
St Thomas More R C Sixth Form

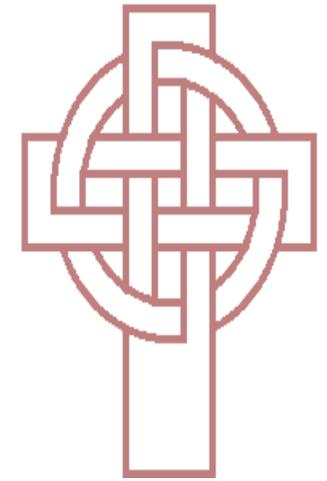


Prospectus

2017

We welcome applications from all students for entry September 2016
Any queries please contact Head of Sixth Form - 0191 258 8340 or dhallam@stmacademy.org.uk

St Thomas More RC Sixth Form



Our Sixth Form aims to deliver high quality education in a supportive and welcoming environment, based on Christian values.

We have high expectations of all our students, placing great emphasis on individual achievement and on helping you to gain the best qualifications possible. We offer you a broad and balanced curriculum, allowing you to develop academically, socially, personally and spiritually.

We are very much a community, providing help and support for each other in all ways. We strive for excellent relationships throughout the college, built on mutual trust, honesty and respect. With these adult relationships also come responsibilities and a strong work ethic.

We realise that Sixth Form is an important stage in a student's life and will strive to provide many opportunities for you to develop through a range of varied extra-curricular activities and pursuits.

We hope that all students enjoy their time here and also find it profitable and worthwhile so that when students leave us, they are well equipped in every way to make the best of their own lives as well as the lives of others.

The Post-16 Curriculum

A Level courses	
Art & Design	Geography
Biology	German
Business Studies	History
Chemistry	Mathematics
Computing	Further Mathematics
Ethics and Philosophy	Music
English Language	Physical Education
English Literature	Physics
English Lang/Lit	Product Design
French	Psychology
Food Technology	Resistant Materials
Textiles	

We plan to offer courses in the subjects listed above, subject to viability.

Most students will study three A level.

A small number of students may take four subjects depending upon choices made.

Alternate L3 Curriculum

Level3 (Double Award)
BTEC Business
BTEC Computing
BTEC Performing Arts – Dance (Single Award)
Cambridge National Health & Social Care
BTEC Sports Development (Triple Award)
BTEC IT

These are nationally recognised qualifications which are also offered.

They are equivalent to two 'A' level passes if taken as a Full Award, and one 'A' level if taken as a Single Award.

Features of the Advanced Level/Intermediate approach are:

- Modules of work
- Emphasis on coursework and assignments
- Related to particular vocational areas
- Some work experience as part of the course.

What's on offer at STM:

- ◆ Excellent relationships, guidance and support, in a welcoming, Christian environment.
- ◆ Teaching and learning of the highest quality, confirmed by our impressive OFSTED inspection and strong academic performance
- ◆ Well-qualified, experienced, committed teachers of proven quality
- ◆ Wide choice of courses to meet students' needs.
- ◆ Excellent results and course completion rates.
- ◆ Excellent Higher Education support service and Careers guidance.
- ◆ Honest objective advice, always given in the best interests of the individual student.
- ◆ Wide range of sports, social and cultural activities including residential trips in the UK and overseas.
- ◆ Many opportunities to develop personal qualities, interpersonal skills and interests.



2017 Student's Week

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	PSME				W E E K	E N D
		Enrichment Enrichment				

Main Course(s) 15 hours per week

- A Levels
- BTEC (Single, Double or Triple Award)
- Cambridge National

Subject Study 1 hour per subject per week (3 hrs) plus **'Study' Periods** 2 hours per week

Extended Project Qualification/Key Skills 2 hours per week

PSME 45 minutes per week.

Personal, Social & Moral Education

The course prepares students for life beyond the Sixth Form by exploring a wide-range of moral and social issues with particular focus on human rights and global affairs.

Enrichment 2 hours per week.

Examples of options we may offer include:

- Outdoor Pursuits
- Dance
- Media
- Rugby
- Enterprise
- Sports Leadership Award
- Photography
- Culture Club
- Racquet Sports
- Community Service

Information Advice Guidance and Support

Subject Teachers will:

- ◆ Be experienced, approachable and provide you with ongoing support
- ◆ Keep in regular contact with your Personal Tutor.
- ◆ Provide written Reviews giving detailed analysis of your progress .

Head of Year/Head of Sixth Form will:

- ◆ Support and guide you throughout Sixth Form
- ◆ Support your committees and organise new initiatives
- ◆ Organise a range of extra-curricular activities for you
- ◆ Monitor progress, organise Parents' Evenings

Personal Tutors will:

- ◆ Support you in your academic studies
- ◆ Offer you guidance and advice on a range of issues
- ◆ Help you prepare for Higher Education/Work
- ◆ Keep you well informed of what's going on in College
- ◆ Liaise closely with your subject teachers to aid your progress.

Employers and universities are seeking to recruit people with **strong academic qualifications** as well as developed **personal qualities** and **interpersonal skills**.

Opportunities and Activities

Your ability to:
communicate well,
show initiative
work within a team,
take leadership
be flexible and reliable.

We offer a **wide range of extra curricular** activities
which will provide you with **opportunities to broaden your interests**
and **develop** some of these **skills and attributes**.

In trying out new experiences you will learn a great deal about yourself and your abilities.

Enrichment

Sport

There are several sporting activities for male and female students, with under-19 teams for football, netball, basketball, rugby, ultimate frisbee and badminton.

Sixth Form sports tournaments are also organised and are an enjoyable way to meet new students and get to know staff who often participate.

Residential Trips and Cultural Activities

Residential experiences are invaluable in improving relationships, promoting self-awareness and learning how to live as a community.

There are many residential experiences organised for Sixth Form students including Youth Hostelling and Field Work trips here and abroad.

Visits to the theatre, art galleries, museums, science exhibitions and university lectures are frequent and popular with students.

All students in Year 12 will have the opportunity to take part in the summer retreat to Ampleforth College in North Yorkshire.



Music

St Thomas More has a very good reputation for Music and Sixth Formers are encouraged to continue their musical interests in Orchestras, Bands and/or Choirs.

Sixth Form students continue to play influential roles in the school's musical production.

Social Events

The student Social Committee arranges regular social events throughout the year.

Many of these are organised as charitable fund-raising events, in collaboration with the Charities Committee.

Among the social highlights are the Christmas Party and, in particular, the Leavers Ball for Yr 13 students at the Assembly Rooms in Newcastle.

Work Experience

All students are encouraged to undertake a week's work experience in year 12, organised either through Connexions, Tyneside Careers Service or by themselves. We also organise Student Shadowing days at local universities and students attend university Open days and Summer Schools.

Committees

We believe that students should contribute to the running of the College. We have several committees which offer students the opportunity to become involved in worthwhile activities.



Prom King and Queen at the Annual Leaver's Ball

In-class support

As evidence of their commitment to the wider community within St Thomas More, every year large numbers of students give up some of their free time to support younger pupils and teachers in lessons throughout the main school and at Reading Club for Years 7 & 8.



Pink Day supporting Breast Cancer and running in support of CAFOD

The **Student Leadership Team** is an excellent forum for sharing ideas and allowing the student body a say in how the Sixth Form is run. Student members are elected to the Team annually and represent the views of their Tutor Group. Last Year the Team were instrumental in designing a new student Common room and work space.

The **Charities Committee** co-ordinates many charitable activities in which students become involved, supporting a wide range of good causes in the UK and overseas, including CAFOD, Oxfam, Amnesty International, the Shoe Box Appeal, Lepra and Barnardos.

A Level Courses

Art & Design
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computing
DT—Food
DT—Graphics
DT—Resistant Materials
DT—Textiles

English Language
English Literature
English Lang/Lit
Ethics and Philosophy
Geography
History
Mathematics
Further Mathematics

Modern Languages— French / German
Music
Physical Education
Physics
Psychology

Art & Design

QUALIFICATION	AQA GCE 'A' Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	A grade 4/5 in GCSE Art
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	<p>For A-level we encourage students to develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of issues, themes and concepts that inspire practice and a critical appreciation of both primary and secondary sources. • An understanding of the properties of different media and materials, a broad range of techniques and processes. • Their own strengths in the subject and identify and sustain their own lines of enquiry. <p>HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT:</p> <p>Students will be taught as a group and given individual guidance through regular tutorial sessions. Students will visit important exhibitions and galleries both locally and further afield such as in London and Edinburgh.</p>



HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED

A Level consists of four components.

Component 1-The portfolio has no time limit and is worth 60% of the marks. Students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a final outcome or a series of related outcomes.

Component 2- Assignment that the exam board sets, worth 40% of the AS-level; Students have 10 hours of supervised time. Students must produce a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes in the 10 hours.

Component 3- Personal Investigation consists of coursework with no time limit and is worth 60% of the marks. Students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or a series of related outcomes. It must be supported by written work of between 1,000 and 3,000 words.

Component 4- Assignment that the exam board sets, worth 40% of the A-level. Students have 15 hours of supervised time. Students must produce a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes in the 15 hours.

PROGRESSION :

Most students progress to a Foundation Course in Art and Design that lasts one year and prepares them for Degree Courses in a more specialised area. Some students may be accepted for a degree course straight from school. Students find careers in many different areas including Graphic Design, Product Design, Architecture, Fashion, Theatre Design, Television, Film Industry, Manufacturing, Photography, Journalism and Advertising.

<http://www.nsead.org/careers/studies.aspx>

BIOLOGY

PROGRESSION :

Biology is a very popular subject which many students continue to university.

Previous students have completed degrees in: Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Sciences, Nursing, Midwifery, Genetics and Biochemistry, Agriculture, Anthropology, Zoology and Physiology.

Biology is an academic subject that can develop organisational, analytical and problem-solving skills and as such it is recognised and highly regarded by employers.



Biology students conducting fieldwork at Newcastle University

QUALIFICATION	Edexcel GCE 'A' Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	A Grade 6 at Higher Level GCSE Biology or Grade 6 of both GCSE Core <u>and</u> Additional Science at the Higher Level Students must also have an average GCSE point score of 6.1 or above (Vocational courses not included).
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	A level students are examined in Unit 1 & 2 plus a further 2 units : Unit 1. Lifestyle, Transport, Genes & Health Unit 2. Development, Plants & Environment Unit 4. The Natural Environment & Species Survival Unit 5. Energy, Exercise & Coordination There are also internally assessed Science Practical Skills.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	Content is taught through eight context-led contemporary topics. Activities are an integral part of the learning process which includes practical lab based tasks. You will have access to an exclusive dedicated website, multimedia resources, and course texts. You will be taught by two teachers. You will be expected to work independently outside of lessons to complement and consolidate teaching & learning.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	<u>A level : Year 13</u> Papers 1, 2 &3 in June all exams 2 hours and worth 33.33% each

Business

QUALIFICATION	AQA GCE 'A' Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Grade 4/5 in GCSE Business Studies, English and Maths or if students have not taken GCSE Business Studies, then 5 + GCSEs at Grade 4/5 inc English and Maths.
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	<p>For A Level Business you will cover the following six areas: What is business?, Managers, leadership and decision making, Decision making to improve – marketing, operational, financial and human resource performance.</p> <p>In addition to those above: Analysing the strategic position of a business, Choosing strategic direction, Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies, Managing strategic change in Year 2</p>
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	<p>A number of teaching and learning methods are used to successfully deliver this course. The methods used include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive use of real business scenarios & simulations • Group discussions • Lectures & Student presentations • Media resources and case studies • External visits and tutorials

HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED:

A Level course is assessed by 3 written exams (2hrs, 33.3% each)

Business 1 - 3 data response compulsory questions.

Business 2 - A compulsory case study followed by approximately 6 questions.

Business 3 - Compulsory case study followed by approximately 6 questions.



A2 Business Students preparing to teach each other 'Ratio Analysis'

PROGRESSION : Business Studies develops skills and knowledge which are relevant to many levels of employment.

Accountancy, Banking and Finance, Business Management, Business Studies, Economics, Financial Services, Human Resource Management, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Marketing, Retail Management

It is also an area of growth in Higher / Further Education.

Many courses combine with Business Studies.

Chemistry

PROGRESSION :

The modern world is dependent upon Chemistry to produce many of its constructional materials, pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, fuel and many other items.

'A' Level Chemistry is a valuable route into a science based career such as Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry or as a qualification in its own right.

A vast array of choice exists for students of 'A' Level Chemistry to link Chemistry with other disciplines at degree level.

Numerous careers are open to Graduates from a chemistry background.

Industries such as Oil, Chemical and Pharmaceuticals are among the most successful and well-resourced companies in the world.

Within such large organisations opportunities within research and development, production, sales and marketing, accountancy and management are open to chemists.

Chemistry is recognised as an academic subject, apart from the acquisition of knowledge, skills that are highly prized by employers such as the ability to formulate, analyse and solve complex problems start to be developed by students who study 'AS' and 'A' Level Chemistry.

QUALIFICATION	OCR Salters A Level Chemistry B (H433)
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Grade 6 at Higher Level GCSE Chemistry or Grade 6 of both GCSE Core and Additional Science at the Higher Level. Students must also have an average GCSE point score of 6.1 or above (Vocational courses not included).
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	<p>Students are examined in three units and complete a non exam assessment</p> <p>Unit 1 – Fundamentals of chemistry</p> <p>Unit 2 – Scientific literacy in chemistry (including a pre-release)</p> <p>Unit 3 – Practical skills in chemistry (exam)</p>
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	'A' Level Chemistry will be delivered by two teachers as a laboratory based subject with the emphasis on the use of class experiments to illustrate and reinforce subject content. For students to be successful they are expected to partake in at least four to five hours of additional study time per week to complement their contact time in college.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	<p>A2 Level</p> <p>Unit 1 (01) 2 ¼ hrs written paper 41% of whole</p> <p>Unit 2 (02) 2 ¼ hrs written paper 37% of whole</p> <p>Unit 3 (03) 1 ½ hrs written paper 22% of whole</p> <p>In addition —a non exam assessment will be reported separately</p>

Computing

PROGRESSION :

Student can use their qualification to:

Gain employment

Progress onto a number of degrees:

- o Software Engineering
- o Computing
- o Forensic Computing
- o Maths
- o Science related courses



Business/Computing Conference students - Annual trip to Disneyland, Paris 2015

QUALIFICATION	AQA GCE 'A' Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	This course has shown to be a natural progression for those students who have previously studied Computing at GCSE Level. Students therefore wanting to study Computing at AS Level need a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE Computing and a grade 7 in Maths.
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	Through completion of this course students will study the following areas in Year 1: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fundamentals of programming 2. Fundamentals of data structures 3. Systematic approach to problem solving 4. Theory of computation 5. Fundamentals of data representation 6. Fundamentals of computer systems 7. Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture 8. Consequences of uses of computing 9. Fundamentals of communication and networking
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	At the end of year 2 students will complete 2 examinations and a project: <p>Paper 1: On Screen exam for 2.5 hrs worth 40%</p> <p>Paper 2: Written exam for 2.5 hrs worth 40%</p> <p>Non Exam Assessment worth 20%</p>

Design & Technology - Food, Science & Nutrition

QUALIFICATION	WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Food Science and Nutrition
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	A Grade 4/5 in Design and Technology: Food Technology. Grade 4/5 in Science would also be an advantage.
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two Years
OUTLINE OF COURSE	<p>The WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Food Science and Nutrition has been designed to provide learners with underpinning knowledge, understanding and skills to progress to further study and training.</p> <p>It offers exciting and interesting experiences that focus learning for 16-19 year-old learners and adult learners through applied learning, i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful contexts linked to the food production industry.</p>
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	Students will be taught as a group and given individual guidance throughout by means of regular tutorial sessions. The course will provide opportunities for a wide variety of practical activities and work with food.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	WJEC Level 3 is assessed through a combination of a written exam and an internal centre marked assignment.

PROGRESSION :

An understanding of food science and nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Care providers and nutritionists in hospitals use this knowledge, as do sports coaches and fitness instructors.

Hotels and restaurants, food manufacturers and government agencies also use this understanding to develop menus, food products and policies that support healthy eating initiatives. Many employment opportunities within the field of food science and nutrition are available to graduates.

Food Technology at 'AS' and 'A' Level provides an excellent foundation for courses in Food Science, Consumer Studies, Consumer Psychology, Food Marketing, Environmental Health, Health Promotion and Exercise and Nutrition as well as a wide variety of careers in the food industry or in health related areas.



Design & Technology- Product Design with Graphics



QUALIFICATION	Eduqas. Part of WJEC A level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Grade 4/5 in GCSE D & T : Graphic Products
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	<p>Component 1 - EXAM: Design and technology in the 21st Century Students sit an examination in the area of Product Design. The exam will test the students knowledge and understanding of technical principles and design and make principles along with their ability to evaluate design decisions and the wider environmental issues.</p> <p>Component 2 - DESIGN AND MAKE PROJECT (NEA) Students are to develop a brief that allows them to demonstrate their ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities • Design and make prototypes • Analyse and evaluate design decisions and outcomes, including for prototypes made for themselves and others.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	There will be theory lessons covering the core technical principles of Design Technology and then further theory specifically covering Product Design. There will then be the opportunity to apply what has learnt and to demonstrate it via the individual Design and Make project.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	<p>Component 1 3hr exam - 100 marks (50%)</p> <p>Component 2 80 hrs Design and Make project - 100 marks (50%)</p>
PROGRESSION	Students may progress to Degree courses, HND courses and Foundation courses in Product Design, Interior Design, Industrial Design, Graphic Design, 3D Design.

Design & Technology- Product Design with Materials

QUALIFICATION	Eduqas. Part of WJEC A level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Grade 4/5 in GCSE D & T : Resistant Materials
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	<p>Component 1 - EXAM: Design and technology in the 21st Century Students sit an examination in the area of Product Design. The exam will test the students knowledge and understanding of technical principles and design and make principles along with their ability to evaluate design decisions and the wider environmental issues.</p> <p>Component 2 - DESIGN AND MAKE PROJECT (NEA) Students are to develop a brief that allows them to demonstrate their ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities • Design and make prototypes • Analyse and evaluate design decisions and outcomes, including for prototypes made for themselves and others.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	There will be theory lessons covering the core technical principles of Design Technology and then further theory specifically covering Product Design. There will then be the opportunity to apply what has learnt and to demonstrate it via the individual Design and Make project.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	<p>Component 1 3hr exam - 100 marks (50%)</p> <p>Component 2 80 hrs Design and Make project - 100 marks (50%)</p>
PROGRESSION	Students may progress to Degree courses, HND courses and Foundation courses in Engineering, Product Design, Interior Design, Industrial Design, Graphic Design, 3D Design.





In September 2015—Year 12 students took part in a full day practical workshop at the Bowes Museum based on the Yves St. Laurent exhibition ‘Style is Eternal’.

It also included an ‘Alteration Challenge’ following the guidelines of the British Sewing Bee.

PROGRESSION :

This qualification offers you:

Higher / Further Education eg Degree/Diploma courses in Textiles/Fashion/Interior/Costume/Theatre design, Fashion Marketing and Retailing, textiles Technology and Manufacture

Design & Technology- Textiles

QUALIFICATION	AQA GCE ‘A’ Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	A GCSE grade 4/5 in Design Technology: Textiles Technology. Students who have not studied Textiles Technology previously may be accepted following a review of their design portfolio. An interest in textiles and fashion design or related fashion retail, marketing or technical textiles careers would be advantageous.
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full ‘A’ Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	<p>The course is a combination of written, design and practical projects. Unit 1 –covers knowledge of fibres, fabrics, materials and components. It includes industrial practice, pattern drafting and development of design in a human context..</p> <p>Unit 2 consists of a written design portfolio and one or more design and make projects.</p> <p>Unit 3 – includes major developments in Textile Technology, industrial and commercial practice, fashion cycles and suitability of design for its intended purpose.</p> <p>Unit 4 – a single substantial design and make project.</p>
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	Class projects will be set to cover major elements of the course with an opportunity via the design and make projects for students to follow individual interests. Students will use ICT and CAD/CAM. Appropriate visits and speakers will be arranged.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	Assessment for Unit 1 and Unit 3 is by written examination. Assessment for Unit 2 and Unit 4 is by design portfolios and constructed textile products. Each unit is worth equal marks.

PROGRESSION :

English is termed as a 'facilitating subject' by the Russell Group universities.

English Literature is a key subject when progressing to Higher Ed.

All institutions offer Degree courses in English but many other areas such as Law, Management Studies, Language Studies, Administration, Psychology, Sociology, Education are logically the next step for those who have studied a course which is about communication, ideas, forming judgements and making decisions.

All the above areas lead into a wide range of professional career opportunities. Past students have gone on to work as solicitors, journalists, nurses, teachers and administrators as well as to find jobs in finance and retailing.

English Language

QUALIFICATION	AQA GCE 'A' Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and Literature.
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	The course offers the opportunity for wide-ranging and in-depth study of the English Language in written and spoken forms. You will be able to explore how language works, how it is acquired and how it is used in everyday situations. This involves not only looking at language used in the past and present, but also reading about the forms of language, the relationship between language and society and the history of English. You will be analysing written forms, ranging from classical works of literature to magazines and spoken forms, including 'standard' English, dialect and popular music. As well as studying a variety of written texts you will have the opportunity to produce your own original writing.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	Much of the course will be based on individual and group investigations of language. Group discussion will play a large part but you will also be expected to listen to, record and transcribe examples of spoken English. You will be expected to read books on the structures of English, its history and development, as well as current newspapers and magazines. You will (under guidance) have to carry out your own projects on the study of language.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	A level is assessed at the end of the second year in two exams and one piece of coursework.

English Literature

QUALIFICATION	AQA GCE 'A' Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and Literature.
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	Wide-ranging and in depth study of English novels, plays and poetry across two years' study. You will also produce one piece of coursework.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	Students are encouraged to discuss, explore ideas and develop their own views. Much of class time is spent reading, responding to and discussing a variety of literature texts. Additionally, individual and paired work is encouraged. Students will be expected to do longer reading and written tasks in their study time. As well as reading set books, students are encouraged to read as widely as possible. For personal study, you will be given clear individual guidance. Some time will be spent using audio and filmed performances of plays and novels. Students will be encouraged to go on theatre and cultural visits both in the evenings and during school time.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	A level is assessed at the end of the second year in two exams and one piece of coursework.

PROGRESSION :

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World Book Day

—a favourite with some of our English teachers

English Lan / Lit

PROGRESSION :

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All the above areas lead into a wide range of professional career opportunities. Past students have gone on to work as solicitors, journalists, nurses, teachers and administrators as well as to find jobs in finance and retailing.



The English Department's trip to London—a visit to the Arts Theatre in Covent Garden, the important sights around Westminster including the Abbey, ending rather fittingly at Poet's Corner.

QUALIFICATION	AQA GCE 'A' Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and Literature.
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	The course offers the opportunity for the study of both language and literature and is taught in three sections: 'Imagined Worlds', 'Poetic Voices' and 'Remembered Places.' You will study a range of Pre 20 th Century and modern prose and poetry. Set texts will be studied for the effectiveness of their style and content, using skills learned in language study; and you will develop knowledge of literature from different historical periods. You will also study the way spontaneous speech is represented. A coursework element requires you to write your own texts and consider purpose and audience.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	Candidates will engage in individual and group work. Language topics will be explored through a range of literary/non literary texts including transcripts of natural speech and the use of prepared oratory. There is also the opportunity to write a piece of your own work, based on a range of play-scripts, poetry and prose. Literature texts will be explored through large groups, small groups and independent work. A variety of methods is used such as reading and discussion, role play, audio and videotaped productions of the texts. Written essays and note taking are also a feature of both aspects of the course. Theatre visits are also encouraged and organised regularly
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	A level is assessed at the end of the second year in two exams and one piece of coursework.

Ethics & Philosophy

QUALIFICATION	AQA GCE 'A' Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	GCSE Grade 6 in RE or an average GCSE point score of 6.1 (exc. Vocational courses) Grade 4/5 students may be accepted but only at the discretion of the HOD
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	<p>The study of ethics consists of Study of Christianity Key moral principles, Religious identity, Religion and sexual identity, Religious pluralism, Ethics and religion, Ethical theories, Issues of human life and death, Issues of animal life and death., Introduction to meta ethics, Free will and moral responsibility, Conscience, Bentham and Kant.</p> <p>The dialogue between ethical studies and religion. How religion is influenced by , and influences, ethical studies in relation to the issues studied.</p> <p>The study of philosophy consists of : Life after death, The challenge from Science, The nature and role of religion, Sources of wisdom and authority: Philosophy of religion, Arguments for the existence of God, Evil and suffering, Religious experience, Religious language, Miracles, Self and life after death, The nature and function of religion, God/gods/Ultimate Reality.</p> <p>The dialogue between philosophy and religion How religion is influenced by, and influences, philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied.</p>
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	During the course students will develop the key skills essential for success. Great emphasis is placed on focussed discussion of the concepts studied, enabling lively, and thought provoking and insightful debates to take place. Students will be expected to apply what they have learnt into well constructed and logically written arguments, based on examination criteria. Opportunities for visits and outside speakers will be organised during the course

PROGRESSION :

Ethics and philosophy provides an exceptional insight and understanding of the world in which we all live and work.

The course is specifically designed to enable students to analyse what is actually happening around them from an objective standpoint.

Many students following this course progress into the following areas:

Law	Psychology
Armed Forces	Medicine/Nursing
Teaching	Police
Management	Physiotherapy



Taking time to reflect and admire the Pyrenees during our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes .

HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED: Examination: Modular. Units are taken in May/June. Essay questions are completed under exam conditions in both Ethics and Philosophy 4 units – A Level GCE (two years)

Geography

QUALIFICATION	AQA A-Level Geography
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	A Grade 5 in the Higher Paper GCSE Geography
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE As a highly dynamic and academic subject, Geography demands students who are keen to find out how they interact with the world in which they live. The syllabus offers students a revitalised perspective on Geography and the Programme of Study looks at contemporary issues in world Geography.	<p>Year 1 Paper 1 <u>Physical Geography topics</u>: Coastal Systems & Landscapes & Hazards Paper 2 <u>Human Geography topics</u>: Changing Places, Geographical skills & Fieldwork investigation</p> <p>Year 2 Paper 1 <u>Physical Geography topics</u>: Water & Carbon Cycles, Coastal Systems & Landscapes & Hazards Paper 2 <u>Human Geography topics</u>: Global Systems & Global Governance, Changing Places & Resource Security. Geographical Investigation – students complete fieldwork investigation</p>
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	The subject content follows an “issues and impact” approach throughout. This course will excite student’s minds, challenge perceptions and stimulate their investigative and analytical skills. A challenging course makes significant demands on the student. It has a developmental structure designed to facilitate progression through the course and beyond, to link with the demands of higher level study. Through presentations, group work, class discussion and fieldwork the needs of this demanding, yet rewarding course are met.

HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED:

The course is linear in nature giving students the opportunity to complete assessments which are awarded that will contribute to A-Level at the end of Year 13.

A-Level: 2 2hr 30min exam papers + independent investigation

Paper 1: Physical Geography – topics studied are Water & Carbon Cycles, Coastal Systems & Landscapes & Hazards **40% of A-Level**

Paper 2: Human Geography – topics studied are Global Systems & Global Governance, Changing Places & Resource Security. **40% of A-Level**

Geographical Investigation –independent fieldwork investigation **20% of A-Level**

PROGRESSION :

The dynamic and skills based nature of this subject gives Geography one of the highest graduate employment rates of any non specialist degree. 'A' Level Geography is an accepted entry qualification for many specialist and non specialist higher education courses

Our students in Yr 13 during a Geography revision weekend in the Lake District, staying at Ambleside YHA.



History

PROGRESSION :

History 'A' Level is highly regarded by law faculties in many universities. Students have left St Thomas More at the end of their 'A' level course and continued to study History at a number of Higher Education establishments including the Universities of Manchester, York, Oxford, Newcastle and Northumbria. Students have used their History 'A' Level qualification to gain access to other courses at Durham, Stirling and Canterbury Universities. The 'AS' Level can be used in support of other 'A' Level subjects to gain entry to many courses at Higher Education establishments.



Eva Clarke, Holocaust Survivor with the sixth form students who recently visited Auschwitz.

QUALIFICATION	AQA GCE 'A' Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	History will build on the analytical and linguistic skills you have developed at GCSE. Therefore, students will be expected to have achieved a minimum of grade 5 in GCSE History and must also achieve at least a Grade 4 on Paper 2. Students who have not studied History to GCSE may be accepted but must demonstrate a high proficiency in English by achieving a Grade 6 in English Literature.
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	The course consists of four units and it is equally divided into Tudor British history and Modern World history. Although each part of the course is separated by centuries, it will allow students to study two contrasting historical periods in depth.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	Pupils will be given material which outlines the main development changes and ideas of a topic and this will be supported by class discussion. There is a wide ranging reading list from which pupils will be expected to select texts relevant to the topic they are studying. Students will analyse, interpret and evaluate sources in groups or as individuals. Individual research leading to essays. Presentations by individuals or small groups to the whole group. Focused reading tasks leading to group discussion. Use of audio visual materials to gather information and promote discussion. Studying History at 'A' Level commits a student to a lot of reading. The more you read, the greater your knowledge and understanding of the subject.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	The A Level course also has three units; one exam on Tudor History (40%), one exam on Modern World History (40%) and an historical investigation (20%).

Mathematics

QUALIFICATION	GCE 'A' Level.
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Students must have studied a higher level GCSE course and gained a grade '6' or above.
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	A Level Mathematics will help develop your mathematical understanding, encourage you to think, act and communicate mathematically, providing you with the skills to analyse situations in mathematics and elsewhere. The mathematical knowledge you will gain will be broad and widely applicable, preparing you for a wide range of destinations. Content includes in-depth treatments of calculus and proof, alongside statistics and mechanics, preparing you for a wide range of destinations in Higher Education and employment.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	Teaching and learning will most often take place in small groups. Strategies that are often implemented in addition to group work include using mini-whiteboards, good questioning techniques, encouraging discussion, jigsaws and using posters to explain understanding. Students are encouraged to be active in lessons as opposed to a "passive learning" style as this is often not the most effective teaching and learning strategy.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	The course is linear and will be assessed by 4 or 5 papers at the end of Year 13.

PROGRESSION :

A-level Maths provides students with a thorough grounding in the mathematical tools and techniques often needed in the workplace. The logic and reasoning skills developed by studying A-level Maths make sure the qualification is widely respected even in non-mathematical arenas. A-Level Mathematics is a valuable qualification for a wide variety of Higher Education courses and it can lead to careers in finance, computing, engineering and science to name but a few.



In previous years students from Year 12 took part in the Engineering Education Scheme. They spent 3 days at Newcastle University carrying out practical work to solve a real life problem set by Freudenberg

**Maths Clinic
each week**

Further Mathematics



The John Bassett Award for Achievement in Mathematics was presented to Jonathan Coulson (Leaver 2016)

Jonathan achieved A* in both Maths and

PROGRESSION :

Further Mathematics qualifications are highly regarded and are warmly welcomed by universities. Students who take Further Mathematics are really demonstrating a strong commitment to their studies, as well as learning mathematics that is very useful for any mathematically rich degree. Some prestigious university courses require you to have a Further Mathematics qualification and others may adjust their grade requirements more favourably to students with Further Mathematics.

QUALIFICATION	GCE 'A' Level.
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Students must have studied a higher level GCSE course and gained a good grade '7' or above.
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	A Level Further Mathematics will both extend and deepen your knowledge and understanding beyond the standard A level Mathematics. Students who do it often say it is their favourite subject. As well as new learning new areas of pure mathematics you will study further applications of mathematics in mechanics, statistics and decision mathematics. Studying Further Mathematics consolidates and reinforces your standard A level Mathematics work, helping you to achieve your best possible grades. If you are planning to take a degree such as Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Finance/Economics, Medicine etc., or perhaps Mathematics itself, you would benefit from taking Further Mathematics. Students who have studied Further Mathematics find the transition to such degrees far more straightforward.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	Teaching and learning will most often take place in small groups. Strategies that are often implemented in addition to group work include using mini-whiteboards, good questioning techniques, encouraging discussion, jigsaws and using posters to explain understanding. Students are encouraged to be active in lessons as opposed to a "passive learning" style as this is often not the most effective teaching and learning strategy.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	The course is linear and will be assessed by 4 or 5 papers at the end of Year 13.

Modern Languages

French / German

QUALIFICATION	AQA GCE 'A' Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	The minimum GCSE grade required is a 6.
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	Social issues and trends Political and artistic culture Grammar Works : literary texts and films
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	You will further develop your skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing just as you have for your GCSE. Key differences from the GCSE course include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using your own personal device for listening which allows you to listen to extracts as many times as you wish. • your own workbook to consolidate and extend your knowledge of grammar. • study of a film and a book. • your own choice of topic for part of the speaking test <p>An educational trip to France and Germany will be on offer depending on numbers of students interested.</p>

HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED:

The qualification is linear. This means that the students will sit their exam at the end of the course.

The exam consists of three papers.

Paper 1 : tests listening, reading and writing over 2 hours 30 minutes and is worth 40% of the A-level.

Paper 2 : tests writing about a film and a text and grammar over 2 hours and is worth 30% of the A-level.

Paper 3 : tests speaking in a 20 minute exam which is worth 30% of the A-level.

PROGRESSION :

You can take a traditional language course at a university or a degree combining language modules with subjects such as Business, Law, Science, European Studies or Tourism. Competence in a foreign language is an asset in the workplace. As well as export links, major British firms have partnerships with European countries and welcome graduates with language skills.



AS French students - Joseph O'Brien and Annie Dixon came to the rescue of STM's Group 714 during the 2015 Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France with their fluent French.



German and Music students in Year 12 took part in a trip to Berlin and Leipzig where, amongst other things, they visited the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, the Holocaust Museum and a Bach concert.

PROGRESSION:
Where music can take you?

Music requires you to read, think and write with your eyes, ears and brain. There are many career opportunities available in performance, education, composition, publishing, business and music therapy.



There is a thriving and diverse extra curricular programme for musicians to participate in with eg. School Orchestra, choirs and chamber groups rehearsing each week. Concerts, including soloist evenings take place each term and there will be the opportunity to be involved in the annual large scale School Production.

MUSIC

QUALIFICATION	AQA GCE 'A' Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	A Grade 6 or above at GCSE Music is required. If GCSE Music has not been studied, evidence of a minimum performance skills on an instrument/voice of around Grade IV or above will be expected., as well some substantial music theory knowledge.
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	<p>Component 1: Appraising music—essays and listening</p> <p>1. Western classical tradition 1650–1910</p> <p>To include specific study of Baroque: the solo concerto and Classical: the operas of Mozart</p> <p>2. Pop music</p> <p>A study of mainstream music derived from and including a number of musical genres including rock, funk and R&B from 1960 to the present,</p> <p>Component 2: Performance</p> <p>Show your skills as a performer as a soloist and/or ensemble an instrumentalist and/or vocalist. A minimum of six minutes of performance in total is required in the musical genre you work best in.</p> <p>Component 3: Composition</p> <p>Produce two compositions - one to a given brief, one free composition</p>

Physical Education

QUALIFICATION	OCR GCE 'A' Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	If GCSE PE was studied a grade 6 or above is required. The theory grade at GCSE will also be taken into consideration when discussing suitability for this course. Regular participation in one sport outside of school is essential. You do not have to have studied this subject at GCSE, however students would be expected to have an average GCSE point score of 6.1 and above (vocational subjects not included).
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level GCE
OUTLINE OF COURSE	Theory lessons covering Sport Physiology, Psychology, and Socio-Cultural Studies. Practical work covering performance or coaching with analysis of performance as an oral response. <i>*OCR are still to finalise the specification for 2016.</i>
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	The theory course will be delivered by subject specialists. The practical performance, coaching and officiating, and the analysis of performance will be delivered in lesson time, and develop through students own participation in sport outside of curriculum time (in or out of school).
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	Three exams covering the three theory areas from AS and full GCE (70%). Continuous assessment of 1 practical with a final external moderation process in March of Year 2 (Practical and oral elements 30%)

PROGRESSION :

The obvious route would be to a degree course in Physical Education Teaching, Sports Science, Sport and Coaching or Leisure and Tourism. It may also be useful as an entry for Physiotherapy.



**Yr13 Outdoor Adventure Trip
2015—Sixth Form Leaders**

Physics

PROGRESSION :

A' Level Physics is a very highly regarded qualification and it can lead to many higher education courses and a variety of challenging careers.

A few examples include medicine, engineering, electronics, computing, broadcasting, law and telecommunications.

Physicists work in areas such as pollution control, health, electronics and archaeology. The development of satellites and space engineering, together with research and development within companies offer further opportunities.



Sixth Form Science Trip to CERN

QUALIFICATION	Edexcel GCE 'A' Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Grade 6 at Higher Level GCSE Physics or Grade 6 of both GCSE Core and Additional Science at the Higher Level. Students must also have an average GCSE point score of 6.1 or above (Vocational courses not included).
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	<p>A level students are examined in 3 units :</p> <p>Module 1 : Advanced Physics I</p> <p>Module 2 : Advanced Physics II</p> <p>Module 3 : General and Practical Principles in Physics</p>
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	You will be taught by two teachers. Content is taught through eleven context-led contemporary topics. Activities are an integral part of the learning process which includes practical lab based tasks. You will be expected to work independently outside of lessons to complement and consolidate teaching & learning.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	<p><u>A level : Year 13</u></p> <p>Paper 1 1 hour 45 mins 30%</p> <p>Paper 2 1 hour 45 mins 30%</p> <p>Paper 3 2 hours 30 mins 40%</p> <p>In addition a non exam assessment will be reported separately</p>

Psychology



Psychology Annual trip to Vienna

PROGRESSION:

Psychology is an increasingly popular subject, and approximately one third of students go on to study it at University. It is also an A-level subject that leads to further study in other areas, and will compliment a range of subjects taken at Post-16.

QUALIFICATION	AQA GCE 'A' Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Psychology will be a new subject for students in the Sixth Form. The skills required are developed in subjects as diverse as English and Science at GCSE - level. Students therefore need a minimum of 5 GCSE subjects at grade 4/5, Grade 6 in Science and English and 4/5 in Maths or above before they can be considered for the Psychology course.
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years full 'A' Level.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	<p><u>Unit 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology</u> Social Influence (Obedience and Conformity) Memory Attachment Psychopathology (Mental Illness)</p> <p><u>Unit 2: Psychology in Context</u> Approaches in Psychology Biopsychology Research Methods Issues and Debates in Psychology</p> <p><u>Unit 3: Issues and Options in Psychology</u> 3 topics will be taught: Relationships Schizophrenia Forensic Psychology</p>
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	<u>A-Level:</u> Students will sit three 2 hour exams on units 1, 2 & 3 at the end of year. Each exam will be made of 96 marks and will include multiple choice, short answers and extended writing piece. Each paper will be worth 33.33% of the entire A-level.

Alternative Courses - Contents

Level 3 (Double Award)

BTEC Business

BTEC Computing

Cambridge National
Health & Social Care

BTEC Information Technology

BTEC Sports Development

BTEC Performing Arts – Dance
(single award)

Level 2 (GCSE)

GCSE English

GCSE Maths

BTEC Business

QUALIFICATION	Edexcel BTEC Business (NQF)
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Students wanting to study Business Level 3 need a minimum of a Grade 4 in English and Maths. They also need 5 GCSE Grade 4/5s or above if they have not studied Business at GCSE level.
LENGTH OF COURSE	2 Years (Year 1 = 1 A Level) (Year 2 = 2 A Levels)
OUTLINE OF COURSE	<p>For this course you will complete 3 mandatory units in Year 1. The units you will cover are: Exploring Business, Developing a Marketing Campaign and Personal & Business Finance.</p> <p>You will also complete an optional unit from either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and Selection Process • Market Research • Work Experience in Business <p>In Year 2 you will further develop your Business knowledge by completing 3 more mandatory units: Managing an Event, International Business and Principles of Business Management.</p> <p>In addition you will also complete another optional unit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigating Customer Services • Digital Marketing • Creative Promotion
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	The emphasis of the course is 'collaboration'. Staff teach through a combination of lectures, tutorials, research, case studies and outside speakers. There is a big emphasis, however, on students to plan and carry out independent research on a given assignment.

HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED

Your mandatory units in Year 1

will be assessed in the following ways:

- Exploring Business – Internal Assessment
- Developing a Marketing Campaign – Controlled Assessment
- Personal & Business Finance – Examination

PROGRESSION :

Students can use their Applied A Level in a variety of ways:

- a) to help gain employment
- b) to gain entry to Degree courses with equivalent points score to 'A' Level

BTEC Computing

QUALIFICATION	Edexcel BTEC Computing (NQF)
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Students wanting to study Computing Level 3 need a minimum of a Grade 6 in English and Maths. They also need 5 GCSE Grade 4/5 or above if they have not studied Computing or IT at GCSE level. If Computing or IT has been studied at GCSE
LENGTH OF COURSE	2 years (Year 1 = 1 A Level) (Year 2 = 1.5 A Levels)
OUTLINE OF COURSE	<p>For this course you will complete 3 mandatory units in Year 1: Principles of Computer Science, Fundamentals of a Computer System and IT Systems Security and Encryption. In addition to the mandatory units you will complete an optional unit from one of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Computer Interaction • Digital Graphics and Animation • Computer Games Development • Website Development • Mobile Apps Development <p>In Year 2 you will further develop your computing knowledge by completing at least 3 more mandatory units and an optional unit.</p>
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	The expertise of several IT specialist staff all IT will be used to deliver this course. When available external organisations will assist in the delivery of the units through talks and visits. Students will be taught via presentations, independent and group activities and through the use of IT hardware and software. All units must be passed in order to gain a qualification. Students will be required to be organised and meet tight deadlines.

<p>HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED</p> <p>You mandatory units will be assessed in the following ways:</p> <p>Principles of Computer Science – Examination</p> <p>Fundamentals of a Computer System – Examination</p> <p>IT Systems Security and Encryption – Assignment - Set and marked internally.</p> <p>Optional unit - Assignment - Set and marked internally.</p>
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PROGRESSION :

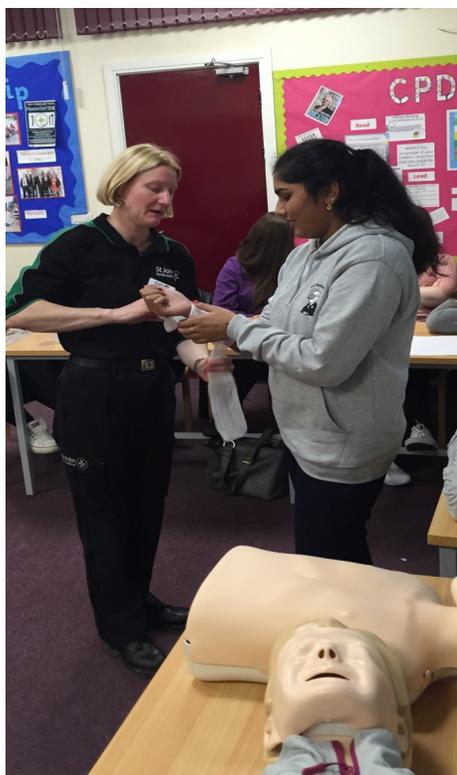
Students can use their BTEC Computing qualification in a variety of ways:

- a) to help gain employment
- b) to gain entry to Degree courses with equivalent points score to 'A' Level

Health & Social Care

PROGRESSION :

This qualification offers you: Progression into Higher/Further Education to study degrees related to nursing, speech therapy, youth and community work, primary teaching, health promotion, childcare, paramedic science, midwifery, occupational therapy or as a route directly into employment.



An aspiring Nurse from Yr13 learning first aid.

QUALIFICATION	OCR Cambridge Technical Diploma in Health and Social Care (equivalent to 2 A levels)														
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	The study of Health and Social Care at Level 3 covers a wide range of topics relevant to the subject area. It involves the completion of a number of assignments together with a period of work experience in a health or social care setting. Students who have completed Cambridge National Level 2 in Health & Social Care will be required to have achieved a Merit or Distinction qualification. A grade 4 or above in English and Science is also necessary. Students need not have studied Health and Social Care before.														
LENGTH OF COURSE	Two years														
OUTLINE OF COURSE	This comprises eight compulsory units and a choice of four from a list of optional units. <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Year 1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Year 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Building positive relationships</td> <td>Psychology</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equality, diversity and rights</td> <td>Health promotion</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Person centred care</td> <td>Sexual health</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health, safety and security</td> <td>Infection control</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anatomy and physiology</td> <td>Physiological conditions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Safeguarding</td> <td>Nutrition</td> </tr> </table>	Year 1	Year 2	Building positive relationships	Psychology	Equality, diversity and rights	Health promotion	Person centred care	Sexual health	Health, safety and security	Infection control	Anatomy and physiology	Physiological conditions	Safeguarding	Nutrition
Year 1	Year 2														
Building positive relationships	Psychology														
Equality, diversity and rights	Health promotion														
Person centred care	Sexual health														
Health, safety and security	Infection control														
Anatomy and physiology	Physiological conditions														
Safeguarding	Nutrition														
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	The course will be delivered using individual, paired and group working with students completing a number of individual projects. Visits and speakers will be organised where appropriate. Use of ICT facilities is also an important part. Students will be advised to undertake at least 100 hours of work experience and complete individual guided research.														
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	Assessment for each unit is through the successful completion of a number of assignments or projects or through an external examination. Evidence may also be obtained through the use of presentations, simulated interviews and reflective log books.														

BTEC Information Technology

QUALIFICATION	Edexcel BTEC Information Technology (NQF)
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Students wanting to study Information Technology Level 3 need a minimum of a Grade 6 in English and Maths. They also need 5 GCSE Grade 4/5 or above if they have not studied Information technology at GCSE level.
LENGTH OF COURSE	2 years (Year 1 = 1 A Level) (Year 2 = 1.5 A Levels)
OUTLINE OF COURSE	<p>For this course you will complete 3 mandatory units in Year 1. The units you will cover are: Information Technology Systems, Creating Systems to Manage Information and Using Social Media in Business.</p> <p>You will also complete an optional unit form either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Modelling • Website Development <p>In Year 2 you will further develop your Information Technology knowledge by completing 1 more mandatory unit: Programming.</p> <p>A further optional unit will also be completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile App Development • Computer Games Development
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	The expertise of several IT specialist staff will be used to deliver this course. When available external organisations will assist in the delivery of the units through talks and visits. Students will be taught via presentations, independent and group activities and through the use of IT hardware and software. All units must be passed in order to gain a qualification. Students will be required to be organised and meet tight deadlines.

HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED

Your BTEC units will be assessed in the following ways:

Information Technology Systems –
Written Examination

Creating Systems to Manage
Information – Controlled Assessment

Using Social Media in Business –
Internal Assessment

Data Modelling - Internal Assessment

Website Development - Internal
Assessment.

PROGRESSION:

This course is suitable for students wishing to enter the world of work into the IT industry.

It can also enable access into higher education courses with an IT base.

The qualification gains the usual UCAS points for entry onto University courses.

BTEC Sports Development

PROGRESSION:

This course is suitable for students wishing to enter into work in the Sports and Leisure industry. It can also enable access into Higher Education courses with a Sports bias. The qualification gains the usual UCAS points for entry to university courses.



2015 students delighted with their **Distinction* Distinction** grades on Results Day - another fantastic year for BTEC PE.

QUALIFICATION	Edexcel BTEC National Award and/or Certificate in Sports Development & Fitness.
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Students will be expected to have studied BTEC Sport or GCSE PE. If GCSE PE was studied a grade 4 or above is required. If BTEC was studied, Merit grades or above are required. A grade 4 or above in English and Science is also necessary. An interest in sport and a commitment to participating in at least one sport outside of school is essential
LENGTH OF COURSE	Award – Equivalent to 1 A Level Certificate – equivalent to 2 A Levels
OUTLINE OF COURSE	BTEC AWARD – students are required to complete six units of coursework from the following: Anatomy and Physiology, Assessing Risk in Sport, Fitness Testing and Training, Leadership, Coaching, Sports Development, Practical Sport. BTEC CERTIFICATE – a further six units including the six from National Award plus any of the following: Exercise and Health, Sports Massage, PE and the Care of Young People, Sports Injuries, Psychology.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	The expertise of several staff will be used. All units must be passed in order to gain the qualification. Students will be required to meet strict deadlines. Students will need to commit to the CSLA enrichment lesson and volunteer to help with extra curricular clubs. Students should be aware that it is a requirement of the course that they are able to carry out assignments independently. To this end a level of ITC skill is also necessary.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	Many units are internally assessed however an element of this subject will be now be via an external examination. An outside moderation process will take place.

Performing Arts- Dance

QUALIFICATION	Edexcel BTEC National Certificate in Performing Arts (Dance)
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Students may have studied Performing Arts at KS 4 but this is not a pre requisite to entry. An interest and participation in dance outside of school would be considered essential. Students would have to reach the required minimum entry requirements for Sixth Form. Depending on interested numbers an audition may be required.
LENGTH OF COURSE	BTEC National Certificate (1 year) equivalent to an AS level BTEC National Subsidiary Diploma (2 years) equivalent to an A level
OUTLINE OF COURSE	BTEC National Certificate – students are required to complete three units of coursework from the following: Dance Performance, Choreographing Dance, Dance Improvisation, The Healthy Performer, Developing Contemporary Dance Technique, Jazz, Tap or Urban Dance. BTEC Subsidiary Diploma – a further three units from the list above to complete 6 units in total.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	The course will be taught primarily by teachers from St. Thomas More with options to acquire expertise from visiting choreographers, workshops with partnership venues like Dance City.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	Most units are internally assessed however an element of this subject will be now be via an external examination. An external moderation will take place.

PROGRESSION :

The course is suitable for students wishing to enter any Dance organisation or simply to further enhance their own dance expertise and experience through the opportunities offered by this creative/aesthetic option.

In terms of university entry BTEC Nationals are recognised qualification and gain the relevant UCAS points.



2015's performance of Annie

An opportunity to dance in the school's musical production each year.

GCSE English / Maths

QUALIFICATION	AQA GCSE Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	None – though students trying to convert to a higher grade could be expected to have a grade 3/4 at GCSE.
LENGTH OF COURSE	One year or until November for those who were a few marks away from a 4/5 in June.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	You will be studying the ways in which Language and Literature are used to communicate ideas and feelings and developing your own skills in the use of spoken and written English. This will involve reading texts from other cultures and traditions, a Shakespeare play, poetry and extracts as well as spoken texts. You will have to read at least two ‘major’ texts and you have to write at least four assignments during the year, including one piece of original writing and a response to Media.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	You will be taught in small groups where the emphasis will be on reading and discussion of texts including videos, current writing and topics. You will be given a great deal of individual advice on your writing and your speaking. You will be encouraged to contribute fully to the class discussion. Although some writing will take place in class, you should expect to do the bulk of your written work in private study time.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	You have to produce a portfolio of assignments, four of your best pieces of writing during the year (20%). You will also be assessed on three oral tasks (20%). Two examinations, one of reading and one of your writing, will be set at the end of the course (60%).

QUALIFICATION	AQA GCSE Level
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	None – though students trying to convert to a higher grade could be expected to have a grade ‘3/4’ at GCSE.
LENGTH OF COURSE	Students who gained a grade 3/4 in Year 11 may re-sit modules in November. Students who gained 2/3 or below will be required to re-sit module 5 and possibly one other module over a one year course.
OUTLINE OF COURSE	National Curriculum Syllabus for GCSE covering – using and applying Mathematics, Number, Algebra, Shape and Space and Data Handling.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT	Formal teaching to revise the main topics, backed up by supported self-study and IT.
HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED	Three modular written examination papers.

PROGRESSION:

A grade 5 or above at GCSE can be required for entry to many Higher Education courses or for other careers.

