



ACS Sixth Form

A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE



Life in Sixth Form

Students at Astley Cooper Sixth Form are able to study and enjoy a wide variety of subjects. We also offer a robust, supportive pastoral element which helps students navigate through the adjustment from Year 11 and GCSEs into Year 12 and A-Levels.

Here is some information about those subjects and life in Sixth Form from the students' perspective:



Art, Craft and Design A-Level



As a student taking Art, it has benefitted me and I have learnt skills in the course which I didn't have before. Even if you are picking up Art for an A-Level and haven't studied it before, you won't feel behind as you are constantly developing your ideas and improving skills related to Art.

Art is a subject that is so unique at A-Level that it doesn't really compare to any other subjects that are offered. Although sometimes you get inspired by things in other subjects. You get to choose your own topic and ideas and explore them by creating various different pieces. It is interesting to see the way that you interpret things in comparison to other people who have been given the same overall theme and what your final idea is.

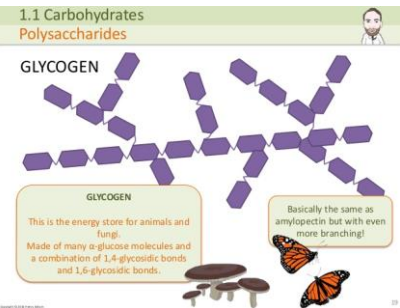
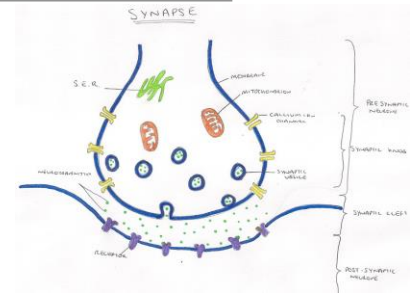


In my opinion, taking Art is a good choice at A-Level alongside content heavy subjects or essay subjects as you get to have your own interpretation on things and explore them.



Biology A-Level

In Biology A-Level you get the opportunity to learn lots of different things about how the body works. It gives you a more in depth look at things you've learned at GCSE and expands your knowledge hugely.



It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to study it at A-Level however it can be very beneficial. It could allow you to go into many different types of healthcare degrees if that's what you look to do at university. It could allow you to study medicine, dentistry, nursing, biomedical sciences and even pharmacy.

Due to this subject being a very heavy topic with lots of information needed I would recommend you doing it alongside course-work based subjects if you're not too confident in exams. It's very rewarding but can also be very stressful so having a good balance between your A-Level courses would help you out a lot during exam time.





Business Level 3 BTEC (Single or Double Award available)



What does the subject entail?

It involves how management leadership and decisions making can improve performance in marketing, financial resources. You learn to analyse real life business case studies. Few things such as- challenge on starting a business, financial planning, communication, many more interesting things.

Why study it?

The skills you learn in a business program can be easily transferred to any future career. You develop many skills.



Business

What career it could lead to?

Accountancy, banking, retail sales, projector manager, marketing and plenty more

What subject work well alongside it?

Finance and Maths for those wanting accounting and Psychology would work well, too.



Computer Science A-Level

What to expect?

Computer Science is a subject that is widely sought after in the world of work, so it is a perfect subject to take when you're not sure what you want to do or enjoy working with electronics and other high-tech items.

Since Computer Science has a lot to do with coding, networking and hardware, even if you didn't want to work with it, Computer Science is still an amazing subject to have knowledge on, seeing as technology is advancing so fast. Learning Computer Science could lead you into a successful career of programming, cyber security, tech support and much more.



What subjects to take alongside computer science?

The theory side of computer science relies on maths quite a bit, so while a Maths A-level would be useful for the highest paying jobs in the computer industry, it is by no means necessary when finding a job with programming or tech. Apart from Maths, Computer Science is a well-rounded course, so little else is needed apart from previous knowledge of the subject.





English Literature A-Level



In taking English Literature, you explore a wide range of subjects: history, politics, social issues and many more.

You gain transferable skills, like essay writing and understanding how to quote from texts and reference correctly.

If you continue to take English in university, you are eligible for a wide range of jobs. English literature allows for a wide range of degrees at university as it is a 'facilitating' subject at Russell group universities.

Subjects English could link to: history, politics, drama, religious studies and psychology.





Financial Studies (AS and A-Level Option)

The course goes very well with business as the course material is similar but covers a slightly different area.

The course includes information on essential life skills such as Payment methods and the advantages and disadvantages of them, the products available to you and other groups in different stages of life and why this is important. You also learn about the protection you have as a consumer including how you contact the different institutions and what they can do for you.

In the second year you will learn about a wider scope of the economy and the global economy, including the impact of different issues.

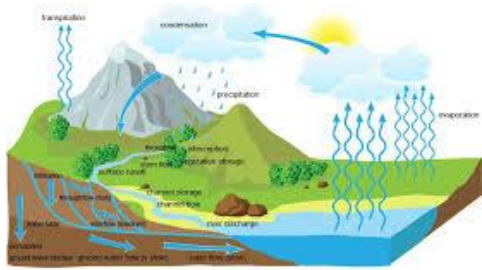
Finance can lead to a wide array of jobs in the future that span over many different areas. Examples of these jobs could be investment banker, financial advisor, and accountant. Many of these courses can be studied at university and lead to jobs in large firms.

The London Institute
of Banking & Finance





Geography A-Level



In A-level geography you learn both physical and human aspects of the subject. This includes coasts, diseases and resource management. It is similar to the GCSE course but you go into more depth about each topic; and you're expected to go out and research them outside of the classroom, which enhances your knowledge of Geography as a whole. As well as this, you learn about issues that affect our population and discuss matters that you are interested in.

You will have an even amount of lessons spent on human geography and physical geography, which you learn simultaneously. There are fieldtrips, and coursework where you will be able to research a topic you find interesting from the course.

What courses you can take alongside geography:

- Biology
- Travel and Tourism

Personally, I enjoy geography because you learn about the world as well as explore different areas that interest you about the subject. As its more in depth than GCSE you get to learn more about the subjects that you may have enjoyed this year, as well as more.



Mathematics A-Level

Looks great on Universities Application

It is even beneficial to applications if you get an AS

It is a Universal Core Subject therefore it applies for loads of jobs

Straight-forward course

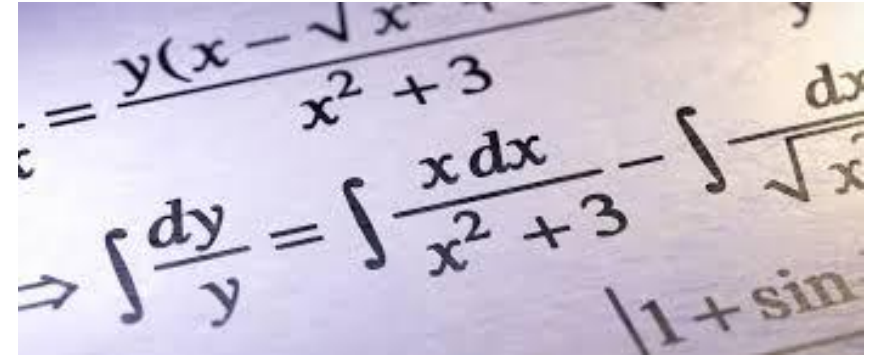
It truly works great with Finance and Business

You are building on skills you already

Maths Is Key In an Ever-Advancing World

Transferable skills such as Problem-solving; Analytical Skills, Research Skills, Logical Skills

According to the Russell Group informed choices guide, Maths is a "facilitating" subject, which means that it will help you to study lots of other subjects and pursue lots of different careers.





Performing Arts – Dance Level 3 BTEC

What to expect:

In dance you should expect being able to do a nice balance of practical and theory. You are able to develop your skills within practical sessions, as well as research new and interesting practitioners and learn a variety of styles which challenge you and teach you more skills and add to your abilities.



People you may study:

You may study Limon, Martha Graham, Alvin Ailey, Christopher Bruce, and Frantic Assembly.

What benefits you receive:

When taking dance you are able to be included in occasions such as the dance shows, which gives you experience of performing. You can then also be included with extracurricular like ACDC where you are involved in things like the festivals and out of school competitions. This allows you to experience more life as a performer and explore more creative processes and see how other people work.



What you can do with this qualification:

Alongside this you can take any subjects, as this is a very creative subject. In the future it may help you get involved in different performances like pantomime, TV and film or teach or choreograph etc. The subject goes well alongside any performing subjects, as well as any other subject as you can incorporate anything into it.





Performing Arts – Drama Level 3 BTEC

What the subject entails:

Drama involves both practical and theory based work. Depending on what your preferences are, one could be the highlight of the day, whilst the other can be rather hard and can drag on a bit. You will also be required to keep lesson diaries which are short logs for what you do each lesson. If you keep on top of them it will benefit you in the future. You will learn about many different practitioners and their many styles which will help you develop your acting and performing skills. Eventually, the subject can be extremely fun and really helps to gain confidence. Performing can be nervous, but if the end product is good, it can really pay off.



Why study it?

The subject is different to others since it is practical based and can help you get a break from other lessons. Creating your own performances is fun and you will feel proud and motivated about what you have done.

What career could it lead on to?

Acting can lead to many jobs in the theatre, TV or film industry, but to get there it will take a lot of hard work and initiative.

You will not always be guaranteed to get a job straight away as the acting world can be tough with constant competition from other upcoming actors, but if you get one role it can lead to much greater places and even more roles.

What subjects work well alongside it?

Drama can work well alongside most subjects as it is a break from the normal type of lesson, but the best would be Art or English. This is because Art is a creative subject like Drama, and English involves studying plays and other dramatic pieces.



Applied Psychology Level 3 BTEC

What to expect:

Psychology is the 'scientific study of the mind and behaviour'. A wide range of topics are covered within the Level 3 BTEC so you will have to be able to absorb and apply this knowledge. You will study interesting and complex material. You will learn about psychological studies as well as conducting your own, adding a practical element to this subject.

Why study it?

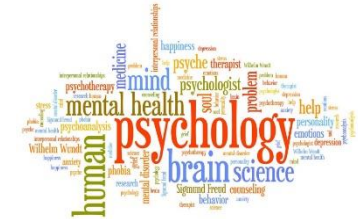
Psychology is considered as a science and therefore can be super beneficial when applying to university. Level 3 science is considered highly by some top universities which will favour your application over other students. On top of this, having an understanding of the topic provides you an insight into why people behave the way they do.

What careers can Psychology lead on to?

Psychology can go on to lead individuals to many different career paths. Being able to empathise with people and take on an understanding of their behaviours and issues can assist in many different areas of work. However, those that don't go on to become a professional psychologist in any of the different fields, can use their qualification to work within: teaching, police force, NHS, marketing companies and human resource departments and many others

What subjects work well alongside Psychology?

Many subjects work well alongside Psychology as it is often partially included in all subjects. However, the main subjects that I personally would suggest work well with psychology are: sport, biology, history, English and maths.





Sport Level 3 BTEC (Double Option)

What it entails

Learn various units' e.g industry, leadership, anatomy and physiology. Also, you do lots of practical sessions. It's a mix between coursework, practical and exams which is great if you find storing up information for one exam really hard.

Why study it

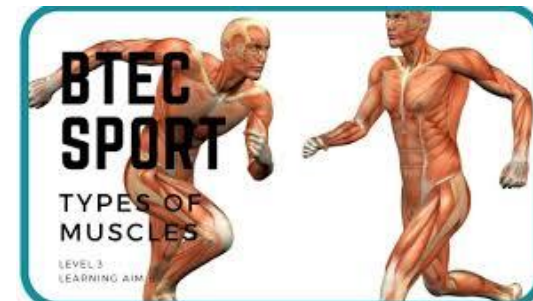
This subject is fun and enjoyable. PE department teachers are experienced and fun, learn lots of new things to do with sport that you wouldn't find out usually including business in sport and sports psychology.

What it could lead onto

Lots of university courses such as sports coaching, sports science, physiotherapy and teaching. You can do another course alongside double sport, such as finance, business or sciences, this will help you to get onto a university course such as sport business and sports management.

Personal experience

I have learned lots of new skills whilst studying all the units. There is a manageable amount of work and we are able to share our views and ideas with classmates





Travel and Tourism Level 3 BTEC

What to expect?

Travel and Tourism is nothing like you would have done before in GCSE, however it is perfect for someone who's interested in travelling or working in the travel and tourism industry, however even if you just wanted to learn more about the sector than this is the subject to choose

What subjects to take alongside Travel and Tourism?

Travel and Tourism is a subject which consists of almost complete theory work, if you enjoy theory than this is the perfect subject for you however if theory can be a little overwhelming taking a more practical based subject may be beneficial – it just depends what your preferences are, and what you enjoy





Pre-Apprenticeship Programme (Variety of Level 2 BTEC Qualifications)

What to expect from the Pre-Apprenticeship Programme:

Personal development

CV Writing

Work Placements

Interview Coaching

Team Building

Being given the chance to re-sit GCSEs



What I got out of the Pre-Apprenticeship Programme:

From this course I was able to grown in confidence in terms of my communication skills and my ability to study in the classroom. The combination of working in groups with other students and being exposed to adults in the work place has helped me make a giant leap forward. I have now come back to sixth form to do A-Levels in Business, Finance and Travel & Tourism. I now know what to do in an interview, and how to behave in a workplace, also I have an idea as to what I want to do after sixth form.