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The Contents of this Booklet

This booklet contains summaries of courses on offer to Sixth Formers in September 2008. This is not intended as a comprehensive guide to each course but as a starting point for a discussion about the options available. Students and parents requesting further information and advice are encouraged to contact Heads of Subject or our Head of Lower Sixth Form, Mr Reynolds. Additional information on the current specifications is also available from the examination boards' websites which are listed with each subject summary. An indication of the form of assessment (coursework or examination) which is undertaken for the AS part of the course is given beneath the course outlines. Assessment for the full A level is made up of the assessment for both the AS and A2 parts of the course and the overall balance of assessment for the full A level is also given. Please note that all European and Oriental languages are listed under Modern Languages.

Sixth Form Curriculum

Since September 2000 Sixth Form students have been studying under the system of AS and A levels. AS levels (short for Advanced Subsidiary) are the easier first half of the A level course, studied in the Lower Sixth. Students may take exams in their AS subjects at the end of the Lower Sixth to qualify for an AS award. The second year of the A level course is referred to as the A2 and is taught in the Upper Sixth. It cannot be taken without first studying the AS level course. Students also have the option of studying for an Applied A level in some subjects. They are vocational courses, and a summary of the courses in Art and Design, Business Studies and The Performing Arts can be found in this booklet. We also offer vocational BTEC qualifications in Sport and Music (Performance). A short glossary of the terms used in this booklet can be found on page 4.

The Sixth Form curriculum is divided into four groups of subjects (blocks). A student takes one subject from each block. Each of these subjects may be examined at the end of the Lower Sixth for an AS level and may be continued into the Upper Sixth for a full A level. Alternatively, it is possible to stop studying a subject after the AS examinations at the end of the Lower Sixth year. Students may alternatively select an Applied A level or BTEC course in place of one or two A levels. In addition to their AS/A level courses, all students can take part in a varied General Studies programme, careers advice and enrol in Key Skills and Information Technology courses.

Choosing the right course

The overriding considerations are that students should choose subjects which they will enjoy and which will help them gain access to courses in Higher Education or jobs which interest them. For the many students who do not have a clear picture of what they want to do next, the accent should be on enjoyment and keeping their options open.

The majority of our students will take 4 AS levels in the Lower Sixth, reducing to 3 A levels in the Upper Sixth. If this is not the best programme of study, we will create an appropriate programme on an individual basis. Flexibility exists to enable exceptionally able students to study additional AS and A levels.

University Entrance Consideration

Most universities will continue to make offers based on 3 A levels. This is because they want students to achieve the intellectual standard of A level.

Some universities have indicated that they wish students to broaden their 3 A levels by taking a contrasting fourth AS or A level. This should be taken into account when making selections. Universities will continue to require 2 A levels as the minimum requirement for a degree course.

The most popular courses which are heavily over-subscribed will undoubtedly use AS level results alongside GCSEs as a screening device. In September 2008, the school offered the Cambridge Pre-V qualification for the first time, in English Literature. It is possible that we will offer further Pre-V courses in the years ahead, these courses are specifically designed to bring students closer to the level they will need to have reached to study at university.

Costs

In the Sixth Form, all text books and musical scores are charged to students' accounts. This allows them to annotate their texts as they wish.

Many courses have associated costs. These may include field courses, visits, equipment or materials. In each case we have given a guide to the extra cost likely to be associated with this particular course.

Changes to the published information

We have made every effort to ensure the information in this booklet is accurate at the time of print. However, it is possible that changes may occur from the published material.

St Bede's School reserves the right to alter any of the course content and availability without prior notice and also reserves the right to cancel a course at any time without liability. In these circumstances, students will be offered appropriate alternatives. We shall, of course, endeavour to consult and advise all parents and students should this become necessary.

Glossary of terminology

A level - The name given to the exam certificate awarded at the end of two years in the Sixth Form, studying at Advanced level.

AS level - The "easier" half of the A level course to be studied in the Lower Sixth. Students may take exams in each subject at the end of the Lower Sixth to qualify for an Advanced Subsidiary award which gives half the UCAS points of an A level.

A2 - The "harder part" of an A level course, taught in the Upper Sixth. This is not certificated on its own.

Students and parents should note that the A2 course descriptions detail the course studied during the second year of the A level and cannot be studied on their own; students should first study the AS course in that subject.

Key Skills - A course which requires students to demonstrate their ability in a range of cross-curricular skills including use of Number, Communication and Information Technology.

Applied A levels - These qualifications have replaced the old Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education (AVCE) qualification and were introduced nationally in September 2005. They are offered as 6 or 12 unit courses depending on the subject area, and are equivalent to 1 or 2 A levels respectively. Assessment is predominately through coursework with an additional examination for selected parts of the course.

BTEC - These are vocational qualifications which are now recognised through the UCAS tariff. Offered as 1 or 2 A level equivalents, the School offers qualifications in Sport, Music Performance and Music Technology.

Specifications - The new name for a syllabus.

UCAS Points

Some universities make offers based on points which may be calculated as follows:

Grade	A	AS
A	120	60
B	100	50
C	80	40
D	60	30
E	40	20

Accounting

Head of Subject: Mr G Parfitt

Board: OCR

Website: www.ocr.org.uk

AS Level Specification: H011

The AS GCE specification gives an introduction to the main concepts which underlie accounting theory and practice and expands their application to a range of accounting situations. The content of the AS modules cover basic accounting principles and enables students to prepare final accounts for small businesses competently and to understand the importance of effective IT-based information systems for accounting. Students should also develop the skills of presentation, interpretation, analysis and evaluation. Candidates following this course should be confident handling numerical data.

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

A2 Level Specification: H411

The A2 part of the Advanced GCE specification incorporates a greater depth of knowledge across a wide range of business situations. It introduces candidates to the techniques of budgeting and control and will show them how to apply the techniques of capital expenditure appraisal and make reasoned decisions based on their calculations. They will also study absorption and marginal costing techniques and have an awareness of the changing requirements of industry as evidenced by the growth in activity-based costing.

The course provides an excellent foundation for further study of accountancy at pre-professional and professional levels, and students wishing to pursue a wide range of careers in business management will find the management accounting, reporting and interpretation skills of great benefit.

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

Applied Business

Head of subject: Mr G Parfitt

Board: Edexcel

Website: www.edexcel.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 8721

The Edexcel GCE in Applied Business is a broad-based qualification that provides the opportunity for students to explore the world of business in a highly practical way. Students are encouraged to take part in activities such as planning for a new business venture and investigating potential marketing opportunities for existing businesses. The fundamental philosophy of this course is that in order to understand the nature of business, students must actively experience the business environment. The course requires students to carry out their own research and produce detailed reports and therefore candidates should both enjoy and be confident about being able to produce extended coursework projects.

Coursework: 67%

Examination: 33%

A2 Level Specification: 9721

The two year single award adds to the AS qualification and allows students to specialise in a wide variety of business disciplines and provides the opportunity for them to develop their own particular areas of business interest. Options include managing and developing people, organising an event, and the production of a formal business plan to support a new business venture. Assessment at both AS and A2 level is designed to give credit for what students can do as well as what they know. The GCE in Applied Business qualifies for the same UCAS points as any other traditional A level and gives students a wide choice of progression options into further study, training or relevant employment in the business sector.

Coursework: 67%

Examination:

33%

Art and Design

Head of subject: Mr D Graham

Board: Edexcel

Website: www.edexcel.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 8FA01, 8TD01, 8PY01, 8GC01

Students studying Art and Design may follow a broad curriculum or specialise in one or more of the following areas: Fine Art, Graphic Design, Photography and 3D Design (Ceramics). Studios are available after School and at weekends for students to continue their work.

During the course students complete two major units of work namely:

- A coursework unit comprising of a series of media explorations including observational drawing and investigations into the work of artists and designers. This unit also includes an exploration of a theme in the student's chosen area, e.g. painting, sculpture, photography etc.
- An 8 hour examination which is set by the examination board and involves preparatory work in the Spring and Summer term.

Coursework: 60%

Examination: 40%

Estimated additional costs: £90 p.a.

A2 Level Specification: 9FA01, 9TD01, 9PY01, 9GC01

During the second year of the A level course students complete two major units of work namely:

- A contextual study: this allows students to investigate in depth a topic of their own interest.
- A practical coursework project: this is usually related to the student's contextual study and allows them to produce practical work in two or three dimensions.
- A 12 hour examination the theme for which is set by the examination board and involves a six week preparatory period.

Overall A level Assessment:

Coursework: 60%

Examination: 40%

Estimated additional costs: £90 p.a.

Two A Levels in Art

A small number of students each year opt to study A levels in Art and Design. This option is particularly suitable for those students who have a strong desire to focus on Art after A levels at St Bede's.

Following a two A level course allows students to produce a depth and breadth of work in their portfolios that *could* lead to a direct entry to Art college. Students may combine any two A levels from a list of: Fine Art, Photography, Graphic Design and Three-Dimensional Design to build a strongly competitive personal portfolio.

(The usual route to Art College is to study A level Art alongside other academic choices and apply for an Art Foundation Course before applying for a degree course. A foundation course is an intense one year programme structured to prepare students for the board range of specialist art degrees now offered at Art colleges and universities).

Biology

Head of subject: Dr P Allison

Board: Edexcel

Website: www.edexcel.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 8BIO1

Unit 1: Lifestyle, Transport, Genes and Health

Topic 1: Lifestyle, health and risk includes the structure and function of biological molecules, a study of the cardiovascular system linked to ways in which diet and lifestyle factors may affect heart and circulation and ideas about correlation, causation and the concept of risks to health.

Topic 2: Genes and health Includes the structure and functions of the cell membrane and gas exchange surfaces, the structure and properties of proteins, enzymes and nucleic acids, DNA replication, inheritance, mutation, genetic diseases, gene therapy and genetic screening.

Unit 2: Development, Plants and the Environment

Topic 3: The voice of the genome Includes the development of multicellular organisms from single cells, the ultra structure of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells, tissues, mitosis and meiosis, fertilisation in mammals and plants, stem cell research, gene expression and cell differentiation

Topic 4: Biodiversity and natural resources Includes comparison of plant and animal cell structure, the structure and function of cellulose and starch in plant cells, plant tissues, the importance of plant products to humans, species diversity and the link to natural selection and evolutionary change, the role of zoos and seed-banks in conservation of endangered species.

Unit 3: Practical Biology and Research Skills (internal assessment)

Students are assessed on their practical skills and on a 1500 - 2000 word report on a visit to a site of biological interest or on non-practical research into a biological project.

Internal Assessment: 20%

Examination: 80%

A2 Level Specification: 9BIO1

Unit 4: The Natural Environment and Species Survival

Topic 5: On the wild side Includes photosynthesis, energy transfers in food chains and population biology, ecological concepts and practical techniques, the causes and effects of global warming, evolution linked to mutation and natural selection, speciation.

Topic 6: Infection, immunity and forensics Includes the genetic code and protein synthesis, the techniques of DNA profiling, the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), and gel electrophoresis, the structure of bacteria and viruses, the role of microbes in decomposition and recycling, infectious disease, the responses of the body to infection, including the immune response, the problem of hospital acquired infections and forensic techniques used to time death of a mammal.

Unit 5: Energy, Exercise and Coordination

Topic 7: Run for your life Includes muscle structure and physiology, joints, the biochemistry of respiration, cardiac muscle, electrical activity and control of the heart during the cardiac cycle, principles of homeostasis, control of gene expression and medical technology.

Topic 8: Grey matter Includes photoreception in plants and mammals, structure and function of neurons, conduction of impulses along axons, synapses, localization of function in the human brain, use of MRI and CT scans in medicine, issues relating to use of animals in research, neuroactive drugs, the Human Genome Project and genetically modified organisms.

Unit 6: Practical Biology and Investigative Skills (internal assessment)

Students will complete a written report of an experimental investigation, which they will have devised and carried out.

The course also includes a one week residential ecology field trip in Devon

Internal Assessment: 20%

Examination: 80%

Estimated additional costs: £350

Business Studies

Head of subject: Mr G Parfitt

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 1131

This very popular course looks at how businesses operate in the modern world. We begin by looking at the issues involved in planning and financing a new business and move on to study the work and tactics used by key business departments such as Marketing, Finance, Operations and Human Resources. Students will acquire a range of skills including decision making and problem solving and will learn to make judgements based on their own analysis of a business situation. The course lays an appropriate foundation for students intending to pursue careers in any area of business.

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

A2 Level Specification: 2131

Students develop the knowledge they have acquired at AS level and look at the work of larger organisations and international businesses. Particular emphasis is placed upon the long term strategies used in key departments and their appropriateness in the context of corporate objectives. Modules focus on an integrated case study, a pre-released research task and an essay. Students will study the relationship between the business and the external environment and how to manage change successfully. Students will learn that the subject draws on a variety of other disciplines and that business behaviour can be viewed from a variety of different perspectives.

Overall A level Assessment:

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

Chemistry - Salters Chemistry

Head of subject: Mr A E Webb

Board: OCR

Website : www.ocr.org.uk

AS Level Specification : H035

An innovative chemical education, involving considerable contextual input. During the 'AS' level, students will become familiar with chemical principles developed through modern applications of chemistry.

They will study chemistry under the following themes :

Elements of life - Developing Fuels - Elements from the Sea - The Atmosphere - Polymer Revolution.

The following areas of study are investigated through these themes. Atomic and nuclear structure, chemical bonding, industrial chemistry, the study of oxidation and reduction. Students will also study organic and inorganic chemistry, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria and develop an ability to analyse compounds from data provided by spectroscopic analysis.

In addition students will develop experimental skills in the laboratory.

Assessment will take the form of two written papers, a coursework component (Chemistry in Practice). Students studying this subject should be numerate and have successfully studied GCSE Chemistry or Double Science.

Coursework (experimental skills): 20%

Written Papers: 80 %

A2 Level

Specification: H435 Board OCR

Website: www.ocr.org.uk

Head of Subject Mr.A.E.Webb

In the second year of the A level [A2], students will study chemical principles developed through modern applications of chemistry. These applications being presented through the following themes:

What's in a Medicine - The Materials Revolution - The Thread of Life - The Steel Story - Agriculture and Industry - Colour by Design - The Oceans - Medicines by Design.

The following areas of study are investigated through these themes.

Organic and inorganic chemistry, DNA synthesis, equilibria, acid-base equilibria, kinetics, redox reactions, electrochemistry, nitrogen chemistry and bonding, colour chemistry, spectroscopic analysis, entropy, molecular recognition and synthetic routes.

In addition students will develop experimental skills in the laboratory, culminating in an individual investigation.

Students studying this subject should be numerate and have successfully studied AS Chemistry.

This course provides students with an opportunity to follow careers in medicine, medically related studies such as dentistry, veterinary science, biological sciences, pharmacology, pharmacy, chemistry, chemical engineering and other engineering courses at university.

Assessment will take the form of two written papers and a coursework component at A2. The overall assessment will include assessment elements from AS.

AS Units: 50%

Coursework: 15%

A2 Written Papers: 35%

Classics

Head of subject: Mr J David

Board: OCR

Website: www.ocr.org.uk

AS Level Specification: Ancient Greek H040; Latin H039

The course centres around the study of the language and literature of the Classical World, offering the opportunity to acquire some insight into the culture, politics and social life of the times, mainly through the study of Classical dramatists, poets and historians.

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

A2 Level Specification: Ancient Greek H440; Latin H439

In the second year of the A level course, the study of language and literature continues, with a broader field of study and investigations of greater depth, culminating in examinations that test comprehension skills in pure language in addition to literary appreciation.

Overall A level Assessment:

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

Computing

Head of subject: Mr A Hayes

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

The course will appeal to students who are interested in how computers work and how they can be programmed. However the course is not about learning to use tools or just training in a programming language, instead the emphasis is on computational thinking. Students for this technical subject should ideally have a mathematical or scientific background. Computing is different to ICT in that it involves an understanding of the underlying principles that ensure hardware and software work together to produce meaningful results to users. The subject is more academically demanding than ICT AS/A level.

You should choose Computing if you want to know:

- how computers work
- how they store and process data
- how they communicate with each other
- how to write computer programmes

The course involves a mixture of theoretical and practical work. The theory covers the operation of hardware, software design, networks and more general background topics. The practical aspects deal with programming, database design and the development of information systems.

AS Level Specification:1511

In the first year students gain knowledge of:

- Fundamentals of problem solving
- Programming
- Data representation
- Systems development
- Hardware and software
- Aspects of computing
- Consequences of computing

Two written examinations: 1 of 2 hours 60% weighting, the other 1 hour of 40% weighting

A2 Level Specification:2511

In the second year students study:

- The Systems Development Life Cycle (SDLC)
- Computer Architecture and database design
- Programming concepts
- Operating systems
- Communications and networking
- Security and integrity of data
- Further problem solving

The computing project allows students to develop their knowledge and understanding of computers systems and the skills acquired throughout this course.

One written examinations 2 hours 30 minutes weighting 60%

Coursework: Computing Project 40%

N.B. Students studying Computing may not also enter for any other AS GCE specification with the certification Information Communication Technology.

Dance

Head of subject: Miss M Goodhew

Head of Programme: Christine Blewer

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 1231

Unit 1 consists of a written paper: Understanding Dance, which requires knowledge and understanding of performance and choreography. The study of professional repertoire, from a minimum of five dance works, underpins the candidate's study of choreographic approaches, processes, form and structure. Study focuses as the following three areas:

The dancer as a performer

The process and craft of choreography

The significance of dances

Unit 2 consists of the Solo Choreography and performance of a dance from questions set and pre-released by AQA in the November preceding the examination. Candidates will also perform in the presentation of a duo/trio which addresses all the assessment criteria.

Practical Examination: 60% of AS level Written Examination: 40% of AS level

30% of A2 level

20% of A2 level

Estimated additional costs £200 p.a.

A2 Level Specification: 2231

Unit 3: Dance Appreciation: Content and Context. This unit requires the candidate to demonstrate an understanding of the development of dance through the chosen study area of Contemporary Dance, its development and context, the practitioners and their techniques. Candidates will also study a set work from a choice of three.

Unit 4: Group choreography and Solo Performance. Candidates answer two questions, one on group choreography, which they produce themselves, and one on solo performance, based on the style of a specific practitioner.

Practical Examination: 25% of A2 level Written Examination: 25% of A2 level

Estimated additional costs £200 p.a.

Design and Technology

Head of Department: Mr P Edwards

Board: Edexcel

Website: www.edexcel.org.uk

AS level Specification: 8RM01

This course provides an opportunity for students to develop their own design and manufacturing skills through designing tasks and a practical coursework project. Students will also develop their understanding of design and manufacturing from a historical perspective and seek to develop an understanding of industrial and commercial practices through product analysis. Their studies will also enable them to become familiar with the properties and uses of a range of materials and lead them to a greater understanding of current production methods.

A portfolio of work counts for 60% of the total AS grade. This has three sections and includes a product analysis, a designing task and a practical project.

A theory examination of 1½ hour is externally set which counts for 40% of the total AS marks.

Coursework: 60%

Examination: 40%

Estimated additional cost for books, materials and consumables: £75

A2 Level Specification: 9RM01

During the second year of the A-Level course, students conduct some in-depth research into a design area of their choosing, and design and make an original product which meets the specification they have outlined, and which may have commercial potential.

In addition, students will study a range of modern design and manufacturing practices and contemporary design issues. This will include the properties and uses of smart materials, modern design and production systems, and designing for sustainability.

The practical coursework, which consists of a design folio and a finished product counts for 60% of the total A2 grade. Assessment of students' knowledge and understanding of the theoretical aspects of the course is made through one 1½ hour theory exam, which carries 40% of the marks available for A2 marks.

Coursework: 60%

Examination: 40%

Estimated additional cost: £100

Economics

Head of subject: Mr G Parfitt

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 1141

The course requires the students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of recent economic events and current economic issues relating to the UK economy, the European Union and the wider international economy. Students are introduced to microeconomics and the study of how individual markets work, and macroeconomics, which makes them aware of the workings of and developments in the wider national and international economy. Students have the opportunity to explore why and how the study of economics contributes to an understanding of the modern world. Economics combines well with a range of social science and humanities subjects and the analytical skills developed throughout the course can lead to a wide range of university courses in such areas as law, business, accounting, politics and, of course, economics.

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

A2 Level Specification: 2141

Students build on the knowledge gained at AS level and are expected to recognise the worth and limitations of economic principles when considering practical, realistic economic problems and issues of the day. Students will use and evaluate more complex microeconomic models and develop a realistic understanding of the decisions made by firms and how their behaviour can be affected by the structure and characteristics of the industry. They will also develop an understanding of the labour market and the factors which influence wage rates, poverty and the distribution of income and wealth. They will also study the ways in which developments in the UK economy can be related to global and EU contexts, examples of which could be the impact of China's recent industrial development on the UK economy or the consequences to the UK of EU enlargement. Students will learn to propose, analyse and evaluate possible solutions to micro and macro economic problems.

Overall A level Assessment:

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

English Language

Head of Subject: Mr N Gill

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 2705

This course is divided into two parts. Students will be introduced to the study of language, using a variety of texts and focusing on three specific social contexts: Language and Power, Language and Gender, and Language and Technology. In the second part of the course, students complete a coursework folder consisting of two pieces of original writing with accompanying commentaries.

Coursework: 40%

Examination: 60%

Estimated additional cost: £50 p.a.

A2 Level Specification:

Again, there are two parts to this course. In the first part, students will focus on a rigorous study of Language Acquisition and Language Change. Secondly, students will apply their knowledge of language gained throughout the course to a small research project of their choice. Further, they complete an informative media text aimed at a non-specialist audience and based on the finding of their research.

Overall A Level Assessment:

Coursework: 40%

Examination: 60%

Estimated additional cost: £60 p.a.

English Literature

Head of Subject: Mr P Gibbs

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

Cambridge Pre-U

Board: CIE

Website: www.cie.org.uk

GCE Level (AS/A2) English Literature B

AS Level

This syllabus allows candidates to study **two novels** (at least one post 1900) and **two poetry texts** (1800-1945) for exam purposes (60% of the final mark) and **two dramatic texts** for coursework (40% of the final mark). Texts include *The Great Gatsby* and *Pride and Prejudice*, the poetry of Auden and Hardy plus *Othello* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

A2 Level

For their exam, students focus either on **Elements of the Gothic** or **Elements of the Pastoral**; for the former option, set texts include *Macbeth*, *Dr. Faustus*, *The White Devil* (1300-1800) and *Frankenstein*, *Wuthering Heights* and *Dracula* (post 1800). Candidates will answer on three texts in total, one of which must have been written between 1300 and 1800.

Further and independent Reading is assessed via coursework. It includes a study of Marxism and Feminism, Metaphor and Aesthetics. The coursework portfolio must include a comparative study of an aspect of two texts of the candidate's choice. This piece should be 1500 to 2000 words. Another piece should show application of critical ideas taken from AQA's critical anthology in an analysis of a short story or poem, for example, and this piece should be 1200 to 1500 words in length.

Estimated additional costs: around £70 per year for books; a variable price for optional theatre visits and other such trips.

Pre U English Literature

The Pre U course offers an alternative to A Level. It offers terminal assessment at the end of the two years, with one coursework essay, completed in the second year of study, externally assessed.

Students study a variety of texts in all genres; amongst those to be featured are *King Lear*, Sylvia Plath's *Ariel*, *The White Devil* by John Webster, and Thomas Hardy's *the Return of the Native*. There is also an exam in which students must address previously unseen texts. A 3000 word coursework essay will be completed, looking at literature on a particular theme - for example, dystopias.

But the real glory of this course is not so much the material which is covered for examination, but rather the room which is given to students to grow and develop as readers and thinkers. The lack of examinations at the end of the first years of study means that there is more freedom for students to read around the canon of literature.

Estimated additional costs: around £70 plus per year for books; a variable price for optional theatre visits and other such trips.

Environmental Science

Head of Subject: Mr P Juniper

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 1441

The AS course of study introduces the study of the Earth's interacting systems, the Atmosphere, Biosphere, Hydrosphere and Lithosphere. The environmental consequences of changes to any of these systems by Man are explored. The course is comprised of two units: 'The Living Environment' and 'The Physical Environment'.

'The Living Environment' gives an introduction to the biodiversity of life on the planet and reasons why the conservation of life on Earth is important. The ecological relationships between organisms and their environment are studied in order to understand the methods which can be used to achieve conservation. A number of different environments are studied, including Tropical Rainforests, Antarctica, Coral Reefs and a diverse range of UK habitats.

'The Physical Environment' investigates the physical resources on the planet which are essentials for life on Earth, including the gases in the atmosphere, water, minerals and soil.

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

Estimated additional costs: approx £150 for optional trips to Kew Gardens and Royal Geographical Society debates.

A2 Level Specification: 2441 Board: AQA

This course builds on principles established in the AS modules, introducing the idea of sustainable development through the management of biotic and physical resources. The course is comprised of 2 units: 'Energy Resources and Environmental Pollution' and 'Biological Resources and Sustainability'.

'Energy Resources and Environmental Pollution' investigates the future problems of energy supply and the properties of pollutants which cause environmental damage. Strategies which may be used to minimize and manage the impact of pollutants on the environment are also considered.

'Biological Resources and Sustainability' considers how the growth of the human population and increased materialism are placing increasing demands upon the planet's resources. Food systems and forestry systems are analyzed with particular emphasis on the limiting factors affecting productivity, the environmental problems caused by these systems and the ways in which problems can be addressed.

Coursework: 0%

Examination 100%

Estimated additional costs: £150 for optional, but recommended field trips.

Film Studies

Head of Subject: Mr R Williams

Board: WJEC

Website : www.wjec.co.uk

AS Level Specification: 2181

AS Film Studies seeks to introduce students to the close study of film as an art form and as a social and economic institution. Close attention is paid to the ways in which film constructs meaning and its socio-political significance. Students will conduct detailed analyses of a variety of British and American films. Coursework involves the production or paper design of a short film.

Coursework: 40%

Examination: 60%

Estimated additional costs £100 p.a

A2 Level Specification: 069 90

A2 Film Studies builds upon students' existing knowledge, in both theoretical and practical areas. Coursework units include a detailed research project concerning the work of one particular practitioner and the production of another, more sophisticated, short film. Examined units include studies of World Cinema, Documentary, Genre and a close critical study of one film.

Overall A level Assessment

Coursework: 50%

Examination: 50%

Estimated additional costs £100 p.a

Geography

Head of subject: Mr R Hart

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 2030

Unit 1: (GEOG1) Physical and Human Geography

Students study both the Physical and Human Environment and the dynamic inter-relationship between them. The core Physical Geography course focuses on 'Rivers, Floods and their Management'; the options could include the study of Cold, Coastal or Hot environments. The Human Geography course centres on the study of 'Population Change' at a range of scales; the options include discovering more about 'Food Supply Issues', exploring 'Energy Issues' around the World, or studying global 'Health Issues'.

Unit 2: (GEOG2) Geographical Skills

Students develop the use and application of a variety of different skills (Investigative, Cartographic, Graphical, ICT and Statistical to name a few). Candidates are required to attend a residential field course, normally during the February half-term or Easter holidays to facilitate the development of these skills.

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

Estimated additional costs: £350 p.a.

A2 Level

Unit 3: (GEOG3) Contemporary Geographical Issues

The second year of the course adopts an issues based approach to contemporary geographical themes. Students study three options, at least one from a list of Physical options and at least one from a list of Human options. The Physical options are 'Plate Tectonics and Associated Hazards', 'Weather and Climate and Associated Hazards' and 'Ecosystems: Change and Challenge'. The Human topics are: 'World Cities', 'Development and Globalisation' and 'Contemporary Conflicts and Challenges' (which could include the study of the Iraq war, or the conflict in Darfur).

Unit 4: (GEOG4) Geography Fieldwork Investigation or Geographical Issue Evaluation

In this unit there is an element of choice, although decisions will be made on a class by class basis. Students undertake one of the items below:

Geographical Issue Evaluation: Students could be given the opportunity to use their skills of analysis, synthesis and evaluation in the context of a geographical issue that would be presented to them. An Advance Information booklet containing details of an issue would be pre-released to candidates prior to an exam to facilitate candidates' research into an area of the syllabus.

Or

Geography Fieldwork Investigation: Students could extend an area of the subject content into a more detailed fieldwork study. The student would then be expected to take their folder into an exam and use it to analyse and evaluate their own data in response to questions set.

Geography is a subject that bridges both Arts and Sciences and is a perfect compliment to many other A Levels. It is recognized as a strong academic subject by all Higher Education institutions and is very relevant to the major issues facing humanity today.

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

Government & Politics

Head of subject: Mr T Wainwright

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 1151

This course gives students an introduction to politics. It focuses on the British system but will introduce ideas from a wider world context also. The course is designed around the developments in British politics over the last thirty years, and how the different players in the political system use, share and fight for power and influence. Politics is a perfect accompaniment to many social science and humanities subjects and helps to provide a deep understanding of how the modern world works. The course includes a visit to the Houses of Parliament and talks by a number of visiting speakers.

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

A2 Level Specification: 2151

This builds on the knowledge gained at the AS level, but goes much deeper. There is less of a focus on the UK and pupils turn their attention to the different views of how the world should be governed. The course starts with a detailed study of the political system in the USA before moving on to an exploration of different political theories notably Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Fascism. A Government and Politics A level develops writing, analytical and debating skills and prepares students for a large range of university courses in the social sciences and arts. It is also fascinating

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

The Pre-U in Government and Politics

This course, an alternative to the A Level, gives students an introduction to politics but also goes much further. It is a two year course with no exams in Year 12. It focuses on wider issues than just the British system and has a large international element. It is a strenuous academic course, but also one which students who have a passion for controversy, debate and international issues will love.

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

History

Head of subject: Mr R Frame

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 1041

'A' Level History at St Bede's considers historical issues from the beginning of the modern period in the late 18th century through a study of France, an in depth investigation of arguably the most important change in America in recent times and finally a history of Britain that is both relevant and up-to-date. The coursework is a study of 20th century China from the late 19th century to the very recent.

The AS component has two main aspects: a study of change and consolidation and a consideration of a particular period of change.

The focus in Unit 1 is on France in Revolution, 1774-1815. This considers the momentous events in France at the end of the 18th century and into the Napoleonic era.

In Unit 2 the campaign for African-American Civil Rights, 1950-1968, investigates in depth a short period of enormous change in the history of American civil rights.

Coursework: 0%	Examination: Unit 1	50% of total AS marks
		25% of total A2 marks
	Unit 2	50% of total AS marks
		25% of total A2 marks

A2 Level

Specification 2041

There are two units in the second year of study.

Unit 3 looks at the State and the People with the focus on change and continuity and there seems no better way to consider these issues other than through studying the Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007.

Unit 4 is the historical enquiry (coursework). This is a taught course from which students write their enquiry on aspects of Chinese History in the context of one hundred years.

Coursework: Unit 4 20%	Examination: Unit 3	30% of total A2 marks
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Estimated additional cost - Field trip £320

History of Art & Design

Head of subject: Mr D Graham

Board: CCEA

Website: www.ccea.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 3830

Following an introduction to the subject, students study Early Italian Renaissance Art and Architecture, Painting 1880-1945, Textiles and Fashion Design 1850-1945. Students learn to develop their visual and research skills and contextual understanding of Art in relation to the chosen periods.

Examination: 100%

A2 level Specification: 3830

During the second year of the course students study High Renaissance and Mannerist Italian Art and Architecture, Sculpture to the Present and Textiles and Fashion Design 1945 to the Present.

Examination: 100%

Home Economics -(Food, Nutrition and Health)

Head of subject: Mrs C Ballard

Board: OCR

Website: www.ocr.org.uk

AS Level Specification: H111

The AS Home Economics course is divided into two units: Society and Health and Resource Management. Society and Health includes a study of Demography, Family and Society, Environmental, Social Issues and Health. Resource Management includes a study of Food Provision, Selection and Purchase of Food and Household Goods, Food Preparation and Cooking Equipment, Food Safety and Hygiene.

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

Estimated additional costs: £100 p.a.

A2 Level Specification: H511

During the second year the course is divided into two units: Nutrition and Food Production and a Coursework Study. Nutrition and Food Production includes a study of Nutrients and Energy, Nutritional and Dietary Needs of Different Groups of People, Properties of Food, Design, Development and Production of Food and advances in the Food Industry. The Coursework Study is completed based on an individuals selected area of interest.

Overall A level Assessment:

Coursework: 25%

Examination: 75%

Estimated additional costs: £150 p.a.

Certificate in Culinary Skill

Board: City and Guilds

Website: www.cityandguilds.com

Vocational Course: Level 2

Syllabus: 3320-03

A practically based one-year cookery course which develops understanding and proficiency in the preparation and cooking of a variety of ingredients and dishes including stocks, soups, sauces, meat and fish dishes, baked dishes and desserts. The course is assessed in three practical tests and by a short multiple-choice theory paper.

Assessment:

The Theory Examination and the Practical Examination are assessed separately and both have to be passed to achieve the Certificate in Culinary Skill, which is awarded at Pass, Credit or Distinction.

Ingredients provided at cost price. It is necessary to purchase a set of whites.

Estimated additional costs: £550 p.a.

Diploma in Culinary Skill

Board: City and Guilds

Website: www.cityandguilds.com

Vocational Course: Level 3 Syllabus: 3320 - 04

A practically based one-year course, which leads on from the certificate course. It includes training in advanced culinary techniques including advanced sauces, fish and shellfish, meat, poultry, offal and game, advanced pastries, yeast doughs, gateaux, petit fours, hors d'ouvres and canapés.

Assessment:

The course is assessed through three practical examinations - Pass, Credit or Distinction.

Ingredients provided at cost price. It is necessary to purchase a set of whites.

Estimated additional costs: £700 p.a.

Horse Care & Riding

Head of Subject: Miss S Moore

Board: City & Guilds

Web-site: www.city-and-guilds.co.uk

NVQ Level 1 and 2

This is a one year practical course focusing on the care and management of the horse. The students are required to build up a portfolio of coursework which is achieved through practical and theory lessons in the School yard. Assessments are carried out by internal and external examiners ending in a formal qualification recognised throughout the industry.

Estimated additional cost: Please enquire for further details.

Information Communication Technology

Head of subject: Mr A Hayes

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

The aim of the course is to:

- Develop students' practical skills to solve problems using ICT
- Inspire students to seek creative and innovative uses of ICT
- Develop in students the ability to work co-operatively and manage projects
- Develop personal thinking and learning skills
- Encourage a logical, critical and analytical study of ICT

AS Level Specification: 5521

The ICT course looks at varied applications of ICT and computers in business, manufacturing and society. It also looks at the support systems and software which enable computers to be integrated into everyday life. Students also use a variety of software applications to tackle a number of small projects using such as:

- An electronic photo album
- A rolling multimedia presentation for a School open day
- A website for a local nursery
- Organising a blog for a local councilor
- Producing invoices for a small business
- An interactive multimedia display for a tourist information centre

AS Assessment

Two written Examinations of equal weighting 1 hour 30 minutes each.

A2 Level Specification: 6521

In brief the course:

- Looks at the fast changing world of ICT as used by organisations
- Tackles real issues that concern organization today
- Expects students to study much of the content of the course through the investigation of examples of uses of made of ICT by organizations.

Specifically they look at database concepts and design, and produce a project in a database (Access) to solve a problem with a real end user. They also study information systems and the technologies and concepts which make the 'information' of global significance.

A2 Assessment:

Coursework: 40%

One Hour Examination: 60%

Students choosing to study ICT are required to have a Laptop Computer with Microsoft Access and Microsoft Excel.

Key Skills

Head of subject: Mr C R Mills

Board: Edexcel

Website: www.edexcel.org.uk

Vocational Qualification

Communication, Application of Number and Information Technology

The UK Government and businesses believe that the following key skills are essential for the employability of students leaving School or university:

Communication. This covers verbal and written communication and students will focus on discussions, presentations, note taking and extended writing.

Application of Number. This requires students to collect numerical information, use that information and then present the information for a purpose. Its aim is to ensure that students feel confident with numerical tasks in a practical situation.

Information Technology. This requires students to become familiar and confident in the use of Information Technology, in particular spreadsheets and databases.

To gain certification of the key skills students must pass an external test and produce a portfolio of work.

Portfolio (Pass/Fail): 50%

Examination(Pass/Fail): 50%

Legat Professional Dance Course

Head of subject: Miss M Goodhew

The Legat School of Dance offers intensive dance training with the ability to undertake academic studies in conjunction with a bespoke scheme of dance training. Classical Ballet, Contemporary and Jazz Dance are offered. If students wish to enhance their timetable still further and the Director of Dance agrees, additional classes are available during Activity and after-school hours in Ballroom, salsa, musical theatre dance, Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing and Royal Academy of Dance examinations.

This programme prepares students for entry to vocational ballet schools, musical theatre schools and those wishing to consider a Dance Degree or Dance Diploma at colleges and universities. Entry to the Legat School at St Bede's is by audition and interview only. Overseas students may supply a DVD of classwork and have a telephone interview. Students should be proficient in ballet and have had a minimum of three years' dance experience. It is a rigorous course, demanding of the students a professional level of dedication. Students must be physically fit and in excellent health due to the rigors of the programme.

Mathematics

Head of subject: Mr P Wilkinson

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 5361

Students following the AS course study two modules of Pure Mathematics and a third module of Mechanics. In the Pure Mathematics course students build on the algebra studied at GCSE and are introduced to new topics such as Series, Differentiation and Integration of Polynomial Functions and the solution of Trigonometric Equations. In Mechanics, students study topics such as forces and equations of motion. They apply principles such as conservation of momentum to study collisions. They learn how to model the motion of a golf ball looking at the limitations of the model used.

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

A2 Level Specification: 6361

Students progressing to the second year of the course study two more modules of Pure Mathematics looking at more difficult topics such as Differentiation and Integration of Trigonometric Functions, Numerical Methods of Solving Equations and the Vector Equation of a line. Students choose between continuing to study mechanics or studying statistical topics such as the normal and binomial distributions.

Overall A Level Assessment:

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

Further Mathematics

Head of subject: Mr P Wilkinson

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

**AS Level
5371**

Specification:

This is a second mathematics course taken by students with a genuine interest in taking their mathematical studies beyond those of the majority of students. Students study a number of topics more normally encountered in the first year of a University Mathematics, Physics or Engineering Course. The modules covered include Pure Mathematics, Mechanics, Statistics and Decision Mathematics. Three modules are taken in the first year and the course is tailored to the interests of the group.

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

**A2 Level
6371**

Specification:

In the second year of the course students are cover a further three modules. The emphasis in the second year is very much on the solution of first and second order differentiation and their application to real world problems. Additionally we study number theory, vector and matrix algebra and more sophisticated methods of proof.

Overall A level Assessment:

Coursework: 0%

Examination: 100%

Media Studies

Head of subject: Mr R Williams

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 1571

The AS course focuses on the key theoretical tools used in analysing the mass media.

Media texts from Television, Film, Advertising and E-media are studied in terms of their production by the industry and their consumption by audiences. Coursework involves the production of two linked practical productions. Students can choose their preferred mediums from broadcasting, print or e-media. The underlying purpose of the course is to develop students' critical autonomy in the reading, analysing and production of media texts.

Coursework: 50%

Examination: 50%

Estimated additional costs £100 p.a.

A2 Level Specification: 6571

A2 Media Studies is concerned with enhancing students' critical and intellectual autonomy. Theoretical units include Stereotyping, News Values, Regulation and Censorship, Globalisation, Gender and Postmodern Perspectives. Students will also conduct detailed case-study work on the Representation of Teenagers across a range of Media and the Impact of New/Digital Media. Coursework involves a Critical Investigation into a media issue of the students' choosing and a linked production piece from either the broadcast, print or E-media forms.

Overall A level Assessment:

Coursework: 50%

Examination: 50%

Estimated additional costs £100 p.a.

Modern Languages

Head of subject: Mr H Rohmer

Board: Edexcel

Website: www.edexcel.org.uk

AS Level Specifications: French 8FR01; German 8GN01; Italian 8IN01; Russian 8RU01; Spanish 8SP01; Chinese 8CN01; Japanese 8JA01

Students should have an aptitude for language learning. There is a big jump from GCSE to 'A' level and therefore it is necessary to have a high grade GCSE where all higher tier papers have been taken. Students should be prepared to extend their experience of the target language by listening, speaking and reading in the language outside the classroom. During the L6 year, students broaden and deepen their knowledge of the language by studying aspects of the country of their target language, e.g. Current Affairs, Media, Social Issues, Education, Business and Industry.

AS Level Assessment*

Unit 1: Spoken Expression and Response in the Language: 30% (15% of full GCE A Level)

Unit 2: Understanding and Written Response in the Language: 70% (35% of full GCE A level)

NB For students who proceed to A2 Level, Unit 2 may be examined for the first time in January of the U6. However, all students will take Unit 1 at the end of the L6th.

A2 Level Specifications: French 9FR01; German 9GN01; Italian 9IN01; Russian 9RU01; Spanish 9SP01; Chinese 9CN01; Japanese 9JA01

Students continue to broaden and deepen their knowledge of the language. They will increasingly hone their skills to the requirements of the examination. The topics covered include: The Environment, Citizenship, Customs, Religion, the EU, International Affairs, Literature and the Arts. During the course students are actively encouraged, and given the necessary help, to spend a period of time living with a family in the country of their target language, but may also choose to take part in a School home stay trip to Spain.

A Level Assessment*

UNIT 3: Understanding and Spoken Response in the Language: 35% of the A2 Exam (17.5% of GCE A Level)

Unit 4: Research, Understanding and Written Response: 65% of A2 Exam (32.5% of GCE A Level)

* For French, German, Italian, Spanish and Russian only. Please see individual specifications on line for other languages.

Music

Head of subject: Miss L Morris

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

AS Level

The AS level Music course contains the following three integrated units.

Unit 1: Influences on Music

In this unit students will acquire, explore and apply musical language and context by the consideration of The Western Classical Tradition and one other Area of Study. The unit will involve listening to music and studying scores to gain an awareness of the context in which the music was composed.

Unit 2: Composing; Creating Musical Ideas (Unit code MUSC2)

This unit encourages students to develop their compositional techniques and understanding of harmony and part-writing by responding to a given brief. This unit includes harmonising a 16 bar diatonic melody.

Unit 3: Performing; Interpreting Musical Ideas (Unit code MUSC3)

This unit gives students the opportunities to perform as soloists and/or as part of an ensemble. They can choose music in any style. Any instrument(s) and/or voice(s) are acceptable.

Coursework: 30%

Performance: 40%

Examination: 30%

A2 Level

The second year of the A level course involves a greater understanding of the musical works and, more importantly, a higher standard of performance.

Unit 4: Music in Context

In this unit students will acquire, explore and apply musical language and context by the consideration for The Western Classical Tradition and one other Area of Study. Study will involve listening to music and studying scores to gain an awareness of the context in which the music was composed.

Unit 5: Composing; creating Musical Ideas (Unit code MUSC5)

In this unit students will further develop their compositional techniques and understanding of harmony and part-writing by responding to a given brief. As part of this unit, students will harmonise a Bach chorale melody and a classical string quartet.

Unit 6: A Musical Performance (Unit code MUSC6)

This unit gives students the opportunity to perform as a soloist, an extended, contrasting programme. They can choose any music in any style. Any instruments or voice is acceptable.

Coursework: 30%

Performance: 30%

Examination: 40%

Estimated additional costs: £100 p.a

BTEC Music Performance Certificate

BTEC level 3 National Award In Music Performance

Head of subject: Miss L Morris

Board: Edexcel

Website: www.edexcel.org.uk

The course is designed to equip students for employment in the music industry.

The level 3 Award in BTEC Music Performance comprises six units of study and is broadly equivalent to one A level. The units currently being studied are:

- Music Performance Techniques
- Planning a Music Project
- Music Project
- The Music Freelance World
- Pop Music in Practice
- Working and developing as a Musical Ensemble

Assessment is continuous and coursework based. Coursework: 100%

Estimated additional costs £150 p.a.

BTEC Music Technology

BTEC level National Award in Music Technology

Head of Subject: Miss L Morris

Board: Edexcel

Website: www.edexcel.org.uk

The course is designed to equip students for employment in the music industry.

The level 3 Award in BTEC Music Performance comprises six units of study and is broadly equivalent to one A level. The units currently being studied are:

- Creating a Music Project
- Planning a Music Recording
- Sound Recording Techniques
- Introduction to Acoustics
- Operating Live Sound
- The Music Freelance World

Assessment is continuous and coursework based Coursework: 100%

Estimated additional costs £150 p.a

Performing Arts

Head of subject: Miss S Cakebread

Board: Edexcel

Website: www.edexcel.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 8781

This is a practical course for those interested in the performing arts and helps students to develop their practical knowledge and skills. The course involves creating performance pieces and investigating the performing arts industries. Students will reflect upon their individual skills, plan and perform an event and perform to an external commission.

Unit One: Exploring Skills for Performance.

Unit Two: Planning for an Event - internally assessed and externally moderated.

Unit Three: Performing to a Commission - externally assessed.

Assessment is through portfolio and performance under exam conditions, there are no written examinations.

Estimated additional costs: £80 p.a.

A2 Level

Students will investigate employment opportunities in the Performing Arts, they will develop their performance or production skills and realise these through a major production. Students will develop their report writing, analysis and evaluation skills.

All students at A2 level must complete Unit 4 - Employment Opportunities in the Performing Arts, Unit 5 - Advanced Performance Practice and Unit 7 - Production Delivery, this unit will be externally assessed through performance under exam conditions.

Assessment is through portfolio and performance under exam conditions, there are no written examinations.

Estimated additional costs: £80 p.a.

Physical Education

Head of subject: Mr D Leggett

Board: OCR

Website: www.ocr.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 3875

Candidates will acquire an appreciation of topic areas including anatomy and physiology, acquiring movement skills and socio cultural studies relating to participation in physical activity. Candidates will also experience activities and will work towards responding to a live performance.

Coursework: 20%

Examination: 30%

A2 Level Specification: 7875

Students will work through the unit, principles and concepts across different areas of physical education. The unit has two sections, socio cultural options and scientific options. Areas of study included in these are historical studies, comparative studies, sports psychology, biomechanics and exercise and sports physiology.

Students also follow the unit the improvement of effective performance and the critical evaluation of practice activities in Physical education.

Coursework: 30%

Examination: 70%

BTEC National Certificate in Sport

Head of subject: Mr D Leggett

Board: Edexcel

Website: www.edexcel.org.uk

The BTEC National Certificate enables the student to learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands.

The Certificate can be the equivalent to two A Levels so on completion students can choose to either go onto higher education or into employment.

Units covered in the first year of study are:

- The Body in Action
- Exercise, Health and Lifestyle
- Training and Fitness for Sport
- Fitness Testing for Sport and Exercise
- Health and Safety in Sport
- Leadership in Sport

During the second year of study the units covered are:

- Practical Portfolio study
- Sports Coaching
- Sports Development
- Sport in Society
- Leadership in Sport
- Working with Children in Sport

Assessment is continuous and coursework based.

Physics

Head of subject: Mr C Hiscox

Board: Edexcel

Website: www.edexcel.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 8PH01

This AS course begins with a study of the laws, theories and models of physics and finishes with an exploration of their practical applications. The AS qualification is made up of three units:

PH01: (Physics on the go) This unit involves the study of mechanics and materials. This unit is assessed by means of a written exam of 1 hour 20 minutes duration, which will consist of objective questions, short questions and long questions making 40% of AS and 20% of A2.

PH02: (Physics at work) This unit involves the study of waves, electricity and the wave/particle nature of light. This unit is assessed by means of a written exam of 1 hour 20 minutes duration, which will consist of objective questions, short questions and long questions making 40% of AS and 20% of A2

PH03 (exploring physics). This unit involves an experiment that is based on a physics-based visit or a case study of an application of physics. This unit is assessed by means of a report that is internally marked and externally moderated making 20% of AS and 10% of A2.

Enthusiasm, an enquiring mind and good mathematical skills are essential for success in this subject.

Coursework: 20%

Examination: 80%

A2 Level Specification: 9PH01

The A2 course follows on from AS and has the same structure, two theoretical units and one of coursework. The three units cover the following areas of study:

PH04: (Physics on the move) This unit involves the study of further mechanics, electric and magnetic fields, and particle physics. This unit is assessed by means of a written exam of 1 hour 35 minutes duration, which will consist of objective questions, short questions and long questions making 40% of AS and 20% of A2.

PH05 (Physics from creation to collapse) This unit involves the study of thermal energy, nuclear decay, oscillations, astrophysics and cosmology. This unit is assessed by means of a written exam of 1 hour 35 minutes duration, which will consist of objective questions, short questions and long questions making 40% of AS and 20% of A2.

PH06 (Experimental physics) This unit involves planning an experiment, carrying out an experiment and analyzing experimental results. This unit is assessed by means of a report that is marked by the teacher and externally moderated.

In addition to the requirements of the AS course, students must have achieved a satisfactory AS grade to progress onto this course.

Overall A level Assessment:

Coursework: 20%

Examination: 80%

Psychology

Head of subject: Ms F Goulden

Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 1181

The AS syllabus introduces the five main areas of study in Psychology: Cognitive, Developmental, Social, Physiological and Individual Differences. In each area one topic of current relevance is studied in some detail, including the evaluation of research and theories from different psychological approaches. We explore the context and the relevance of the topics to everyday life. There is also an introduction to research methods, for which a very basic understanding of statistics is required. The course aims to develop critical thinking as well as to introduce the terminology, concepts, alternative perspectives and ethical issues involved in the study of psychology. It is suitable for students from both science and humanities backgrounds.

Unit 1: 25% of total A2 marks. Compulsory questions on Cognitive and Developmental Psychology and Research Methods.

Unit 2: 25% of total A2 marks. Compulsory questions on Biological and Social Psychology and Individual Differences.

Coursework: 0%

Examinations: 100%

The course includes at least one day conference trip to London, which is optional.

Estimated cost: £22.00 plus train fares.

A2 Level Specification: 2181

In the second year students have the opportunity to study selected areas of psychology in greater depth. There is also a synoptic paper, in which students study Psychopathology and also explore the relationship between the academic study of psychology and current social, cultural, scientific and political issues. In 2010 the focus will be on Psychology and Media. Further understanding of methods of research is developed.

There are two units in the second year of study, both examined. There is no longer any coursework requirement.

Unit 3: 25% of total A2 marks. Three essay style questions chosen from eight topics.

Unit 4: 25% of total marks. One question on Psychopathology, one on Psychology in Action, and one on Research Methods.

Coursework: 0%

Examinations: 100%

The course includes an optional day trip to the Freud Museum and to London Zoo, where we have a seminar on evolutionary psychology.

Estimated cost: £20.00 plus train fares.

Overall, the two year course offers a thorough background in psychology as a basis for future academic or vocational study, as well as being an exciting and challenging academic A level subject in its own right.

Religious Studies: Philosophy and Ethics

Head of subject: Mr M Rattray

Board: Edexcel

Website: www.edexcel.org.uk

AS Level Specification: 9RS01: 6RS01 and 2

Some of the key topics we explore in this unit include: the idea of the existence of God and whether or not it can be proven in terms of religious and mystical experience as well as whether aspects such as the apparent design of the universe make you think that it was indeed created by an intelligence. We also analyse: the problem of evil for those who believe in God; medical ethics; and whether or not it is possible to have a just war. Independent research will be assessed by one piece of coursework which will give the student the opportunity to explore an area of interest. A range of topics is on offer for this but last year we looked at the relationship between religion and science.

Examination: 50%

Coursework: 50%

A2 Level Specification: 9RS01: 6RS03 and 4

Building on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed at AS the A2 course looks in greater depth at the philosophical arguments for the existence of God and beliefs about life and death; it then moves into an exploration of religious language such as analogy, myth, symbol and the verification and falsification debates. The course also focuses on the relationship between religion and morality and will examine concepts in moral discourse and applied ethics. This course makes a significant contribution to enhancing the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of students. Additionally it supports the development of a range of key skills that will be of value to students as they progress either to work or further studies.

Examination: 100%

Theatre Studies

Head of subject: Miss S Cakebread

Board: Edexcel

Website: www.edexcel.org.uk

Curric AS Level Specification: 8DR01

During the AS level, students will study two units which will cover the exploration of two contrasting playtexts and then develop performances to a live audience in both large group and solo formats. The course requires both an academic and vocational approach to theatre. Students will be required to observe professional theatre practice across a wide range of institutions; and trips will be arranged to a variety of theatres including the RSC, London West End and Fringe theatres.

Unit 1: Exploration of Drama and Theatre

40% of total AS mark. 20% of total A-level mark

Unit 2: Theatre Text in Performance

60% of total AS mark. 30% of total A-level mark

Estimated additional costs (Trips/workshops etc): £100

A2 Level Specification: 9DR01

The second year of the course contains two further units. The first covering the creation of an original piece of theatre for a live audience, and the second unit consists of a formal written examination covering the exploration of a set play from the point of view of a director and the investigation of a particular period of theatre history set by the exam board.

Unit 3: Exploration of Dramatic Performance

40% of total A2 mark. 20% of total A-level

Unit 4: Theatre Text in Context

60% of total A2 mark. 30% of total A-level mark

Estimated additional costs (Trips/workshops etc): £100

Curriculum Enhancement Programme

The Curriculum Enhancement Programme extends the School's commitment to developing the potential of all individuals. Students who are identified as academically able are offered the opportunity to have a programme tailored to their individual needs as far as possible. The programme includes the possibility for students to take additional exams, attend master classes or take examinations early in subjects where they demonstrate considerable aptitude.

For further information contact: Dr L. Dart

Email: lisa.dart@stbedesschool.org

English as Foreign Language (EFL)

Head of subject: Mr J Cook

Board: ESOL

Website: www.cambridge-efl.org.uk

EFL First Certificate in English (FCE) Specification: FCE

Alongside their AS and A level courses non-native speakers of English study EFL as part of their Sixth Form programme. At the start of the year they are assessed to ensure they are placed in a class working at the right level. Classes are taught by a specialist EFL teacher for three hours per week and follow courses leading to an appropriate EFL examination. Lessons are charged as an additional extra.

An upper-intermediate level exam.

Students are taught to handle the main structures of the language with confidence, demonstrate a wide range of vocabulary and use appropriate communication strategies in a variety of situations.

Examination: 100%

EFL Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)

An advanced level exam.

In this course students learn to use the structures of language with ease and fluency, becoming aware of the relationship between the language and the culture it exists in and of the significance of register. They will be taught to produce a variety of texts and utterances in a creative and flexible way.

CAE is recognised by British universities and may fulfill their English language entrance requirements.

Examination: 100%

EFL Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) Specification: CPE

The learner at this level is approaching the linguistic competence of an educated native speaker and is able to use the language in a range of culturally appropriate ways. Students are taught to improve their use of the language by extending their vocabulary and refining their usage and command of style and register rather than by learning new areas of grammar.

The Certificate of Proficiency in English is recognised by British universities and may fulfill their English language entrance requirements.

Examination: 100%

EFL International English Language Teaching System (IELTS)

Specification: IELTS

IELTS is an assessment, not a course. Students in Year 13 are given exam training sessions on a weekly basis as preparation for IELTS, which is designed to assess the language ability of candidates who need to study or work where English is used as the language of communication. It is widely recognised as a language requirement for courses in Higher and Further Education.

Examination: 100%

Learning Support

Head of Learning Support: Mrs C Mander

Assistant SENCOS: Mrs S Bunyard

Learning support continues to be available throughout the Sixth Form. It is arranged in consultation with the student, parents and Year Head to ensure an appropriate provision is made.

Support varies from timetabled one-to-one lessons to informal occasional drop-ins.

Learning support is desirable for any student who:

- needed support at GCSE, in order to make the transition between GCSE and A level
- has continuing difficulties with skills including reading, comprehension and writing skills
- has difficulties with organisation
- has slow processing and work rates
- has continuing difficulty with understanding and retention of new information
- finds proof reading and editing their own work difficult
- lacks an independent work ethic

Exam concessions:

Applications to exam boards for appropriate exam concessions will continue to be made where specific difficulties persist. Mrs Bunyard will arrange for Educational Psychologist's assessments to be updated where requested; these need to be less than two years old where students are requesting support into university via the Disabled Students Allowance.

Charges:

Additional charges apply for access arrangements (reader, scribe, separate invigilation).

One-to-one lessons are currently chargeable at £48 per hour.

If you would like to discuss the programme and cost with Clare Mander, please contact her at school on 01323 443815 or via e-mail clare.mander@stbedesschool.org

Curriculum Enhancement Programme

The Curriculum Enhancement Programme extends St Bede's commitment to developing the potential of all individuals. Students identified as academically able are offered the opportunity to have a programme tailored to their individual needs as far as possible. The programme includes the possibility to join 'fast track' subject groups, to work independently and to take additional exams where appropriate.

For further information contact: Dr Lisa Dart

Email: lisa.dart@stbedesschool.org