Patterns of Inheritance; Manipulating Genomes; Cloning & Biotechnology; Ecosystems; Populations & Sustainability.

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

To study Biology at A Level you will need to have achieved the entry requirements for the Sixth Form. It is expected that you achieve a B Grade in GCSE Biology (Higher level) or equivalent in the Additional

Science Course. You will also need to achieve a minimum of 11 points from English Language and maths with no grade being below a Grade 5.

What other subjects should I study?

Biology is an excellent subject to take with other sciences. Traditionally many students take Biology alongside Physics /Chemistry or Maths but it also complements Geography and PE. Many students find the subject interesting and wish to study it further without necessarily wishing to take it beyond the Sixth Form. It is preferred that Biology is taken alongside another Science subject.

What about choices after A Levels?

If you are looking at employment when you leave the Sixth Form, employers look favourably on a science 'A' Level because of the skills you will have developed. Biology is a stepping stone for a whole range of degree courses. In recent years Sixth Formers wishing to pursue Biology further have taken degree courses in Biomedical Sciences, Applied Biology, Marine Biology, Environmental Science, Psychology, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry. Many students have then advanced to Masters Degrees and Doctorates. There are so many choices for which 'A' Level Biology is a valuable qualification that you will need to do some research in the Careers Library or ask for a Careers Interview.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of 'A' Level Biology, then please contact Mr M. Middleton (Head of Science) - mmiddleton@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

Business Studies

What topics will I study?

Year 12

- ◆ What is business?
- ◆ Managers, leadership and decision making
- ◆ Decision making to improve marketing performance
- ◆ Decision making to improve operational performance
- ◆ Decision making to improve financial performance
- ◆ Decision making to improve human resource performance

Year 13

- ◆ Analysing the strategic position of a business
- ◆ Choosing strategic direction
- ◆ Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- ◆ Managing strategic change

Key Skills

The broad and multi-disciplinary nature of Business Studies, and its application to a wide range of current issues, assists candidates in developing their knowledge and understanding of Key Skills and produce evidence of their application.

The Business Studies course is able to contribute in a wide variety of ways to the Key skills of Numeracy, Communication and Information Technology.

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

To study Business Studies at A Level you will need to have achieved the entry requirements for the Sixth Form. It is expected that these grades will include a grade total of at least 8 in English Language and Maths with no grade less than a 4. For those who currently study Business Studies you will be expected to have achieved a GCSE grade B or equivalent.

What other subjects should I study?

Business Studies complements a wide range of other subjects taught in Idsall Sixth Form. There are strong links with Economics, Information Technology, Maths and Geography as well as covering areas of Sociology. Many students find that combinations of these subjects work well together.

What about choices after A Levels?

There are a wide variety of skills that can be developed through the Business Studies course that can prove valuable in subsequent studies. Many students have used an A Level in Business Studies as a platform for further study, taking degrees in Business Studies itself or business related courses, opening up a variety of career pathways for the future.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of the A Level course then please contact Mr Thomas - dthomas@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk or Mrs Fee.

AS & A Level

Chemistry

What topics will I study?

Chemistry is designed to be taught by a content led approach. The course is flexible with the specification divided up into topics, each covering different key concepts in Chemistry. The topics range from the Periodic Table & Energy to Organic Chemistry & Analysis. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and assessed both through written papers and, for A Level only, the Practical Endorsement.

Year 12

- ◆ Development of Practical Skills
- ◆ Foundations in Chemistry
- ◆ Periodic Table & Energy
- ◆ Core Organic Chemistry

Year 13

- ◆ Physical Chemistry
- ◆ Organic Chemistry & Analysis
- ◆ Practical Endorsement

Optional Units**AS level (Year 12)**

At AS you will take two, 1½ hour papers covering content from topics 1-4, each paper worth 50% of the marks. Both papers assess content from all 4 topics and have short answer (structured) and extended response questions, with Paper 1 also having multiple choice questions. These papers will be taken after the first year of study. The AS course is designed to be co-teachable with the first year of the A Level course and so students can carry straight on to A Level if they choose to.

A Level (Year 13)

You will take two 2¼ hour papers (each worth 37% of the marks) and a single 1½ hour paper (worth 26% of the marks) covering content from topics 1-6. The papers contain a mixture of synoptic assessment with multiple choice, short answer (structured) and extended response questions. In addition Papers 1 and 2 contain multiple

choice questions. Students will have a teacher-assessed practical endorsement (reported separately to the A Level grade). These papers will be taken after the second year of study and only the grades for these exams will count towards the A Level qualification.

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

To study Chemistry at AS and A Level you will need to have achieved the entry requirements for the Sixth Form. It is expected that these grades will include a B grade in GCSE Chemistry (Higher Level) or equivalent in the Additional Science course and a minimum of a grade 6 in Maths and a grade 5 in English Language.

What other subjects should I study?

In addition to being an important subject in its own right, Chemistry complements A Levels in Biology, Physics, Geography, Business Studies and Maths. Many students find Chemistry interesting and wish to study it further without necessarily wishing to take it beyond the Sixth Form.

What about choices after A Levels?

You can study Chemistry and know you are keeping your options open and you will find that Chemistry is highly regarded in many manufacturing and consumer based industries such as plastics, pharmaceuticals and food.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of AS or A Level Chemistry, then please contact either Mrs Whitwood - awhitwood@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk, Mrs Kettle - pkettle@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk or Mr Willoughby (Chemistry Department) - iwilloughby@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

GCE Computer Science

Designed after consultation with members of the British Computer Society and a number of top universities, OCR's AS and A Level Computer Science qualifications inspire and challenge students to apply the knowledge they gain with the creative and technical skills they acquire.

Who should take this course?

Obviously, GCE Computer Science is the ideal choice for those hoping for a career in Computing. More than this, however, it provides students with many of the problem solving, thinking and design skills that are highly valued in a variety of industries. If you want to become a designer, architect, engineer, publisher, medical researcher, music or film producer (the list is endless), then Computer Science is also for you.

What topics will I study?

AS (Year 12)

Unit 1: Computing Principles (50%). This unit is assessed via written examination. Topics include: the characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices; software and software development; data types, data structures and algorithms; legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues.

Unit 2: Algorithms and Problem Solving (50%). This unit is assessed via written examination. Topics include: elements of computational thinking; problem solving and programming; algorithms.

A Level (Year 13)

Unit 1: Computer Systems (40%). Assessed via written examination. Topics include: 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.

Unit 2: Algorithms and Programming (40%). Assessed via written examination. Topics include: elements of computational thinking; programming and problem solving; pattern recognition, abstraction and decomposition; algorithm design and efficiency.

Unit 3: Programming Project (20%).

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

As well as the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form, you are expected to have attained a Grade 5 in GCSE Maths, and a Grade B for GCSE Computer Science. The most important factor is that you have a genuine interest in Computer Science and programming.

What about choices after A Levels?

A GCE in Computer Science gives students a wide choice of options into further study, training or relevant employment. Those wishing to take their Computer Science studies further will be well equipped to move on to a Degree in Computer Science.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of AS and A Level ICT, please contact Mr. N. Barnett - nbarnett@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

(Construction) Maintenance Operations

What topics will I study?

BTEC Level 2 Maintenance Operations:

- ◆ Brick and Blockwork
- ◆ Carpentry and Joinery
- ◆ Painting and Decorating
- ◆ Health and Safety
- ◆ Sustainability and Technology

CSkills Level 2 Brickwork:

- ◆ Cavity Walling
- ◆ Blockwork
- ◆ Calculations and Science of Construction
- ◆ Setting out
- ◆ Health and Safety
- ◆ Technology

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

Students must achieve a grade total of at least 5 in English and Mathematics, with no grade less than a 2. Successful applicants must also have a reference that communicates they have a good attitude to learning, good behaviour and a good attendance record. Applicants must demonstrate a hard working attitude and enthusiasm for the subject. If applicants do not achieve grade 4s in English and Mathematics they will have to continue studying these with enthusiasm during the course. Experience in the construction sector is advantageous, but not essential. You must also attend a formal interview with the course leader.

What other subjects should I study?

This is a stand-alone course and cannot not be studied with any other qualification except if you are required to continue studying English and/or Maths.

What about choices after BTEC?

Students who study Construction can expect to go on to study a HNC or HND in Construction. Alternatively, they could go on to do an apprenticeship in Brickwork and Construction.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of Construction, please contact Mr Northall (Course Leader) - gnorthall@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

AS & A Level

Economics

What's it all about?

Economics is a fascinating subject to study, as it helps you look more deeply into the world around you – how and why it functions as it does. It can also give you new perspectives on some of the most pressing and challenging problems facing the world today. Economics is with you for life and it will help you to understand what is happening nationally and internationally.

Ever thought about:

- ◆ What determines the price you pay for the things you buy?
- ◆ Why the government can't just increase the minimum wage and make everyone better off?
- ◆ Why there is unemployment when there are lots of job vacancies?
- ◆ Why there is poverty in the world alongside great wealth?
- ◆ Why you have to pay tuition fees to go to university when Scottish students don't?
- ◆ When you go abroad each year why do you get different amounts when you change your currency?

If you would like an answer to these questions then Economics might be for you – study Economics and you can help make the world a better place!

What topics will I study?

In both years, your time will be split between microeconomics (concerned with the decisions made by individuals in a variety of situations), and macroeconomics (concerned with decisions with wider issues such as employment, inflation etc). In year 13 you will be examined on how well you can apply your learning in a 'real world' context.

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

To study Economics at A Level you will need to have achieved the entry requirement for the Sixth Form. It is expected that these grades will include 5s in English and Maths. If you want to read Economics at university you must be aware that many require a grade A in Maths at GCSE and some will require Maths A Level. You should also have an inquiring mind, be able to analyse, reason and think critically.

What about choices after A Levels?

The main professions associated with economics are: business, finance and banking as well as HR, government and international organisations. However, the skills you acquire in Economics will equip you for a range of other options.

Further Information

Because Economics is a new subject to you, you will probably have lots of questions so please see Mr Thomas - dthomas@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk to discuss the course in more detail.

English Language

What topics will I study?

This course builds on what students know already from GCSE in order to teach the skills every linguist needs to explore the language system, including modality, and the differences between spoken and written language.

There are opportunities for students to demonstrate their engagement with language in the real world – including people's attitudes to current language issues, as well as exploring language in particular contexts. English Language gives students the practical 'tools', whether for the workplace or for higher education, to become independent, critical readers and analysers of language use in the 21st century.

Assessment

AS: 100% examination

- ◆ Linguistic analysis of authentic texts in both the spoken and written mode
- ◆ Original writing for a real-world purpose on a topical language issue
- ◆ Analysis of how issues relating to language and gender or language and power influence particular authentic, unseen texts.

A2: 20% coursework; 80% examination

- ◆ Linguistic analysis of authentic texts
- ◆ Original writing for a real-world purpose on a topical language issue
- ◆ Analysis of how children acquire language
- ◆ Language in the media
- ◆ How language changes over time.

Please note that AS units will no longer form part of the A-Level and the course is linear.

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

Apart from the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form you are expected to achieve a total of at least 11 points in English Language and Literature with no grade less than a 5.

What other subjects should I study?

This course will appeal to anyone who would like to develop their interest in the structures and functions of the English Language. It is not incompatible with any other AS subjects but has clear connections with Sociology, Psychology, Theatre, Media Studies and History where analysis of text is evident. English Language is an academic subject in its own right and is worth considering as a complement to Maths and Science subjects.

What about choices after A Levels?

English Language AS and A2 levels are widely accepted entrance qualifications for higher education establishments and even preferred by some for courses such as journalism.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of AS or A2 English Language, you should consult Miss Brennan - cbrennan@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk in the English Department.

English Literature

What topics will I study?

AS Level (One year course; taught alongside Year One of the A Level two year course)

Four texts on the theme of Love through the Ages will be studied; you will also respond to an unseen prose extract.

Paper One: 50% 1 hour 30 minutes; closed book

Section A: Shakespeare play. One passage-based question (25 marks)

Section B: Poetry Anthology. One question on printed poem (25 marks)

Paper Two: 50% 1 hour thirty minutes; open book

Section A: Unseen Prose. One compulsory question on unseen prose extract (25 marks)

Section B: Comparing Prose Texts. One comparative question on two prose texts (25 marks)

A Level (Two year course studied during Years 12 and 13)

The three areas of focus will be Love through the Ages; WW1 and its Aftermath and Texts across Time.

Paper One: Love through the Ages; 40% 3 hours; three texts – prose, poetry and Shakespeare play; open book in Section C only

Section A: Shakespeare: One passage-based question with linked essay (25 marks)

Section B: Unseen Poetry: Compulsory essay question on two unseen poems (25 marks)

Section C: Comparing Texts: One essay question linking two texts (25 marks – Open Book)

Paper Two: WW1 and its Aftermath – Texts in Shared Contexts; 40%; 2 hours and 30 minutes; three texts – prose, poetry and drama; open book

Section A: Set Texts. One essay question on set text (25 marks)

Section B: Contextual Linking:

One compulsory question on an unseen extract (25 marks)

One essay question linking two texts (25 marks)

Coursework: Texts across Time; 20%; 2500 words

One comparative essay on two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900 (50 marks)

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

Apart from the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form you are expected to achieve at least a grade 6 in English Literature with a total of at least 11 points in English Literature and Language.

Why study Literature? What other subjects should I study?

What about choices after A Levels?

If you love reading and talking about books, if you love exploring the ways in which a writer can shape meaning and your response to characters and ideas, and if you love investigating how a text can reflect the period in which it was written and set, then English Literature is the subject for you. It is a highly regarded, academic subject and the AQA course which you will follow provides an excellent basis for studying the subject at university. Equally, English Literature is an A/AS Level that sits comfortably with other Arts and Science subjects, so if your goal is to study a different area when in higher education, or to pursue a career post A Level, you will still find Literature an engaging, rewarding and beneficial subject in its own right.

Further Information

If you wish to find out more about English Literature, please do not hesitate to contact Miss L. Smith (Head of English) - lsmith@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

AQA

AS & A Level

French

What topics will I study?

Travel – so the saying goes – broadens the mind, and never more so than when you can speak the language. That way you will be able to find out what the local people are thinking, how they live and how their culture really works. This course has been designed to give you a profound understanding of French. Not only will you know more about the mechanics of the language – like grammar and vocabulary – but also about how people live and use language on a day to day basis.

AS Level (Year 12)

At AS Level you will study Aspects of French-speaking society and the artistic culture of the French speaking world. These build on what you have studied at GCSE and cover a wide range of interesting and engaging issues. The common thread amongst these is discovering how people speak at a personal level, and what their individual views are on these everyday topics.

A Level (Year 13)

At A Level you will build on the work done at AS Level and will also look at current issues and political life in the French speaking world.

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

We expect Grade B in GCSE French, and preferably a Grade A in the written part of your examination.

What other subjects should I study?

French is a natural fit for any subject. Studying a language will enable you to use your skills and qualifications to access career opportunities at home and abroad.

What about choices after A Levels?

Languages work!! Apart from being beneficial at a personal level, your A Level in French could help with your career path. For those who want to specialise in French, there's translation or teaching. Or maybe you want to work in the travel and tourism industry. But even as an engineer or designer, being proficient in French will give you broader career options. At university it is possible to combine languages with Sciences, Maths, Law, Arts and Humanities. Studying a language can open up a world of possibilities to you.

Further Information

For further information on AS and A Level please contact Mrs Wood - swood@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

AS & A Level

Geography

Which topics will I study?

Paper 1 – Dynamic Landscapes 30% of A Level

90 marks

Tectonics

Coastal landscapes

Minimum of 2 day's physical geography fieldwork

Water Cycle and Water Insecurity

Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity

Paper 2 – Dynamic Places 30% of A Level

90 marks

Globalisation

Shaping Places: Regeneration of urban and rural areas

Minimum of 2 days of human geography fieldwork in Liverpool and rural Shropshire

Superpowers

Global Development and Connections: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Paper 3 – Contested Planet 20% of A Level

Synoptic investigation of a geographical issue

Paper 4 – Independent Investigation 20% of A Level

3000-4000 words

60 marks split as follows: Purpose of Investigation (12),

Methodologies (10), Data Representation (20), Conclusion and

Evaluation (18).

Fieldwork

There are now a minimum of 6 days' fieldwork in A Level over the 2

years. Optional study tours in the past 5 years have gone to China, Morocco and Iceland. Costa Rica is also on the cards in 2018!

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

Apart from the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form you are expected to achieve at least a grade B in Geography and a grade 5 in Maths.

What other subjects should I study?

Geography is an excellent subject to take with most other A Level subjects as it is a flexible subject that delivers a wide range of skills: Essay writing, synopticity (decision making) and statistics and is classified as a "bridging" subject between Arts and Sciences. Complementary subjects are History, RE, Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English, Economics, Sociology, Philosophy & Ethics.

What about choices after A Levels?

Geography is a stepping stone for a whole range of degree courses from pure Geography to Geology, Biology, Landscape Management, Environmental Science, Economic and Business related courses, Planning, Tourism and Leisure, Sports or Events Management, PR and Human Resources and so on. The scope is endless. If it's employment you're after, then employers look favourably on an A level in Geography because of the range of skills you have developed.

There are so many choices for which A level Geography is a valuable qualification.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of A Level Geography, then please contact Mrs. J. Walker (Head of Humanities) - jlwalker@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

AS & A Level

German

Which topics will I study?

AS Level (Year 12)

In Year 12 you will build on topics which you have met at GCSE. You will look at them in much greater depth and will be able to explore your interests in those areas. We will build your grammatical knowledge and will look at the topics in context. You will also find out much more about the German-speaking world. Year 12 topics are based around:

- ◆ Media
- ◆ Popular Culture
- ◆ Artistic culture
- ◆ Berlin

In the summer of Year 12 you will have a speaking examination and 2 written papers. These exams make up your AS Level.

A Level (Year 13)

In Year 13 we build your linguistic skills even further, so that you can understand and talk about life in modern society. We will look at Political Life in the German-speaking world, Multicultural Society and Contemporary Social issues. In addition you will undertake an in-depth study on a subject of personal interest, relating to the country or countries where the language of study is spoken. In the summer of year 13 you will have a speaking examination and 2 written papers.

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

Apart from the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form you are expected to achieve at least a B grade in German.

What other subjects should I study?

Any! A language A Level complements any subject.

What about choices after A Levels?

Employers and universities look favourably on a language A Level because it is generally accepted that language courses are demanding and the skills you will have developed will prepare you for many situations, particularly those requiring good communication skills. At degree level you can combine German with many different courses or can study just German. Having a language can open up many doors to you. You can never know what the future will hold for you, but there may be more pathways open to you if you can offer a language too.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of AS or A Level German, then please see Mrs Wood (Head of Languages) - swood@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

AQA

AS & A Level

History

Which topics will I study?

AS Level (Year 12) Modern (1 Year Course)

Unit 1: Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1917

Unit 2: The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–1979

A Level (Year 12 & 13) Modern (2 Year Course)

Unit 1: Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

Unit 2: The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

Unit 3: Historical Investigation (Personal Study)

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

Apart from the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form you are expected to achieve at least a B grade in History and a grade 5 in English Language.

What about choices after A Levels?

If you are considering employment after A Levels, employers look favourably on a History A Level because of the skills you will have developed – These include analysing problems, clarifying issues & putting them into perspective, research, forming & supporting opinions and communicating your judgements to others in a variety of ways. History is a good stepping stone for a wide range of degree courses and graduate employment in many areas such as Archaeology, Broadcasting, Civil Service, Conservation, Heritage Management, Journalism, Law, Museums, Personnel, Marketing, Police, Teaching and many more. Research in the Careers Library to gain more details or ask for a Careers interview.

Further Information

For further information on any aspects of the A Level History course, please contact Mr Summerhayes (Head of History) - gsummerhayes@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

Edexcel

BTEC Level 3

ICT

Newly developed, for first teaching in September 2016, this course prepares pupils with a mixture of practical and theoretical ICT skills, providing sound preparation for a range of jobs and university courses. The Certificate (AS equivalent) is awarded at the end of Year 12, and the Extended Certificate (A2 equivalent) is awarded at the end of Year 13.

Which topics will I study?

Year 12 (Certificate)

Creating Systems To Manage Information (practical task) - 50% of the Certificate

This is a 10 hour task, arranged over a 1 week assessment period. The task is externally set and assessed by the exam board. It is completed on a computer and submitted electronically. You will examine a given scenario and develop an effective design solution to produce a database system. You will then test and evaluate your solution.

Using Social Media in Business (investigation & written task) - 50% of the Certificate

You will explore different social media websites, and develop a plan to use social media strategies to improve the business.

Year 13 (Extended Certificate)

Both of the Certificate units above (now weighted at 25% each), plus: Information Technology Systems (2 hour exam) - 33% of the total grade

You will explore the relationships between the hardware & software that form an IT system, the way systems work individually and together. You will examine issues related to the use of IT systems and the impact that these have on organisations and individuals.

Website Development (practical task) - 17% of the total grade

In this unit, you will review existing websites, use scripting languages or rapid application development tools to design and develop a website to meet a client brief. Finally, you will reflect on the website design and functionality using a testing and review process.

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

This BTEC is equivalent in size to 1 A Level. If you want to study this qualification along with A Levels you must meet the criteria for studying A Levels and achieve at least a B grade in ICT.

If you wish to study this BTEC along with 2 more BTECs you must meet the BTEC entry requirements and achieve at least a B grade in ICT.

What other subjects should I study?

ICT is an excellent subject to take alongside any other subjects currently on offer at Idsall.

What about choices after A Levels?

ICT gives students a wide choice of options into further study, training or relevant employment. Those wishing to take their ICT studies further will be well equipped to move on to degrees and Higher National Diplomas in related subjects such as ICT, Information Systems, Multimedia, e-Business and Information Management.

Further Information

If you would like further information then please contact Mrs J Reeve - jreeve@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk or Mr D Reeve - dreeve@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

AS & A Level

Law

Which topics will I study?

AS Level (Year 12)

- ◆ How laws are made and changed by the courts and Parliament.
- ◆ Police powers and the individual's rights in relation to these powers.
- ◆ The criminal courts and sentencing.
- ◆ The civil courts and other methods of dispute resolution.
- ◆ Judges, Magistrates, Juries, Barristers and Solicitors.
- ◆ Funding legal action eg. Conditional Fee arrangements.

A Level (Year 13)

Criminal Law including:

- ◆ Offences against the person eg. Murder
- ◆ Offences against property eg. Theft
- ◆ Defences

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

Apart from the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form you are expected to achieve at least a grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Literature. The exam board expects students to have adequate literacy skills evidenced by other academic GCSE subjects which require them to demonstrate a satisfactory level of literacy.

What other subjects should I study?

Law mixes well with most subjects. It requires problem solving skills, the ability to argue a point in a logical and clear manner and good literary skills. A lot of reading and essay writing is involved, together with analysis and application development.

What about choices after A Levels?

Many students take Law at AS or A Level intending to study Law at University and indeed pursue a career in Law such as a legal executive, solicitor or barrister. However, the skills developed during the A Level will be welcomed by both employers and universities alike.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of AS or A Level, then please contact Mr. A. Nicholas (Law Teacher) - anicholas@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

AS & A Level

Mathematics

This new A Level qualification builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding set out in the new GCSE (9-1) subject content for mathematics for 2015. The content is separated into three areas: Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics with all elements being assessed through a written examination. All pupils must study all three topic areas.

Which topics will I study?

AS Level (Year 12)

Manipulation of Indices and Surds. Advanced algebraic techniques. Exploration of graphical representation with links to coordinate geometry and transformations. Binomial expansion. Introduction to Calculus. Advanced Trigonometry and an introduction to trig identities. Exponentials and Logarithms. Vectors. Representation of data – statistical measures and diagrams. Outliers. Probability of mutually exclusive and independent events. The Binomial distribution and hypothesis testing. SI units. Constant and non-uniform acceleration. Newton's Laws. Weight and Frictional forces.

A2 Level (Year 13)

Extension of algebraic and numerical techniques including fractions & parametric equations. Iterative methods. Functions and graphs involving exponentials and logs. Sequences and sigma notation. Proof by contradiction. Further trigonometry. Further Calculus. Extension of the Binomial theorem. Differential equations. Set notation. Extension of the Binomial Distribution. The Normal distribution leading to Central Limit Theorem. Correlation and hypothesis testing. Extension of work on acceleration, frictional forces and Newton's Laws. Gravity. Application of vectors in a plane. Statics.

What grades do I need at GCSE Level?

Apart from the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form you are expected to achieve at least a grade 6 in GCSE Maths. To be successful in A Level Maths it is important that students have mastered the A and A* algebraic techniques at GCSE. A grade 5 is also required in English Language.

What other subjects should I study?

Maths is an excellent subject to study in its own right and has in the past been successfully combined with almost every other combination of subjects.

What about choices after A Levels?

Success in Maths A Level puts you in a strong position to go on to employment and further education. As regards degree courses, besides studying Mathematics itself, you will find it useful (if not essential) in studying sciences, computing, finance and engineering.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of A Level Mathematics then please contact Mrs C Farish (Head of Maths) - cfarish@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk or Mrs J-A Lloyd (teacher in charge of KS5 Maths) - jlloyd@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

Further Maths

This new A Level qualification builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding set out in the new GCSE (9-1) subject content for mathematics for 2015. The content is separated into three areas: Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics with all elements being assessed through a written examination. All pupils must study all three topic areas. Further Maths cannot be studied in its own right and must be taken in conjunction with the single A Level Maths course. (Resulting in 2 maths qualifications)

What topics will I study?

In Pure Maths learners will extend and deepen their knowledge of proof, algebra, functions, calculus, vectors and differential equations studied in A Level Mathematics. They will also broaden their knowledge into other areas of pure mathematics that underpin the further study of mathematics and other numerate subjects with complex numbers, matrices, polar coordinates and hyperbolic functions.

In Statistics learners will explore the theory which underlies the statistics content in A Level Mathematics, as well as extending their tool box of statistical concepts and techniques. This area covers combinatorics, probability distributions for discrete and continuous random variables, hypothesis tests and confidence intervals for a population mean, chi-squared tests, non-parametric tests, correlation and regression.

In Mechanics learners extend their knowledge of particles, kinematics and forces from A Level Mathematics, using their extended pure mathematical knowledge to explore more complex physical systems.

The area covers dimensional analysis, work, energy, power, impulse, momentum, centres of mass, circular motion and variable force.

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

Apart from the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form you are expected to achieve at least a grade 7 in GCSE Maths. To be successful in A Level Further Maths students need to have mastered the A and A* algebraic techniques at GCSE. A grade 5 is also required in English Language.

What other subjects should I study?

The Maths/Further Maths option can be combined with many other subject areas. It is particularly effective when studied alongside geography, psychology or any of the sciences as there is a significant overlap in terms of content of these subjects.

What about choices after A Levels

The course provides a balance between breadth and depth of mathematical knowledge. Anyone interested in studying Maths or Engineering at university should consider Further Maths as it is the best preparation for degree standard Maths and for this reason universities prefer it, with most of the top institutions considering Further Maths to be a compulsory entry requirement.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of A-Level Mathematics then please contact Mrs C Farish (Head of Maths) - cfarish@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk or Mrs J-A Lloyd (teacher in charge of KS5 Maths) - jlloyd@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

Media Studies

Media Studies is a highly creative, collaborative and perceptive course. It allows students to challenge stereotypes in the modern media and consider critically the meaning of those representations.

Media Studies is a fast-growing subject, increasing in popularity at both A level and degree level. The Media Studies course at 6th Form gives you a broad experience of many different aspects of the media, plus the opportunity to both carry out your own research and produce your own print and video based products. It equips you with the skills and knowledge to engage critically with the wide range of media you encounter in everyday life.

The course at Idsall will touch on most of the main media at some point: film, television, advertising and a range of new media, such as websites and video games and you will carry out analysis of these specific types of texts. A range of concepts and issues will also be covered: how the media represents particular social groups, who owns the media and how this affects the type of media produced.

Case studies will be undertaken on specific areas such as film, broadcasting, television, advertising and a range of other media. You will learn to use digital video cameras and digital editing equipment to produce your own video work. The course involves a high percentage of practical coursework (50%). Practical work gives you opportunities for collaborating with others, sharing creative ideas and researching material for your own original work. In addition, you will be encouraged to present, research and discuss your ideas using new media.

The course lends itself to a wide range of approaches: class and group discussion, practical projects involving still photography and

video, and analysis of a range of films, television programmes, magazines and advertising. In past years, Media students have had the opportunity to visit the British Film Institute in London for an A level Study Day, a worthwhile and interesting experience since it provides students with the chance to meet with both industry professionals and like-minded peers.

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

You will need a GCSE grade 5 at Higher Level in English Language plus a grade 4 in Maths.

What other subjects should I study?

Media Studies will appeal to anyone who has a keen interest in 'the world around us' and the media institutions that report on world events. Students who share an interest in Art, Drama, ICT or Design will find the creative and technical aspects of these subjects invaluable when addressing issues raised within the subject.

What about choices after A Levels?

Media Studies has become a popular subject at degree level. Many universities deliver the subject either as a core subject, or as a combined degree with other areas such as English, Theatre Studies, French or German. The Media Studies AS course will provide students with a solid grounding in this subject, allowing candidates to successfully integrate into higher education courses.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of AS Media Studies course, you should consult Mrs Barnett (Course Leader) - lbarnett@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

Level 2

Motor Vehicle

Which topics will I study?

Level 2 Diploma Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair principles. To complete each unit there are practical assessments, a written assessment and an online phase test to be completed before credits can be achieved.

Compulsory units include:

- ◆ G0102: Health & Safety
- ◆ G3: General Automotive Studies
- ◆ G4: Tools Equipment and Materials
- ◆ LV01: Vehicle Servicing
- ◆ LV02: Vehicle Chassis Components Maintenance & Repair
- ◆ LV03: Vehicle Electrical Studies
- ◆ LV04: Vehicle Steering & Suspension Studies
- ◆ LV12: Vehicle Transmission Studies

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

Students must achieve a grade total of at least 5 in English and Mathematics, with no grade less than a 2. Successful applicants must also have a reference that communicates they have a good attitude to learning, good behaviour and a good attendance record. Applicants must demonstrate a hard working attitude and enthusiasm for the subject. If applicants do not achieve grade 4s in English and Mathematics they will have to continue studying these with enthusiasm during the course. Experience in the motor vehicle sector is advantageous, but not essential. You must also attend a formal interview with the course leader.

What other subjects should I study?

This is a stand-alone course and cannot not be studied with any other qualification except if you are required to continue studying English and/or Maths.

What about choices after A Levels?

Students who study the IMI Level 2 Motor Vehicle can go on to study Level 3 Diploma in Automotive Studies, which can progress to an apprenticeship or degree level qualification in any aspect of the automotive industry.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of Motor Vehicle, please contact Mr Barnsley (Course Leader) - dbarnsley@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

Extended Certificate in Music

Which topics will I study?

The BTEC Extended Certificate in Music involves students completing 4 units.

Compulsory Units

- ◆ Ensemble Music Performance Techniques
- ◆ Practical Music Theory and Harmony
- ◆ Professional Practice in the Music Industry

Optional Units (1 of which must be completed)

- ◆ Composing Music
- ◆ Music Promotion
- ◆ Music Performance Session Styles
- ◆ Solo Performance
- ◆ Music Software Skills
- ◆ Music Project

What grades do I need at GCSE Level?

This BTEC is equivalent in size to 1 A Level. If you want to study this qualification along with A Levels you must meet the criteria for studying A Levels and achieve at least a B grade or equivalent in Music if you have studied it.

If you wish to study this BTEC along with 2 more BTECs you need to meet the BTEC entry requirements and achieve at least a B grade or equivalent in Music if you have studied it.

What other subjects should I study?

The BTEC Extended Certificate in Music should be combined with 2 or 3 AS Level courses. It can also be taken alongside another BTEC.

What about choices after BTEC?

Employers and higher education value BTEC Extended Certificates. A number of students have used BTEC qualifications to access university courses.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of BTEC Music, please contact Mrs Shaw - hshaw@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk or access Edexcel web site at: <http://www.edexcel.org.uk/btec>.

Performing Arts

Which topics will I study?

Course elements could include:

- ◆ Working from a range of stimuli to devise practical work
- ◆ Shaping and rehearsing work to perform to an audience
- ◆ Refining material for performance
- ◆ Keeping a reflective log book to record the creative journey and evaluate your work
- ◆ Working well as a member of a group, sharing ideas and exploring these practically
- ◆ Considering how to use physical acting and movement skills to communicate themes to an audience
- ◆ Watching a range of professional work and analyse this to improve your own performance and devising skills
- ◆ Integrating performance disciplines (i.e. Singing, Acting, Dancing)

Units include:

Certificate and Extended Certificate

- ◆ Investigating Theatre Practitioners Work
- ◆ Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance
- ◆ Group Performance Workshop

Extended Certificate only

- ◆ Acting Styles
- ◆ Developing Voice for Performance
- ◆ Improvisation
- ◆ Movement in Performance

At the end of the course you will receive one overall grade; Pass, Merit or Distinction. This grade will be based upon the overall body of work presented in your portfolio of evidence. There are no formal examinations.

What grades do I need at GCSE Level?

This BTEC is equivalent in size to one A Level. If you want to study this qualification along with A Levels you must meet the criteria for studying A Levels and achieve at least a B or equivalent in an Arts GCSE. If you want to study this qualification along with two more BTECS you need to meet BTEC entry criteria and achieve at least a B or equivalent in an arts GCSE.

What about choices after BTEC?

This course can be taken over 1 or 2 years. At the end of the first year you can complete the BTEC Certificate, equivalent to AS level, and then progress to the Extended Certificate, equivalent to an A level, in Year 2. It provides an opportunity to develop real work skills in dance, acting and musical theatre which could help you gain access to Higher Education/Specialist Institutions, and will also prepare you well for working in the industry.

Further Information

If you would like any further information on BTEC Performing Arts, then please contact Mr D Williams (Head of Drama) - dwilliams@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

AS & A Level

Physics

Which topics will I study?

The course is designed so that you are able to:

- ◆ Progress smoothly from previous GCSE studies in Physics.
- ◆ Develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the principles and applications of Physics.
- ◆ Gain hands-on practical skills and data analysis skills.
- ◆ Appreciate How Science Works and its relevance beyond the laboratory.

AS Level (Year 12)

Topics include: Mechanics, Electricity, Waves, Materials and the Dual Nature of Light. These are examined in two papers at the end of Year 12.

A Level (Year 13)

Topics include: Further Mechanics, Fields, Nuclear and Particle Physics, Thermodynamics, Space, Radiation, Fields and Oscillations. These are examined, along with knowledge of the AS content, in 3 papers at the end of Year 13.

Investigative and practical skills are developed throughout the course and examined indirectly in the theory papers. At A Level, pupils receive a practical endorsement that they have demonstrated competence in a range of core experiments.

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

Apart from the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form you will need at least a B grade in GCSE Physics or equivalent in the Additional Science course and a minimum of a grade 6 in Maths and at least a grade 5 in English Language.

What other subjects should I study?

Physics is an excellent subject to take with other sciences such as Biology and Chemistry. We recommend that all students follow an A Level Maths course as this helps with the skills necessary to be a successful Physicist but this is not essential.

What about choices after A Levels?

Physics develops a wide range of transferable skills including problem solving, data handling, reasoning, mathematical skills, ICT literacy, team work and communication. As an A Level it is highly regarded by employers and universities.

Physics is an advantage in...

Agriculture, Air traffic Control, Architecture, Computer Science, Dentist, Finance, Medicine, Environmental Health, Science Journalism, Materials Science, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Armed Forces, Veterinary Science.

Physics is essential for...

Astronomy, Audiology, Geophysics, Medical Physics, Engineering, Electronics, Forensic Science, Meteorology, Nuclear Science, Ophthalmology, Radiography, Space Science, Telecommunications.

Further Information

For further information please contact

Mrs Veitch - eveitch@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk,

Mr Crichton - dcrichton@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk or

Mr Kettle - skettle@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

GCE Product Design

Which topics will I study?

AS Level (Year 12)

Paper 1: Core technical principles and designing and making principles
2 hours. 80 marks. 50% of AS. Multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions.

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)

Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge.
Single design and make project. 35 hours. 80 marks. 50% of AS.
Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype. Recommended 35 pages.

A Level (Year 13)

Paper 1: Core technical principles and core designing and making principles.
Written exam. 2 hours. 100 marks. 25% of A Level. Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response questions.

Paper 2: Specialist knowledge, technical and designing and making principles.

Written exam. 2 hours. 100 marks. 25% of A Level. Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response questions.
Section A: Product Analysis.
Section B: Commercial manufacture.

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)

Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge.
Substantial design and make task. 45 hours. 100 marks. 50% of A level. Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype.

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

Apart from the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form you are expected to achieve at least a B grade in Product Design, Graphics, Resistant Materials, Electronics or System, and Control. Other areas of Design and Technology and Art will also be considered.

What about choices after A Levels?

Students who study Product Design choose a large variety of career paths which include: Product Design, Computer Aided Design, Architecture, Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Furniture Design, Interior Design, Automotive Engineering and Design, Aerospace Engineering, Construction and Building Surveying.

However, these are just some of the choices available. A Level Product Design can provide university applicants with a valuable addition to their A Level choices. Universities now look for additional skills and interests outside of the purely academic subjects. Product Design can provide the extra 'string to the bow' even if just studied at AS level.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of A Level Product Design, please contact Mrs Lowndes (Course Leader) - hlowndes@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

AQA

AS & A Level

Psychology

Which topics will I study?

AS Level (Year 12)

There are 2 examinations at the end of the summer term.
72 marks per exam paper (1 hour 30 minutes to complete each exam)

Examination Paper 1

Memory; Attachment; Social Influences

Examination Paper 2

Approaches in Psychology; Psychopathology; Research Methods

A Level (Year 13)

There are 3 examinations at the end of the 2 year course
96 marks per exam paper (2 hours to complete each exam).

Examination 1

Memory; Attachment; Social Influences; Psychopathology

Examination 2

Approaches in Psychology; Biopsychology; Research Methods

Examination 3

Issues, Debates and Approaches; Cognition and Development;
Schizophrenia; Aggression

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

Apart from the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form you are expected to achieve a grade 5 in both Maths and English Language and a B grade in Biology.

What other subjects should I study?

Psychology, being a science subject, can be taken alongside the other sciences. It also combines well with Arts or Humanities subjects. It also matches well with PE, which itself has a sizeable psychological component.

What about choices after A Levels?

If you are looking for post-Sixth Form employment, employers look favourably on Psychology because of the skills you will have developed during the course. Psychology is also a stepping stone for a whole range of degree courses. These include Pure Psychology to Psychology and Crime Studies.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of A Level Psychology, then please contact Mrs J. Mole (Head of Psychology) - jmole@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

Religious Studies - Philosophy & Ethics

Which topics will I study?

Philosophy

- ◆ The Problem of Evil
- ◆ Arguments for the Existence of God (Design and Cosmological) Miracles
- ◆ Arguments for the Existence of God (Experience and ontological)
- ◆ What is 'proof'? Life After Death
- ◆ Religious language and how it is criticised/defended

Religious Ethics

- ◆ Where does 'morality' come from?
- ◆ Ethical theories
- ◆ Ethical language
- ◆ A wide choice of issues, including abortion & politics, Euthanasia, suicide, embryo research, attitudes towards homosexuality
- ◆ The Moral Argument for the existence of God.
- ◆ What does 'good' mean?

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

Apart from the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form you are expected to achieve at least a grade 5 in English Language and a B grade in RE or Philosophy if you have taken them at GCSE. No previous study of Religion or Philosophy is required, but an open and enquiring mind definitely is! We look for students who are effective communicators, ready to analyse and discuss issues, who we will encourage to form a variety of opinions and support them with research and balanced judgements.

What other subjects should I study?

Many Philosophy and Ethics students study a selection of subjects such as English, Sociology, History, Science and Art. Many of these subjects require skills such as essay writing, independent research and interpretation of information, which are also important in Philosophy and Ethics.

What about choices after A Levels?

In the world of work employers look for someone with a lively mind, an appreciation of different viewpoints and an ability to come to clear balanced decisions. Careers in Law, teaching, journalism, policing, publishing and working abroad are some of the options into which previous students of Philosophy and Ethics have progressed. It is a valuable qualification that leads on to a variety of courses, in Humanities, Arts and Sciences, as well as to specific courses in Religious Studies, Theology or related disciplines.

Further Information

If you would like further information on any aspect of Philosophy and Ethics please contact

Mrs. P. O'Carroll - pocarroll@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk. or

Mrs N. Parkinson - nparkinson@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

Sociology

Which topics will I study?

AS Level (Year 12)

- ◆ Education with Sociological Methods in Context (50% of AS Level)
- ◆ Research Methods and Topics in Sociology; Families and Households (50% of AS Level)

Linear Assessment – 2 examinations at the end of 1 year

A Level (Years 12 & 13)

- ◆ Education with Sociological Theory and Methods (33.3% of A Level)
- ◆ Research Methods and Topics in Sociology; Families and Households and Beliefs in Society (33.3% of A Level)
- ◆ Crime and Deviance with Sociological Theory and Methods (33.3% of A Level)

Linear Assessment – 3 examinations at the end of 2 years

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

Apart from the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form you are expected to achieve at least a grade 5 in English Language. No previous study of Sociology is required, but a B grade in any Humanities or Social Science subject is desirable. It is important to note that the Sociology course requires a lot of reading, research, essay work and some analysis of social statistics.

What other subjects should I study?

Sociology complements a range of other subjects, in particular Geography, History and Religious Studies. Sociology can also work well alongside Psychology and Law, however all of these courses come with a large amount of reading and essay writing to do so be wary of choosing too many of them. Sociology offers students the opportunity to explore important sociological theories and methods, and the social changes reshaping the world today. This course will transform your understanding of important aspects of the social world and give you the confidence, knowledge and skills to help you to think critically and ethically about society and social change.

What about choices after A Levels?

The research, evaluation, report and essay writing skills you will develop during Sociology are keenly sought by employers, enhancing your employability in today's competitive job market. For those seeking higher education, students in the past have gone on to pursue degree courses in Sociology, Law, Social Policy, Criminology and Social Care. Post degree level careers can be sought in a number of different fields, but most commonly in Social Research, Law, Statistics, Market Research, Media and Teaching.

Further Information

If you would like any further information on any aspect of the Sociology course then please contact Miss V. Brodie (Head of Sociology) - vbrodie@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk.

National Extended Certificate in Sport

Which topics will I study?

The BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport involves students completing 4 units. There are 3 mandatory units and 1 optional unit (please see list below). This course allows learning about the employment area you have chosen as you develop the skills you need to start a career in the world of sport. This course has 2 externally examined units worth 67% of the total grade and 2 units based on coursework.

Unit 1 (EXAM Y12) - Anatomy and Physiology in Sport (120 GLH).

Unit 2 (EXAM Y13) - Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well Being (120 GLH).

Unit 3 (CW Y12) - Professional Development in the Sports Industry (60 GLH)

Optional Units below (1 of 4 must be completed)

Unit 4 (CW) - Sports Leadership (60 GLH).

Unit 5 (CW) - Application of Fitness Testing (60 GLH).

Unit 6 (CW) - Sports Psychology (60 GLH).

Unit 7 (CW) - Practical Sports Performance (60 GLH).

360 Guided Learning Hours

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

This BTEC is equivalent in size to 1 A Level. If you want to study this qualification along with A Levels you must meet the criteria for studying A Levels, achieve a C in at least one science subject and achieve at least a B in GCSE PE or merit in BTEC Sport if you have studied them.

If you wish to study this BTEC along with 2 more BTECs you need to meet the BTEC entry requirements including achieving at least a C in one science subject and a B in GCSE PE or merit in BTEC Sport if you have studied either of them. Good IT skills are also desired.

What other subjects should I study?

The BTEC National Extended Certificate can be combined with 2 other A Level courses, 1 other A Level course and 1 BTEC or 2 other BTEC courses.

What about other choices after BTEC?

BTEC National Certificates are valued by employers and higher education, opening doors direct to employment in Sports Centres or degree courses at university and college.

Further Information

It is expected that pupils contribute at least two hours of their free time each week to assist with Key Stage 3/4 lessons in the PE department. This fulfils some of the requirements of the course and helps increase understanding.

Performance PE kit will be offered to students upon starting the course in September. Kit includes: polo shirt, rain jacket and tracksuit. Purchase of the polo shirt is compulsory.

If you would like further information on any aspect of BTEC Sport, please contact Mr Goodison - pgoodison@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk, or access Pearson web site at: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/sport-2016.html>.

National Diploma in Sport & Exercise

Which topics will I study?

The BTEC National Diploma in Sport and Exercise involves students completing 8 units. There are 6 mandatory units and 4 optional units (2 of which must be completed). This course allows learning about the employment area you have chosen as you develop the skills you need to start a career in the world of sport. This course has 3 externally examined units worth 46% of the total grade.

Unit 1 (EXAM Y12) – Sport and Exercise Physiology (120 GLH).

Unit 2 (EXAM Y12) – Functional Anatomy (90 GLH).

Unit 3 (EX ASSESS Y13) - Applied Sport and Exercise Psychology (120 GLH).

Unit 4 (CW Y12) - Field and Laboratory-based Fitness Testing (90 GLH).

Unit 5 (CW Y13) - Applied Research Methods in Sport and Exercise Science (90 GLH).

Unit 6 (CW Y13) - Coaching for Performance and Fitness (90 GLH).

Optional Units below (2 of which must be completed)

Unit 8 (CW Y12) - Specialised Fitness Training (60GLH).

Unit 9 (CW Y13) - Research Project in Sport and Exercise Science (60 GLH).

Unit 11 (CW Y13) - Sports Massage (60 GLH).

Unit 12 (CW Y13) - Sociocultural Issues in Sport and Exercise (60 GLH).

720 Guided Learning Hours

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

This BTEC qualification is equivalent in size to 2 A Levels. If you want to study this qualification along with another A Level you must meet

the criteria for studying A Levels, achieve a C in at least one science subject and achieve at least a B in GCSE PE or merit in BTEC Sport if you have studied either of them. If you wish to study this BTEC along with 1 more BTEC you need to meet the BTEC entry requirements including achieving at least a C in one science subject and a B in GCSE PE or merit in BTEC Sport if you have studied them. Good IT skills are also desired.

What other subjects should I study?

The BTEC National Diploma can be combined with 1 other A level course or 1 other BTEC qualification.

What about other choices after BTEC?

BTEC National Diplomas are valued by employers and higher education, opening doors direct to employment in Sports Centres or degree courses at university and college.

Further Information

It is expected that pupils contribute at least two hours of their non-contact time each week to assist with Key Stage 3 lessons in the PE department. This fulfils some of the requirements of modules and increases understanding.

Performance PE kit will be offered to students upon starting the course in September. Kit includes: polo shirt, rain jacket and tracksuit. Purchase of the polo shirt is compulsory.

If you would like further information on any aspect of BTEC Sport, please contact Mr Goodison - pgoodison@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk or access Pearson web site at: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/sport-2016.html>

National Extended Diploma in Sport & Exercise

Which topics will I study?

The BTEC National Extended Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity Development involves students completing 13 units. There are 7 mandatory units and 6 optional units. This course allows learning about the employment area you have chosen as you develop the skills you need to start a career in the world of sport. This course has 4 externally examined units worth 42% of the total grade.

Unit 1 (EXAM Y12) – Sport and Exercise Physiology (120 GLH).

Unit 2 (EXAM Y12) – Functional Anatomy (90 GLH).

Unit 3 (EX ASSESS Y13) - Applied Sport and Exercise Psychology (120 GLH).

Unit 4 (CW Y12) - Field and Laboratory-based Fitness Testing (90 GLH).

Unit 5 (CW Y13) - Applied Research Methods in Sport and Exercise Science (90 GLH).

Unit 6 (CW Y13) - Coaching for Performance and Fitness (90 GLH).

Unit 13 (EX ASSESS Y12) - Nutrition for Sport and Exercise Performance (120 GLH).

Optional Units below (all must be completed)

Unit 8 (CW Y12) - Specialised Fitness Training (60GLH).

Unit 9 (CW Y13) - Research Project in Sport and Exercise Science (60 GLH).

Unit 11 (CW Y13) - Sports Massage (60 GLH).

Unit 12 (CW Y13) - Sociocultural Issues in Sport and Exercise (60 GLH).

Unit 14 (CW Y12) - Technology in Sport and Exercise Science (60 GLH).

Unit 15 (CW Y12) - Sports Injury and Assessment (60 GLH).

1080 Guided Learning Hours

What grades do I need at GCSE level?

This qualification is equivalent to 3 A Levels and cannot be taken with any other qualifications. If you want to study this qualification you must achieve grade 4s in both English and Maths and C grades in at least 3 other subjects. If you have studied GCSE PE or BTEC sport you are expected to achieve at least a B grade at GCSE or Merit at BTEC.

What other subjects should I study?

This is a stand-alone course and cannot not be studied with any other qualification.

What about other choices after BTEC?

BTEC National Extended Diplomas are valued by employers and higher education, opening doors direct to employment in sports centres or degree courses at university and college.

Further Information

It is expected that pupils contribute at least two hours of their non-contact time each week to assist with Key Stage 3 lessons in the PE department. This fulfils some of the requirements of modules in Unit 6 and increases general understanding. Performance PE kit will be offered to students upon starting the course in September. Kit includes: polo shirt, rain jacket and tracksuit. Purchase of the polo shirt is compulsory.

If you would like further information on any aspect of BTEC Sport, please contact Mr Goodison - pgoodison@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk or access Pearson web site at: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/sport-2016.html>.



Idsall School

Coppice Green Lane, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8PD

Tel: 01952 468400 • Email: info@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk • Website: www.idsallschool.org