



# **Sixth Form**

# **Subject Information Booklet**

# **2021 - 2022**

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# Introduction

It has never been a more exciting time to join Theale Green School Sixth Form. Our A Level results from 2021 place us in the top 1% of all results nationally, and the experience our students gain is truly enriching in every sense of the word.

Our students go on to incredible destinations once they leave us. Every year we send students to Oxford and Cambridge; we encourage students to follow university and apprenticeship routes alike as we recognise that everyone is unique.

Please take the time to read the brochure and understand about the different courses that we offer. In addition to outstanding teaching, we encourage students to take part in enriching opportunities including the Extended Professional Qualification (EPQ), work experience, alongside other independent learning opportunities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Dr Anne Richards, Head of Sixth Form: [ARichards@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:ARichards@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

Mrs Charlotte Badarello, Deputy Headteacher: <mailto:CBadarello@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk>

## Expectations

As Sixth Form, all students are expected to remain on site from 8.35am to 3.00pm.

All students should attend punctually to lessons, tutor time, assemblies and supported study. Students in Sixth Form will have non-contact hours and will use this time for productive study.

### Dress Code

It is important that all Sixth Form students take pride in their appearance. The dress code outlines what is acceptable, in line with standards acceptable in many national and international businesses.

Students will have each Friday to be 'dress-down' Friday. On this day, casual clothes can be worn, for example, blue denim, but we politely request that clothing is still suitable for an educational environment.

### Lanyards

As with any post 16 environment, the wearing of lanyards is compulsory for safeguarding purposes.

# A Level Courses

## Subject: ART AND DESIGN – FINE ART/TEXTILES

**Assessment:** Coursework unit (60%), Externally set assignment (40%)

**Exam Board:** AQA

Art A level is suited to students looking for a creative career media, design, architecture, advertising film, TV, fashion or textiles. You will need to be a creative thinker, capable of developing ideas through independent research. Students will be introduced to artists and designers as appropriate to their individual projects, presentation and evaluation skills are also explored. All students develop a portfolio of work which shows their ability to communicate an idea visually resulting in a final outcome which is unique and personal.

### Course Outline

The course follows a linear two-year structure. Through a range of media, including drawing, oil painting, printing, ceramics, construction, sewing, embellishment and installation, students are encouraged to explore the media and processes they are strongest in while producing independent projects.

**Why choose Art?** Most importantly, you should enjoy the subject and be passionate about it! We look for enthusiastic, creative thinkers who are happy to share ideas with the teacher and their peers. You should be able to draw influence from art, photography, literature, music or any other topic of interest to you. We encourage individuality coupled with an ability to work on your own. Be prepared to commit time to homework.

**What goes well with Art?** More frequently in recent years universities are looking for signs and evidence of creative skills across the curriculum. In particular, Art complements subjects such as English, Music, Photography and History.

**For further information, contact** Mr A Wilson - [AWilson@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:AWilson@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

## Subject: PHOTOGRAPHY

**Assessment:** Coursework (60%), Exam (40%)

**Exam Board:** AQA

Photography A level is suited to students looking for a creative career in the media, design, architecture, advertising and film and TV. You will need to be a creative thinker, capable of developing ideas through independent research. In Photography, we do not insist that you have a GCSE in the subject, but you should at least have a GCSE in Art, as the creative process of research and development of ideas are very similar. All students develop a portfolio of work which shows their ability to communicate an idea visually resulting in a final outcome which is unique and personal.

### Course Outline

Project 1: darkroom skills; Project 2: studio photography, movement photography and analysis of photographers' work. Coursework Unit: creation of contemporary photographic work developed from practical lessons in camera control, darkroom processes, composition, lighting control, portraiture/fashion photography and shooting on location. Development lessons focus on computer manipulation, presentation skills, research, working to a professional brief.

**Why choose Photography?** Most importantly, you should enjoy the subject and be passionate about it! If you find going to galleries to view artwork a chore, this is not the subject for you. We look for enthusiastic, creative thinkers who are happy to share ideas with the teacher and their peers. You should be able to draw influence from art, photography, literature, music, or any other topic of interest to you. We encourage individuality coupled with an ability to work on your own. Be prepared to commit time to homework.

**What goes well with Photography?** More frequently in recent year's universities are looking for signs and evidence of creative skills across the curriculum, but in particular, Photography complements subjects such as English, Music, History and Art.

**For further information, contact** Mr A Wilson - [AWilson@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:AWilson@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

# A Level Courses

## Subject: BUSINESS

Assessment: 100% Exam

Exam Board: Edexcel

Studying Business will provide an exciting insight into the dynamic world of business. You will use this knowledge in decision making to improve business performance and develop appropriate strategies. You will learn the importance of marketing; how to identify, target and satisfy customer requirements; and how to motivate people in order to maximise their output. You will learn that every decision has financial implications, and you will be taught how to calculate profit, forecast cash flow and analyse a firm's published accounts.

### Course Outline

Theme 1: Marketing and people; Theme 2: Managing business activities raising finance; Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy; Theme 4: Global business

**Why choose Business?** Business aims to teach you the basics of what it is to run a business. Imaginatively, it puts the student at the centre of the decisions you would have to make, from improving business performance to analysing how other businesses operate. It combines both a practical attitude to solving problems with the theoretical techniques used to help a business arrive at the best solution. The course offers introductions to the main areas of human resource management, marketing, accounting and finance and operations

**What goes well with Business?** Business is closely associated with subjects such as Geography, Politics, Psychology and Maths, as Business A level will assess how the external environment can impact upon the business. Business A level has become more mathematical and, therefore, complements maths as a route into accountancy, auditing, actuary and market analysis amongst many others. However, this subject is an excellent choice to complement any subject, which a student may be interested in developing as a future career or business, such as Physical Education, Politics or Photography.

For further information, contact Mr D Holbrook - [DHolbrook@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:DHolbrook@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

## Subject: ECONOMICS

Assessment: 100% Exam

Exam Board: Eduqas

Economics is about studying the world around us from a social, financial and cultural perspective. The subject looks at all the different factors that affect wealth and well-being. As you learn more about economics, you will develop good analysis skills and will be able to pick out key information from statistics and text. You will learn how to use data to draw conclusions and make informed decisions. Analysis and evaluation skills are highly sought after by employers and you will be able to apply your acquired skills to real-life situations in business.

### Course Outline

**Unit 1:** Individuals, firms, markets and market failure: Economic methodology and the economic problem; decision making; price determination; production, costs and revenue; Competition and Market structures; The labour market; Poverty and inequality; Markets, mechanism, failure and intervention. **Unit 2:** The national and international economy: Macroeconomics; economic performance; financial markets and monetary policy; fiscal policy; The international economy.

**Why choose Economics?** As a subject, Economics lends itself to a wide variety of careers and not necessarily those in finance. Some of the career options you will have include Economist, Chartered account, Investment analyst, financial risk analyst, Management consultant or Government officer. With an Economics qualification, you can find work in both the public and private sectors for a range of different companies over many different industries.

**What goes well with Economics?** Business Studies, Politics and Maths are all subjects that compliment Economics.

For further information, contact Mr D Holbrook - [DHolbrook@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:DHolbrook@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

# A Level Courses

## Subject: GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

**Assessment:** 100% Written Exam

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

Politics is constantly changing the world around us, and at some point, everyone comes into contact with it - whether through voting, campaigning or simply watching the news. Young people are undoubtedly becoming more and more aware of both UK and international politics, with recent controversies such as the Brexit referendum and the election of Donald Trump in the USA. The Politics A Level is a great way of beginning to engage with the political system and develop a deeper understanding of how our country works and the issues that shape the lives across the world.

### Course Outline

Component 1: UK Politics; Component 2: UK Government; Component 3: Comparative Politics

**Why choose Politics?** Are you interested in finding out what is going on around you politically? Are you interested in gaining knowledge and understanding of how we elect our MPs and prime minister? Are you interested in finding out about the policies of political parties in the UK? Are you interested in finding out about the composition, role and powers of the House of Commons and the House of Lords? Are you interested in gaining knowledge of the role of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet? If your answer to any of these questions is “yes”, then Politics might be a subject for you seriously to consider.

**What goes well with Politics?** Experience shows that most subjects can go well with Politics. Students whose interests lie in subjects such as History, Geography or Business find the Politics combines well with them. On the other hand, students whose interests lie mainly elsewhere often enjoy taking Politics as a contrasting subject if they simply have a pre-existing interest in current affairs.

**For further information, contact** Mr D Holbrook - [DHolbrook@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:DHolbrook@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

## Subject: RELIGIOUS STUDIES: ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY

**Assessment:** 100% Written Exam

**Exam Board:** OCR

‘I think therefore I am.’ Let us assume that you exist and that you think (although these assumptions are problematic for any philosopher!). Philosophy and Ethics will help you learn how to think, not what to think, and that is what employers and universities want.

### Course Outline

Component 1: Philosophy of religion; Component 2: Religion and ethics; Component 3: Developments in religious thought

**Why choose Philosophy and Ethics?** In an ever changing world open to new thoughts and forward thinking, Philosophical enquiry and religious thought plays a key role in encouraging people to have a critical understanding of faith. Employers and universities love Philosophy and Ethics students because they are trained in critically analysing ideas and evaluating their strengths and weaknesses. Students are able to engage with ideas beyond their own viewpoint, think beyond the obvious, and articulate arguments coherently and persuasively. The study of Philosophy and Ethics opens the doors to a wide range of careers, including Law, Medicine and Business.

**What goes well with Philosophy and Ethics?** Philosophy and Ethics is multidisciplinary, involving textual study, philosophical thinking, ethics, social understanding and the skills of analysis and reasoning. It also deals with contemporary contentious issues, developing social, cultural, political, philosophical and historical awareness. Thus Philosophy and Ethics can work alongside any other courses. Other popular subjects studied alongside Philosophy and Ethics include: Sciences (particularly relevant for medical ethics), Business, Psychology or History.

**For further information, contact** Mr J. Clack – [jclack@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:jclack@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

# A Level Courses

## Subject: COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Assessment:** External Exam (80%), Coursework assessment (20%)

**Exam Board:** AQA

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

### Course Outline

1. Fundamentals of programming
2. Fundamentals of data structures
3. Fundamentals of algorithms
4. Theory of computation.
5. Fundamentals of data representation
6. Fundamentals of computer systems
7. Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
8. Consequences of uses of computing
9. Fundamentals of communication and networking
10. Fundamentals of databases
11. Big Data
12. Fundamentals of functional programming
13. Systematic approach to problem solving
14. Non-exam assessment – the computing practical project

**Why choose Computer Science?** Computer Science will, above all else, be relevant to the modern and changing world. In their final A Level project, students will develop an ability to analyse, critically evaluate and make decisions. The project approach is a vital component of 'post-school' life and is of particular relevance to further education, higher education and the workplace. Each student is able to tailor their project to fit their individual interests, choices and aspirations. The course gives students a clear progression into higher education.

**What goes well with Computer Science?** It is a worthwhile companion to any other discipline chosen by the students but Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics make particularly good combinations.

**For further information, contact** Mr P Fletcher - [PFletcher@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:PFletcher@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

## Subject: MATHEMATICS / FURTHER MATHEMATICS

**Assessment:** 100% Exam

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

Extend your mathematical knowledge; develop your logical reasoning and problem-solving skills. Mathematics at A level builds on the work you have done at GCSE as well as introducing Calculus (amongst other things!).

### Course Outline

Papers 1&2: Core Mathematics

Paper 3a: Statistics

Paper 3b: Mechanics

**Why choose Mathematics?** Mathematics is not only a beautiful subject in its own right, but one that underpins many other branches of learning. As well as laying a foundation for further study/a career in Engineering, Science or Finance, the problem-solving and logical reasoning skills involved mean that an A level qualification in Mathematics is very highly regarded by universities and Employers.

**What goes well with Mathematics?** Pretty much anything! The wonderful thing with Mathematics A level is that it allows you to keep your options open. It will support University applications in almost every subject. There are clear links with Physics, and less obvious ones with Chemistry, Biology, Geography and Psychology.

**For further information, contact** Ms. V Saunders: [vsaunders@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:vsaunders@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

# A Level Courses

## Subject: MUSIC

**Assessment:** Performing (30%), Composing (30%), Appraising (40%)

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

Music A level is suited to students looking for a career in the creative music industries as well as teaching you a whole host of skills allowing you to work in academic, journalistic or even manual jobs. You will need an understanding of Music theory and be able to think creatively how to use it! This course combines both your academic understanding of theory with your understanding of the History and context of many different styles of music with being creative enough to write in those particular styles, you will be expected to develop musical ideas with these conventions in mind. We do not insist that you have a GCSE in the subject but we recommend that you can play or perform to about grade 5 standard. Students will be introduced to a whole range of Music composers.

### Course Outline

All students will complete a performance and a composition in addition to completing a composition technical study and a written exam. These will involve understanding four part harmony skills and the contractual background of several composers and styles.

**Why choose Music?** Most importantly, you should enjoy the subject and be passionate about it! We look for talented musicians with a passion for music making and learning about creative and academic processes.

**What goes well with Music?** Music has links across all the arts and the study of other cultures. Music from history means it links well with all jobs in the humanities and of course we work with the drama department on the annual school musical.

**For further information, contact** Mrs C Badarello - [cbadarello@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:cbadarello@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

## Subject: DANCE

**Assessment:** Practical (50%), Written Exam (50%)

**Exam Board:** AQA

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 make you stand out in the workplace whatever your choice in career. The course reflects both historical and current dance practices and inspires a lifelong passion and appreciation for dance. In Dance, we do not insist that you have a GCSE in the subject, we will consider students with experience in Performing Arts or those who take examined dance lessons outside of school.

### Course Outline

The course follows a linear two-year structure.

**Practical** – Students will choreograph a solo performance linked to a specific practitioner within the area of study.

**Theory** – Students sit one written exam.

**Why choose Dance?** *'The dance department are dedicated to ensuring all students achieve high results and their full potential. They teach with passion and are extremely knowledgeable of all areas.'* Most importantly, you should enjoy the subject and be passionate about it! We look for enthusiastic, creative thinkers who are keen to share their ideas and respond to feedback from staff. The course is taught by two experienced AQA examiners, who have marked both the theory and practical. If you are interested in a career in the Performing Arts or Dance, the department will support you fully with your applications and Auditions. We have past students studying or graduated from Stella Mann, Millennium, Performers College, Elmhurst, Urdang and Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

**What goes well with Dance?** Over the years many students have complemented their A level Dance with other creative subjects such as Drama, Music, Textiles, Art and Photography. Due to the theory nature of the course subjects such as History and English also work well.

**For further information, contact** Mrs S Cartland – [SCartland@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:SCartland@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

# A Level Courses

## Subject: DRAMA

**Assessment:** Practical (60%), Written exam (40%)

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

A level Drama assesses your engagement with play texts and your practical skills as an audience member, actor, designer, and director. You are expected to become committed to the experience of live theatre. This will hopefully lead to a life-long interest in theatre-going as well as making the two year course a memorable one. The theoretical and practical elements of A level Drama and Theatre make it both a challenging and a very rewarding subject. It is by no means a soft option.

### Course Outline

Component 1: Devising; Component 2: Text in Performance; Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

**Why choose Drama?** Any person who wishes to excel in their future career should choose to study Drama. Not only does it give you a foundation in research and problem-solving skills, it also equips you well with the ability to work as a team, to communicate and, most importantly, the ability to present to an audience. An A-level in Drama can be useful for students wishing to go into business, sales or any areas where public speaking is a key feature of the job. It is also relevant and interesting to people who are interested in culture or social issues. More than 10,000 students that have studied at Russel Group Universities in the last 7 years have an A level in Drama

**What goes well with Drama?** As we study a variety of texts from different times periods, A-level Drama fits well alongside many different subjects such as History, Psychology, Art, Photography, English, Geography, Business Studies, Ethics & Philosophy.

**For further information, contact** Mr J Neill - [JNeill@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:JNeill@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

## Subject: ENGLISH LITERATURE

**Assessment:** Written exam (80%), Non-Exam assessment (20%)

**Exam Board:** AQA

“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free”. The English Literature A level has been redeveloped and the new course blends the study of traditional literary texts, that provide an important grounding in the works of writers such as Shakespeare and Chaucer, with very contemporary literature that reveals the revolutionary responses of writers to their predecessors. To enrich your experience of the writers and the landscapes that inspired them, we will also visit some important landmarks during the course and see some of these texts in performance.

### Course Outline

**Paper 1:** Literary Genres; **Paper 2:** Texts and Genres.

**Non-Exam Assessment:** Theory and Independence. Study of two texts (one poetry and one prose) informed by study of the Critical Anthology (Marxism, Feminism).

**Why choose English Literature?** A level English Literature will suit students who enjoy reading great works of literature and would like to develop skills as independent readers. You will study new writers, genres and period, learning how to approach them critically and building on the analytical skills introduced in the GCSE. The skills acquired in the study of English Literature are transferable so even if you are not planning to study this subject at degree level, it will provide you with an invaluable foundation for any further academic study.

**What goes well with English Literature?** English and History are often viewed as a good combination, particularly if the eventual aim is to continue to higher education in an arts or humanities subject. English is also an ideal match for those wanting to study Law and Politics. Employers, colleges and universities want students who can show balance in their subject choices, particularly if it means they can combine essay-writing skills with the manipulation of scientific data. Institutions and employers in the field of engineering, for example, increasingly cite English as a desirable combination with Mathematics and Physics A levels.

**For further information, contact** Ms E Bevan - [ebevan@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:ebevan@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

# A Level Courses

## Subject: FRENCH

**Assessment:** Listening and Reading (50%), Speaking (30%), Writing (20%)

**Exam Board:** AQA

Imagine being fluent in another language. Imagine the buzz of being able to communicate about anything with anyone in France or a French speaking country. A level French will do this for you as well as making you much more attractive to employers who are demanding more and more that their employees can communicate with other countries in the global market and with an imminent Brexit those who can speak other European languages will be even more sought after.

### Course Outline

Year 1 - current trends in French-speaking society (family, music, cinema, cultural heritage, cyber-society), the study of a film  
Year 2 - current issues in French-speaking countries (immigration, crime, politics), the study of a novel

**Why choose French?** It is going to broaden your knowledge of the world as well as France and the topics we study are really interesting. You will also be able to speak about whatever you like with anyone who can speak French wherever you are in the world. Plus, it is a proven fact that learning a language makes you smarter, more decisive and better at English! You can work internationally and compete in the global market. The fact that you have studied a language impresses employers and universities as it shows you have a well-rounded skill set (as demonstrated by the fact that it is one of the A level subjects required to access any Russell Group University).

**What goes well with French?** French A level goes well with just about any other subject. The beauty of a foreign language A' Level is that it covers such a broad range of topics and skills that it works well with any combination both at A' Level and at University. If you really love languages, it is always a good idea to choose two as the skills you learn in one language are easily transferable to another. So if you have enjoyed learning French so far why not carry on and choose A' Level French?

**For further information, contact** Mrs L Parker - LParker@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

## Subject: PSYCHOLOGY

**Assessment:** 100% Written Exam

**Exam Board:** AQA

The mind is something intangible that exists within our brain; an unseen process of enzymes, chemicals and electric currents, but why is it that some people suffer from stress or mental illness? Have you ever wondered if prison really does change criminal behaviour? Or why some people obey without questioning the morality of what they are doing? A Level Psychology looks at questions like these and more. It will give you an understanding of the way people think and why people behave in certain ways.

### Course Outline

Unit 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology; Unit 2: Psychology in Context; Unit 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

**Why choose Psychology?** You will be exploring various areas to do with cognitive behaviour, developmental and even biological psychology by focusing on specific topics. Psychology will offer you a unique academic experience. You will need to be able to learn scientific information such as the aims, procedures and findings of studies but you will also need to be able to evaluate these theories critically and provide relevant evidence. Some answers require you to be concise but there are also longer essay based answers, thus again providing diverse experiences and useful transferable skills - developed through the study of fascinating topics. Most importantly, Psychology gives you an opportunity to learn, understand and evaluate issues happening around you in your everyday life, which could then be applied to the wider world.

**What goes well with Psychology?** Biology and/or Physical Education are particularly well suited for studying with Psychology. It is however an A Level that can be studied alongside any combination of subjects. Where can it take you? The top seven degree courses taken by students who have an A Level in Psychology are; Psychology, English Studies, Sociology, Business Studies, Teaching, Sport and Exercise science, Law Possible career options include; Marketing, Business development, Accountancy, Human resources, Forensic psychology, Occupational therapy, Clinical psychology, Nursing, and many, many more!

**For further information, contact** M J M Blumberg- mblumberg@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

# A Level Courses

## Subject: GEOGRAPHY

**Assessment:** External Exam (80%), Geographical Fieldwork Investigation (20%).

**Exam Board:** AQA

Geography is the study of the physical and human world. It links these in space and time, helping us to understand how and why the world is changing and to respond to what is happening around us. In a globalised world, geography is a relevant, challenging and topical subject to study, both inside and beyond the classroom.

### Course Outline

Unit 1: Physical Geography: Water and Carbon Cycles; Coastal Systems and Landscapes; Hazards.

Unit 2: Human Geography: Global Systems and Global Governances; Changing Places; Contemporary Urban Environments.

Unit 3: Geography Fieldwork Investigation.

**Why choose Geography?** In addition to more traditional geography, you will also study contemporary issues which infiltrate every level of society; locally, nationally and globally. You will do this in a synoptic manner, giving you the ability to draw on all your knowledge and understanding in order to confront the world, exam questions, work and university in a more intelligent and successful way. You will develop many key, transferable skills which are not only useful in the wider world, but are highly regarded by universities and employers.

**What goes well with Geography?** An A level in Geography is valued by universities and employers alike due to the skills it develops such as the ability to synthesise a wide range of information, evaluate issues from different perspectives and essay writing. It therefore makes a good complementary A level for any subject.

**For further information, contact** Mrs R Quinn – [rquinn@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:rquinn@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

## Subject: HISTORY

**Assessment:** External Exam (80%), Coursework (20%)

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

The study of History is an attempt to both make sense of the past but also provide a greater understanding of the present. It is this that makes History such an important and relevant subject.

### Course Outline

Paper 1. Britain, 1625–1701: conflict, revolution and settlement.

Paper 2. Russia in revolution, 1894–1924

Paper 3. Civil rights and race relations in the USA, 1850–2009.

Paper 4. Students carry out an independently researched enquiry to analyse and evaluate a question, problem or issue that has generated disagreement among historians.

**Why choose History?** History A level is a highly esteemed qualification due to its academic rigour and the transferable skills developed by students. History graduates are sought after in the fields of law, business, politics and journalism. Aside from History being valuable to higher education and in the workplace, it is a discipline which provokes lively debate and in our chosen modules students grapple with issues ever relevant to both contemporary Britain and the modern world.

**What goes well with History?** History offers valuable skills that can be beneficial to any combination of subjects. However, the study of History goes particularly well the disciplines of English Literature or Politics. Indeed, many of these subjects are offered as joint honours courses at degree level. Moreover, other humanities subjects also complement History such as Geography or Philosophy and Ethics.

**For further information, contact** Ms Blythe - [hblythe@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:hblythe@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

# A Level Courses

## Subject: PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Assessment:** Written exam (70%), Non-exam assessment (30%)

**Exam Board:** OCR

Are you interested in finding out how the body responds to exercise? Why people take drugs in sport or train at altitude? What scientific principles a rugby player can apply to become more stable, or which of Newton's Laws enable us to change direction when sidestepping? Finding out why some sports performers underperform when there is a large crowd present whilst others thrive in such situations? If so, these are just some of the questions explored in Physical Education.

### Course Outline

Component 1: Physical factors affecting performance; Component 2: Psychological factors affecting performance; Component 3: Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport; Component 4: Performance in physical education.

**Why choose Physical Education?** The leisure sector is a varied group of industries, which not only includes sport, but also tourism, hospitality, entertainment, countryside recreation, the arts and heritage. Within each of these industries, there are a variety of skill requirements - for example, specialist sporting skills including sports science, physical education, coaching, sports development and sports management. A level Physical Education is a diverse course consisting of six specialist areas of theoretical study. Couple this with the requirement to also demonstrate practical ability (either as a performer or a coach); and then to have to learn and demonstrate how to critically analyse an active participant, makes this qualification one of the most challenging. However, if you are passionate about sport, it is also one of the most enjoyable subjects within the A level choices.

**What goes well with Physical Education?** Due to the multiplicity of opportunities currently available within sport, Physical Education works alongside numerous subjects. The obvious choices consist of Biology, Psychology and History, but your decision will very much depend on what you wish to do for a future vocation, i.e. coaching or teaching, backroom support, for example physiotherapist or sports psychologist, sports marketing or journalism, sports business management or events co-ordinator.

**For further information, contact** Mr T Blinco - [TBlinco@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:TBlinco@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

## Subject: BIOLOGY

**Assessment:** 100% Exam

**Exam Board:** OCR

Biology is a challenging, rewarding course that helps students develop skills and knowledge necessary for a successful career. It offers teachers and students freedom, creativity and opportunity for independent progression from GCSE Science or Biology.

### Course Outline

Module 1: Development of practical skills in Biology

Module 2: Foundations in Biology

Module 3: Exchange and transport

Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy

Module 6: Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

**Why choose Biology?** It is a qualification highly sought after by universities. An understanding of the principles of Biology allows students to appreciate not only how our bodies work and how diseases stop them working, but also the fragility of life on Earth. In addition, a Biologist understands the potential benefits and dangers of Genetic Engineering. Once you grasp the full significance of Biology be prepared to look at the world in a new light because some day a Biologist may change it beyond recognition. Even the world of business is turning to Biology. Apparently, the behaviour of ant colonies gives a detailed insight into the activities of large global companies.

**What goes well with Biology?** Many students choose to combine Biology with one of the other sciences such as chemistry or physics, while others combine with PE and humanities. However, over the years students have combined Biology with a huge variety of different subjects secure in the knowledge that universities and employers view Biology as a rigorous subject providing excellent skills and knowledge.

**For further information, contact** Mr J Punnett - [jpunnett@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:jpunnett@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

# A Level Courses

## Subject: CHEMISTRY

Assessment: 100% Exam

Exam Board: OCR

Chemistry is everywhere in the world around you! It is in the food you eat, clothes you wear, water you drink, the air you breathe, the medicines you take and anything you touch or use. Chemistry is called the “central science” because it connects other sciences to each other. Modern life would not be ‘modern’ without chemists.

### Course Outline

Module 1: Development of practical skills in chemistry

Module 2: Foundations in chemistry

Module 3: Periodic table and energy

Module 4: Core organic chemistry

Module 5: Physical chemistry and transition elements

Module 6: Organic chemistry and analysis

**Why choose Chemistry?** As a chemist, you will study the nature of atoms and molecules and the way they react together to produce useful products. You will also study both organic and inorganic materials, looking at their properties, synthesis, reactions, analysis and uses. Chemists are recruited into practically every branch of industry. They have an especially important role in areas like pharmaceuticals, agricultural chemicals, oil and chemicals, photographic materials, cosmetics, plastics, textiles, building materials, silicon chips - and a host more. An A Level in Chemistry gives opportunities and access to most science courses at University level.

**What goes well with Chemistry?** Traditionally A Levels such as Biology, Physics and Mathematics have a strong overlap, using many similar skills and sharing some content as well. This means that by taking at least one of these subjects there is reinforcement and often leads to higher results in both. Conversely, there are those who have successfully fused Chemistry with arts and languages.

For further information, contact Mr Punnett -- [Mr Jason Punnett - jpunnett@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:jpunnett@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

## Subject: PHYSICS

Assessment: 100% Exam

Exam Board: OCR

Expand your knowledge, your thinking, your skills, your options and your horizons. Unlike the other sciences, physics has no limits – everything in your life, on this planet, other planets, to the far reaches of universe and beyond is in the physics job description.

### Course Outline

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in physics

Module 2 – Foundations of physics

Module 3 – Forces and motion

Module 4 – Electrons, waves and photons

Module 5 – Newtonian world and astrophysics

Module 6 – Particles and medical physics

**Why choose Physics?** If you are interested in the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between – physics is for you. If you are interested in understanding how technology around you works, or maybe want to save the planet, or help people get better when they are ill – physics is for you. If you are not interested in any of the above, the knowledge and skills you gain by studying physics will be useful. Physics is more than a subject – it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries. In a crowded job market, physics will help you stand out from the crowd; it will give you the edge. People are always impressed by a qualification in physics.

**What goes well with Physics?** There is no doubt that A level Physics can be a bit mathematical at times, so taking A level Mathematics is a definite advantage. Many students choose to combine physics with one of the other sciences such as chemistry or biology, while others who are thinking about engineering or architecture combine physics with Product Design and/or Art. But there is no need to follow the crowd. Physics and Mathematics can be combined with just about anything.

For further information, contact Mr Punnett - [Mr J Punnett - jpunnett@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:jpunnett@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

## Subject: SPORT

**Assessment:** 66% Exam, 34% Coursework

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

The BTEC National in Sport is a practical, work-related course. Students learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic situations, activities and learning about the demands of sport. Students develop a range of specialist knowledge and skills in both theory and practical lessons. You are passionate about sport and have a specific interest in developing your long-term career opportunities in the industry. You need to be a highly motivated and independent student who can meet deadlines. The course will suit you if you have a keen interest in sport, teaching, coaching, exercise, and fitness.

### Course Outline

Students follow three compulsory core units and one optional unit:

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 4: Coursework

**Why choose Sport?** With the number of transferable skills within this BTEC students are well placed to continue onto university or college, through a degree in subjects such as Sports Studies, Leisure Management, Recreation Management or Teacher training. Career opportunities include Sports and Leisure Management.

**What goes well with Sport?** Biology, Psychology, Travel and Tourism.

**For further information, contact** Mr T Blinco – [T.Blinco@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:T.Blinco@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

## Subject: TRAVEL AND TOURISM

**Assessment:** 58% Exam, 42% Coursework

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

BTEC Travel and Tourism is a practical work-related course. Students learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic situations, activities and learning about the Travel and Tourism industries. Students develop a range of transferable skills and knowledge to meet industry and higher education requirements.

### Course Outline

Unit 1: The World of Travel and Tourism (written examination)

Unit 2: Global Destinations (longer style assessment)

Unit 3: Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism (portfolio coursework)

Unit 9: Visitor Attractions (portfolio coursework)

**Why choose Travel & Tourism?** According to UCAS in 2018, one in four new undergraduates did so with a BTEC qualification. 74% of employers want new hires with practical knowledge and skills combined and 90% of BTEC students are employed full-time after graduating.

**What goes well with Travel & Tourism?** Travel and Tourism can stand on its own as a general qualification that opens doors directly into employment or further study. It links well with most humanity subjects, but especially Geography and Business Studies.

**For further information, contact** Mrs R Quinn – [rquinn@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:rquinn@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

# BTEC Courses

## Subject: HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

**Assessment:** 4 units of which 2 are external. One 1hr 50min written exam, and one written synoptic under controlled conditions.

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

BTEC Health & Social Care is a practical work-related course. Students learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic situations, activities and learning about the Health & Social Care industry. Students develop a range of transferable skills and knowledge to meet industry and higher education requirements.

### Course Outline

Unit 1: Human lifespan development

Unit 2: Working in Health and Social Care

Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

Unit 10: Sociological Perspectives

**Why choose Health & Social Care?** According to UCAS in 2018, one in four new undergraduates did so with a BTEC qualification. 74% of employers want new hires with practical knowledge and skills combined and 90% of BTEC students are employed full-time after graduating. There are strong links to Nursing, Child Care, Midwifery and other caring and allied health care professions.

**What goes well with Health & Social Care?** Health & Social Care can stand on its own as a general qualification that opens doors directly into employment or further study. It links well with most humanity subjects, but especially Geography and Business Studies.

**For further information, contact** Dr Anne Richards – [ARichards@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:ARichards@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)