



The Astley Cooper School

Part of the East Dacorum Co-operative Learning Trust

Post 16 Information Guide

2021 – 2023



Welcome to the Post 16 Information Guide 2021-2023



The Organisation of the Curriculum at Key Stage 5 (Years 12 - 13)

We have always offered a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 5 which, at the same time as meeting to the requirements of the National Curriculum, has given all students an opportunity to make choices. The aim of our curriculum is to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of young people and prepare them for the opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.

Post 16 Curriculum Offer 2021-2023

In this guide, you will find all the specifications for courses on offer at The Astley Cooper Sixth Form along with other courses available within our consortium. To ensure all students receive the best curriculum offer, we block subjects according to students' preference. Therefore, your child will be asked to select their four-option preference for next year to help the school best block subjects. Please note – courses and specifications may change. Students will receive an intentions form to complete on Friday 18 December.

In February 2021, we will invite students for an interview with a member of staff to discuss the options and their sixth form application. Please see below the courses that will be available for 2021:

Two Year courses at Astley Cooper Sixth Form

- Art, Craft & Design A-level
- Biology A-level
- Business Studies BTEC (Single or Double award)
- Computer Science A-level
- Dance BTEC Level 3
- Drama BTEC Level 3
- English Literature A-level
- Finance A-level
- Geography A-level
- History A-level
- Mathematics – A-level
- Psychology – BTEC
- Sport BTEC (Double or Triple Award)
- Travel & Tourism BTEC

One-Year Courses

- Extended Project Qualification (*AS-level)
- Finance AS-level
- Pre Apprenticeship Programme (Level 2)

Further Level 3 Consortium Courses on Offer

- Chemistry A-level
- Forensic Sciences BTEC Level 3
- Physics A-level

The Astley Cooper Sixth Form

Welcome to The Astley Cooper School, we are a mixed Co-operative Trust School. We are very proud of our Sixth Form and the individualised approach that we offer to our students, we know all of our students and provide opportunities for all abilities. Despite our small size, we offer a wide variety of courses. We also work closely with our Co-operative Trust partnership schools to deliver combinations tailored to individual needs. All courses have specific entry requirements.

Sixth Form Education provides a transition between compulsory education and higher education, training or employment. Students are encouraged to achieve academic success while also developing as individuals and preparing for their future choice of employment. We pride ourselves on our individual support of students so that they can make the best possible use of their time in the Sixth Form and use this as a springboard to greater success in the future.

Sixth Form study is both challenging and rewarding. Students are supported in taking more responsibility for their learning and are expected to undertake individual study outside of lessons. It is essential that students are committed to their learning so they are able to move on to higher education or into a career. They are encouraged to make full use of the school's dedicated Sixth Form study area.

Pastoral Care

As well as subject teachers all Sixth Form students are allocated a Form Tutor who oversees their personal development and provides individual guidance in one-to-one tutorial sessions throughout the year. We will offer advice and guidance on the next steps Post 18, whether this is university, an apprenticeship, a gap year or work.

We also offer our students financial support through our school bursary. This can be used for buying equipment, paying for additional courses, transport fares and costs incurred while on work experience.

Students participate in PSHE lessons once a week which are tailored to the needs of young adults and covers topics such as study skills, time management, money, driving and living in the wider world. We also provide external speakers during the year such as drug awareness, mental health and wellbeing, gambling and safe driving talks.

Next Steps

All students complete an individual learning and career plan and are supported in finding work experience tailored to their interests and future career ideas. Students attend careers events such as The Uni and Apprenticeship Show and UCAS Fairs. The process of applying to University is supported through PSHE lessons where students will look at writing a personal statement, choosing and applying to a university. Students will also look at preparing their CV's for a job and discuss possible gap year opportunities that are available.

We work closely with The University of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and the Nuffield Science Foundation to provide a range of opportunities for our students.



Student Commitment

The Astley Cooper School encourage students in the Sixth Form who have decided to commit themselves to the high expectations of the school. The transition from GCSE to A-Level and Level 3 BTEC courses is massive and it is very important that students work in and outside of lesson time to ensure they achieve great academic success.

The Sixth Form experience will provide:

- A learning environment within which students can aim to reach their full potential
- A friendly, caring and supportive environment
- A tutor team that monitors progress and provides guidance and assistance in setting targets for improvement
- Guidance and support for university entrance, apprenticeship applications or employment
- Suitable areas of study
- An on-going monitoring and tracking process within which there will be parents' evenings, written reports, interim assessments and interventions

Personal Development

Being a Sixth Form student is more than just gaining qualifications, it is about becoming a good well-rounded individual. We offer a wide range of activities that provide students with the opportunity to develop themselves which students will be able to add to a CV and UCAS applications.

Some of the opportunities on offer include:

- Active Citizens
- Running a school club such as music, drama or sport
- Helping with lunchtime duties
- Being a mentor to younger students
- Supporting KS3 forms
- Duke of Edinburgh awards
- Interact Club
- School Council
- Head Boy/Girl Team

Each year we appoint a Head Girl and Head Boy; these whole school appointments have a very important role in the school. Being the senior students and ambassadors in the school, they are role models and are looked up to by younger students. They are given responsibilities such as promoting the Sixth Form, running social events, speaking at school events and helping the school council with promoting student voice.

Pre-Apprenticeship Programme

In an innovative exciting development, we bring together the worlds of education and business. This unique award winning programme in Dacorum is a combination of in-school study and work in local placements. It is an ideal preparation for a traineeship or apprenticeship. Input from local employers, Pearson and the Careers and Enterprise Company has ensured that our students will be equipped with exactly the right skills for work in designated sectors and are accredited with appropriate qualifications.

The programme includes two days a week in a placement, which is carefully tailored to the student and two days in school completing units in employment skills alongside the opportunity to improve on grades in English and Maths or study the Extended Project Qualification. Our dedicated learning mentor supports these students. This programme will give the students a skill set that will give them a head start and make them stand above other candidates of the same age when applying for jobs. This course will need perseverance and commitment from students especially when they are out at work.



Monitoring

Monitoring is a crucial part of making sure students are on target. Data is collected across the year and reported home so you are able to see how your child is performing. We also hold parents evenings to allow you and your child to discuss their grades with their subject teacher.

All students will be given a target grade when they start in Year 12. This is taken from their GCSE grades and their progress score. Students will then be assessed in their subjects across the year and teachers will enter data into our school system.

We then colour code the data as follows:

Red – Students three or more grades below their target across all their subjects

Amber – Students not reaching their target by two grades across all subjects

Green – Students exceeding their target grade by one or more in all subjects

If a student is on Red, they are closely monitored and given extra support on a Friday when lessons do not take place.

Expectations

When students join the Sixth Form it is important that they are aware of what is expected of them. Students often struggle with the transition from Year 11 to Year 12 in the first term.

Sixth Form Students will need to formally agree to meet the following expectations:

1. Students are to attend all lessons and registrations on all sites punctually, including independent study lessons. Students' attendance must be above 94%.
2. Students must take responsibility for their own learning, complete all homework/classwork that is set and use private study time in school effectively. Students will also ensure they catch up on any work missed through absence.
3. Students must know that they are a role model for other students and will comply fully with the Sixth Form Dress Code (see leaflet), wear their Sixth Form ID badge at all times and demonstrate courtesy and respect towards others at all times.
4. Students will take a positive and active role in the Sixth Form, including attending all form times on both school sites, PSHE and PE sessions and contributing to the school through volunteering and attending school events in the evening.
5. Students are expected to behave in a manner that is respectful towards others. This includes being quiet during study periods in the study area, LRC and other areas of the school. Students are also required to use the school's IT system and Wi-Fi appropriately and check emails daily.
6. Students are expected to sign in and out of school at break and lunchtime only if they wish to go offsite. This is a privilege and will be taken away from students should they not meet expectations.
7. Students must understand that Friday 'Home Study' day is a privilege. This day will also be used for educational trips and intervention. This privilege will be taken away from students if they do not meet the following criteria:
 - Attendance and punctuality is above 94%
 - Students meet all deadlines for their courses
 - Student progress is low in all subjects
 - Any student who is on red monitoring
 - Students not completing independent study tasks set

If you have any concerns about your learning or any aspect of school-life, please let a member of the Sixth Form team know as soon as possible so that the issue can be dealt with as quickly as possible.

Sixth Form Dress Code

Sixth Form students are expected to set an example to the rest of the school through their high standard of business-like dress and the way they present themselves.

Parents and students choosing to attend our Sixth Form do so in the full knowledge of what our dress code requires of students.

Formal business wear

- Dress, skirt or tailored trousers
- Blouse or shirt with collar and tie
- Tailored Jacket
- Smart Jumper or Cardigan
- Smart business Shoes

Shirts should be tucked inside trousers or skirts

No strappy vest tops, tops that show midriffs, low-cut or see through tops allowed. Floaty or beach style dresses are not allowed.

If a skirt or dress is worn, it must be of a respectable length, no more than 10cm above the knee. Skirts that ride up due to over stretch material are not acceptable.

Outdoor clothing (hats, scarves, gloves, coats, hoodies) are not allowed to be worn inside the school building.

Jeans, leggings, sweatshirts or T-shirts are not allowed.

Make up and jewellery should be kept to a minimum to follow the whole school policy. Only one small piercing on each ear. No other piercings are allowed. Hair must be a natural colour, may not be extreme in style, and should not be shorter than a number 2 cut.

Shoes must be smart, no exaggerated heels, trainers, canvas shoes sandals or flip-flops. You should be able to wear these shoes to work or a place of business.

Any student who breaches the school dress code can expect to be sent home to change.

Sports Kit is necessary equipment for all core PE lessons. It is essential that the sports kit is appropriate and is only worn for PE, BTEC Sport and Dance practical lessons.

Entry Requirements

All subjects require a high level of ability and commitment to work, it is essential that students choose subjects that are appropriate. Students applying to our Sixth Form will be expected to meet two conditions.

1 – Academic performance

2 – Work ethic

To be accepted to study at The Astley Cooper Sixth Form, students will need to have achieved a grade 4 or above in English Language or Literature and Mathematics. Some subjects may require these to be higher, please see below for our minimum entry requirements for each subject you can study in the Sixth Form.

All students must meet the general criteria to join the Sixth Form as well as subject specific requirements.

- Good attendance and punctuality to school throughout Year 11
- Demonstrate excellent behaviour and attitude to work. Much is expected in the way of self-discipline, motivation and ambition. Students must have demonstrated these qualities during Year 11 to qualify for admission to our Sixth Form.

Each student of the Sixth Form must sign and adhere to a Sixth Form contract that involves all aspects of being a student in the Sixth Form including: Attitude to learning, punctuality and attendance. Any students not following the contract will be putting their position within the Sixth Form in jeopardy.

There are no entry requirements for any student wishing to study the Pre-Apprenticeship Programme.

For some subjects you may be able to apply for the subject despite not studying it at GCSE level, if this is the case, please speak to the subject teacher or me about whether you could apply.

Please find our minimum entry requirements below for each subject.

Subject	Entry requirements (minimum)
Art, Craft & Design A-Level	Grade 4 or a L2 Merit in an Art based subject.
Biology A-Level	Grade 5 in Single Science and Grade 55 in Trilogy Grade 5 in GCSE English Language & Maths It is desirable that these subjects are Grade 6
Business Studies BTEC	Grade 5 in English Language or Literature Grade 4 in Maths
Computer Science A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature Grade 6 in GCSE Maths
English Literature A-Level	Grade 6 or better in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	Can be chosen alongside your 3 A-Level choices. Grade 4 in GCSE English Literature or Language is required
Finance AS-Level and A-Level	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature Grade 4 in GCSE Maths
Geography A-Level	Grade 5 in GCSE Geography Grade 4 in GCSE English Language. It is desirable that this is Grade 5
History A-Level	Grade 4 in History. Grade 4 in English Language or Literature.
Maths A-Level	Grade 7 in GCSE Maths
Performing Arts (Dance) BTEC	Grade 4 in GCSE Dance or L2 Merit in BTEC Performing Arts Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature
Performing Arts (Drama) BTEC	Grade 4 in Drama or L2 Merit in BTEC Performing Arts Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature
Psychology BTEC	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language Grade 5 in Maths
Sport BTEC	Grade 5 in GCSE PE Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature
Travel and Tourism BTEC	Grade 4 in English Literature or Language

Subjects being taught at consortium schools:

Subject	Entry requirements (minimum)
Chemistry A-Level**	Grade 6 in Single Science and Grade 66 in Trilogy Grade 5 in Maths
Forensic Science BTEC**	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language Grade 4 in Single Science and Grade 44 in Trilogy
Physics A-Level**	Grade 6 in Single Science and Grade 66 in Trilogy Grade 6 in Maths

Key Dates for Sixth Form application

Sixth Form Discovery Day	Thursday 17 December
Intention Form Deadline	Friday 18 December
Option Blocks Issued	w/c 18 January 2021
Application for internal candidate deadline	Friday 5 February 2021
Application for external candidate deadline	Friday 6 March 2021
Sixth Form interviews	w/c 22 February 2021
Induction day	July 2021
GCSE Results day	Friday 27 August 2021



Art, Craft & Design

Type of Qualification: A Level

Level of Course: 3

Description:

The broad-based Art, Craft and Design title will enable you to explore a range of two-dimensional, three-dimensional or time-based approaches to your studies.

Artists, craftspeople and designers are often inspired and influenced by those working in a wide range of different creative areas. They draw inspiration from images, compositions, forms and ideas outside of their own discipline. They work frequently in multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary ways, breaking traditional boundaries to create works of art, craft and design that combine ideas, concepts and materials in new ways.

You will be encouraged to work and develop skills in a multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary way, exploring the connections between a variety of approaches, such as painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture, illustration, graphics, textiles, design crafts, digital photography.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through two components:

Component 1 - Personal Investigation. 60% of the total qualification and incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work and a personal study of a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose.

Component 2 – Externally Set Assignment. 40% of the total qualification and incorporates two major elements: preparatory studies (for which you will produce a portfolio of practical work) and a 15 hour period of sustained focus (for which you will produce your final outcome(s)).

Additional Information

To support your studies you will visit London museums and galleries.

You can progress from this qualification to:

- further education courses such as the BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (QCF)
- higher education courses such as BTEC Higher National Diplomas in art and design subjects, or direct to a BA Honours degree with an art and design focus
- apprenticeships or other training and employment in a related sector

It is likely that you will have studied GCSE in Art and Design, or have developed skills and interest in art and design practices.

Biology



Type of Qualification: A Level

Level of Course: 3

Description:

A level Biology aims to enthuse students in the essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject. Practical opportunities are regularly explored to allow the development of scientific skills, as well as mathematical and problem solving skills. The course considers the decisions made by society and how science contributes to the success of the economy.

Biology A level is an academic course involving fundamental practical tasks. The course is assessed through written papers of the concepts alone, with practical skills assessed separately. The course aims to develop an interest in further study and careers in Biology.

There are 6 units:

Module	
1	Development of practical skills in biology
2	Foundations in biology
3	Exchange and transport
4	Biodiversity, evolution and disease
5	Communication, homeostasis and energy
6	Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

How is the course assessed?

At A level, components assess the content from different modules as outlined in the table below. All components contain synoptic assessment.

Assessment title	Modules assessed	Length of paper	Assessment value
Biological processes (01)	1, 2, 3 and 5	100 marks (2hours 15minutes)	37%
Biological diversity (02)	1, 2, 4 and 6	100 marks (2hours 15minutes)	37%
Unified biology (03)	1-6	70 marks (1 hour 30 minutes)	26%
Practical endorsement in biology (04)	Throughout course	N/A Details of assessment to be confirmed by Ofqual.	Reported separately



Business (Single Option)

Type of Qualification: BTEC National Extended Certificate

Level of Course: 3

Description:

This course will give an underlying in-depth knowledge of various Business topics in a genuine vocational context. It will develop transferable business skills including researching and selecting information, writing skills, working on your own as well as in teams, decision-making, problem solving, being creative, analytical and evaluative skills. For over thirty years, the BTEC has seen more students progressing to higher education than ever before; in 2013, over three times more students started UK higher education courses with a mix of A-Levels and BTEC Nationals than in 2008. Employers also seek out BTEC-qualified students: four out of five BTEC students who progressed into employment considered BTEC as an important stepping stone towards their dream job.

What will I study?

This course emphasises vocational, practical contexts with a range of areas to study. There are three mandatory units which are:

- Exploring Business
- Developing a Marketing Campaign
- Personal and Business Finance

There is one optional unit to study which would be one of the following, developing an area of interest:

- The English Legal System
- Recruitment and Selection

How is the course assessed?

Students complete a series of tasks set in a work-related scenario which is tailored to local industry needs. Students complete, in controlled conditions, a task tackling an everyday challenge; some tasks also draw on pre-released information. There is also one externally assessed test to increase the rigour of the BTEC course. Students are learning about Business through a variety of sources including real life case studies, Business textbooks and bespoke materials. At Astley Cooper, we invested into high quality teaching materials, available online and printed.

Every student has access to learning materials via an easily accessible and friendly Google Classroom. Throughout the course, students have many opportunities to test their knowledge and receive an instant feedback.

Additional Information:

As well as studying the Business qualification, students can also study the Finance A-level qualification. Both the Business BTEC and Finance A-level qualifications complement each other.



Business (Double Option)

Type of Qualification: BTEC National Diploma

Level of Course: 3

Description:

This course will give an underlying in-depth knowledge of various Business topics in a genuine vocational context. It will develop transferable business skills including researching and selecting information, writing skills, working on your own as well as in teams, decision-making, problem solving, being creative, analytical and evaluative skills. For over thirty years, the BTEC has seen more students progressing to higher education than ever before; in 2013, over three times more students started UK higher education courses with a mix of A-Levels and BTEC Nationals than in 2008. Employers also seek out BTEC-qualified students: four out of five BTEC students who progressed into employment considered BTEC as an important stepping stone towards their dream job.

What will I study?

This course emphasises vocational, practical contexts with a range of areas to study. There are six mandatory units which are:

- Exploring Business
- Developing a Marketing Campaign
- Personal and Business Finance
- Managing an Event
- International Business
- Principles of Management

There are two optional units to study which would be developing an area of interest and will be chosen at the end of the first year

How is the course assessed?

Students complete a series of tasks set in a work-related scenario which is tailored to local industry needs. Students complete, in controlled conditions, a task tackling an everyday challenge; some tasks also draw on pre-released information. There is also one externally assessed test to increase the rigour of the BTEC course. Students are learning about Business through a variety of sources including real life case studies, Business textbooks and bespoke materials. At Astley Cooper, we invested into high quality teaching materials, available online and printed.

Every student has access to learning materials via an easily accessible and friendly Google Classroom. Throughout the course, students have many opportunities to test their knowledge and receive an instant feedback.



Computer Science

Type of Qualification: A Level

Level of Course: 3

Description:

A Level Computer Science will inspire and challenge students to apply the knowledge they gain with the creative and technical skills they acquire.

Some of the key benefits of Computer Science specifications:

- The qualifications will be focused on programming, will build on GCSE Computing and emphasise the importance of computational thinking as a discipline
- There will be an expanded maths focus, much of which will be embedded within the course
- The ICT content of the new specifications will be appropriate to a Computer Science qualification
- Computational thinking will be at the core of the new specifications

How is the course assessed?

The two year A Level will consist of three components, two of which will be externally marked question papers making up 80% of the qualification. The other 20% will be the coursework project, which will be focused on coding and programming.

Additional Information:

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, that can look at the natural world through a digital prism.

Computer Science qualification values computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

The A level course would suit students who would like to go on to study Computer Science at university or at higher level in an FE college. It would also provide a good grounding for those studying other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills.

English Literature



Type of Qualification: A Level
Level of course: 3

Description:

The aim of the course is to enable students to gain a solid understanding of how texts can be connected and how they can be interpreted in multiple ways so that students can arrive at their own interpretations and become confident, autonomous readers. Students are then not only equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for both exams and non-exam assessment, but also experience a rich, challenging and coherent approach to English Literature that provides an excellent basis for studying the subject at university.

The A level content is as follows:

Paper 1 - Drama

Section A is based on the reading of one Shakespeare play.

Section B is based on the reading one other play: either tragedy or comedy.

Paper 2 - Prose

Students will study two prose texts from a chosen theme, and at least one text will be pre-1900. Students answer one comparative essay on the studied theme.

Paper 3 – Poetry

Section A requires students to answer one comparative essay question on an unseen modern poem written post-2000 and one named poem from the studied contemporary text.

Section B focuses on pre- or post-1900 poetry and requires students to answer one essay question.

Non-exam assessment:

One 2500-3500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts that are different from the texts studied for the other exam components.

How is the course assessed?

Exam Paper 1 - Drama

Written exam: 2 hours 15mins. Open book. 30% of A-level

Exam Paper 2 - Prose

Written exam: 1 hour. Open book. 20% of A-level

Exam Paper 3 - Poetry

Written exam: 2hours 15mins. Open book. 30% of A-level

Non-exam assessment

20% of A-level.



Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Type of Qualification: Extended Project

Level of course: 3

Description:

This course is worth the equivalent of half an A-Level and can be studied in addition to three other full time subjects

To achieve the AQA Level 3 Extended Project Qualification learners undertake a self-directed project.

Students choose and design a project under the guidance of a supervising teacher. They choose to produce either a research essay on a topic of interest to them or create an artefact (for example a painting, a short film, a piece of music, a fashion item, an event or a computer program) which they research, design and make.

How is the course assessed?

On completing the project, learners give a presentation to a non-specialist audience using media that is appropriate to the type of project.

Students are also required to write up their project and throughout the course will complete a log which is also assessed.

For the research essay students are required to write 5,000 words. If students produce an artefact they will produce an accompanying report of between 1,000 and 5,000 words.

Additional Information:

The course supports students to become more independent in their learning. Students will develop and apply problem-solving skills. They are also encouraged to demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

The Extended Project Qualification is valued highly by employers and universities alike.



Financial Studies (2 Year Option)

Type of Qualification: Diploma in Finance Studies (IFS University College)

Level of course: 3

Description:

Students are encouraged to become responsible borrowers, sensible savers, and have an appreciation of the need for financial planning throughout their life. This course will develop the knowledge and skills required for students to make informed financial decisions by introducing the risks and challenges involved in personal finance and the tools for effective planning. Personal Finance will explore social-economic trends and the relationship with an individual's circumstances and attitudes.

Topics include:

- The purpose of money
- Payment methods
- Borrowing products
- Saving products
- Budgets and forecasts

The course does attract UCAS points for many Higher Education courses, and is an excellent choice of subject. It is equivalent to an A-level qualification. There is also a Certificate in Financial Studies, equivalent in points to an AS level, which runs for one year.

How is the course assessed?

The two year course consists of four mandatory units:

Unit 1 – Financial Capability for the Immediate and Short Term

Unit 2 – Financial Capability for the Medium and Long Term

Unit 3 – Sustainability of an Individuals Finance

Unit 4 – Sustainability of the Financial Services System

Both are examined in two parts:

Part A: 35 multiple choice questions in an online exam

Part B: pre-release case study requiring essay responses



Financial Studies (1 Year Option)

Type of Qualification: Certificate in Financial Studies (LIBF)

Level of course: 3

Description:

Students are encouraged to become responsible borrowers, sensible savers, and have an appreciation of the need for financial planning throughout their life. This course will develop the knowledge and skills required for students to make informed financial decisions by introducing the risks and challenges involved in personal finance and the tools for effective planning. Personal Finance will explore social-economic trends and the relationship with an individual's circumstances and attitudes.

Topics include:

- The purpose of money
- Payment methods
- Borrowing products
- Saving products
- Budgets and forecasts

The course does attract UCAS points for many Higher Education courses, and is an excellent choice of subject. It is equivalent to an AS qualification. There is also a Diploma in Financial Studies, equivalent in points to an A level, which runs for two years.

How is the course assessed?

The one year course consists of two mandatory units:

Unit 1 – Financial Capability for the Immediate and Short Term

Unit 2 – Financial Capability for the Medium and Long Term

Both are examined in two parts:

Part A: 35 multiple choice questions in an online exam

Part B: pre-release case study requiring essay responses

Geography



Type of Qualification: A Level
Level of course: 3

Description:

The course is designed to develop your knowledge, understanding and skills in human and physical Geography.

Over two years you will study:

Physical Geography	The Water Cycle The Carbon Cycle Coastal Systems Natural Hazards Ecosystems Physical Fieldwork Techniques
Human Geography	Global Systems Global Governance Changing Places Resource Scarcity Contemporary Urban Environments Human Fieldwork Techniques

At the end of Year 12 you will also undertake an individual investigation on a topic of your own choosing. This work will be written up as a piece of coursework, internally marked and externally moderated. The mark will for this work will contribute towards the overall assessment of the A-Level.

You will need to be prepared to 'read around' the different topics and take part in fieldwork activities throughout the course.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed through two written examinations and the investigation:

- There is a Physical Geography exam of 2 hours 30 minutes worth 40% of the overall grade.
- There is a Human Geography exam of 2 hours 30 minutes worth 40% of the overall grade.
- The individual investigation is worth 20% of the overall grade.

History



Type of Qualification: A Level

Level of Course: 3

Description:

Unit 1: In search of the American Dream: the USA, c1917–96

- Theme 1: The changing political environment, 1917–80
- Theme 2: The quest for civil rights, 1917–80
- Theme 3: Society and culture in change, 1917–80
- Theme 4: The changing quality of life, 1917–80
- **The historical interpretations focus is:** What impact did the Reagan presidency (1981–89) have on the USA in the years 1981–96?

Unit 2: India, c1914–48: the road to independence

- Topic 1. The First World War and its impact on British India, 1914–20
- Topic 2. Changing political relationships, 1920–30
- Topic 3. Consultation and confrontation, 1930–42
- Topic 4. The road to independence, 1942–48

Unit 3: The British experience of warfare, c1790–1918

Aspects in breadth: the changing role of government in preparing the nation for war, c1790–1918

- Changes in organising the military
- Changes in weaponry and the role of the people

Aspects in depth: Britain at war overseas

- Britain and the French Wars, 1793–1815
- The Crimean War, 1854–56
- The second Boer War, 1899–1902
- Trench warfare on the Western Front, 1914–18
- The war in the air, 1914–18

Unit 4: Coursework

Students must carry out an independently researched enquiry to analyse and evaluate historical interpretations and to organise and communicate their findings. The students can choose the topic – either *Appeasement* or *The Holocaust* – however, the question will be set by awarding body. The coursework will be a question, problem, or issue that has generated disagreement among historians.

How is the course assessed?

The History A-Level consists of three exams, and a coursework.

Paper 1 is worth 30% of the total qualification and assess students on a broad topic, in our case *In search of the American Dream 1917-96*.

Paper 2 is 20% of the qualification and is a depth study, in our case *India, c1914-48: the road to independence*. There are two essay questions.

Paper 3 is also worth 30% of the qualification, and is assessed as mixture of the other papers. Our topic is *The British experience of warfare, c1790-1918*, is a breadth study, students examine some aspects in depth.

Students will also have to complete a coursework assessment worth 20% of the qualification.



Mathematics

Type of Qualification: A Level

Level of Course: 3

Description:

In all new specifications for Mathematics, the emphasis is on providing a strong foundation for progress to further study. Importance is placed on representing situations mathematically, using models to investigate problems in context and being able to justify solutions. The enjoyment of tussling successfully with a complex mathematical problem cannot be underestimated.

Many of the topics studied in the course link to other subjects, such as forces in Physics, correlation in Geography and genetic probability in Biology.

The skills gained from this course are sought after for entry to a wide range of university courses, not just Mathematics or Accountancy. The Russell group universities feel that it is a sound basis for all their courses and look favourably on applicants with A level Maths. The analytical side of the subject is recognised as useful in many areas of employment too. It is a good stepping stone to the next life stage whatever you choose to do.

Course Content:

There are three main areas of study: core mathematics, mechanics and statistics. The core elements build on knowledge and skills gained at GCSE such as algebra, graphs and trigonometry.

Topics from Mechanics include Newton's laws, friction and moments.

In Statistics, work is based around a large data set, for example weather data from a number of weather stations. Diagrams, statistical tests, analyses and inferences are covered in the context of the data and there is an expectation that the statistical functions of both the calculator and spreadsheet software will be utilised effectively.

Mode of Assessment

This course is assessed through written examinations.

There are three exams, each of which is two hours long.

Pre-Apprenticeship Programme



Type of Qualification: GCSE & BTEC

Level of course: 2

Description:

The biggest barrier school leaver's face when applying for jobs is their lack of experience. The Astley Cooper School Sixth form works closely with organisations that are able to provide students with a structured work experience role, through which they will access new experiences, develop work-related competencies, grow in confidence, flourish as an individual and become ready for the world of work. The businesses we work with give students a real taste of working life and an introduction to the skills they need to secure a future job and succeed.

The programme aims to provide long term, high-quality work experience preparing students for the world of work. The one-year course is aimed at Post 16 students as an alternative to A-levels.

Students spend September in school in order to get work-ready. This includes a number of work-shops run by local businesses training students on skills they see as essential in the work place.

The students then begin their work experience placements for three days a week. The remaining two days are spent in school studying towards BTEC qualifications in Life Skills, which employers demand and students will benefit from throughout their career.

Many apprenticeships demand a GCSE pass in maths and English. Students can continue their studies in these subjects which will boost their career chances, as well as improving their long-term prospects and future earning potential.

By choosing our Pre-Apprenticeship Programme students will benefit from support provided to help them exceed their academic potential and become a sought after future employee.

How is the course assessed?

All students complete three BTEC courses equivalent to three GCSEs in the following programmes:

BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Personal and Social Development (single award)

BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Workskills (double award)

Students will also continue to study GCSE English and Maths if they have not achieved a level 4.



Performing Arts - Dance

Type of Qualification: BTEC National Extended Certificate
Level of Course: 3

Description:

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate gives you an understanding of and training in the skills needed to succeed in dance and the performing arts industry.

You will study four different units which will explore different dance practitioners, develop skills for performance and develop your dance technique in various dance styles. The course is taught with a vocational context allowing an insight into the dance industry and the different career paths that are available to you.

The course consists of three core units and one optional unit. All units consist of both practical and theory work.

The units are:

- 1: Investigating practitioners' work
- 2: Developing skills and techniques for live performance
- 3: Group performance workshop
- 4: Optional unit. Either contemporary technique, jazz technique or street dance technique

How is the course assessed?

Units 1 and 3 are externally set tasks which are marked by the examination board.
Units 2 and 4 are internally assessed through the centre.

Additional Information:

This course is ideal for students who have an interest in dance and the performing arts industry. Some prior knowledge and ability in dance would be beneficial and an enjoyment of performing is essential. The course is the equivalent of one A-Level.

This course will provide you with the level of skill required to pursue dance at a higher level. It may also lead to employment with the dance or performing arts sector.



Performing Arts - Drama

Type of Qualification: BTEC National Extended Certificate

Level of Course: 3

Description:

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate gives you an understanding of and training in the skills needed to succeed in drama and the performing arts industry.

You will study four different units which will explore different drama practitioners, develop skills for performance and develop your acting technique in various theatre styles. The course is taught with a vocational context allowing an insight into the acting industry and the different career paths that are available to you.

The course consists of three core units and one optional unit. All units consist of both practical and theory work.

The units are:

- 1: Investigating practitioners' work
- 2: Developing skills and techniques for live performance
- 3: Group performance workshop
- 4: Optional unit. Either acting styles, physical theatre technique or improvisation

How is the course assessed?

Units 1 and 3 are externally set tasks which are marked by the examination board

Units 2 and 4 are internally assessed through the centre

Additional Information:

This course is ideal for students who have an interest in drama and the performing arts industry. Some prior knowledge and ability in drama would be beneficial and an enjoyment of performing is essential. The course is the equivalent of one A-level.

This course will provide you with the level of skill required to pursue drama at a higher level. It may also lead to employment within the drama or performing arts sector.



Applied Psychology

Type of Qualification: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Psychology

Level of course: 3

Description:

This course is intended for students who wish to study the human mind and behaviours.

Topics include:

- The basic ideas from different approaches in psychology
- The understanding of how psychological research and concepts can explain gender, aggression and consumer behaviour.
- Social Psychology – how human behaviour occurs in a social context and how people, society and culture can affect behaviour.
- Cognitive Psychology – focusing on human information processing and how it can influence and be influenced by perception and memory.
- Research methods in psychology, including carrying out a pilot study on a topic of their choice.
- Health Psychology – the understanding of how stress is linked to health. Learning about addictive and unhealthy behaviours and the reasons behind these.

The course carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements for many courses.

This is a two year course which consists of three mandatory units:

Unit 1 – Psychological Approaches and Applications

Unit 2 – Conducting Psychological Research

Unit 3 – Health Psychology

And one optional unit from the following list that we will choose with the students at the end of the first year of study:

Unit 4 – Criminal and Forensic Psychology

Unit 5 – Promoting Children's Psychological Development

Unit 6 – Introduction to Psychopathology

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1 – 1.5 hour external examination paper

Unit 2 – Internally assessed coursework – Pilot Study

Unit 3 – 2 hour external examination paper

Unit 4/5/6 – Internally assessed coursework



Sport (Double Option)

Type of Qualification: BTEC National Diploma

Level of Course: 3

Description:

You will study the course for two years and will give you the equivalent of two A Levels. The Pearson Level 3 BTEC National Diploma in Sport comprises of 720 guided learning hours (GLH) for the complete qualification.

Students will study nine units over the two year course. Six are mandatory units which are:

1. Anatomy and Physiology
2. Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
3. Professional development in the Sports Industry
4. Sports Leadership
22. Investigating Business in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry
23. Skill Acquisition in Sport

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1 – Anatomy and Physiology – This will be assessed by a written exam with short and long answer questions assessing understanding of anatomy and physiology and how different systems of the body can affect sports performance.

Unit 2 – Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing – This is a Pre Release task. Students will interpret lifestyle factors and health screening data to create and justify a fitness training programme for a client. This will be externally assessed.

Unit 22 – Investigating Business in the Sports Industry - This is a Pre Release task. Students will research various sports and leisure businesses and will then have to produce a business plan for a selected sports business. This will be externally assessed.

All other units will be assessed through the completion of assignments over the two years. As you complete each unit you will be given a pass, merit or distinction grade by your tutor.

Additional Information:

This qualification is aimed at learners looking to progress to employment in the sports sector. It is designed for entry to roles such as gym instructor or fitness instructor, and is appropriate for progression to Level 3 Personal Trainer qualification or degree programmes.

If you decide to go to university or college you could take a degree or a BTEC Higher National in subjects such as Personal Training, Teacher Training and Fitness Programming.



Sport (Triple Option)

Type of Qualification: BTEC National Extended Diploma

Level of Course: 3

Description:

You will study the course for two years. This will give you the equivalent of three A Levels. The Edexcel Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport comprises of 1080 guided learning hours (GLH) for the complete qualification.

Students will study fourteen units over the two-year course. Ten are mandatory units, which are:

1. Anatomy and Physiology
2. Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
3. Professional development in the Sports Industry
4. Sports Leadership
7. Practical Sports Performance
8. Coaching for Performance
9. Research Methods in Sport
19. Development and Provision of Sport and Physical Activity
22. Investigating Business in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry
23. Skill Acquisition in Sport

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1 – Anatomy and Physiology – This will be assessed by a written exam with short and long answer questions assessing understanding of anatomy and physiology and how different systems of the body can affect sports performance.

Unit 2 – Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being – This is a Pre-Release task. Students will interpret lifestyle factors and health screening data to create and justify a fitness training programme for a client. This will be externally assessed.

Unit 19 - Development and Provision of Sport and Physical Activity - This is a Pre-Release task. Students will analyse the provision of sport and activity of a location in the UK. They will then be expected to produce a plan for improvement in the future. This will be externally assessed.

Unit 22 – Investigating Business in the Sports Industry - This is a Pre-Release task. Students will research various sports and leisure businesses and will then have to produce a business plan for a selected sports business. This will be externally assessed.

All other units will be assessed through the completion of assignments over the two years. As you complete each unit you will be given a pass, merit or distinction grade by your tutor.

Additional Information:

This qualification is aimed at learners looking to progress to employment in the sports sector. It is designed for entry to roles such as gym instructor or fitness instructor, and is appropriate for progression to Level 3 Personal Trainer qualification or degree programmes.

If you decide to go to university or college you could take a degree or a BTEC Higher National in subjects such as Personal Training, Teacher Training and Fitness Programming



Travel & Tourism

Type of Qualification: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Travel & Tourism

Level of course: 3

Description:

This course is intended for students who wish to study the Travel and Tourism industry. Students will learn about the how the Travel and Tourism industry contributes to the economy as well as examining the importance of tourism in the UK.

Students also study and investigate the features and appeal of global destinations. This qualification can lead to further education at University as well as transferable knowledge and skills such as communicating and presenting ideas.

Topics include:

- The different modes of travel
- The types of tourists and their travel requirements
- Global tourism destinations and their importance
- Marketing in Travel and Tourism

The course carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements for many courses.

The two year course consists of three mandatory units and one optional unit.

Unit 1 – The World of Travel & Tourism

Unit 2 – Global Destinations

Unit 3 – Principles of Marketing in Travel & Tourism

Unit 9 – Visitor Attractions

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1 – 1.5 hour paper

Unit 2 – External coursework (Three hours)

Unit 3 – Coursework

Unit 9 - Coursework

Subjects Taught At Consortium Schools:

Chemistry

Type of Qualification: A Level

Level of Course: 3

Studied at: Consortium school

Description:

The aim of this course is to develop your interest in, and enthusiasm for chemistry, including developing an interest in further study and careers in chemistry; an appreciation of how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society; developing essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of chemistry and how they relate to each other.

The course is divided into chemical topics, each containing different key concepts of chemistry. Once the key features of a chemical topic have been developed, applications are considered. While the teaching of practical skills may be integrated with the theoretical topics, they are assessed separately; this allows skills to be developed in a way suited to each individual student.

There are 6 units:

Module	
1	Development of practical skills in chemistry
2	Foundations in chemistry
3	Periodic table and energy
4	Core organic chemistry
5	Physical chemistry and transition elements
6	Organic chemistry and analysis

How is the course assessed?

At A level, components assess the content from different modules as outlined in the table below. All components contain synoptic assessment.

Assessment title	Modules assessed	Length of paper	Assessment value
Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry (01)	1, 2, 3 and 5	100 marks (2hours 15minutes)	37%
Synthesis and analytical techniques (02)	1, 2, 4 and 6	100 marks (2hours 15minutes)	37%
Unified chemistry (03)	1-6	70 marks (1 hour 30 minutes)	26%
Practical endorsement in chemistry (04)	Throughout course	N/A Details of assessment to be confirmed by Ofqual.	Reported separately

Forensic Sciences

Type of Qualification: BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Forensic Investigation

Level of course: 3

Studied at: Consortium school

Description:

Scientists and technicians working in science and science-related organisations must have a good understanding of core science concepts. A strong grasp of these concepts will enable you to use and apply this knowledge and understanding in vocational contexts when studying at further education.

Learners will develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by both higher education and employers. For example, carrying out practical laboratory tasks and planning forensic investigations. The course studies different scientific measures and is recognised by many higher education providers and carries UCAS points.

How is the course assessed?

The two year course consists of the following units. The first three are taught in Year 12 and the second three taught in Year 13:

Unit 1 – Principles and Applications of Science 1

Unit 2 – Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques

Unit 8 – Physiology of Human Body Systems

Unit 3 – Science Investigation Skills

Unit 4 – Forensic Investigation Procedures in Practice

Unit 11 – Forensic Traffic Collision Investigation

There are four mandatory units, two internal and two external. Learners must complete and achieve a pass or above in all mandatory external units and achieve a Pass or above in all mandatory internal units.

41% of the course is externally assessed. This is completed by sitting and passing two exams. Unit 1 is a 2 hour exam paper and unit 3 is an external coursework task.

Physics

Type of Qualification: A Level
Level of Course: 3
Studied at: Consortium school

Aim of Course:

The course is directly relevant for many degrees in physics or related subjects including medicine, medical physics and engineering. The subject can also support an application for a degree in something completely different. A good A-Level pass in Physics is also evidence of general academic standards and transferable skills for candidates who wish to move straight into employment.

Course Content:

The A level is comprised of six modules.

Module 1: Development of Practical Skills in Physics

Module 2: Foundations in Physics

Module 3: Forces & Motion

Module 4: Electrons, Waves & Photons

Module 5: Newtonian World & Astrophysics

Module 6: Particles & Medical Physics

How is the course assessed?

There are three written examinations:

Paper 1: Modelling Physics (37%)

Paper 2: Exploring Physics (37%)

Paper 3: Unified Physics (26%)

Your skills in practical work are assessed separately.

If you have any questions about the courses or want to ask anything more about our school, please contact Miss East (Head of Sixth Form) or Mrs Houchin (Post-16 Pastoral Support) on:

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