

Theale Green School



Sixth Form

Subject Information Booklet

2025 - 2026

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Introduction

Welcome to the open evening at Theale Green Sixth Form. There has never been a more thrilling moment to become part of Theale Green School Sixth Form. As our school expands, we are delighted to introduce new additions to our subject offerings. Among these are a broader selection of BTEC subjects.

Our Sixth Form is dedicated to crafting a tailored learning environment that empowers students to achieve their dreams, with expert guidance and support readily available.

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), massive open online courses, work experience, alongside other independent learning opportunities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact: TGS_6thForm@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

Expectations

As a Sixth Form, all students are expected to remain on site from 8.35am to 3.00pm. However, if they have no lessons after lunchtime they are permitted to study from home.

All students should arrive 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

We recognise that Sixth Form students are seen as role models to younger students in school and, as such, have a responsibility to model behaviour and expectations. We want Sixth Form students to feel comfortable and to be able to express a degree of individuality during the school day and be dressed appropriately for their 6th form subjects. Nevertheless, we also want to promote a professional and more adult working environment, as well as a positive image to the wider community; therefore, we always expect them to be dressed appropriately. External visitors are frequently seen in our Sixth Form, and we are pleased that an increasing number of our Sixth Form students are volunteering out in the local community; we want students to reflect our positive learning environment, mature work ethic and attitude.

At Theale Green Sixth Form, this means that the following dress-code is agreed:

- Tops are professional, which means that they do not include low cut tops, vests, crop tops and thin straps – shoulders should be covered
- Please do not wear clothing bearing political or contentious slogans/images and / or discriminatory or culturally sensitive imagery
- Full length jeans are allowed, we request that these are not ripped or faded
- Trainers and converse trainers are permitted
- Hairstyles and colour should be appropriate for the workplace
- Footwear: please do not wear Ugg style boots, Sliders, or flip-flops
- Please do not wear tracksuit trousers or jogging bottoms
- Skirts should be an appropriate length and style and shorts are not allowed

Make-Up and Accessories:

- Make-up should be discreet
- Nails should be of reasonable length, style and colour

Lanyards

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

Entry Requirements*

Our entry requirements are Maths and English Language at Grade 4 or above, plus at least three other GCSEs at Grade 5 and any minimum entry requirements for individual subjects. For the latest details of each course please see the course information below.

* On GCSE results day there will be meetings held for students who do not achieve their expected grades. Alternatives course will be discussed.

Next Steps



Please scan the QR code and complete the expression of interest form. We ask at this stage that students indicate 5 choices in order of preference to enable us to organise option blocks.

A Level Courses

Subject: ART/ SCULPTURE (AQA:Fine art)
Assessment: Coursework unit (60%), Externally set assignment (40%)
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Students must have gained a level 5 or above in creative GCSE e.g 3D/textiles/ Art/Sculpture / Graphics or even Photography. English at Level 4 at GCSE is also required .

Art A level is suited to students looking for a creative career media, design, architecture, advertising, film, the Arts, TV or fashion. We look for creative thinkers, capable of developing ideas through quality research. You will need a level 4 pass in Art, 3D, Graphics, or equivalent course.

Students will be introduced to a wide range of artists, appropriate to their individual projects. Observation, presentation, and evaluation skills are also explored in depth. All students develop a portfolio of work which shows their ability to communicate an idea visually resulting in large scale final outcomes which are 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, and installation. Students are encouraged to explore the media and processes they are strongest in while producing an extended independent project. Students will be encouraged to try lots of different media in term one and then be supported to focus on sculpture or two-dimensional art for the rest of the coursework project. The second half of year 2 is used to complete the exam project, the starting points for this project are shared by the exam board, one topic is then chosen for the project which will end in a timed final piece.

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.

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

For further information, contact Mr A Wilson: awilson@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: PHOTOGRAPHY
Assessment: Coursework (60%), Exam (40%)
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Students must have gained a level 5 or above in GCSE Art/Art Photography and English. If you do not have these qualifications please discuss the possibility of joining us with Mr Wilson (Head of Department)

This subject is an opportunity to respond visually to the world around us. Photography A level is suited to students looking for a creative career in the media, design, architecture, advertising and film and TV. In Photography, we do not insist that you have a GCSE in the subject, but you should at least a level 4 GCSE in a creative subject such as photography, Art, 3D, textiles, as the creative process of research and development of ideas are remarkably similar in these subjects. 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. Project 3: Concept photography. 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 and working to a professional brief. An exam unit will fill the second half of year 2.

Why choose Photography? It is a subject that will allow you to explore the world around us. Most importantly, you should enjoy taking images 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 other photography work, literature, music, or any other topic of interest to you. We encourage individuality coupled with an ability to work on your own.

What goes well with Photography? in recent year's universities are looking for signs and evidence of creative skills across the curriculum and Photography complements subjects such as English, Politics, Computer science, Sport, History and Art.

For further information, contact Mr A Wilson: awilson@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: BUSINESS

Assessment: 100% Exam

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry requirements: The minimum requirement to take the A Level Business is to have at least a grade 4 in GCSE English and Maths

Studying Business will provide an exciting insight into the dynamic world of business. The subject will teach students how to set up and run a business such as marketing, human resource management, finance, accounting, cash flow and sales forecasting and operations management. Students will use this knowledge in decision making to improve business performance and develop appropriate strategies using real world Business case studies.

Course Outline

- Theme 1: Marketing and people
- Theme 2: Managing business activities and 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. It combines theoretical strategies with a practical attitude to solving the problems facing businesses in a modern world. The course offers introductions to the main areas of starting a business, financing a business, human resource management, marketing, accounting, financing growth and managing operations like supply chains and stock management.

What goes well with Business? Subjects such as Economics, Geography or Psychology are a good complement to Business because they help explain many of the external factors which impact businesses. Business A level has a large mathematical component especially in the finance section, therefore for students looking into careers in accounting, auditing, finance or market analysis may find Maths is a good complementary subject. Students may also be interested in starting their own business in the future therefore Business can pair well with Photography, Film or PE.

For further information, contact Ms A Cash: acash@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: ECONOMICS

Assessment: 100% Exam

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry requirements: The minimum requirement to take the A Level Economics is to have at least a grade 5 in GCSE English and Maths.

Economics is about the study of cost-benefit analysis and how consumers, producers and governments make choices. The key debate in Economics is to look at how to maximise well-being and if, when and how governments should intervene in the free market. In Microeconomics this looks at when allowing producers and consumers to set prices and quantities through the free market is the best way to allocate resources, and when government intervention such as taxes, subsidies, price controls, state provision, state information or regulations may be necessary. In Macroeconomics students will consider the question of how and why governments and central banks intervene in the economy through taxes, government spending, interest rates and the money supply. Economics asks students to develop their skills of evaluation to consider costs and benefits of government intervention compared to the free market.

Course Outline

Theme One: Introduction to markets and market failure

The economic problem and opportunity cost

The price mechanism

Market failure

Government interventions in markets

Behavioural Economics

Theme Two: The UK Economy: Performance and Policies

Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply Model

Economic Growth

Unemployment

Inflation

Balance of Payments and Exchange Rates

Fiscal, Monetary and Supply Side Policies

Theme Three: Business Behaviour and the Labour Market

Costs, Revenue and Profit

Market Structures (Perfect competition, oligopoly, monopoly)

Labour Markets

Business Growth

Theme Four: A global perspective

International trade

Globalisation

Poverty and Inequality

Financial Markets

Development

Why choose Economics? Economics is useful knowledge in any profession and helps students to make sense of the world and current events. Economics can lead down a number of pathways including finance, accounting, policy making, data and investment analysis, management consulting or journalism. 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? Economics can pair very well with Maths and if looking to take straight Economics at tertiary level, Maths is a requirement for most courses. Many economists are more interesting in a more humanities approach where the subject pairs well with History, Geography and Business.

For further information, contact Mrs A Cash: acash@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Assessment: 100% Written Exam

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Recruitments: The minimum requirement to take A Level Government and Politics is to have at least a 5 in GCSE English.

Politics is constantly changing the world around us, and at some point, everyone encounters it - whether through voting, campaigning or simply watching the news. Young people are undoubtedly becoming increasingly 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 Ms Loxton: jloxton@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: COMPUTER SCIENCE

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

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: The minimum requirement to take the A Level Computer Science is to have at least a grade 4 in GCSE Computing

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 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 TGS_Computing@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: MATHEMATICS

Assessment: 100% Exam

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements: Students are expected to have a grade 7 or above in GCSE maths.

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!). Mathematics is the language of science and computing, without which many things that we take for granted every day would not be possible. Mathematics is an essential gateway course into a wide range of careers and industries. To fully access the course students should be working at a grade 7 or above at GCSE, with a strong grasp of algebra

Course Outline

Students will sit 3 exams at the end of year 13, each counting equally towards their A Level in Mathematics. Papers 1&2: Core Mathematics, Paper 3a: Statistics, Paper 3b: Mechanics

Core Mathematics Content overview:

- Topic 1 – Proof
- Topic 2 – Algebra and functions
- Topic 3 – Coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane
- Topic 4 – Sequences and series
- Topic 5 – Trigonometry
- Topic 6 – Exponentials and logarithms
- Topic 7 – Differentiation
- Topic 8 – Integration
- Topic 9 – Numerical methods
- Topic 10 – Vectors

Content overview Section A: Statistics

- Topic 1 – Statistical sampling
- Topic 2 – Data presentation and interpretation
- Topic 3 – Probability
- Topic 4 – Statistical distributions
- Topic 5 – Statistical hypothesis testing

Section B: Mechanics

- Topic 6 – Quantities and units in mechanics
- Topic 7 – Kinematics
- Topic 8 – Forces and Newton's laws
- Topic 9 – Moments

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 Mr K Nailor: knailor@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: DRAMA

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

Exam Board: OCR

Entry Requirements: The minimum requirement to take the A Level Drama is to have at least a grade 5 in GCSE English.

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 theatregoing 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 an extremely rewarding subject. It is by no means a soft option.

Course Outline

Component group 1: Practitioners in practice - Students explore practically the work of theatre practitioners and use the skills gained to explore text and create devised theatre. They are required to practically explore two practitioners and an extract from a performance text before performing or creating a design for a devised piece of drama for an audience.

Component 2: Exploring and performing texts - Students explore one performance text in its entirety and perform or create a design for part of the text, applying the relevant skills to communicate the meaning in a performance text to an audience.

Component 3: Analysing performance - Students explore practically two performance texts on a chosen theme and analyse and evaluate live theatre.

- Section A: students study two different performing texts on a given theme and develop knowledge and understanding of how extracts can be rehearsed and interpreted in performance. We study: *Frankenstein* (Nick Dear) and *The Love of a Nightingale* (Timberlake Wertenbaker)
- Section B: students analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.

Component 4: Deconstructing texts for performance - Students will interpret and explore practically a performance text considering how to create, develop and direct a performance for an audience.

- Students study the following performance text: *The Crucible* – Arthur Miller

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 Russell 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 time 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 C. Lambert: clambert@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: FILM STUDIES

Assessment: Coursework (30%), Written exam (70%)

Exam Board: Eduqas

Entry Requirements: The minimum requirement to take A Level Film Studies is GCSE English at grade 5 or above.

Film is one of the main cultural innovations of the 20th century and a major art form of the last hundred years. Those who study it characteristically bring with them a high degree of enthusiasm and excitement for what is a powerful and culturally significant medium, inspiring a range of responses from the emotional to the reflective. Film Studies consequently makes an important contribution to the curriculum, offering the opportunity to investigate how film works both as a medium of representation and as an aesthetic medium.

Course Outline

Component 1: Varieties of film and filmmaking (35% of qualification)

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of six feature-length films.

Section A: Hollywood 1930-1990 (comparative study) Vertigo and Night of the Living Dead

Section B: American film since 2005 (two-film study) Get Out and Little Women

Section C: British film since 1995 (two-film study) Shaun of the Dead and Trainspotting

Component 2: Global filmmaking perspectives (35% of qualification)

Section A: Global film (two-film study) Pan's Labyrinth and City of God

Section B: Documentary film – Amy

Section C: Film movements – Silent cinema - Strike

Section D: Film movements – Experimental film (1960-2000) Mulholland Drive

Component 3: Production (30% of qualification)

Learners produce either

- a short film (4-5 minutes) or a screenplay for a short film (1600-1800 words) plus a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay

or

- an evaluative analysis (1600 - 1800 words).

Why choose Film Studies?

Film Studies is a must for the film enthusiast. If you enjoy watching films at the cinema; if you enjoy debates about which films are good or bad; if you are intrigued about how films are made and want to explore how they create an impact on an audience or why certain films are so successful; if you have a favourite director, genre, franchise or actor; if you want to explore how to create your own screenplay, storyboard or film, then this is the course for you. It is a stepping stone into the world of film production, film criticism, performance, and screenwriting. We live in an area that has several new and expanding production studios – now is the perfect time to take this subject.

What goes well with Film Studies? Film Studies is multi-disciplinary subject and is a perfect match with a surprising variety of subjects. The analytical aspects of the course use skills remarkably similar to those needed for English Literature; the study of the context of films is relevant to both History and Geography; the study of performance aspects tallies with key elements of Drama; the elements of cinematography, mise-en-scene and design use knowledge and skills you would find in Art and Photography. On top of this you will find that Film Studies links to areas of study in Psychology, Music, Business Studies, Politics, Economics and Ethics and Philosophy due to its focus on the human animal, the use of musical composition and sound, the study of the institutions and production companies and the symbology contained in many films as well as the political, ethical and philosophical questions surrounding the reception and censorship of films.

For further information, contact Mr C. Lambert: clambert@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: ENGLISH LITERATURE

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

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: The minimum requirement to take the A Level English is to have at least a grade 6 in GCSE English.

“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 actively seek 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 the English department via email on tgs_english@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: FRENCH

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

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: The minimum requirement to take A Level French is to have at least a grade 5 in GCSE French.

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 increasingly demanding that their employees can communicate with other countries in the global market and post Brexit those who can speak other European languages are 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 fascinating. 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 practically 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 combines well with any subject both at A Level and at University.

For further information, contact Mr G O'Sullivan: GOSullivan@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: PSYCHOLOGY

Assessment: 100% Written Exam

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: The minimum requirement to take A Level Psychology is to have at least a grade 5 in GCSE English and Maths.

Ever wondered if prison really does change criminal behaviour? Or why some people conform? Or perhaps if the experiences you had before the age of five really do shape the person you are today?

A-Level Psychology is a dynamic and rigorous course that offers students a unique opportunity to explore the scientific study of the human mind and behavior. As both a science and a subject that promotes critical inquiry, Psychology is ideal for students eager to understand complex human interactions and societal issues. It's not just about learning concepts; A-Level Psychology builds skills in analysis, evaluation, and independent thinking that are valuable for a range of career paths and personal development.

Course Outline

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

Why choose Psychology?

Psychology, as an A-Level subject, is rooted in scientific principles and methodologies. Students will engage with rigorous research methods, including controlled experiments, data collection, and statistical analysis, allowing them to build a strong foundation in scientific inquiry. Psychology is one of the most relevant and applicable subjects to everyday life, offering insights into topics like memory, attachment and social behaviour. This knowledge has real-world implications and can be applied to improve personal interactions, understand societal trends, and foster empathy. Psychology provides students with a new lens through which to view both personal and global issues.

A-Level Psychology emphasizes independent thought, encouraging students to question assumptions and evaluate evidence. Students will examine a range of theories and studies, learning to critically analyse findings and arguments. Choosing to study A-Level Psychology is a commitment to understanding the human experience through a scientific lens. It is a subject that fosters intellectual curiosity, challenges students to think independently, and equips them with practical, transferrable skills.

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 Mrs J Calvert : jcalvert@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: CRIMINOLOGY

Assessment: Units 1 and 3 will be assessed through computer-based exams lasting 8 hours in total for each unit. Units 2 and 4 will be assessed through written examinations lasting 1½ hours for each unit. There is no coursework: this course is 100% exam.

Exam Board: Eduqas

Entry Requirements: The minimum requirement to take A Level Criminology is to have at least a 5 in English

Criminology is one of the subjects within the “social sciences” Theale Green School. The main objective is to understand and explain the role of criminal behaviour in society. Criminology allows students to explore a variety of topics such as Changing Awareness of Crime, Criminological Theories including Psychological, Sociological and Biological explanations for offending, Crime Scene Analysis and the Role of the Courtroom, Dealing with Offending Behaviour, and Punishment.

Course Outline

- During the first year you will study two Certificate units. Within these units you will look at different types of crime and public perceptions of crime, gaining an understanding of why some crimes go unreported to the police and media. The second Certificate unit, through its focus on a series of criminological theories, also allows learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crimes.
- During the second year of the course, the Diploma units will foster a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system and you will develop the skills needed to examine criminal cases and review verdicts. You will look at the roles of personnel and processes involved from the moment a crime takes place until the verdict itself is passed.
- In the final unit, you will apply your knowledge of criminological theories to understand how and why we use punishment within the criminal justice system in order to achieve social control. You will learn how to evaluate the effectiveness of social control agencies, such as the police and prisons, in achieving their aims.

Why choose Criminology? This qualification looks at the types of crime that take place within our society. How do we decide which behaviour is criminal? How do we explain why some people commit crime and how can we use different theories of criminality to explain this behaviour?

You will study real life cases to gain an understanding of the criminal justice system from the crime scene all the way to the courtroom and look at how social control is achieved within our society.

Criminology is an Applied General qualification primarily designed to support learners progressing to university; however, much of the course is vocationally relevant, offering opportunities to learn from practical activities and the expertise of professionals currently working in criminology. It offers exciting and interesting learning experiences in purposeful contexts linked to the criminal justice system.

If you are fascinated by the workings of crime and punishment, this course could be for you!

What goes well with Criminology? Criminology is a field within the Social Sciences Faculty, making it a compatible choice for interdisciplinary study alongside subjects like Government and Politics or science-based disciplines.

For further information, contact Mrs J Calvert: jcalvert@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: GEOGRAPHY

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

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: The minimum requirement to take A Level Geography is to have at least a grade 5 in English

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 Miss McNally: Imcnally@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: HISTORY

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

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements: The minimum requirement to take A Level History is to have at least a grade 5 in History and English

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.

History requires a Grade 5 in History and English at GCSE

For further information, contact Ms Loxton: jloxton@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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

Exam Board: OCR

Entry Requirements: Students will need to achieve a grade 5 in four separate subjects, of which one must be English Language. It is also essential that students have studied GCSE PE and achieved at least a grade 6. Finally, due to the practical assessment of this A-Level course, students must also be playing competitive sports to a high level outside of school.

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 A Bayliss: abayliss@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: BIOLOGY

Assessment: 100% Exam + a minimum of 12 Commonly Assessed Practicals

Exam Board: OCR A

Entry Requirements: The minimum requirement to take A Level Biology is to have a 6 in GCSE Biology or 6-6 in combined Science and you must have a 5 in GCSE Maths.

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 Mrs Onions: nonions@thealegreen.wberks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: CHEMISTRY

Assessment: 100% Exam + a minimum of 12 Commonly Assessed Practicals

Exam Board: OCR A

Entry Requirements: The minimum requirement to take A Level Chemistry is to have a 6 in GCSE Chemistry or 6-6 in combined Science and you must have a 5 in GCSE Maths.

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 Mrs N Onions: nonions@thealegreen.wberks.sch.uk

A Level Courses

Subject: PHYSICS

Assessment: 100% Exam + a minimum of 12 Commonly Assessed Practicals

Exam Board: OCR A

Entry Requirements: The minimum requirement to take A Level Physics is to have a 6 in GCSE Physics or 6-6 in combined Science and you must have a 5 in GCSE Maths.

Unlike other sciences, physics has no limits. Everything in your life, this planet and beyond has an element of physics to it. Expand your knowledge, thinking, options and horizons with A Level Physics.

Course Outline

The A Level Physics OCR A course contains 6 modules.

1. Development of Practical Skills in Physics
2. Foundations of Physics
3. Forces and Motion
4. Electrons, Waves and Photons
5. Newtonian World and Astrophysics
6. Particles and Medical Physics

Why choose Physics? Physics allows you the opportunity to explore the wonders and origins of the universe in high levels of detail. Look into how waves travel through the universe transmitting information, how stars develop and the forces planets exert on one another. Explore circuits and capacitors to develop awareness of their use in everyday life. Physics provides ample opportunity to enhance and excel in analytical, critical thinking and mathematical skills in addition to data handling, literacy and more. In a crowded job market, physics will help you stand out from the crowd.

What goes well with Physics? It is highly recommended that students studying A Level Physics also study A Level Mathematics. A Level Physics requires significant depth of understanding and use of mathematical skills. Many students select to combine A Level Physics with another science, such as Biology or Chemistry. Students considering engineering often combined A Level Physics with Mathematics, Chemistry and Computer Science. A Level Physics and Mathematics is also often combined with Economics. Physics fits in well with almost any A Level; past students have studied photography, film studies, government and politics, history in addition to traditional combinations.

For further information, contact Mrs N Onions: nonions@thealegreen.wberks.sch.uk

BTEC Courses

Subject: MUSIC – Foundation diploma

Assessment: Based on Modules and internal assessment (Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction +)

Exam Board: Pearson

Entry Requirements: The minimum requirement to take BTEC Music is to have at least a grade 5 in GCSE Music.

Learners taking this qualification will study two mandatory learning and teaching modules:

- **Music Skills Development** or **Music Production Skills Development** (internally assessed)
- The Music Industry (internally assessed).

These are the key features of this specification model:

- two pathways available for learners to focus on either music or music production
- all content in each pathway is mandatory
- content is defined in large blocks – called learning and teaching modules
- all assessment is of substantial size and linked to clear assessment objectives.

Learners need to have access to teaching and learning approaches that challenge them to deepen and refine their skills over time. This approach is supported by the definition of mandatory content for all learners, which addresses:

- development of music or music production skills
- management of projects
- self-analysis and reflection
- understanding of musical elements
- appreciation of the music industry and their future role in it
- the ability to present themselves and their achievements effectively

The qualification the equivalent of **1.5 A Levels** and carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements for many relevant music courses. When combined with other qualifications in a two-year study programme, such as A Levels or another BTEC National Foundation Diploma, learners can progress to higher education degree programmes, such as:

- BA (Hons) in Performing Arts, if taken alongside, for example, a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Performing Arts
- BA (Hons) in Music Industry Management, if taken alongside, for example, a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Business
- BA (Hons) in Music Business, if taken alongside, for example, a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Business or A Levels in mathematics and business.

Why choose BTEC 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 the creative and industry progress.

What goes well with Music? Music has links across all the arts, technology and the study of other cultures. 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 K Coombs: kcoombs@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

BTEC Courses

Subject: SPORT

Assessment: 66% Exam, 34% Coursework

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements: Students will need to achieve a grade 4 in four separate subjects, of which one must be English Language. It is also desirable that students have studied GCSE PE and achieve at least a grade 5 in this to enable them to access the material on the course.

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 A Bayliss: abayliss@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

BTEC Courses

Subject: TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Assessment: 58% Exam, 42% Coursework

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements: The minimum requirement to take travel and tourism is a grade 4 or higher in English.

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 Miss McNally: Imcnally@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

BTEC Courses

Subject: HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Assessment: 4 units of which 2 are external. Two 1hr 30min written exams, and two coursework assessed units.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements: Students will need to achieve a grade 4 in four separate subjects, of which one must be English Language.

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 12: Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs

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, Childcare, 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 Mr A Bayliss: abayliss@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

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