



# **Biddenham International School**

**Key Stage 5**

**Curriculum Information**

**2017 - 2018**

## Sixth Form Information

Here at Biddenham, we have a large and inclusive sixth form in which everyone is encouraged to fulfill their academic and personal potential. Despite our steady growth, we pride ourselves on being a friendly place to learn, and students seem to settle in quickly and easily, whether or not they have been with us in Year 11.

**ALL** course subjects are subject to availability.

## LEVEL 2 COURSES

### Entry Requirements

Grade 3 in English Language and Maths and a minimum of 4 other Level 2 qualifications at grade D/3 or above.

### **Subjects available to study on the Level 2 Course:**

GCSE Art, Craft & Design  
GCSE Additional Science  
GCSE Psychology  
BTEC Work Skills  
GCSE English  
GCSE Mathematics  
GCSE Media

## LEVEL 2 COURSE SUBJECT INFORMATION

NB: **ALL** courses are subject to availability.

### GCSE Art, Craft & Design ( Fine Art / Art Textiles/ Graphics)

#### What will I learn?

Learn the broad skills, knowledge and understanding of Art, Craft and Design including drawing for practical art & design work and [a range of media including, painting, printing, applique and stitch](#).

This course provides a basic understanding of the creative process in the visual arts and the relevant skills for progression to Art and Design at level 3: Applied Art & Design L3, A Level Art & Design, [A level Art Textiles](#), [A level Graphic Communication](#) or employment in the Art & design sector.

The critical elements for **an** artist or **designer** are the successful communication of a message through the organisation of images, symbols and words . Areas covered will be Illustration, Typography and Printmaking as well as drawing and painting , textiles and **mixed media**. It encourages candidates to develop the skills of problem solving, interpreting visual material, analysis and evaluation. The specification is relevant to everyday life through the study of relevant moral and ethical areas of Art & Design.

#### What are the entry requirements?

Grade D at GCSE Art & Design-Unendorsed , Textiles or Graphics is desirable. The main requirement is that you **have an interest** in learning how to draw using a variety of media, enjoy developing ideas and have a desire to learn practical skills. You need to be prepared to master technical skills and work to deadlines.

#### How will I be assessed?

There are two components to the course of study as follows:

Unit 1: Personal Portfolio – Coursework - 60% of Qualification

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment – Practical Examination - 40% of Qualification.

NB: The paper is given out **8** school weeks prior to the examination.

There are four Assessment Objectives:

- **AO1:** Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- **AO2:** Refine work by selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- **AO3:** Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
- **AO4:** Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

#### What are the costs?

We may visit local or national places of interest such as galleries and exhibitions which may incur travel costs.

#### Is there anything else I need to know?

Though there are many skills to learn, your teacher will use a variety of methods to deliver the subject. There will be teacher input and demonstrations, question and answer sessions, practical work, individual work, group work, discussions and student presentations. You will be expected to read a lot to reinforce your knowledge and understanding, apply yourself to solve creative problems and issues; carry out independent research, contribute to class discussions and activities and be committed to hard work.

**Future opportunities?**

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to progress onto Level 3 Applied Art & design, AS/A2 Art & Design or employment.

**Who should I contact for additional information?**

Course Contact: Mr A Kavanagh, [allan.kavanagh@mybiddenham.com](mailto:allan.kavanagh@mybiddenham.com)  
Ms Venables [chrisse.venables@mybiddenham.com](mailto:chrisse.venables@mybiddenham.com)

Examination Board: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/8201>

## Additional Science

### What will I learn?

Additional Science: This covers the new Science Programme of Study. This has been developed so that students become more 'scientifically literate', i.e. they are able to make reasoned judgements about the science issues which may affect them in their everyday lives.

**Unit 1:** Biology 2

**Unit 2:** Chemistry 2

**Unit 3:** Physics 2

**Unit 4:** ISA – controlled assessment

### How will I be assessed?

Three 60 minute (tiered) structured and closed question papers that contain at least one question assessing Quality of Written Communication in a science context. These papers will be sat in June. Each paper is worth 25% of the overall GCSE.

### CENTRE ASSESSED UNIT (ISA)

Additional Science has a centre assessed aspect that is worth 25% of the GCSE. The ISA assesses the student's ability to undertake a task and collect, process and evaluate data. Students carry out a practical task set by AQA, under normal laboratory conditions, they then take a written test under controlled conditions.

### Future opportunities?

The course prepares students for progression onto A level sciences.

The development of science in a modern society is essential for economic growth. It increasingly plays a part in our everyday lives. The list of career opportunities is almost endless. They range from the medical profession, i.e. doctor, nurse, pharmacist, public health and dentistry, to construction engineering, chemical engineering and mechanical engineering. Opportunities also occur in computing, electronics, telecommunications and electrical engineering. Scientists also form an important part of the aerospace industry, industrial chemical manufacturing, textiles and car industry.

### Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mr Antony Parish - [antony.parish@mybiddenham.com](mailto:antony.parish@mybiddenham.com)

Exam board information: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science#bm-GCSE>

## GCSE English / English Language (Retake)

### **What will I learn?**

The specification offers a skills-based approach to the study of English Language. This enables candidates to make fresh and individual responses to each element of assessment. The specification is most suitable for those who wish to explore English Language in more depth and experience greater breadth of English studies at this level.

### **How will I be assessed?**

There is a single exam in the summer term. Students will be assessed over a 2 hour and 15 minute period. The paper is split into two sections. The first section requires students to answer four questions based on three reading sources. The second section requires students to complete two creative writing tasks - one shorter task (worth 16 marks) and one longer task (worth 24 marks).

### **What are the entry requirements?**

All students who did not achieve at least a C-grade at the end of Year 11 will study GCSE English / English Language. The exam board is AQA.

### **Future opportunities?**

A good command of the spoken and written word is vital for success in other subject areas. English is a must have subject for college, university, work and life.

### **Who should I contact for additional information?**

Laura Steward, Head of English: Mrs L Steward, [laura.steward@mybiddenham.com](mailto:laura.steward@mybiddenham.com)

Exam board: <http://web.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english.php>

## GCSE Mathematics (Retake)

Mathematics is concerned with the nature of numbers and space, pattern and relationships, and is a major tool in helping people make sense of, and describe, the world as well as to solve problems new and old, real and abstract. We believe that mathematics is a creative and useful activity requiring not only facts and skills, but also understanding gained through exploration and application.

### **What Will I Learn?**

We aim to provide relevant mathematical knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable students to have the necessary independence in adult society as well as promoting the ability and willingness to contribute actively and positively to that Society. We aim to give each student the confidence and satisfaction derived from a sense of achievement and to promote in them a lively and enquiring mind, capable of rational judgement and disciplined imagination.

### **What are the entry requirements?**

All students who did not achieve at least grade 4 at the end of Year 11 will study GCSE Mathematics

### **How Will I Be Assessed?**

The GCSE Mathematics is assessed by three exams. Paper 1 is a non-calculator and other two papers are calculator papers.

### **What extra costs are involved?**

Students will be required to bring their own scientific calculator to each lesson. They may not use a mobile phone for this purpose in Mathematics as mobile phones are not allowed in examinations and they need to be familiar with using their own calculator.

### **Who should I contact for additional information?**

Course contact: Mr P Strzelec, [piotr.strzelec@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:piotr.strzelec@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk)

AQA website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300>

### **What will I learn?**

Media Studies at GCSE level introduces ideas and practice to students who desire to understand the meanings behind the images seen in film, television, magazine and on e-media platforms. The focus for the students will be surrounding their pre-production/planning skills; which could entail storyboarding, poster design, print advertising design and scripting for film, television and radio. Secondly, they will look at putting this into practice with their production skills which will give the opportunity to create still images, use video/digital cameras and finally use editing techniques to produce finished products. Finally, evaluation skills will be demonstrated to effectively evaluate their production work in light of media practices.

As a candidate you will learn the four key concepts which form the basis of the subject content. This includes media language: forms and conventions, industries, audiences and representation. Looking at these areas will be supported by contemporary examples within the media to help with the students learning.

### **How will I be assessed?**

- **Written Exam 1 :1 hour 30 minutes.** Questions will focus on three areas of the theoretical framework: industries, audiences and representation. Multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions. 35% of GCSE.
- **Written Exam 2 : 1 hour 30 minutes.** Questions will focus on media language and contexts of the media. Students will be expected to analyse media products both in relation to the theoretical framework and their contexts. Multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions. 35% of GCSE.
- **Non-Exam Assessment - Creating a Media Product :** Application of knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework. Practical skills relating to the media format of their choice. A choice of topics related to the over-arching (annually changing) theme.

### **Future opportunities?**

The opportunities which are available for those students who study Media can lead to Higher education; Newspaper design; Magazine design; Journalism; Television production; Radio production; Marketing; Editing; 'New media' jobs; e-media; Development; Teaching and Lecturing as well as many other vocations.

**Course contact:** Mr A Smith, [ali.smith@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:ali.smith@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk)

Examination Board: AQA



## GCSE Psychology

### What will I learn?

The GCSE course is designed to encourage you to explore five big questions:

- How do we see our world?
- Is dreaming meaningful?
- Do TV and video games affect young people's behaviour?
- Why do we have phobias?
- Are criminals born or made?

Whilst exploring these five big questions, you will develop your skills as a Psychological researcher and learn how to evaluate Psychological studies.

### How will I be assessed?

The examination board for this course is Edexcel and assessment is through two examinations; both in the summer.

### What are the entry requirements?

The usual Level 2 Course entry requirements.

### What are the costs?

There are no compulsory additional costs. However, there is the opportunity to purchase the textbook.

### Future opportunities

GCSE Psychology is an excellent introduction to Psychology and leads onto the A Level Psychology course. Psychology bridges between the arts-based and the science-based subjects, combining well with subjects such as Science and Health & Social Care.

### Who should I contact for additional information?

For further information please contact: Mrs Emma Latchman [emma.latchman@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:emma.latchman@biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

Examination Board: Edexcel

Useful information regarding the course can be viewed on the Edexcel website:

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/psychology/Pages/default.aspx>

### What will I learn?

WorkSkills is an Edexcel BTEC qualification that has been developed after a lot of research and consultation with employers, training providers, schools and colleges.

The aim of WorkSkills is to help you improve your knowledge, understanding and skills needed to gain and retain a job.

A recent survey from the CBI showed that most employers want employees with a positive attitude and wider employability skills to succeed in the workplace. The survey suggested that, 'these wider employability skills should include: general communication skills, applied numeracy, team working, problem solving and integrity'. WorkSkills provides these skills.

The course consists of 18 credits, the equivalent to 2 GCSE's C grade ( some universities count as 1 ). All the work is completed over one year and is related to employment based situations. This allows you to learn by completing assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations. You will use independent learning skills to research information from a variety of sources and have the opportunity to explore case studies from different types of jobs.

The course introduces you to particular areas of employment and provides a good basis to progress to advanced work-related qualifications. We have excellent links with local employers and they will also be involved in assessment.

### How will I be assessed?

Each unit is assessed and graded by a portfolio piece of work. You will receive feedback on your progress throughout the course. Evidence of coursework can be recorded through a number of means such as PowerPoint presentations, wall displays, Word reports, role play assessment and working in teams.

### What are the entry requirements?

No prior knowledge is required.

The units build on the skills taught in schools and colleges and offer the opportunity to recognise these skills with a formal BTEC qualification.

### What extra costs may be involved?

There will be visits connected to the course which will be used as case studies to enhance knowledge, skills and understanding of the units being studied.

### Anything else I need to know?

The course will appeal if you:

- Would like to gain more information and experience of work related skills and knowledge.
- Want to find out more about career progression through research, teamwork and independent study.
- Enjoy studying an area that will broaden your experiences.
- Want the opportunity to apply the theory of the course to practical work in the workplace.
- Enjoy discovering about yourself in 'hands-on' situations.
- Wish to study a course which is active, fun and enjoyable.

### Future opportunities?

Study further BTEC and other qualifications or apprenticeship.

Progress into a career in a wide range of jobs having experienced the skills which are used in any workplace.

### Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Head of Department, Mrs B Darlow, [beverley.darlow@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:beverley.darlow@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk)

The exam board is Edexcel <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-workskills/level-2.html>

# LEVEL 3 COURSES

## 16 - 19 LEVEL 3 COURSES

### Entry requirements

- Grade 4 English Language and Maths qualifications and a minimum of 3 other Level 2 qualifications at C grade/grade 4 or above

Or

- Grade 4 English language and a minimum of 6 other Level 2 qualifications at C grade/grade 4 or above

If insufficient students choose particular options, we may be unable to run the classes. We may need to limit the number of students admitted to particular classes for education or health and safety reasons. We reserve the right to rearrange the option choices if we feel this will improve the curriculum for a greater number of students.

The School gives no guarantee at this stage that all possible subject combinations will, in fact, be available. Consequently, students are urged to include a 'fifth option' which they would be happy to take if their first four preferences cannot be accommodated, especially if they are undecided between subjects and/or if they do not obtain results that enable them to study one of their original four choices.

Courses	Course Entry Requirements
<b>Applied Courses</b>	
BTEC Business	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements
BTEC IT	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements
WJEC Level 3 in Criminology	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements
BTEC Sport	Full course PE GCSE at grade B or above. <b>OR</b> Dance GCSE at grade B or above.
BTEC Travel & Tourism	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements
BTEC Enterprise and Entrepreneurship	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements
Cambridge Technical in Health and Social Care	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements and at least D in Science
<b>GCE (AS/A2) Level 3 Courses</b>	
GCE Art, Craft and Design	Art, Graphics or Textiles GCSE at grade C or above. Students who have not studied Art for 12 months or more will need to complete a portfolio of tasks which would be independently assessed.
GCE Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GCSE Maths at grade 6 or above.</li> <li>• Additional Science GCSE or Biology GCSE at grade B or above.</li> </ul>
GCE Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maths GCSE at grade 7 or above.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional Science GCSE or Chemistry GCSE at grade B or above.</li> </ul>
GCE Computer Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maths GCSE at grade 6 or above.</li> <li>Physics or Chemistry GCSE at grade B or above <b>OR</b> Computing GCSE at grade C or above.</li> </ul>
GCE Dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dance GCSE at grade C or above <b>OR</b> appropriate relevant dance experience assessed by audition where necessary.</li> <li>English GCSE at grade 4 or above.</li> </ul>
GCE Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drama GCSE at grade C or above <b>OR</b> appropriate relevant drama experience assessed by audition where necessary.</li> <li>English GCSE at grade 4 or above.</li> </ul>
GCE Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English GCSE at grade 5 or above.</li> <li>Maths GCSE at grade 5 or above.</li> </ul>
GCE English Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Language and Literature GCSE, both at grade 6 or above.</li> </ul>
GCE French	French GCSE at grade B or above.
GCE Geography	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements ideally including GCSE Geography at C or above.
GCE German	German GCSE at grade B or above.
GCE Government & Politics	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements
GCE Graphic Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design Technology GCSE, Art &amp; Design GCSE, Textiles GCSE at grade C or above.</li> <li>Students who have not studied one of these subjects for 12 months or more will need to complete a portfolio of tasks which would be independently assessed.</li> </ul>
GCE History	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements ideally including GCSE History at C or above.
GCE Law	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements
GCE Mathematics	Maths GCSE at grade 7 or above.
GCE Core Maths	Maths GCSE at grade 5 or above.
GCE Further Mathematics	Maths GCSE at grade 8.
GCE Media Studies	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements
GCE Physics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maths GCSE at grade 7 or above.</li> <li>Additional Science GCSE or Physics GCSE at grade B or above.</li> </ul>
GCE Photography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preferably Art related GCSE at grade C or above, or evidence of own creative work.</li> </ul> <p><i>NB: Students must provide their own camera.</i></p>
GCE Psychology	Maths grade 4 and a Science at grade C or above.

GCE Religious Studies	GCSE Religious Studies at grade C or above and grade 4 or above in English..
GCE Sociology	16-19 Level 3 course entry requirements
GCE Spanish	Spanish GCSE at grade B or above.

## Core Curriculum

### GCE Core Mathematics

#### What will I learn?

Level 3 Mathematical Studies is an accredited Core Maths qualification. Brought in by the Government in 2014, Core Maths is designed for students with a grade C or above in GCSE maths who wants to take the subject further, but aren't moving forward with another post-GCSE maths course. The use of real-life scenarios will appeal to students who prefer a less academic approach and appreciate the value of everyday maths and problem-solving skills. Mathematical skills learned during this course will also support other As-levels starting from Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Business, Psychology and even PE. Furthermore, it supports students through further/higher education and is useful in future employment.

It's all about using and applying Maths. With 80% of the maths content taken from the new GCSE, the emphasis is on helping students to use the maths they already know to explore, understand and solve problems. Another 20% of content is taken from Maths AS Level to extend students' knowledge.

**The qualification has the same UCAS tariff points as an AS-level.**

#### How will I be assessed?

**Paper 1** (compulsory content, taken by **all** students) assesses:

- analysis of data
- maths for personal finance
- estimation.

AND

**Paper 2** (optional content – students take **one** paper only)

either **paper 2A** assesses:

- critical analysis of given data and models, including spreadsheets and tabular data
- statistical techniques

Or **paper 2B** assesses:

- critical analysis of given data and models, including spreadsheets and tabular data
- critical path and risk analysis.

Or **paper 2C** assesses:

- critical analysis of given data and models, including spreadsheets and tabular data
- graphical techniques.

#### What are the entry requirements?

- Maths GCSE at grade 5 or above.
- Level 3 Academic / Technical Course entry requirements.

#### What are the costs?

There are no additional costs associated with this course

#### Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mr P Strzelec, [piotr.strzelec@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:piotr.strzelec@biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

Exam board information: AQA, [www.aqa.org.uk/coremaths](http://www.aqa.org.uk/coremaths)

## Extended Project Qualification

### What will I learn?

This is a ½ A-Level qualification and is graded A\* - E. An A\* is worth 28 UCAS points.  
The Project can be on any topic you wish (but your supervisor will have to approve your choice).

### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed on three things:

- A Project Log which records your plans and how they changed, the key decisions you made, and the problems you solved.
- A Product which can be:
  - a performance.
  - a dissertation (a written report like a long essay).
  - an investigation (for example a series of experiments).
  - an artefact (something you make, such as an art or craft work or a website)
- A Presentation which can be of a variety of formats but will evaluate your Project.

You will be taught important Project skills:

- ICT skills to improve your Project Log, your Product and your Presentation.
- Research skills.
- Project Management skills including planning and time management.
- How to write an academic project.
- Technical skills appropriate to the project you have chosen.

During the process, students will develop as independent, reflective learners and acquire knowledge and transferable skills that are invaluable for further study and the workplace.

### What are the entry requirements?

Level 3 Academic / Technical Course entry requirements.

### What are the costs?

There are no additional costs associated with this course

### Future Opportunities?

The Extended Project Qualifications provide students the opportunity to develop extended writing skills which support all forms of further education, training and employment.

### Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs C Burton, [caroline.burton@mybiddenham.com](mailto:caroline.burton@mybiddenham.com)

Exam board information:<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/projects/aqa-certificate/EPQ-7993>

## Level 3 Subject Information

NB: **ALL** course subjects are subject to availability.

### BTEC Applied Law

#### What will I learn?

Applied Law aims to provide foundation in the main principles of the English Legal System. The core unit provides the learner with the necessary introductory knowledge and understanding about the operation of the English legal system. This unit gives students an introduction to the court structure both civil and criminal, the ways in which law is made and elements of substantive civil and criminal law. The core will provide a base for study of the three selected specialist units.

#### Mandatory Units (Year 12):

- Dispute Solving in the Legal System;
- Understanding Law Making;
- Aspects of Legal Liability

#### Specialist Units (Year 13):

- Unlawful Homicide and Police Powers
- Aspects of Property Offences and Police Powers;
- Consumer Law;

#### How will I be assessed?

Assessment is all based on coursework which will be graded as a Pass, Merit or Distinction based on criteria set by the examining body. There are no exams.

#### What are the entry requirements?

Level 3 Academic / Technical Course entry requirements.

#### What are the costs?

Students may be expected to pay towards any necessary trips or visits. We may visit the local and central London law courts, the Houses of Parliament and attend conferences organised by external bodies.

#### Future opportunities

This is a BTEC National specification in Applied Law. It is designed to appeal to students interested in a career in Law. Progression opportunities will be into Higher Education or into employment.

A large majority of our students go onto to study Law at university. The study of Applied Law allows students to make an informed choice about whether a career in the law is the right option for them. Those students who go onto to study other subjects at university have through the study of law developed essential skills to equip them for higher education.

Law graduates go on to train as solicitors or barristers or alternatively find employment in most areas: legal, local government, public sector, administration, business, personnel, banking, retail, tourism, etc.

The qualification also allows progression through employment as a Paralegal or Trainee Legal Executive as an alternative route into the Legal Profession as well as other areas of employment.

#### Additional Information

This course will not be offered from September 2017 onward.

**Who should I contact for additional information?**

Mrs Kuldip Saggu

Head of Law & Assistant Head of Sixth Form

Course contact: Mrs K Saggu, [kuldip.saggu@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:kuldip.saggu@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk)

Tel: 01234 334537

The exam board is Edexcel:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/applied-law-2010.html>



## BTEC Applied Science

The aim of this course is to provide a broad scientific knowledge for students interested in continuing their science education and possibly looking for careers in science related industry. This course is suitable for students who enjoy a wide variety of learning styles. As it is portfolio based, there is the opportunity to make use of your strengths and look for support on your weaknesses. You will especially enjoy the course if you like the challenge of independent research, supported by directed classroom activities such as practicals, lectures and group work. It is a full-time vocational qualification that is equivalent to 2 GCE qualifications and their equivalent UCAS points. Students will extend their skills in a range of practical and taught, group and individual activities.

### What will I learn?

The course will aim to offer an engaging, student-centred and differentiated learning experience. The emphasis is on student participation, ranging from completing simple worksheets to carrying out challenging research exercises and practical activities. Those students working towards Merit and Distinction level are offered extension activities or more challenging case studies to ensure they are able to meet the higher grading criteria. Group exercises are also included to encourage team-working, skill development and peer assessment.

The units covered in the first year are:

- Unit 1 - Fundamentals of Science
- Unit 4 – Scientific Practical Techniques
- Unit 2 – Working in the science industry

The units covered in the second year may change, but at present are:

- Unit 15 – Physiology of human body systems
- Unit 18 - Genetics and Genetic Engineering
- Unit 12 - Physiology of Human Regulation and Reproduction

### How will I be assessed?

The Level 3 Diploma in Applied Science consists of two core units plus four specialist units, each consisting of 60 hours of guided learning. Guided learning hours will be a combination of timetabled class time and independent study. Each module is assessed using a portfolio of work produced by the individual student. The contents of the portfolio will vary with each module, but may include essays, presentations, worksheets, practical write-ups, poster work and research. Work must be the student's own and any resources used must be referenced correctly at the end of each piece. There will also be timed pieces of work. These could include specific essays or question papers set as independent work, but may also be short test papers sat under exam conditions in the classroom. The course is designed to give opportunities for practical work and industry visits to make the science more relevant and to give students ideas about possible careers. Grades are awarded as Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction\*.

### What are the entry requirements?

Science GCSE at grade C or above **OR** Science BTEC level 2 at Merit or above.

### Who is the course for?

This course is suitable for students who wish to learn through applied learning techniques, therefore applying learning which will be directly beneficial for the workplace (the science industry). Students need to have a strong interest in science and the ability to develop a range of scientific skills.

### Future opportunities?

Many students who study the BTEC route consider a career in the research science field or as a technician. However, with the relevant work experience candidates could progress onto careers in management, teaching or higher level research.

Other possible career paths could include forensics, food manufacturing, environment and conservation, animal health and breeding, engineering and aerospace.

### Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mr P Naidoo, [pregs.naidoo@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:pregs.naidoo@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk)

Examination board: Edexcel

### **What will I learn?**

The aim of the course is to provide learners with a broad understanding of the business world on a local, national and international scale. BTEC Business is a practical, work-related course which is ideal for students who have an interest in Business, management, accounting, human resources or marketing. Alternatively it is suited to those students seeking to be self employed or those that see themselves as the next Richard Branson or Jane Asher. This course is suitable for students who enjoy a wide variety of learning styles as it combines a range of internally and externally assessed units.

The Course is as follows:

### **Year 12**

Unit 1- Exploring a Business (Written Internally assessed coursework)

Unit 2 - Developing a Marketing campaign (Written externally assessed controlled task)

### **Year 13**

Unit 3 - Personal and Business Finance (Written externally assessed examination)

Unit 8- Recruitment and Selection Process (Written Internally assessed coursework)

### **What are the entry requirements?**

Previous knowledge of Business Studies is not necessary.

Students will gain a valuable insight from following the news, current affairs and documentaries.

Programmes such as Dragons' Den and The Apprentice are useful too.

### **How will I be assessed?**

The course consists of four units of study, comprising of one internal coursework unit and one externally assessed unit each year.

#### The content of the units covered in the first year will include:

- 1.Exploring a Business (Enterprise, types of business ownership, aims and objectives of business, groups of people who have an interest in business and factors that affect the environment in which they operate),
- 2.Developing a Marketing campaign (How businesses market products, limitations on marketing, uses of market research, market segmentation, targeting groups and the marketing mix).

#### The content of the units covered in the second year will include:

3. Personal and Business finance (The role and function of money, different ways to pay, current accounts, managing personal finance, features of financial institutions, purpose of accounting and types of income and expenditure, sources of finance, breakeven, cash flow, balance sheets and liquidity ratios)
- 8.Recruitment and selection process (Recruitment of staff, selection process, ethical and legal considerations in recruitment, job applications and interviews and skills)

### **What are the costs?**

There will be visits connected to the course which will be used as case studies to enhance knowledge, skills and understanding of the units being studied.

### **Is there anything else I need to know?**

The course will appeal if you:

- Have a genuine interest in business.
- See yourself as the next Richard Branson, James Caan or Jane Asher.
- Enjoy studying a subject that will broaden your experiences.
- Envisage working for yourself in the future.
- Want the opportunity to apply the theory of the course to practical work outside the classroom.
- Enjoy discovering about yourself in 'hands-on real life' situations.
- Want to find out more about the subject through research, teamwork and independent study.

- Wish to study a course which is active, fun and enjoyable.

### **Future Opportunities?**

Careers include both public and private sector employment opportunities in specific areas such as marketing, ICT, human resource management, planning and accountancy, and general administrative/managerial trainee posts in both the public sector and with large organisations.

Alternatively, study Business Studies/Management at university as a degree or combining it with other degrees such as accountancy, Human Resources, ICT and Marketing.

Business Studies is also a good foundation for students who at some future point may wish to go into self-employment. It also prepares students for a whole range of higher education courses. Over 89% of Business Studies graduates get jobs or go onto further education.

### **Who should I contact for additional information?**

Course contact: Miss G Buckingham- [gemma.buckingham@mybiddenham.com](mailto:gemma.buckingham@mybiddenham.com)

Examination board: Edexcel

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/business-2016.html#tab-1>

## WJEC Level 3 in Criminology

### What Will I learn?

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology. The WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Criminology is a qualification with elements of psychology, law and sociology. Learning will be focused on the following key questions:

*Not all types of crime are alike. What different types of crime take place in our society? How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? What is the difference between criminal behaviour and deviance? How do we explain why people commit crime? What happens to those who commit a crime? Why and how do we punish people? What organisations do we have in our society to control criminality?*

The course will allow learners to learn in such a way that they develop:

- skills required for independent learning and development
- a range of generic and transferable skills
- the ability to solve problems
- the skills of project based research, development and presentation
- the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment
- the ability to apply learning in vocational contexts

### What Are The Entry Requirements?

Level 3 Academic / Technical Course entry requirements.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

The course is assessed using a combination of internal and external assessment as follows:

<b>Level 3 Certificate in Criminology (Year 12)</b>			
Unit Number	Unit Title	Assessment	Grading
1	Changing Awareness of Crime	Internal controlled assessment	A to E
2	Criminological Theories	External 90 minute examination	A to E
<b>Level 3 Diploma in Criminology (Year 13)</b>			
3	Crime Scene to Courtroom	Internal controlled assessment	A* to E
4	Crime and Punishment	External 90 minute examination	A* to E

Each unit within the qualification has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for the learning in the unit. The applied purpose demands learning related to authentic case studies. It also requires learners to consider how the use and application of their learning impacts on themselves, other individuals, employers, society and the environment.

All units are equally weighted.

### What Are The Costs?

Students will be expected to purchase text books. They may be expected to pay towards any necessary trips or visits. There will be two conferences that they will be invited to attend in London. These are organised by external bodies. The cost of these conferences are £20 and £12.50. In addition there will be travel costs into London. We may also visit a prison, the local and central London law courts.

### **Is There Anything Else I need to Know?**

The course is designed to give you a clear understanding of criminology. You will be given class notes, your teacher will deliver the main aspects of each topic, and you will be expected to undertake individual and group work based on the teacher's delivery. This may involve carrying out more detailed research. There will be a variety of methods to deliver the subject. There will be lectures, question and answer sessions, individual task work, group work, discussions, role-play, student presentations in preparation for the controlled assessment for unit 1 & 3, timed exam questions and mock exams for units 2 & 4. You will be expected to make your own comprehensive revision notes, you will have to read a lot to reinforce your knowledge and understanding, apply the law to problems and issues; carry out independent research, willingly contribute to class discussions and activities and be committed to hard work.

### **Future opportunities?**

The Criminology Course has elements of psychology, law and sociology that complement studies in humanities. The main purpose of the qualification is to support access to higher education degree courses, such as:

- BSc Criminology
- BA Criminology
- BA Criminology and Criminal Justice
- BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology
- LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology
- BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology
- BA (Hons) Criminology
- BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology
- BSc Criminology with Law

### **Further Information**

Course contact: Mrs K Saggu, [kuldip.saggu@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:kuldip.saggu@biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

Exam board information: <http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/criminology/criminology-level-3-from-2015>

## BTEC Information Technology

BTEC Level 3 Certificate in IT  
BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in IT (Yr 13)

### Why Study IT?

- At the end of 2013 there were more advertised vacancies for IT professionals than there were candidates to fill them.
- Employment in the IT industry is forecast to grow 5 times faster than the UK average with over half a million new IT and Telecoms professionals needed over the next 5 years.
- IT and Telecoms professionals currently earn 41% more than the national average salary.
- Due to the skills shortage in the UK, many firms are having to recruit from abroad.

### What will I learn?

This course is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information alongside other subjects, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT. You will develop a common core of IT knowledge and study areas such as the relationship between hardware and software that form an IT system, managing and processing data to support business and using IT to communicate and share information.

The objective of this course is to give you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and skills in IT systems, systems management and social media in business. This will enable you to progress to further study in the IT sector or other sectors.

The Units covered in the 1st year:

- Unit 1: Using social media in Business
- Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information (External Coursework)

The Units covered in the 2nd year:

- Unit 3: Information Technology Systems
- Unit 6: Website Development.

### What are the entry requirements?

Minimum of three GCSE grades at A\* - C (or the equivalent) including **EITHER** English Language or Mathematics

### How will I be assessed?

**Certificate in IT:** Equivalent in size to 0.5 of an A Level. 2 units, both mandatory, of which 1 is external. Mandatory content (100%). External assessment (50%).

**Extended Certificate:** Equivalent in size to one A Level. 4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external. Mandatory content (83%). External assessment (58%).

### Who is this course for?

This course is suitable for learners who wish to learn through applied learning techniques, therefore applying learning which will be directly beneficial for the workplace or future studies in the digital IT Industry. You will need to have a strong interest in IT and the digital world today

### Future Opportunities?

Studying BTEC Nationals in IT builds a good foundation for a range of career options including:

- starting up your own business being self employment
- further education
- joining the IT industry
- IT apprenticeships

### Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs Beverley Darlow or Mr George Foy

[beverley.darlow@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:beverley.darlow@biddenham.beds.sch.uk) or [george.foy@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:george.foy@biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

Examination board: [Edexcel Specifications](#)

### BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Sport (2 year course)

#### What will I learn?

The course will aim to offer an engaging, student-centred and differentiated learning experience. The emphasis is on student participation, ranging from carrying out challenging research exercises and practical activities to exam question structured lessons. Those students working towards merit and distinction level are offered extension activities or more challenging case studies to ensure they are able to meet the higher grading criteria.

The Units covered over the two years;

Unit 1 – Anatomy and Physiology

Unit 2 – Fitness Training and Programming for Health Sport and Well being

Unit 3 – Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Unit 6 – Sport Psychology

#### How will I be assessed?

67% of the course is assessed through 2 exams. Unit 1 is an unseen exam paper sat at the end of year 12. Unit 2 has pre released material where you will prep for the exam using the scenario given and take your notes into the exam. You will sit this exam in January of year 13. Both papers have one re sit opportunity.

The 2 other units will be coursework throughout the 2 years (33% of the course) which builds up into a portfolio of evidence. Students are set assignments which involved completing a series of tasks within a specific deadline. As well as written assignments, students can be assessed through group work, laboratory reports, phase tests, presentations and practical tests. Students will also develop their skills during either a residential at Derby University using their sport science labs or at St George's Park. Cost of these visits T.B.C.

#### What are the entry requirements?

Full course PE GCSE at grade B or above **OR** Dance GCSE at grade B or above **OR** Sport BTEC level 2 at Merit or above.

#### Who is the course for?

This course is suitable for students who wish to learn through applied learning techniques, therefore applying learning which will be directly beneficial for the workplace, the sports industry.

Students need to have a strong interest in sport and the physical ability to develop a range of sporting activities. There are several units which require students to perform to a high level and be able to influence their own performance and that of others.

#### Future opportunities

Courses like the BTEC Sport develop students skills, enabling them to exit into roles from each level of the courses offered. The skills students develop will prepare them for life within the sports industry, but these skills are not exclusive and can be easily transferred into a wide variety of occupations.

There are opportunities to progress into employment areas such as public and private leisure/health careers. This course will also enable successful students to access higher education, for example degrees in Sports Science/Studies, Coaching, PE Teaching, Physiotherapy, Sports Psychology are a few examples of a huge number of course choices this qualification can open the doors to.

#### Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Miss P Copley. [phillipa.copley@mybiddenham.com](mailto:phillipa.copley@mybiddenham.com)

Examination board: Edexcel <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/sport-2016.html>

## BTEC Travel & Tourism

### What will I learn?

The BTEC Subsidiary Diploma is a practical, work-related course which is ideal for students who have an interest in the Travel & Tourism industry.

It consists of six coursework units based on the real industry, involving visits and guest speakers, over the two year period.

This allows students to learn by:

- Completing assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations.
- Using independent learning skills to research information from a variety of sources.
- Exploring case studies of travel and tourism organisations within the UK and Europe.
- Investigating the business of travel and tourism, customer service, current issues and holiday destinations.

### How is it assessed?

Each unit is assessed and graded by means of a portfolio piece of work.

What subjects will be covered in the 1st year?

Investigating the Travel & Tourism sector.

Working in the Travel and Tourism Industry.

The UK as a Destination.

What subjects will be covered in the 2nd year?

Customer Service in Travel and Tourism.

The Business of Tourism

Long-haul Travel Destinations.

The course will appeal if you:

- Have a genuine interest in the Travel and Tourism industry. You will be developing an understanding of organisations - the markets they serve, working with customers, current issues, the location of UK and European holiday destinations and the business of travel and tourism.
- Enjoy studying a subject that will broaden your experiences.
- Want the opportunity to apply the theory of the course to practical work outside the classroom.
- Want to find out more about the subject through research, teamwork and independent study.
- Wish to study a course which is active, fun and enjoyable.

### Future Opportunities?

- Travel or work abroad.
- Follow a related degree at university.
- Work in the Travel and Tourism industry in any of the following roles: travel agents, holiday rep, travel consultant, tourism officer, hotel management, human resources, sales and marketing, customer service and event management.

For further details speak to Beverley Darlow, Head of Department in R01 or R7

### Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs B Darlow, [beverley.darlow@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:beverley.darlow@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk)

Exam board information: <http://www.edexcel.com/i-am-a/student/Pages/home.aspx>



## GCE Art, Craft & Design: Fine Art, Graphics & Textiles

### What will I learn?

Do you enjoy exploring ideas and looking at things in a different way? At Biddenham we offer a broad-based course exploring practical, critical and contextual work through a range of 2D and 3D processes and media. The course is practical in nature and will give you the ability and skills to appreciate the visual world and respond in an imaginative and personal way.

If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, then there is a career opportunity waiting for you. The course prepares students for employment and/or further studies beyond A Level Art and Arts related courses.

There are four units in this course, two taken in the Lower Sixth and two in the Upper Sixth. The Lower Sixth areas of study lead to an AS in Art and Design and this can be taken as a stand alone subject or as half of the full A Level Course.

There are three routes on offer:

- FINE ART
- TEXTILES
- ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

### **Fine Art**

Drawing, painting, mixed media, Sculpture and digital photography

### **Textiles**

Working with a range of materials and techniques, e.g. shibori, dyeing, printing, weaving and fashion,

### **Graphics**

Typography, Illustration, Advertising, Packaging, Branding, Design

### **Art Craft and Design**

You must work in a minimum of two Areas in unit one.

For the first term you will experience all three subject areas and be introduced to a range of associated skills. As the course proceeds you will be able to select the direction that you want to study in more depth. The three routes are linked by emphasis and similarity in terms of CREATIVE THINKING. Drawing techniques will be on aspects of visual investigation and used for the development of ideas.

In lessons the skills developed will be varied: Among them will be a working knowledge of materials, processes and techniques. Imaginative powers and critical abilities will be developed experientially.

Lessons will involve drawing/photographing various stimuli for the formation and development of visual ideas. You will practice various techniques and then experiment to extend and apply these skills. This creative process is annotated to interlink practice and critical thinking, e.g. what makes Modern-Art Modern? and takes the form of a visual diary.

AS and A 'Level are practical courses in which you learn by doing. You will learn a range of practical techniques and processes and develop your creativity and independent thought; learn to express yourself visually. Whatever practical area is chosen it will be underpinned by drawing techniques and the investigation of relevant art and design theory to support the development of ideas. Art and Design in a great companion to all other subjects as imagination and problem solving skills can give you insights for your other studies.

How will I be assessed?

### **A Level**

The 'A' Level is a two year linear course.

At the start of the course you will experience a range of Art, Craft and Design practices to introduce you to different skills areas. Later in the course as the projects become more personalised you will develop a more specialised direction.

Coursework: Personal Investigation: 60% of the qualification

Y13 - Externally Set Assignment; Practical examination: 40% of the qualification

The lower sixth year will be building up skills. In the Upper sixth year students will write a Personal Study and pursue more personal lines of enquiry.

**NB: Students who have not studied Art for 12 months or more will need to complete a portfolio of tasks which would be independently assessed.**

The best foundation for success in Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE in Art is a good grade at GCSE. However, if you have aptitude for the subject, if you are creative or good at drawing you may have the basic skills to succeed. However, this course is not an easy option and you should be prepared to work hard at developing your abilities. You should have an understanding of the basic elements of art - and also some understanding of the place of art and design in the world, its history and its purpose. Above all you should have enthusiasm for the subject.

### **Future opportunities**

There are many careers in Art and Design. You may want to take 'A' Level Art, Craft & Design for its' own sake or perhaps to form the basis of a future specialist interest or as part of a range of other subjects. You might wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of Art and Design or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in such fields as advertising, marketing, design, architecture, publishing and media. The study of art can also help you develop transferable skills you can take into any career or job.

Many students go on to study the Foundation Course in Art and Design before specialising in Art or Design at Degree Level.

### **Who should I contact for additional information?**

Course contact: Mr A Kavanagh, [allan.kavanagh@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:allan.kavanagh@biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

Exam board information: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art.craft&design/specification/>

## GCE Art & Design: Digital Photography

### What will I learn?

Advanced level Photography aims to develop the ability to appreciate the visual world; respond in a personal and creative way and communicate this through Digital Photography. It prepares students for employment and/or further studies beyond A Level Art and digital related courses.

There are four units in this course, two taken in the Lower Sixth and two in the Upper Sixth. The Lower Sixth areas of study lead to an AS in Digital Photography and this can be taken as a stand alone subject or as half of the full A Level Course.

The areas of study for Digital Photography are composition, viewpoints, focus, shutter speed and exposure. The use different digital cameras, image manipulation software and the relationship between colour and tone for screen based media. Students will also use a range of source material for the development of ideas..

Lessons will involve the use of software such as Adobe Photoshop. studio lighting, critical analysis as well educational visits and location work.

### How will I be assessed?

**AS - Unit One:** Course work - 2 projects of practical work, Unit Two - Externally Set Assignment.

**A2 - Unit Three :** Course work (a) Practical Work and (b) Personal Study, Unit Four : Externally Set Assignment

With regard to the 4 units, 2 are taken in the Lower Sixth and 2 in the Upper Sixth. The Lower Sixth areas of study lead to an AS in Digital Photography and this can be taken as a stand alone subject or as half of the full A Level course.

### What are the entry requirements?

- English GCSE at grade C or above.
- Preferably Art GCSE at grade C or above.

**NB: Students must provide their own camera.**

The best foundation for success in Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE in photography is a good grade at GCSE. However, this isn't a requirement. If you have a creative aptitude for the subject and are technically minded you may have the basic skills to succeed. However, this course is not an easy option and you should be prepared to work hard at developing your abilities. You should have an understanding of the basic elements of colour, tone, composition etc, and also some understanding of the place of art and design in the world, its history and its purpose. Above all you should have an interest in creating and understanding art and the determination to develop that interest.

### Future opportunities?

There are many careers in digital Photography. You may wish to take the AS or Advanced GCE for its own sake or perhaps to form the basis of a future specialist interest or as part of a range of other subjects. You might wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of photography or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in such fields as advertising, marketing, design, architecture, publishing and media. The study of art can also help you develop transferable skills you can take into any career or job.

Many students go on to study the Foundation Course in Art and Design before specialising in Art or Design at Degree Level.

### Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mr P Alexis, [paul.alexis@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:paul.alexis@biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

Examination board: Edexcel

## GCE Biology

The AQA course is approved by the QCA. The study of Biology at Biddenham provides an academic, practical and broad experience of one of the most relevant and exciting areas in the Sciences. With a broad range of topics in the subject, GCE Biology provides many natural links to other subjects providing an extremely useful and supportive basis for them. Subjects commonly taken with Biology include Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Health and Social Studies, Mathematics, PE and Geography, although many other subjects have been studied with Biology at Biddenham such as History, Art and English. The GCE runs over two years.

### What will I learn?

Students will study:

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange of substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms responses to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

### How will I be assessed?

A Level Examination - 7402

There are three 2 hour exams. The first assesses content from the first year topics as well as practical skills and contributes 35% to the A level. The second exam also contributes 35% to the A level and assesses content from the second year topics as well as practical skills. The final exam assesses content from the two years and practical skills and contributes 30% to the A level.

10% of the total A-level marks require the use of Level 2 (Higher tier GCSE) mathematical skills.

Students will also be assessed on their practical skills throughout the two year course and will be awarded a pass or a fail based on their competencies. Whilst this does not make up part of their A level, they will be assessed on their practical knowledge and understanding in the written exams and a pass would be necessary to demonstrate skills for scientific courses at university.

### What are the entry requirements?

- English GCSE at grade C or above
- Maths GCSE at grade B or above
- Additional Science GCSE **OR** Biology GCSE at grade B or above.

### What are the costs?

Textbooks are likely to cost about £25 for each year if bought new or students may loan a textbook with a £10 deposit.

A field trip may run in the second year (subject to numbers) and though not compulsory, students would find this useful to support the theory work covered in lessons.

### Future opportunities?

The Biology Department has had an excellent progression history with students going on to University studies and vocational courses. Medical students, biochemists and many other biology-related professions have been followed after A level.

### Additional information

Homework – this forms a major part of any subject at GCE A level. Research and independent study is a major component of the Biology course and prepares the student for study at University level.

**Who should I contact for additional information?**

Course contact: Ms M Brooks, [May.brookscaffrey@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:May.brookscaffrey@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk)

Examination board: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level>

A Level Chemistry will give you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of chemistry. It covers the key concepts of chemistry and practical skills are integrated throughout the course. This combination of academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A Level Chemistry highly appealing. You will learn about chemistry in a range of different contexts and the impact it has on industry and many aspects of everyday life. You will learn to investigate and solve problems in a range of contexts.

### What will I learn?

In year 12:

**Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry:** Practical skills assessed in a written examination

**Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry:** Atoms, compounds, molecules and equations; Amount of substance; Acid–base and redox reactions; Electrons, bonding and structure.

**Module 3 – Periodic table and energy:** The periodic table and periodicity; Group 2 and the halogens; Qualitative analysis; Enthalpy changes; Reaction rates and equilibrium (qualitative).

**Module 4 – Core organic chemistry:** Hydrocarbons; Alcohols and haloalkanes; Organic synthesis; Analytical techniques (IR and MS).

In year 13:

**Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements:** Reaction rates and equilibrium (quantitative); pH and buffers; Enthalpy, entropy and free energy; Redox and electrode potentials; Transition elements.

**Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis:** Aromatic compounds; Carbonyl compounds; Carboxylic acids and esters; Nitrogen compounds; Polymers; Organic synthesis; Chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR).

### How will I be assessed?

There will be 3 exams at the end of year 13. Two of the exams are 2 hours 15 minutes long and each contribute 37% of the final grade. The first of these is on the periodic table, elements and physical chemistry which covers topics taught in modules 1,2,3 and 5. The second exam is on synthesis and analytical techniques which covers topics from modules 1, 4 and 6. The final of the 3 exams is 1 hour 30 minutes long and is worth 26% of the final mark and is synoptic, potentially covering any area from the course.

Students will also be assessed on their practical skills throughout the two year course and will be awarded a pass or a fail based on their competencies. Whilst this does not make up part of their A level, they will be assessed on their practical knowledge and understanding in the written exams and a pass would be necessary to demonstrate skills for scientific courses at university.

### What are the entry requirements?

- English GCSE at grade C or above.
- Maths GCSE at grade B/6 or above.
- Additional Science GCSE **OR** Chemistry GCSE at grade B or above.
- For students who have taken BTEC level 2 courses, a **DISTINCTION** is required as well as grade B in English and Maths GCSE.

**What are the costs?**

The course may include visits to local chemical industries

Textbooks need to be bought.

Two textbooks for the A2 course, both published by Pearson Education. One covers all the content from year 12 and one for year 13. (books are £20 each bought new)

Laboratory coats and safety spectacles are advisable, particularly if taking more than one science.

Total cost is about £50:00.

**Is there anything else I need to know?**

Other subjects that would go well with Chemistry at AS or GCE Advanced level are Biology, Mathematics and Physics. However, other combinations of subjects including Geology and Geography are also suitable.

Students who are concentrating on Arts, Humanities or Modern Language subjects may wish to take Chemistry to AS level to broaden their studies by continuing to take a Science subject.

**The demands of the course**

The sixth form is a bridge between school and university. Students will be responsible for their own learning. Teachers are there to help students learn how to learn. AS level will be a continuation of GCSE Chemistry, but at a consistently higher standard and in more depth. The student must be committed to understanding the fundamental concepts of Chemistry in order to make satisfactory progress, through problem resolution.

The A2 course is even more demanding, where the entire course (AS and A2) is synoptically assessed. It is essential to understand the AS topics in order to make the necessary links between topics that become more complex. However, it is normally at this stage that Chemistry begins to make sense, where all the aspects of atomic structure, chemical bonding and the reasons why chemical reactions happen merge together into a coherent pattern of events. Almost all students find the Chemistry course a challenge. Due to the rigorous nature of the course, homework is set at the end of every lesson

All resources are fully accessible using the school's intranet. The course is modular in structure with emphasis on the use of Chemistry in everyday life

**Future Opportunities?**

With a qualification in Chemistry a student could go on to Further or Higher Education, studying Chemistry or one of the other sciences or related subjects, such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Law, Veterinary Science, Chemical Engineering, Forensic Science, Civil Service, Environmental Science or Agriculture. Many science-based industries are now looking to recruit GCE level students who show an aptitude for Chemistry and have the right attitude towards a working environment, with a view to giving students the opportunity to study at a higher level through one day a week release.

**Who should I contact for additional information?**

Course contact: Mr K Walker, [karl.walker@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:karl.walker@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk)

Examination Board: OCR A

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-chemistry-a-h032-h432-from-2015/>

### What will I learn?

This course has been designed for students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where knowledge of computing would be beneficial. One can study computing and go on to a career in medicine, law, business, politics or any type of science. Students following this course do not need to have any prior knowledge of computing, but it would be of substantial advantage. The new course places a much stronger emphasis on problem solving and applied mathematics.

The course is not about learning to use tools or just training in a programming language. Instead, the emphasis is on computational thinking. Computational thinking is a kind of reasoning used by both humans and machines. Thinking computationally means using abstraction and decomposition and is an important life skill. Computer Science involves questions that have the potential to change how we view the world. For example, we may be computing with DNA at some stage in the future, with computer circuits made of genes. This leads to the question, does the natural world 'compute'?

Computing is about designing new algorithms to solve new problems. In this sense Computer Science is no more about computers than astronomy is about telescopes. Many great challenges lie in the future for computer scientists to solve. This course, with its emphasis on abstract thinking, general problem-solving, algorithmic and mathematical reasoning, scientific and engineering-based thinking, is a good foundation for understanding these future challenges.

In the AS specification there are two units. Unit 1 is a practical, on-screen examination which allows candidates to demonstrate their knowledge of the fundamental principles of the subject, focusing on programming through a problem solving scenario using pre-release material. Unit 2 focuses on the hardware and software aspects of computing and the social and economic consequences of computing.

The A2 specification builds on the content of AS, with Unit 3 focusing on computational thinking, what can be computed, programming and problem-solving including communication and networking. The second unit, Unit 4, is an internally assessed unit, with candidates required to complete a report on a computer-based programmed solution to a problem solving exercise of their choice.

### How will I be assessed?

There are four units and each has its own assessment:

#### Paper 1:

- This paper tests a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of computer science from subject content 10–13 in the specification and the skills required from section 22.
- On-screen exam
- 2 hours 30 minutes
- 40% of A-level

#### Paper 2:

- This paper tests a student's ability to answer questions from subject content 14–21 in the specification.
- Written exam
- 2 hours 30 minutes
- 40% of A-level

#### Non-exam Assessment:

- The non-exam assessment assesses student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem. Students will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem solving, as shown in section 22 of the specification.
- 75 marks
- 20% of A-level.



**What are the entry requirements?**

Physics **OR** Chemistry GCSE at grade B or above **AND** Maths GCSE at grade B or above **OR** Computing GCSE at grade C or above.

**Is there anything else I need to know?**

This course has been designed to encourage candidates to develop a broad range of skills and knowledge of computing as a basis for progression into further learning, including progression from AS to A2, and/or employment in computing-related fields.

A-Level specifications in computing should encourage students to develop:

- The capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- An understanding of the organisation of computer systems including software, hardware, data, communications and people.
- The ability to apply skills, knowledge and understanding of computing, including programming, in a range of contexts to solve problems.
- Project and time management skills.
- The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of the subject and perceive their field of study in a broader perspective.
- An understanding of the consequences of uses of computing, including social, legal, ethical and other issues.
- An awareness of emerging technologies and an appreciation of their potential impact on society.

**Who should I contact for additional information?**

Course contact: Mr A Parish, [antony.parish@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:antony.parish@biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

Exam board information:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/ict-and-computer-science/as-and-a-level/computer-science-7516-7517>

## GCE Dance

### What will I learn?

Students study all aspects of dance including choreography, performance and appreciation through practical and written work. The specification for A-level allows for more variety in the curriculum and a practical approach to the teaching of theory. Theory for A-level includes: analysis of professional dance works, dance history, the theory of choreography and reflective practice. Visits to the theatre and practical workshops form an important part of this course

### How will I be assessed?

A Level - Component 1 - Performance & Choreography Practical Exam - 50% of A level

- Solo performance linked to a specified practitioner within an area of study (*choreographed with/by the teacher - 2- 3 minutes*)
- Performance in a quartet (*choreographed with/by the teacher - 3-4 minutes*)
- Group choreography (*choreographed by the student - 3-4 minutes*)

A Level - Component 2 - Critical Engagement - Written Exam (2hrs 30mins) - 50% of A level

- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two set works.:  
*Christopher Bruce's Rooster in the context of Rambert Dance Company*  
*Martha Graham's Appalachian Spring in the context of American Modern Dance*
- Questions Two sections:

Section A: short answer questions (25 marks) and one essay question (25 marks) on one of the set works.  
Section B: two essay questions on the second set work/area of study (25 marks for each essay).

### What are the entry requirements?

- Dance GCSE grade C or above **OR** appropriate relevant Dance experience assessed by audition where necessary.
- English GCSE at grade C or above.
- **NB: Students must also be willing to perform in front of others.**

### What are the costs?

Theatre trips to see live dance works will be arranged throughout the year and where possible workshops from dance professionals. It is expected that students will attend as many as possible. The cost is kept as reasonable as possible, with each trip cost approximately £25 (including transport and tickets). Rather than financial cost, students are required to make some personal commitments of their own time. There is a huge range of extra-curricular activities and performances run through the dance department and 6th Form students are expected to be involved in at least one of these activities and at least one performance. Such activities include:

- Street dance club
- Biddenham Dance Company
- Body conditioning (fitness training)
- Theatre trips (Milton Keynes, Cambridge, London etc)
- Choreographic workshops at the University of Bedfordshire
- School Musical
- Internal Dance and Drama showcase
- "Spring into Dance" internal dance production
- Performances at the University of Bedfordshire
- Supporting and teaching lower and middle school students
- Assisting in GCSE lessons

### Who can take the course?

- Anyone interested in Dance, the arts and theatre, and would like to broaden their knowledge.

- People hoping to go into theatre, teaching or dance as a profession.
- People who would like a creative contrast to a scientific or mathematical course of study.

### **Future Opportunities**

A-level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. All of these are sought after skills by higher education and employers and will help them stand out in the workplace whatever their choice of career. The analytical nature of dance theory, the problem solving inherent in choreography, the ability to communicate and the importance of self-presentation in dance, students will be well equipped for succeeding in today's workplace, anywhere.

Specific opportunities could include: Dance performer; choreographer; teacher; dance therapist; arts administrator; dance company education department; a sales environment; marketing and any career involving the need to be self motivated, creative and to be able to work on own initiative.

### **Who should I contact for additional information?**

Course contact: Miss H Wiltshire, [hayley.wiltshire@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:hayley.wiltshire@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk) (Head of Dance & Drama)  
[amy.warden@mybiddenhham.com](mailto:amy.warden@mybiddenhham.com) (Teacher of English & Dance)

Exam board information: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/as-and-a-level/dance-7237>

### What Will I Learn?

A-level Drama emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. Students learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for themselves. Students are introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as they explore plays practically, devise and work on performances. Students choose to develop as a: • performer • designer (set, costume, puppets) • director • combination of these. Whichever option they choose, students will gain many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand their horizons.

### How will I be Assessed?

#### A Level - Component 1: Drama and theatre - Written Exam (3 hrs, open book) - 40% of the A-level

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre through the study of two set plays
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.
- Section A: one question (from a choice) on one of the set plays (25 marks).
- Section B: one three part question on a given extract from the other set play (30 marks).
- Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (25 marks).

#### A Level - Component 2 : Creating original drama - Written coursework & practical exam - 30 % of A-level

- Process of creating devised drama.
- Performance of devised drama (*students may contribute as performer, designer or director*). - The devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one practitioner.
- Working notebook (40 marks - coursework)
- Devised performance (20 marks - practical performance)

#### A Level - Component 3: Making theatre - Practical exam & Written report - 30 % of A-level

- Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts each taken from a different play. The methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to the final extract.
- The final extract is to be performed as a final assessed piece (*students may contribute as performer, designer or director*). (40 marks - practical performance)
- Reflective written report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts. (20 marks)

### What Are the Entry Requirements?

Drama GCSE grade C or above **OR** appropriate relevant Drama experience assessed by audition where necessary.

English GCSE at grade C or above.

**NB: Students must also be willing to perform in front of others.**

### What are the Costs?

The Drama department aims to offer you theatre trips and workshops each year at a cost to cover travel and ticket for events. All students will be required to attend at least one theatre trip in order to prepare for the written examination and to inform their understanding of theatre.

There is a rich diversity of activities to get involved in from workshops, performing arts tuition and performances. Students are encouraged to take part in running events and activities in Drama to support their experience. All students are required to be involved in at least one extracurricular activity

## **Future Opportunities**

Higher education institutions value and respect the skills drama and theatre qualifications give students. By incorporating the approach universities take with drama and theatre undergraduates into this A-level, students will be really well prepared for the demands of university and beyond.

Students of Drama and theatre develop skills that are not just essential for drama but applicable to a wide range of higher education subjects and in the workplace. This course refines students' collaborative skills, their analytical thinking and their approach to research. Students grow in confidence and maturity as they successfully realise their own ideas. They learn to evaluate objectively and develop a sound appreciation of the influences that cultural and social contexts can have on decision making. Whatever the future holds, students of A-level Drama and Theatre emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills preparing them for their next steps.

### **Who should I contact for additional information?**

Course contact: Miss H Wiltshire, [hayley.wiltshire@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:hayley.wiltshire@biddenham.beds.sch.uk), (Head of Drama & Dance),  
Miss S Wozniak, [sarah.wozniak@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:sarah.wozniak@biddenham.beds.sch.uk) (Teacher of Drama & English)

Exam board information: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/a-level/drama-and-theatre-7262>

### What will I learn?

AS and A level Economics aims to give an insight into key issues in the news affecting everyday life. The goal is to understand the forces driving things like the price of oil, exchange rates and the level of unemployment in an economy. Students enjoy Economics because it is contemporary and rooted in the real world, but at the same time it is always closely related to a clearly explained set of economic theory that uses statistics and other quantitative methods to support and develop ideas.

The subject is split into two main sections, microeconomics and macroeconomics. Whereas macro looks at the big issues affecting the economy as a whole (unemployment, inflation, growth and so on), micro looks at a smaller scale; the pricing of individual products like oil or gold; the salaries paid to different people, and the reasons for any differences. Students also study the work of some key Economic theorists such as Friedrich Hayek, Karl Marx and Adam Smith.

The subject looks at the reasons why changes occur, and builds models to help analyse changes. Hence a student having studied Economics would understand clearly why prices of oil, copper, gold, silver and wood fluctuate. They would understand the causes of unemployment in advanced economies, and why the UK economy has been slower to recover from the global credit crunch than many others. They would understand why some countries are so much richer than others, and what can be done about it. They may also feel qualified to voice an opinion about the result of the vote in the EU referendum!

Taken together, micro and macroeconomics give a complete understanding of the economy as a whole that will be valuable in career terms as well as bringing an increased understanding of the news!

### How will I be assessed?

At Biddenham we follow the Edexcel A course. In September 2015 we started the new specification in line with recent changes in post 16 education. In September 2016 all students will be completing the two year 'A' level programme although there may be the option of entering the AS examination in the summer of the first year.

### A level Economics

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Economics A is structured into four themes and consists of three externally examined papers that must be taken in the same year (each paper is 120 minutes). It is a two year course.

Students will need to apply their knowledge and understanding to both familiar and unfamiliar contexts in the assessments and demonstrate an awareness of current economic events and policies.

#### **Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure**

#### **Theme 2: The UK economy – performance and policies**

*(Themes 1 & 2 are identical to themes 1 & 2 of the AS course and will be taught in the first year so that all students have the option of taking the AS examination)*

#### **Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market**

This theme develops the microeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 1 and focuses on business economics.

Students will develop an understanding of:

- business growth
- business objectives
- revenues, costs and profits
- market structures
- labour market
- government intervention.

#### **Theme 4: A global perspective**

This theme develops the macroeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 2 and applies these concepts in a global context. Students will develop an understanding of:

- international economics
- poverty and inequality
- emerging and developing economies
- the financial sector
- role of the state in the macroeconomy

**Whom does the subject suit?**

Anyone with an interest in knowing more about the way the world works. Students take Economics in combination with a very wide array of other subjects – everything ranging from Art and English Literature at one end to Further Maths and Physics at the other.

A common misconception is that a strong mathematical background is important for the A level – this is not true; an ability to understand graphs and correlation is the only mathematical requirement. Beyond this, all that is needed is an ability to argue a case, to compare theory with reality and observe the differences, but these are skills needed for almost any academic AS/A level.

**Entry Requirements?**

Economics is not an easy option so consequently a 'B' at GCSE English is required PLUS a 'C' at GCSE Mathematics. There may be some negotiation in special circumstances.

**Future opportunities?**

Whether or not you go on to read an Economics degree, Economics is well regarded by universities as a rigorous A level, because of the analytical skills that it teaches. The model-based approach of the subject gives a good mental framework for almost any subsequent degree.

Statistically, those students who do take a degree in Economics on average command higher starting salaries out of university, and are more likely to make it into the 'elite' graduate jobs in areas such as management consultancy.

**Who should I contact for additional information?**

Course contact: Ms H Rose, [helen.rose@mybiddenham.com](mailto:helen.rose@mybiddenham.com) or follow us on Twitter - @BISGovPolEcon

Examination board: Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/economics-a-2015.html>

### What will I learn?

The English Literature A specification encourages students to develop interest in and enjoyment of English Literature, through reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries, genre and gender, and through experience of an extensive range of views about texts and how to read them. This specification has a clear philosophy of reading and meaning, and aims to encourage candidates to develop as informed, independent readers and critics of literary texts. A selection of the following texts have traditionally formed a core part of the curriculum:

- *Othello*, by William Shakespeare.
- *Wuthering Heights*, by Emily Brontë
- An anthology of love poetry through the Ages
- *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, by Tennessee Williams
- *Skirrid Hill*, by Owen Sheers
- *The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett
- *The Bell Jar*, by Sylvia Plath
- *A Doll's House*, by Henrik Ibsen
- *The Yellow Wallpaper*, by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- *Wide Sargasso Sea*, by Jean Rhys

### How will I be assessed?

In total, 20% of the A-level qualification is coursework-based and the remaining 80% of the course is exam-based. At the end of the A-level course, there are two written exams; paper one lasts for 3 hours, and paper two lasts for 2 hours and 30 minutes.

### What are the entry requirements?

GCSE English Language at grade 6 or above *and* GCSE English Literature at grade 6 or above

### Future opportunities

A2 English Literature is a highly regarded qualification which provides a very good basis for the study of Literature at degree level (including joint degrees). It is also seen as a good measure of academic potential by universities when allocating places on degree courses for humanities subjects (including Law). As a subject which enables you to develop your ability to think critically and write analytically, the skills you will develop studying A2 English literature will never be wasted and are likely to be viewed favourably by future employers too. Studying English Literature at degree level can lead to a variety of careers, including journalism, teaching and those in the communications industry.

### Who should I contact for additional information?

Course contact: Mrs L. Steward, [laura.steward@mybiddenham.com](mailto:laura.steward@mybiddenham.com)  
Mrs C. Burton, [caroline.burton@mybiddenham.com](mailto:caroline.burton@mybiddenham.com)

Exam board: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-a-7711-7712>



### What will I learn?

The course aims to develop an understanding of up to date language and contemporary issues from authentic sources, such as newspapers, magazines, radio, television, songs and the Internet. The target language is used most of the time, in the classroom and in conversation with an Assistant. 'Taking part' is vital for success. Students are encouraged to visit a country where the language is spoken and to take part in the county sixth form exchange programme. In addition, A level linguists are encouraged to apply for the county work experience scheme, whereby you can spend 2 weeks working in a French firm. In previous years, Biddenham students have worked in offices, factories and banks gaining tremendous experience and giving themselves a most interesting CV.

### Subject content:

- ❖ Social issues and trends
- ❖ Political and artistic culture
- ❖ Grammar

### Option:

- ❖ Works: Literary text and film

### Assessments:

#### Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

##### What's assessed:

- Aspects of target language speaking society: current trends
- Aspects of target language-speaking society: current issues
- Artistic culture in the target language -speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the target language-speaking world
- Grammar

**How it's assessed:** Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

- 100 marks
- 50% of A-level

#### Paper 2 writing

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

**How it's assessed:** Written exam: 2 hours, 80 marks in total, 20 % of A Level

### **Paper 3: Speaking**

#### **What's assessed:**

- Individual research project
- One of four sub themes: Aspects of society: current trends, current issues, artistic culture , aspects of political life

#### **How it's assessed:**

- Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- 60 marks in total
- 30% of A-level. Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).
- Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).

No access to a dictionary during the assessment (including 5 minutes preparation).

Students may take the assessment only once before certification.

Assessments will be conducted by either the centre or a visiting examiner and marked by an AQA examiner.

**For further details please email [caroline.piotrowski@mybiddenham.com](mailto:caroline.piotrowski@mybiddenham.com)**

#### **What are the entry requirements?**

- French GCSE at grade B or above.

It cannot be denied that there is quite a leap between GCSE and the AS level course, but no more in Languages than with any of your subjects. A-level courses demand a greater level of self-motivation and an ability to act on your own initiative; if you possess these qualities then we would welcome you to the Languages Department to discuss your plans. We will be happy to show you the course books and would encourage you to chat to students who are currently following the course.

A2 LEVEL

Successful completion of AS level. Pupils achieving Grade D or below at AS should contact the Department to discuss the possibility of retaking AS units whilst following the A2 course.

**What are the costs?**

You are expected to have a good, sixth form-standard, bilingual dictionary and a grammar workbook (the title of which you will be told at the start of the course).

It is anticipated that students will travel to the target language country either through trips arranged by the Department or via the country run exchanges or work experience. Costs will vary depending on the nature of the trip.

Day trips to language immersion conferences take place in Year 13. The cost of this is usually less than £20, plus travel into London.

**Future Opportunities?.**

Statistics show that students of foreign languages have access to a greater number of career possibilities and develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. The benefits to society are many: individuals fluent in other languages enhance our economic competitiveness abroad, improve global communication, and, some would add, maintain our political and security interest.

Universities offer not only degree courses in one or more languages. Some degrees integrate the study of a language with other subjects such as European/ International Studies, Business Studies or Leisure and Tourism. Other courses combine language study with another subject e.g. Marine Sciences with French, Spanish and Computer Science. You may even take specialist language options which relate directly to your main course of study e.g. French for lawyers, German for Engineers.

**Who should I contact for additional information?**

Course contact: Mrs C Piotrowski, [caroline.piotrowski@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:caroline.piotrowski@biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

Examination board: AQA

## GCE Geography

“Geography graduates are highly employable”.  
Times Educational Supplement

"Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future"  
Michael Palin

### What Will I Learn?

AQA A Level Geography is made up of three components, two of which are examined. This A Level course has been designed to excite your mind, challenge perceptions and stimulate your investigative and analytical skills. Thus providing you with the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm sought by higher education and employers. We have students every year progressing onto university to read Geography or Geography related degrees.

### What Are The Entry Requirements?

- Geography GCSE at grade C or above.
- English **AND** Maths GCSE at grade 4 or above.

### Overview of the course: what will I study?

Two components:

- Physical geography and people and the environment
- Human geography and geographical fieldwork and investigation

Year	Winter Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Fieldwork/ geographical skills
1	Coastal systems and landscapes	Hazards	Changing Places	Geographical Investigation and geographical skills
2	Water and carbon cycles	Global systems and global governance	Population and environment	Geographical Investigation and geographical skills

### How will I be assessed?

#### Component 1: Physical Geography

##### What's assessed

Section A: Water and carbon cycles

Section B: either Hot desert systems and landscapes or **Coastal systems and landscapes** or Glacial systems and landscapes

Section C: either **Hazards** or Ecosystems under stress

##### How it's assessed

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes • 120 marks • 40% of A-level

## **Component 2: Human geography**

### **What's assessed**

Section A: Global systems and global governance

Section B: Changing places

Section C: either **Contemporary urban environments** or Population and the environment or Resource security

### **How it's assessed**

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes • 120 marks • 40% of A-level

## **Component 3: Geographical fieldwork investigation**

### **What's assessed**

You will complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The exam board requires four days of compulsory fieldwork to do this. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by you that relates to any part of the specification content.

### **How it's assessed**

3 000 – 4 000 words • 60 marks • 20% of A-level • marked by teachers • moderated by AQA

By studying geography it will enable you to develop a range of key transferable skills which will be essential for whatever post-18 opportunities you pursue. The key skills you will be able to develop during this course are:

- Critical thinking and critical questioning skills.
- Informed decision making skills.
- Data analyses and evaluation skills.
- Information Technology.
- Problem solving and lateral thinking skills.
- Teamwork and leadership.
- Independent learning and research skills.
- Effective communication skills (written and verbal).
- Time Management.
- Report and essay writing.

### **Costs**

To fulfil the fieldwork requirements set by the exam board we offer a residential fieldtrip to the Dorset coastline which we kindly ask the students to pay for. Further information regarding this can be obtained from the geography department.

### **Future opportunities?**

All good universities and post-18 institutions look upon geography as a subject that links the Arts and Sciences; as such it opens up a wide range of higher education and career opportunities; it does not force you to make an early commitment. It invariably counts as a 'second science' and/or a 'second arts' subject for most courses at good universities.

Geography combines well with almost all other A Level subjects. Taken with sciences like mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology, geography supports applications for almost any science-based university course like engineering, psychology, environmental sciences and geology. Taken with humanities like English, French, history or economics, geography supports an equally wide range of university courses such as business, law, media, politics and philosophy.

Course contact: Mrs D Morgan, [danielle.morgan@mybiddenham.com](mailto:danielle.morgan@mybiddenham.com)

Exam board information: AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/as-and-a-level/geography-7037>

For any further assistance or queries please see Mrs Morgan, Head of Geography:

[danielle.morgan@mybiddenham.com](mailto:danielle.morgan@mybiddenham.com)

## GCE German

### What will I learn?

The course aims to develop an understanding of up to date language and contemporary issues from authentic sources, such as newspapers, magazines, radio, television, songs and the Internet. The target language is used most of the time, in the classroom and in conversation with an Assistant. 'Taking part' is vital for success. Students are encouraged to visit a country where the language is spoken and to take part in the county sixth form exchange programme. In addition, A level linguists are encouraged to apply for the county work experience scheme, whereby you can spend 2 weeks working in a German firm. In previous years, Biddenham students have worked in offices, factories and banks gaining tremendous experience and giving themselves a most interesting CV.

### Subject content:

- ❖ Social issues and trends
- ❖ Political and artistic culture
- ❖ Grammar

### Option:

- ❖ Works: Literary text and film

### Assessments:

#### Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

##### What's assessed:

- Aspects of target language speaking society: current trends
- Aspects of target language-speaking society: current issues
- Artistic culture in the target language -speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the target language-speaking world
- Grammar

**How it's assessed:** Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

- 100 marks
- 50% of A-level

#### Paper 2 writing

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification

- Grammar

**How it's assessed:** Written exam: 2 hours, 80 marks in total, 20 % of A Level

### **Paper 3: Speaking**

#### **What's assessed:**

- Individual research project
- One of four sub themes: Aspects of society: current trends, current issues, artistic culture , aspects of political life

#### **How it's assessed:**

- Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- 60 marks in total
- 30% of A-level. Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).
- Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).

No access to a dictionary during the assessment (including 5 minutes preparation).

Students may take the assessment only once before certification.

Assessments will be conducted by either the centre or a visiting examiner and marked by an AQA examiner.

**For further details please email [caroline.piotrowski@mybiddenham.com](mailto:caroline.piotrowski@mybiddenham.com)**

#### **What are the entry requirements?**

- German GCSE at grade B or above.

It cannot be denied that there is quite a leap between GCSE and the AS level course, but no more in Languages than with any of your subjects. A-level courses demand a greater level of self-motivation and an ability to act on your own initiative; if you possess these qualities then we would welcome you to the Languages Department to discuss your plans. We will be happy to show you the course books and would encourage you to chat to students who are currently following the course.



## A2 LEVEL

Successful completion of AS level. Pupils achieving Grade D or below at AS should contact the Department to discuss the possibility of retaking AS units whilst following the A2 Course

**What are the costs?**

You are expected to have a good, sixth form-standard, bilingual dictionary and a grammar workbook (the title of which you will be told at the start of the course).

It is anticipated that students will travel to the target language country either through trips arranged by the Department or via the county run exchanges or work experience. Costs will vary depending on the nature of the trip.

Day trips to language immersion conferences take place in Year 13. The cost of this is usually less than £20, plus travel to London.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Please refer to entry requirements above.

**Future opportunities**

Statistics show that students of foreign languages have access to a greater number of career possibilities and develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. The benefits to society are many: individuals fluent in other languages enhance our economic competitiveness abroad, improve global communication, and, some would add, maintain our political and security interests.

Universities offer not only degree courses in one or more languages. Some degrees integrate the study of a language with other subjects such as European/ International Studies, Business Studies or Leisure and Tourism. Other courses combine language study with another subject e.g. Marine Sciences with French, Spanish and Computer Science. You may even take specialist language options which relate directly to your main course of study e.g. French for lawyers, German for Engineers.

**Who should I contact for additional information?**

Course contact: Mrs C Piotrowski, [caroline.piotrowski@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:caroline.piotrowski@biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

### **What will I learn?**

We are following the AQA specifications. There will be no changes until September 2017. Consequently all Government and Politics students will be writing the AS examinations in Summer 2017.

At A/S there are two units; both are 1 hour 30 minute written examinations with two structured source based questions from a choice of four.

Lessons are lively and debate is stimulated by regular visiting speakers including politicians and university lecturers. We also visit Parliament in the early Spring.

### **UNIT 1 – PEOPLE, POLITICS AND PARTICIPATION**

This unit focuses on the theme of political behaviour in the UK. It explores how people's different patterns of participation can be explained and the forms of participation in a democracy. The importance of voting behaviour, the influence of electoral systems in communicating political opinion and the controversies surrounding the use of referendums are crucial topics for analysis. The principal institutions through which people's participation is achieved: political parties and pressure groups are explored in terms of communicating views, shaping people's political ideas and the acquisition of resources which are likely to make them more powerful within the wider political system.

### **UNIT 2 - GOVERNING MODERN BRITAIN**

This unit focuses on the process of governing the UK, with power dispersed from local to European levels. The extent to which Britain's unique constitution regulates the process of government and maintains the balance between individual rights and the power of the state is explored. The role of Westminster in providing a democratic element in government is examined as well as the degree to which power rests in the hands of unelected bureaucrats. The direction which government takes is analysed at the very apex of power in arrangements within the core executive.

At A2 there are two more 1 hour 30 minute units; Unit 3A in January and Unit 4A in June. Both units require answering two essay questions from a choice of four. This is an exciting course providing the opportunity to compare the UK to our 'cousins across the pond'.

### **UNIT 3A - THE POLITICS OF THE USA**

Topics include: The Electoral Process and Direct Democracy; Political Parties; Voting Behaviour; Pressure Groups and Protest Movements.

### **UNIT 4A -THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA**

Topics include: The Constitutional Framework of US Government; The Legislative Branch of Government: US Congress; The Executive Branch of Government and The Judicial Branch of Government: The Supreme Court.

A2 offers many opportunities for individual study and research in order to focus and specialise on topical issues. Student conferences will also be attended and there will be opportunities to meet American politicians.

**What are the entry requirements?**

- English GCSE at grade C or above.

**Is there anything else I need to know?**

Ms Rose is very happy to discuss any of the details of the course, and your suitability for it, with you. You can come and try a 'taster' lesson anytime too. Pop into H11 or email [helen.rose@mybiddenham.com](mailto:helen.rose@mybiddenham.com)

**Future Opportunities?**

The study Government and Politics enables students to develop a wide range of highly valued skills including the ability to comprehend, synthesise and interpret information; analyse and evaluate knowledge; identify connections, similarities and differences between the areas studied; select relevant material and construct and communicate arguments clearly and coherently using appropriate vocabulary. Politics A-Level students choose a wide range of degree courses including: Public Policy, International Relations, Law, PPE, SPS and Management as well as Politics itself.

**Who should I contact for additional information?**

Course contact: Mr Alan Brown (Head of Sixth form) or follow us on Twitter @BISGovPolEcon

## GCE Graphic Design

### What will I learn?

Imaginative, creative and intuitive skills applied by the graphic designer along with aesthetic understanding and critical judgement are developed through working with a broad range of media, including traditional and new media technologies;

An understanding of the interrelationships between the design processes and the clients of graphic design along with an awareness of the contexts in which they operate will be developed through project based assignments.

The different roles, functions, audiences and consumers of graphic design practice will also be explored through a range of approaches to working with images, signs, symbols and text. An understanding of pictorial space, composition, rhythm, scale and structure and an understanding of formal elements, such as colour, tone, texture, shape and form will be developed.

### How will I be assessed?

AS Unit 1: Portfolio of Creative Skills \*Unit code 6RM01/6GR01

Internally assessed

Availability: June

### Content summary:

In this unit students are given the opportunity to develop their creative, technical and practical skills through a series of product investigation, design and manufacturing activities.

Students will produce one portfolio with three distinct sections which will demonstrate their creativity and flair when investigating, designing and making product(s). Ideally different products should be chosen for the three distinct sections as students are not being asked to carry out one large design and make exercise but three smaller and more focused tasks which build up to provide a detailed portfolio of their skills.

Depending on the route students are studying, their products must comply with the requirements of either a resistant materials technology product or a graphic product. This unit has been designed to be as flexible as possible, offering students a wide range of valid approaches in producing their portfolio of creative skills.

Students are encouraged to be as creative as possible and there are no barriers to choices of product investigation, product design or product manufacture, as long as the work submitted by students targets assessment criteria effectively and at the correct level of response for their abilities.

### Assessment:

This unit is internally set and marked by the centre and externally moderated by Edexcel.

The student will produce one portfolio that contains evidence for all three distinct sections. It is important that all stages of the manufacturing process are photographed in order to evidence that the product is complete, expertly made, well finished etc.

60% of the total AS mark

30% of the total GCE marks

AS Unit 2: Design and Technology in Practice

Unit code 6RM02/6GR02

Externally assessed

Availability: June

### Content summary:

In this unit students will develop a knowledge and understanding of a wide range of materials and processes used in the field of design and technology.

It is important for students, as designers, to learn about materials and processes so that they can develop a greater understanding of how products can be designed and manufactured.

Students will also learn about industrial and commercial practices, and the importance of quality checks and the health and safety issues that have to be considered at all times.

The knowledge and understanding students develop in this unit can be easily applied to Unit 1: Portfolio of Creative Skills.

**Assessment:**

1 hour 30 minute examination set and marked by Edexcel.

The paper will be a question and answer booklet, consisting of short-answer and extended-writing type questions, all of which are compulsory

40% of the total AS mark

20% of the total GCE mark

A2 Unit 3: Designing for the Future \*Unit code 6RM03/6GR03

Externally assessed

Availability: June

**Content summary:**

In this unit students will develop their knowledge and understanding of a range of modern design and manufacturing practices and contemporary design issues. The modern designer must have a good working knowledge of the use of ICT and systems and control technology in the design and manufacture of products. They must also be aware of the important contributions of designers from the past which may provide inspiration for future design. It is increasingly important that students develop an awareness of the impact of design and technological activities on the environment. Sustainable product design is a key feature of modern design practices.

**Assessment:**

2-hour examination paper set and marked by Edexcel.

The paper will be a question and answer booklet, consisting of short-answer and extended-writing type questions, all of which are compulsory

40% of the total AS mark

20% of the total A2 mark

A2 Unit 4: Commercial Design \*Unit code 6RM04/6GR04

Internally assessed

Availability: June

**Content summary:**

In this unit students are given the opportunity to apply the skills they have acquired and developed throughout this course of study, to design and make a product of their choice that comply with the requirements of either a resistant materials technology product or a graphic products, depending on the route they are studying. In order to reach high attainment levels, students must adopt a commercial design approach to their work, reflecting how a professional designer might deal with a design problem and its resolution.

The choice of design problem should have a real commercial use, in that it should be useful to a wider range of users beyond an individual, unless it has been specifically commissioned as a 'one-off'. The design problem should provide opportunities for a client or user-group to have input into decision making at various stages of the design and make process.

A client or user-group is defined as any third party identified by a student, that is referred to and who can give informed critical feedback at various stages throughout the design process. Clients and user-groups do not need to be specialists or experts; they can be drawn from any relevant group of people and may include other students, friends or family members.

A key feature of this unit is that students consider issues related to sustainability and the impact their product may have on the environment. A student may choose to design and make a sustainable product, but if they do not, they should still consider the issues of sustainability at relevant points in their designing and making activities.

Sustainable issues include materials production and selection, manufacturing processes, use of the product and its disposal/recycling.

**Assessment:**

This unit is internally set and marked by the centre and externally moderated by Edexcel.

Students are given the opportunity to design and make a produce of their choice. This unit results in the development of an appropriate product supported by a design folder. It is important that all stages of the manufacturing process are photographed in order to evidence that the product is complete, expertly made, well finished etc

60% of the total A2 mark

30% of the total GCE mark

**What are the entry requirements?**

- English GCSE at C or above.
- Design Technology GCSE **OR** Art & Design GCSE at grade C or above.

Course contact: Mrs N Pearson, [nicola.pearson@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:nicola.pearson@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk)

Exam board: Edexcel

## Cambridge Technical Health and Social Care

### Course Title

Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care

### What will I learn?

Building positive relationships in health and social care, this unit aims to introduce you to the many different relationships that you will encounter within the health and social care sector, whether with colleagues, senior members of staff, other professionals within the sector and individuals who require care and support. By doing this unit you will gain an understanding of how context can impact on relationships and the many factors that influence the building of positive relationships.

Equality diversity and rights on health and social care, this unit will help you to understand the implications of diversity on practice and also the effects of discriminatory practice on individuals who require care or support. You will also gain an appreciation of how legislation and national initiatives can support and promote anti-discriminatory practice.

Health safety and security in health and social care, this unit introduces you to health, safety and security in health and social care. You will acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to equip you in maintaining a safe working environment for yourself, your colleagues and individuals who require care and support. You will learn how legislation, policies and procedures work to reduce risks in health and social care and the consequences of not following them. You will also learn how to respond to different incidents and emergencies with health and social care settings.

Anatomy and physiology for health and social care, this unit aims to introduce you to the basic structure and functions of the body systems involved in everyday activities and maintenance of health, including cardiovascular, respiratory and digestive systems. You will also understand the part played by organs such as the pancreas, liver and kidney. You will investigate the systems and organs involved in detecting and responding to change such as the nervous system as well as the eyes and ears.

Nutrition for health, this unit introduces nutritional health and the components of good nutrition. You will have the opportunity to scrutinise different foods, consider their health benefits and investigate how to support other people to impact their health and well-being.

Psychology for health and social care (unit is still being developed)

### How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 - Building positive relationships in health and social care - internally assessed

Unit 2 - Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care - externally assessed

Unit 3 - Health, safety and security in health and social care - externally assessed

Unit 4 - Physiology and anatomy for health - externally assessed

Unit 10 - Nutrition for health - internally assessed

Unit 22 - Psychology for health and social care - internally assessed

### What are the entry requirements?

Level 3 Academic / Technical Course entry requirements.

It would be recommended to have a C in GCSE science(s) but not an entry requirement

### Future Opportunities

Careers in

Childcare

Nursing

Paediatrics

Midwifery

Social work

Teaching/similar careers

Police Officer

Probation Officer/YOT



Medicine  
Paramedics  
Health visitor  
Mental health  
Counselling

**Course contact:** Mrs A Speight, [abigail.speight@mybiddenham.com](mailto:abigail.speight@mybiddenham.com)

**Examination Board:** OCR

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/vocational-education-and-skills/cambridge-technicals-health-and-social-care-level-3-certificate-extended-certificate-foundation-diploma-diploma-05830-05833-2016-suite/>

### **Why study History at A Level?**

Wherever you will go in the future, whether it is to university or an apprenticeship or into the world of work people will know and value your education when you tell them you have done A Level History. This is because History is a challenging and exciting discipline that develops not only your deeper understanding of the present by exploring the past but it also enhances your analytical and evaluative skills and teaches you how to gather together all of your knowledge and understanding and formulate your own supported argument.

In the past students of History have gone on to study a variety of subjects at university including politics, law, education, international relations, anthropology, archaeology, sociology, criminology, literature and business as well as ancient, medieval and modern history. History graduates have had success in fields like politics, entertainment, media, writing and law.

An A Level in History shows that you have a wide range of higher-order thinking skills such as the ability to research independently and build a strong argument. These are transferable skills that can be applied to any future discipline or employment. However, more than anything, History is a fascinating voyage into a past filled with colourful characters, stories, inventions, adventures, comedies and tragedies, all of which have shaped who we are today.

### **What will you study?**

Here at Biddenham we do Edexcel A Level History. There are four units in A Level history, three exam units and one independently researched coursework unit. The units are split across two years and cover a mixture of historical periods from the 18th century onwards. All of your lessons are taught by history specialists who have expertise in the areas covered by the specification.

### **Yr 12**

#### **Britain Transformed, 1918-97**

Starting in September of Y12 you will be studying the first half of your linked units on democracies in change. In the 20th century liberal democracies came under increasing challenge from both within and without. Through learning about Britain, you will be able to understand the nature and effectiveness of the response to these challenges. The unit focuses on the social, political and economic impacts of these and covers everything from the impact and the end of WWI to the rise and fall of Margaret Thatcher and her legacy.

#### **Ireland and the Union, c1774-1923**

The second unit studied in Y12, this comprises two parts: the breadth focus on long-term changes in Ireland's relationship with the United Kingdom and the more in-depth focus on key episodes of history during this period. The unit focuses on the political and social impact of the changes from the start of rebellion in the late 18th century through to the end of the Irish Civil War.

### **Yr 13**

#### **The USA, 195-1992: Conformity and Challenge**

The second of the two democracies in change units, this one consists of a depth study of the USA in the post-WWII period, focusing on the growing affluence of white suburbia in the 1950s through the racial and political protests of the 1960s to the rise of right-wing groups in the 1980s and the development of bitter divisions between Democrats and Republicans. This unit, like the one on Britain, focuses on social, political and economic changes and challenges.

#### **Interpretations of the Past Through Coursework**

The coursework unit will link to the work done on Ireland in Y12, this ensures that you will have a very solid foundation upon which to build your independently researched historical enquiry. As you delve deeper into Anglo-Irish history you will be able to see how historians have formulated their arguments and use that historiographical understanding to structure your own.

### **Why did we choose these topics?**

The topics that were chosen play to the strengths and interests of the teachers who will be helping you through your History A Level, but more than that they ensure that you are taught topics that will be of interest to you and are easy to engage with. The sense of slight familiarity with the periods covered will help you because it means you will start with a preconception about the period and the people who lived then, be it good or bad; most of us will know of Martin Luther King Jr, John F. Kennedy, Margaret Thatcher and the NHS.

### How will you be assessed?

The History specification has recently undergone several changes to meet the new government guidelines. As a result the assessment schedule has changed significantly. Paper 1, 2 and 3 are exam units and will be assessed at the end of Y13. The coursework unit will be completed part-way through Y13 but will be typed and include a bibliography.

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3	Coursework
1H Britain Transformed, 1918-97	2H.2 The USA, 1955-92: conformity and challenge	H6 36.2 Ireland and the Union, c1774-1923	04 Coursework on Anglo-Irish History
Worth 30% of A Level	Worth 20% of A Level	Worth 30% of A Level	Worth 20% of A Level

### What are the entry requirements?

- English GCSE at grade C or above and if History GCSE was taken then a grade C or above.
- An interest in and enjoyment of history.
- A desire to challenge yourself to develop skills of analysis, research, evaluation and argument.
- A desire to take part in class discussion and independent projects.
- An acceptance of the high level of reading required.
- The ability to work independently and do independent study each week.

### What are the costs?

You will be expected to purchase the textbooks for the unit and use these to help you with your study. There are three textbooks, one covers both Paper 1 and Paper 2 and the other two covers Paper 3 and contributes towards your Coursework. As of November 2016 the books were priced at:

		
£24.99 (available for purchase now)	£16.99 (available for purchase now)	£7.99 (on average; available now for purchase)

There are also trips planned for A Level history, students are responsible for paying for any trip fees. You will need to provide your own stationery for use in lessons (i.e. pen and paper).

**Is there anything else I need to know?**

History is a challenging subject and will require considerable reading and plenty of writing. The pay-off is that in addition to learning a lot about the world and its history, a History A Level is held in very high regard by university admissions tutors and employers.

If you have any further questions you can contact the Head of History, Mrs Vaughan via e-mail at: [reeann.vaughan@mybiddenham.com](mailto:reeann.vaughan@mybiddenham.com) or Tweet us at: @BISHistoryDep

### What Will I learn?

Law aims to provide grounding in the main principles and development of English Law; a knowledge and understanding of the structure, personnel and functions of the English Legal System, the Criminal Law and a critical awareness of the changing nature of Law in society. It is advisable for anyone who is considering a career in law, to study law so that they can make an informed choice about their career.

### What Are The Entry Requirements?

- English GCSE at grade C or above.

#### OR

- Law GCSE at grade C or above.

#### OR

- History GCSE at grade C or above.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

Assessment is based on two external examinations for the AS and a further two for the A2. There is no coursework and examinations are sat in May (AS) and June (A2).

### What Are The Costs?

Students will be expected to purchase an up to date textbook and revision guides. In addition, we may visit the local and central London law courts, the Houses of Parliament and attend conferences organised by the exam board.

### Is There Anything Else I need to Know?

The Law course is designed to give you a clear view of the English Legal System (AS) and Criminal Law (A2). You will be given class notes, your teacher will deliver the main aspects of each topic, and you will be expected to undertake individual and group work based on the teacher's delivery. This may involve carrying out more detailed research.

There will be a variety of methods to deliver the subject. There will be lectures, question and answer sessions, individual task work, group work, discussions, role-play, student presentations, timed exam questions and mock exams. Much of the information will be reproduced in diagrammatic form to make learning easier. You will be expected to make your own comprehensive revision notes, you will have to read a lot to reinforce your knowledge and understanding, apply the law to problems and issues; carry out independent research, willingly contribute to class discussions and activities and be committed to hard work.

### Future opportunities?

A large majority of our students go onto to study Law at university. The study of Law at A level allows students to make an informed choice about whether a career in the law is the right option for them. Those students who go onto to study other subjects at university have through the study of law developed essential skills to equip them for higher education.

Law graduates go on to train as solicitors or barristers or alternatively find employment in most areas – legal, local government, public sector, administration, business, personnel, banking, retail, tourism, etc.

### Comments Written By Law Students

“Law is an interesting subject to do, and even if you are not considering a job in law when you're older, it can help you in everyday life, such as your rights”

“Law is a challenging subject, it has opened my eyes to the laws that govern the land and the courts and the running of the whole country. The most challenging part of the subject is trying to remember cases that give examples of the law in action. The lessons are always interactive and light-hearted. I think it is an excellent subject to start with afresh.”

In my first year I perceived law as a difficult subject with too many concepts to focus on. However, as the course progressed I developed a liking for it. It is indeed an interesting discipline and affects our lives without us realising. If you are a person who likes to prove a point, win an argument and feel strongly about certain issues then law would be a wise choice for you. I now enjoy law so much I have decided to study law at university.”

## **Further Information**

Course contact: Mrs K Saggu, [kuldip.saggu@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:kuldip.saggu@biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

Exam board information: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/law/a-level/law-2160>











## GCE Mathematics

A level mathematics provides a framework within which a large number of young people continue the subject beyond GCSE level. It supports their mathematical needs across a broad range of other subjects at this level and provides a basis for subsequent quantitative work in a very wide range of higher education courses and in employment. It also supports the study of AS and A level further mathematics.

A level mathematics builds from GCSE level mathematics and introduces calculus and its applications. It emphasises how mathematical ideas are interconnected and how mathematics can be applied to model situations mathematically using algebra and other representations, to help make sense of data, to understand the physical world and to solve problems in a variety of contexts, including social sciences and business. It prepares students for further study and employment in a wide range of disciplines involving the use of mathematics.

AS mathematics, which can be co-taught with the A level as a separate qualification, is a very useful qualification in its own right. It consolidates and develops GCSE level mathematics and supports transition to higher education or employment in any of the many disciplines that make use of quantitative analysis, including those involving calculus.

### What will I learn and how will I be assessed?

Qualification	Component	Overview	Assessment
<b>A level Mathematics</b>	<b>Paper 1:</b> Pure Mathematics 1	AS content assessed at A level standard	 2 hours  100 marks
	<b>Paper 2:</b> Pure Mathematics 2	Remaining pure content which builds on and incorporates AS content.	 2 hours  100 marks
	<b>Paper 3:</b> Statistics and Mechanics	Section A: Statistics (50 marks) Section B: Mechanics (50 marks)	 2 hours  100 marks
<b>AS level Mathematics</b>	<b>Paper 1:</b> Pure Mathematics	Content aligned to Paper 1 of A level Maths, assessed at AS level standard	 2 hours  100 marks
	<b>Paper 2:</b> Statistics and Mechanics	Section A: Statistics (25 marks) Section B: Mechanics (25 marks)	 1 hour  50 marks

### What are the entry requirements?

- Maths GCSE at grade 7 or above.

### What are the costs?

A scientific calculator will be essential for this course.

### Future opportunities?

It has been shown that students with a good grade at A2 Mathematics earn on average £15,000 per annum more than those without. It is a prerequisite for entry to university courses to study finance or medicine.

Course contact: Mr P Strzelec, piotr.strzelec@biddenham.beds.sch.uk













Edexcel website: <http://www.edexcel.com/Pages/Home.aspx>

## GCE Further Mathematics

This course is designed for students who are very interested in Mathematics and want to be able to think through higher level problems and learn about new topics including complex numbers and polar coordinates.

### What will I learn and how will I be assessed?

For AS Level, one of the three modules studied at this level has to be Further Pure Maths 1 but the other two modules can be any of the application modules not already studied at AS or A2 Level Mathematics.

Qualification	Component	Overview	Assessment
<b>A level Further Mathematics</b>	<b>Paper 1:</b> Further Pure Mathematics 1	Based on the fixed core content AS content assessed at A level standard	 1.5 hours  75 marks
	<b>Paper 2:</b> Further Pure Mathematics 2	Based on the fixed core content Remaining pure content which builds on and incorporates AS content	 1.5 hours  75 marks
	<b>Paper 3:</b> Further Mathematics Option 1	Students take one of the following four options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further Pure</li> <li>• Further Statistics</li> <li>• Further Mechanics</li> <li>• Decision Maths</li> </ul>	 1.5 hours  75 marks
	<b>Paper 4:</b> Further Mathematics Option 2	Students take one of the following four options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further Pure</li> <li>• Further Statistics</li> <li>• Further Mechanics</li> <li>• Decision Maths</li> </ul>	 1.5 hours  75 marks
<b>AS level Further Mathematics</b>	<b>Paper 1:</b> Further Pure Mathematics	Content aligned to Paper 1 of A level Further Maths, assessed at AS level standard	 1.5 hours  75 marks
	<b>Paper 2:</b> Further Mathematics Option	Students take one of the following four options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further Pure</li> <li>• Further Statistics</li> <li>• Further Mechanics</li> <li>• Decision Maths</li> </ul>	 1.5 hours  75 marks

### What are the entry requirements?

Maths GCSE at grade 8 or above.

### What are the costs?

It is expected that each student will own a scientific calculator. It could also be useful to individual students to have a revision guide for each module taken.

### Future Opportunities.

There is research to suggest that someone who has Mathematics A Level earns more than £15,000 more per year than someone who does not.



An AS/A2 Level in Further Mathematics is an entry requirement for some university courses. It is beneficial to have studied to this level for some careers especially those of a heavy mathematical nature including engineering and aeronautics.

Course contact: Mr P Strzelec, [piotr.strzelec@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:piotr.strzelec@biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

Edexcel website: <http://www.edexcel.com/Pages/Home.aspx>

## GCE Media Studies

### What will I learn?

Studying this subject will mean you study a comprehensive range of media theory and practice. There is a strong focus on new technologies and you will look at the audience as both consumers and producers of media texts.

As a candidate you will learn the basics of deconstructing Media Forms by looking into Media Representations, Institutions, Audiences, News Values, Moral panics, Semiotics, Structuralism and post-structuralism, Postmodernism and its critiques, Gender and Ethnicity, Marxism and Hegemony, Liberal Pluralism, Colonialism and Post-colonialism, Audience Theories, Genre Theories.

The Media Platforms studied include Broadcasting, Digital/web-based media (e-media) and Print Media. There is also the opportunity to learn how to capture moving images effectively and use up to date editing software to compile it all into an original piece.

### How will I be assessed?

- **Written Assessment 1** : Questions will focus on issues and debates in the media. A topic will be released in advance of the exam. Students will be expected to use any relevant elements of the theoretical framework in order to explore the ideas in the paper. 2 hours. 35% of A Level.
- **Written Assessment 2** : Questions will focus on the analysis of media products, through the lens of the theoretical framework. Students will be expected to refer to the Close Study Products (CSPs) provided by AQA and other products they have studied. They will also be expected to demonstrate understanding of the contexts in which the products were created. 2 hours. 35% of A Level.
- **Non-Written Assessment - Creating a Media Product** : Application of knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework. Practical skills relating to the media format of their choice. 30% of A Level.

The assessments in both AS and A2 surround a coursework module which allows the student to be creative. This can include filming, still camera work, radio presenting and website creation. There is also an exam in AS and A2 which surrounds the themes and ideas which would have been discussed during the year based upon specific examples of media texts.

### What are the entry requirements?

- English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

### Future opportunities?

The opportunities which are available for those students who study Media can lead to Higher education; Newspaper design; Magazine design; Journalism; Television production; Radio production; Marketing; Editing; 'New media' jobs; e-media; Development; Teaching and Lecturing as well as many other vocations.

Course contact: Mr A Smith, [ali.smith@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:ali.smith@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk)

Examination board: AQA

## GCE Music

### **What will I learn?**

Studying this subject will mean you study a comprehensive range of media theory and practice. There is a strong focus on new technologies and you will look at the audience as both consumers and producers of media texts. There are opportunities for you to investigate an area of the media that interests you, as well as having the opportunity to carry out practical production at both AS and A2.

As a candidate you will learn the basics of deconstructing Media Forms by looking into Media Representations, Institutions, Audiences, News Values, Moral panics, Semiotics, Structuralism and post-structuralism, Postmodernism and its critiques, Gender and Ethnicity, Marxism and Hegemony, Liberal Pluralism, Colonialism and Post-colonialism, Audience Theories, Genre Theories.

The Media Platforms studied include Broadcasting, Digital/web-based media (e-media) and Print Media. There is also the opportunity to learn how to capture moving images effectively and use up to date editing software to compile it all into an original piece.

### **How will I be assessed?**

At AS (year 12) you will study two units;

**Unit 1:** 'Investigating Media' concludes with a two hour written examination, consisting of four compulsory short answer questions and a choice of essay topic.

**Unit 2:** 'Creating Media', this is a practical unit where you produce two linked production pieces taken from two of the three media platforms studied in unit 1, followed by a 1500 word evaluation.

At A2 (year 13) you will study two further units;

**Unit 3:** 'Critical Perspective' which concluded in a two hour written examination, consisting of three compulsory questions on an unseen stimulus (piece of media) and a choice of essay topic.

**Unit 4:** 'Research and Production', this is a practical unit where you complete a critical investigation and a linked production piece.

The assessments in both AS and A2 surround a coursework module which allows the student to be creative. This can include filming, still camera work, radio presenting and website creation. There is also an exam in AS and A2 which surrounds the themes and ideas which would have been discussed during the year based upon specific examples of media texts.

### **What are the entry requirements?**

- English GCSE at grade C or above.

### **Future opportunities?**

The opportunities which are available for those students who study Media can lead to Higher education; Newspaper design; Magazine design; Journalism; Television production; Radio production; Marketing; Editing; 'New media' jobs; e-media; Development; Teaching and Lecturing as well as many other vocations.

Course contact: Miss G Murphy, [georgina.murphy@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:georgina.murphy@biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

Examination board: AQA



### What will I learn?

OCR's Physics B specification has been designed so students study physics within the distinctive 'Advancing Physics' context-based approach.

The A-level specification is split into six modules:

- **Module 1 – Development of practical skills in physics**
  - 1.1 Practical skills assessed in a written examination
  - 1.2 Practical skills assessed in the practical endorsement
- **Module 2 – Fundamental data analysis**
- **Module 3 – Physics in action**
  - 3.1.1 Imaging and signalling
  - 3.1.2 Sensing
  - 3.2 Mechanical properties of materials
- **Module 4 – Understanding processes**
  - 4.1 Waves and quantum behaviour
  - 4.2 Space, time and motion
- **Module 5 – Rise and fall of the clockwork universe**
  - 5.1.1 Creating models
  - 5.1.2 Out into space
  - 5.1.3 Our place in the universe
  - 5.2.1 Matter: very simple
  - 5.2.2 Matter: hot or cold
- **Module 6 – Field and particle physics**
  - 6.1.1 Electromagnetism
  - 6.1.2 Charge and field
  - 6.2.1 Probing deep into matter
  - 6.2.2 Ionising radiation and risk.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.advancingphysics.org/>

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-physics-b-advancing-physics-h157-h557-from-2015/>.

### How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Paper 2 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Paper 3 assesses content from Modules 1 to 6.

Practical endorsement.

Paper 1: Modelling physics is a 135 minute paper; is worth 37% and comprises two sections. Section A is a 15 mark multiple choice paper and Section B is an 85 mark paper composed of structured questions.

Paper 2: Exploring physics is a 135 minute paper; is worth 37% and comprises two sections. Section A is a 15 mark multiple choice paper and Section B is an 85 mark paper composed of structured questions.

Paper 3: Unified physics is a 90 minute paper; is worth 26% and is a single 70 mark paper.

### What are the entry requirements?

- English GCSE at grade C or above.
- Maths GCSE at grade B or above.
- Additional Science GCSE or Physics GCSE at grade B or above.

- For students who have taken BTEC level 2 courses, a **DISTINCTION** is required as well as a grade B in English and Maths.

### **What are the costs?**

A textbook at AS (and a further textbook at A2), which are used continuously throughout the course. Approximate cost: £20-25 per book. In addition a suitable scientific calculator. It is expected that most students will have one from studying GCSE Maths and Science, however if one is not available we recommend purchasing one in the Casio fx-83 or Casio fx-85 range, usually costing around £8-12.

### **Is there anything else I need to know?**

Most of the work is structured into study packs that will be available through Google Docs. Extensive use is made of ICT including the internet, PowerPoint, video clips, spread sheeting, flash animations and java applets.

Other subjects that would go well with Physics GCE are Advanced level are Biology, Mathematics and Chemistry. However, other combinations of subjects including Economics, Geology or Geography are also suitable. Students who are concentrating on Arts, Humanities or Modern Language subjects may wish to take Physics to broaden their studies by continuing to take a Science subject.

### **The demands of the course**

Year 12 and 13 is a halfway house between school and university. Students will be responsible for their own learning. Teachers are there to help students learn how to learn. It is intended that year 12 will be a continuation of GCSE Physics although new mathematical methods are introduced at this level, and students should be prepared to use extensive mathematics to solve a variety of physics problems. Year 13 can be more demanding.

Almost all students find the Physics course a challenge. Due to the rigorous nature of the course, homework is set and checked regularly.

### **Future opportunities?**

With a qualification in Physics you could go to University to study Physics or Engineering. Physics is highly regarded and is also an extremely important part of many careers, including architecture and construction. Because Physics is a numerate and scientific discipline it is also regarded as a badge for many disciplines, giving preferred entry into a variety of fields such as finance, management and medicine. Physics is a shortage subject, meaning that students with these qualifications are generally in demand.

Course contact: Mr A Parish, [antony.pariah@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:antony.pariah@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk)

## GCE Psychology

Psychology is the study of mental processes and human and animal behaviour.

### What will I learn?

Psychology is the science of the mind and behaviour and so the course focuses research through scientific principles. You will learn about seminal and contemporary approaches to Psychology including Behaviourism and Positive Psychology before looking at themes in Psychology which includes criminal behaviour, stress and schizophrenia. Alongside these units you will learn the principles of Psychological research, conduct your own research and practice statistical techniques to analyse your findings.

### How will I be assessed?

The A level course is entirely exam based and there will be exams at the end of year 2.

### What are the entry requirements?

- English, Maths and Science/Psychology GCSE at grade C or above.
- For students who have taken Science BTEC level 2 courses, a **DISTINCTION** is required.

### What are the costs?

There are minimal extra costs involved in this course. However there is the opportunity to purchase the course textbook.

### Is there anything else I need to know?

Student Comments:

"Lots of work - lots to learn and memorise, but very interesting."

"Psychology is a challenging subject, but equally rewarding. It wasn't what we expected but it broadened our knowledge and we are having fun along the way."

### Future opportunities?

A level Psychology is an excellent introduction to a career in Psychology, including counselling, sports, educational or forensic. Psychology bridges between the arts and science based subjects combining well with subjects such as Sociology, Biology, Communication Studies and Law. A highly regarded subject, A Level Psychology can lead students to university or employment.

For further information please contact: Mrs E Latchman [emma.latchman@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:emma.latchman@biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

Examination board: Eduqas

## GCE Religious Studies

### What will I learn?

AS and A-level Religious Studies helps to students develop their understanding of religion and belief including religious, philosophical and/or ethical thought and teachings. It also helps students to understand the influence of beliefs, teachings and practices on individuals, communities and societies. Students will also analyse the cause and significance of similarities and differences in belief, teaching and practice and the different approaches to the study of religion and belief. Students will be encouraged to deal with controversial ideas about beliefs and values and to have the confidence in their ability to express their own beliefs and values supported by reasoned argument and evidence. They will focus on exploring common ground and controversy in dealing with issues that arise in morality and religion and on using the writings of key scholars to explore differing viewpoints about the development of ideas.

### Year 1 Religious Studies

Students will study three different topics:

1. Religion and Ethics  
Significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics; A study of three ethical theories; Application of ethical theories to issues of importance.
2. New Testament Studies  
Social, historical and religious context of the New Testament; Texts and interpretation of the Person of Jesus; Interpreting the text and issues of relationship, purpose and authorship.
3. Study of Religion (Islam)  
Religious beliefs, values and teachings; Sources of wisdom and authority; Practices that shape and express religious identity.

### Year 2 Religious Studies

1. Religion and Ethics  
Ethical language; Deontology, Virtue Ethics and the works of scholars; Medical ethics: beginning and end of life issues.
2. New Testament Studies  
Ways of interpreting the scripture; Texts and interpretation: the Kingdom of God, conflict, the death and resurrection of Jesus; Scientific and historical-critical challenges, ethical living and the works of scholars.
3. Study of Religion (Islam)  
Social and historical developments; Works of scholars; Religion and society; Primary texts.

### What Are the Entry Requirements?

- GCSE, Religious Studies Grade C or above.

### How will I be assessed?

A Level: Each topic will be assessed by a two hour written examination worth 80 marks each. The paper will consist of three short, structured questions, two extended-response questions on an unseen passage and a choice of two extended essay questions.

### Future opportunities:

Religious Studies is a highly regarded A-level qualification and is on the list of subjects approved by Russell Group Universities. Students who study Religious Studies at A-level go on to study a wide range of subjects

### Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Mr P Forster, [paul.forster@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:paul.forster@biddenhm.beds.sch.uk)

Exam Board: Edexcel

## GCE Sociology

### What will I learn?



Sociology, essentially, is the study of society. We talk about how society works and who are the different groups that make up our society. During the two year course students study:

- Family and Households
- Education
- Research Methods
- Beliefs in Society
- Crime and Deviance
- Theory and Methods

The questions that we will consider in the first term are:

- Why do we go to school?
- How have family types changed in the UK?
- How does the government influence our education?

### **How will I be assessed?**

The A level course is entirely exam based and there will be an internal exam at the end of year 1 and an external exam for all units at the end of year 2.

### **What are the entry requirements?**

- English GCSE at grade C or above.
- Level 3 Academic Course entry requirements.

### **What are the costs?**

There are minimal extra costs involved in this course. However we visit a local museum during the Beliefs in Society unit and there is also the opportunity to purchase additional textbooks and journals.

### **Future opportunities?**

Students with Sociology A-Level are accepted onto a range of university degrees courses, from Nursing and Social Work to Journalism and Social Sciences. One of our past students is currently doing an Architecture degree at Manchester University! Sociology is a good course for progression into Public Services like the Police as the study of Crime & Deviance, for example, fosters a good understanding of the workings of wider society.

For further information please contact: Mrs Deena Gill - [Deena.gill@mybiddenham.com](mailto:Deena.gill@mybiddenham.com)

Examination board: AQA

Useful information regarding the course can be viewed on the AQA website:

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/AQA-7191-7192-WHY-CHOOSE-SOC.PDF>

### What will I learn?

The course aims to develop an understanding of up to date language and contemporary issues from authentic sources, such as newspapers, magazines, radio, television, songs and the Internet. The target language is used most of the time, in the classroom and in conversation with an Assistant. 'Taking part' is vital for success. Students are encouraged to visit a country where the language is spoken and to take part in the county sixth form exchange programme. In addition, A level linguists are encouraged to apply for the county work experience scheme, whereby you can spend 2 weeks working in a Spanish firm. In previous years, Biddenham students have worked in offices, factories and banks gaining tremendous experience and giving themselves a most interesting CV.

### Subject content:

- ❖ Social issues and trends
- ❖ Political and artistic culture
- ❖ Grammar

### Option:

- ❖ Works: Literary text and film

### Assessments:

#### Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

#### What's assessed:

- Aspects of target language speaking society: current trends
- Aspects of target language-speaking society: current issues
- Artistic culture in the target language -speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the target language-speaking world
- Grammar

**How it's assessed:** Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

- 100 marks
- 50% of A-level

#### Paper 2 writing

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

**How it's assessed:** Written exam: 2 hours, 80 marks in total, 20 % of A Level

### **Paper 3: Speaking**

#### **What's assessed:**

- Individual research project
- One of four sub themes: Aspects of society: current trends, current issues, artistic culture , aspects of political life

#### **How it's assessed:**

- Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- 60 marks in total
- 30% of A-level. Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).
- Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).

No access to a dictionary during the assessment (including 5 minutes preparation).

Students may take the assessment only once before certification.

Assessments will be conducted by either the centre or a visiting examiner and marked by an AQA examiner.

**For further details please email [caroline.piotrowski@mybiddenham.com](mailto:caroline.piotrowski@mybiddenham.com)**

#### **What are the entry requirements?**

- Spanish GCSE at grade B or above.

It cannot be denied that there is quite a leap between the GCSE and the AS Level course, but no more in Languages than with any of your subjects. A Level courses demand a greater level of self-motivation and an ability to act on your own initiative; if you possess these qualities then we would welcome you to the Languages Department to discuss your plans. We will be happy to show you the course books and would encourage you to chat to students who are currently following the course.

#### **A2 LEVEL**

Successful completion of AS Level. Pupils achieving Grade D or below at AS should contact the Department to discuss the possibility of retaking AS units whilst following the A2 course.

**What are the costs?**

You are expected to have a good, sixth form-standard, bilingual dictionary and a grammar workbook (the title of which you will be told at the start of the course).

It is anticipated that students will travel to the target language country either through trips arranged by the Department or via the county run exchanges or work experience. Costs will vary depending on the nature of the trip.

Day trips to language immersion conferences take place in Year 13. This cost of this is usually less than £20 plus travel into London.

**Is there anything else I need to know?**

Please refer to entry requirements above.

**Future opportunities?**

Statistics show that students of foreign languages have access to a greater number of career possibilities and develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. The benefits to society are many: individuals fluent in other languages enhance our economic competitiveness abroad, improve global communication, and, some would add, maintain our political and security interests.

Universities offer not only degree courses in one or more languages. Some degrees integrate the study of a language with other subjects such as European/International Studies, Business Studies or Leisure and Tourism. Other courses combine language study with another subject e.g. Marine Sciences with French, Spanish and Computer Science. You may even take specialist language options which relate directly to your main course of study e.g. French for lawyers, German for Engineers.

Course contact: Mrs C Piotrowski, [caroline.piotrowski@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:caroline.piotrowski@biddenham.beds.sch.uk)