

Shaftesbury and Sturminster Sixth Form

Supplement to the Prospectus

Guide to Choosing your Courses

Guide to Choosing your Courses

In the prospectus folder you will find an Application Form for entry into the Shaftesbury and Sturminster Sixth Form. If you wish to be considered for a place in the joint Sixth Form, please complete the application form and return it as soon as possible. You will then be invited for interview at a later date.

Normally, a Level Three course will comprise FOUR AS Levels in the first year providing the student has an average grade of a C across all subjects taken at GCSE, with C grades and above in English and Maths. Any student who does not meet these criteria, must either negotiate their course at Level Three or undertake a Level Two course. Please note that some subjects have their own individual entry requirements as well.

You will also find a copy of the pools for the current year in this pack. You need to choose one AS level subject only from each pool, (a maximum of four), and write the four subjects you have chosen on the application form. Should you wish to study a combination of subjects that appears impossible, please indicate this on the application form and it will be discussed during your interview. If you wish to study a Diploma, please write this on the form.

If you have any queries, please contact the Head of Sixth Form.

Accounting AS/A2

Shaftesbury

Contact: Mr Hayes

What is interesting about this course?

If you like figures, then this is for you. You should also have an interest in the business environment. After studying this course, you will be able to undertake accounting tasks confidently and with precision. Producing a set of financial accounts will be able to show the profitability and efficiency of a business; essential to ensure success. Mind you, it's not all about figures as ethical and social issues are discussed. Should profit be everything?

Entry requirements and skills needed

You will need a GCSE mean score of 43 (which means an average of between a C grade and a B grade), including English and Mathematics at Grade C. As you will be studying this course through **videoconferencing**, you should already have proved yourself able to work conscientiously and independently. There will be **1 x 1 hour videoconferencing session per week** but also a meeting with the link teacher who will support the learning process.

Assessment

Two modular examinations at AS and two more at A2 – all written papers.

Progression

The qualification provides exemption from certain professional accounting examinations. The accounting profession offers a number of varied career opportunities including chartered accountancy, industry, commerce and the public sector.

Art and Design AS/A2

Shaftesbury

Contact: Mr Ridgway

What is interesting about this course?

In the first term, students work on developing their art portfolio exploring different materials and ways of working. The idea is to build upon and develop skills and techniques already acquired by the student. Students are encouraged to put themselves "on the line" and try out new ways of thinking, using materials and developing ideas.

Entry requirements and skills needed

Commitment and enthusiasm are vital ingredients in the successful completion of this course. Students need to have a good understanding of the language of Art and Design ie line, tone, colour, form. Most students will have successfully completed a GCSE in Art and Design or a related area.

Assessment

The AS Level consists of two parts: Coursework Portfolio 50% and Externally Set Assignment 50%. Students' work is continually and closely monitored through individual discussions and a regular tutorial programme. A2 can be studied on the successful completion of the AS course. At this level students are required to produce a personal study and an Externally Set Assignment.

Progression

Students can use this qualification as a stepping stone to Higher Education. It enables students to build up a portfolio of work for Art College application. The qualification is also accepted by the majority of colleges and universities for those students wishing to follow a non-art related course.

Art AS/A2 (Fine Art endorsed)

Sturminster

Contact: Miss Jenkins

What is interesting about this course?

This is the opportunity to extend your existing skills and develop new ones, to take your own route through themes and explore ideas using the universal visual language that is ART. You will be taught techniques to help you to achieve the ideas you have. You will be introduced to a variety of art and cultures that can influence the way you work. There will be workshops with practising artists and visits to art galleries in order to inform your work. There is the potential to work in sculpture, painting, mixed media, printmaking, photography and time related art.

Entry requirements and skills needed

You should have achieved a high C grade or above in GCSE Art, Graphics, Media Studies, Textiles or Resistant Materials. You will need to have good basic drawing skills and a willingness to explore new techniques. The most important qualities you need to bring to this course are enthusiasm, a good work ethic, good organisation skills, the ability to study independently and with curiosity.

Assessment AS Fine Art: First Year of Course

Coursework: 50% of AS (25% A-level). One or more units of work assessed as portfolio – deadline end January.
Externally Set Assignment: 50% of AS (25% A-level). A practical assignment – choose theme from exam board paper. **5 hours** supervised time early in process (10 weeks from February).

A2 Fine Art: Second Year of Course

Coursework: 50% of A2 (25% A-level) Personal investigation (practical project) supported by written element of 1,000-3,000 words- deadline
Externally Set Assignment: 50% of A2 (25% A-level). A practical assignment – choose theme from exam board paper. **15 hours** supervised time as last part of process (10 weeks from February).

Progression

A Level Art is a useful qualification for all art and design related professions. More detailed information on relevant employment opportunities is available from Miss Jenkins. The progression is usually through an art college/university art and design foundation course and then to a specialist degree course.

What is interesting about this course?

If you have got a natural curiosity about the world and a desire to understand it, then Biology is for you. Organisms are made of cells and cells are made of molecules. These molecules are arranged into stunningly clever structures perfectly adapted to their functions. It is the nature of these molecules and the chemical reactions that occur between them that give rise to the phenomenon of life. You will study these molecules in isolation and then fit them together, like the pieces of a complex jigsaw and try to understand exactly what is going on. Despite the exponential growth in biological understanding in the last decade there will still be many unanswered questions.

Entry requirements and skills needed

Recommend minimum of grade C in Science and Maths, but advise that if your highest grade in Science is a C, you should only opt for either Biology, Chemistry or Physics at AS/A2.

If you haven't already gathered, Biology has very strong links with Chemistry, it also has links with Maths and Physics. Good concentration and listening skills are essential as is the ability to analyse new data and draw conclusions using your newly learned information.

Assessment

In both AS and A2 there are 2 modules tested externally by written exams and a series of practical investigations which are assessed internally.

Progression

You may want to study Biology out of sheer enthusiasm for the subject or have a particular career in mind. Whatever the reason the range of careers it will open up to you is enormous: Labwork, Industry, Fieldwork, Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Health Care, work with animals, Marine and Freshwater Biology, Information Science, and teaching and lecturing. Within Biological university courses, the choice is enormous - there isn't the space to begin to describe them here. Seek advice!

What is interesting about this course?

Biology is a fascinating subject, which is constantly in the news with developments in genetic engineering, agriculture and medicine. The course is varied, topics covered ranging from biochemistry to human disease and environmental biology. Students learn to make close observations, collect and analyse data and make scientific conclusions. Above all students will be taught to appreciate the complex and amazing ways in which living things work.

Entry requirements and skills needed

You will ideally have at least a B grade at GCSE Science, but most of all you will need to be *interested* in the broad subject of biology, from cells to whole organisms. You need to have good practical science skills as practical assessments form part of the course. You will also need to perform a variety of simple calculations and so need to be numerate. You will need to be able to research topics independently from a variety of sources eg text books, science publications, internet.

Assessment

The new specification has a greater emphasis on understanding and application than on recall.

AS Biology will be externally assessed in 2 written exams covering (i) Cells, exchange and transport and (ii) Molecules, Biodiversity, Food and Health, and internally assessed on practical skills.

A2 Biology will be externally assessed in 2 written exams covering (i) Communications, Homeostasis and Energy and (ii) Control, Genomes and Environment, and internally assessed on practical skills.

Progression

Biology is a widely accepted A Level and is required by many courses in biology-related fields in Higher Education. Possible careers include: medicine, pharmacy, biotechnology, genetic engineering, physiotherapy and sports science.

What is interesting about this course?

Do you know... the difference between a dog, a cow, a bull, a bear and a wildcat? What a SWOT is? Whether the choice of sleeping partner is important? How to deal with a problem child?

If not (or even if you think you do), A level Business Studies will help you to know the correct answers to these questions! Business Studies at A-Level will enable you to explore many of the issues “touched on” at GCSE level in far greater depth. You will be learning more about the business world that surrounds you. Hopefully there will be the opportunity to attend conferences in London, visit companies and participate in a residential activity.

Entry requirements and skills needed

It is important that you are competent at English and Mathematics and consequently you should be aiming towards gaining grade C or above in these subjects at GCSE. You do not have to have taken Business Studies at GCSE, although this is an advantage. However, you need to be interested in the business world and prepared to take responsibility for your own learning.

Assessment

The course is delivered on a modular basis with the opportunity to take modules in both Year 12 and Year 13. Modules, if necessary, can be repeated. This assessment process means that the “pressure” is spread over the two years, so you need to be a conscientious worker!

Progression

This is an excellent course if you are considering pursuing a career in the business world immediately after A level eg on a Management Trainee programme. Business Studies also combines well with a wide range of A Levels including, for example, Sports Studies and/or a Foreign Language. Consequently the subject is a suitable introduction to a variety of higher education courses including Accounts, Law, Marketing, European Studies and Sports Management, Business and Management, logistics and transport, economics and manufacturing careers.

What is interesting about this course?

The course is designed to give the student a comprehensive insight into the world of business, through areas such as Organisation of Business Finance, Human Resources and Marketing, and External Influences. There will be opportunities to visit local and national businesses and attend conferences. Students will also have access to industry standard hardware and software for research and presentation of work.

Entry requirements and skills needed

A GCSE Business Studies course is not a requirement, but would be an advantage. It is recommended that Grade C or above has been obtained in English and Mathematics. You will also need a basic knowledge of IT.

Assessment

AS Business Studies: First Year Course

Two units: 1. Planning and Financing a Business: 40% of total AS marks assessed in a 1hr 15mins written paper of short answer questions and extended responses based on a mini case study.

2. Managing a Business: 60% of total AS marks assessed in 1hr 30mins written paper of compulsory, multi-part data response questions.

A2 Business Studies: Second Year Course

Two units: 3. Strategies for Success: 25% of total A Level marks assessed in a 1hr 45mins written paper based on an unseen case study with numerical data with questions requiring extended answers drawing on AS materials.

4. The Business Environment and Managing Change: 25% of total A Level marks assessed in a 1hr 45mins written paper that has 2 sections. Section A will contain questions that are based on prior research and Section B is an essay that candidates have selected from a list.

Progression

This is an excellent option for those considering employment after A Levels, and a useful starting point for those wishing to go on to higher education or further business courses such as accounting, management, law.

Catering Level 2 Diploma

Shaftesbury

Contact: Mr Smith

What is interesting about this course?

The Diploma in Hospitality will introduce you to a wide range of career opportunities available within the world of Hospitality. The industry is full of ever changing opportunities and is very important to the U.K. economy and to everyone's daily lives as it provides food, drink and accommodation in many different ways.

On the Diploma course you will explore all aspects of the industry at a local and national level and discover the areas that are of most interest to you.

The emphasis of study is on the hospitality industry mainly working through food and beverage preparation and service through our own restaurant, the Bistro. Other areas of study include the hospitality industry and industry trends, legislation and finance. These areas will all be studied with a view to operating a successful business.

Entry Requirements

Students need to enjoy learning through working with food, its production and preparation. They need to be able to work under pressure and it helps if they are well organised.

Students need a pass in Maths and English or a pass at level one in functional skills in Maths, English and I.C.T.

Assessment

The course is internally assessed through coursework projects at the end of each topic except for one topic when there will be a one hour external examination. Most of the questions will be of a multiple choice nature.

Progression

The main route followed by students is to take the level 3 Diploma at a local technical college and then progression at a later stage would be to University for a Higher National Diploma and/or a Degree in Hospitality or related subjects. An alternative would be to take up an apprenticeship.

What is interesting about this course?

The fascination of chemistry lies in seeing materials rearrange themselves to make surprising new substances, some of which are useful (plastics, dyes, medicines), some dangerous (pollutants, carcinogens). Also, it is chemical reactions that maintain life and release the energy on which we all depend. The challenge is to explain, control and predict these changes and understand why they happen, not least because of their economic and environmental consequences. There is a substantial overlap with Biology, as more and more research into living things is being done on a molecular level.

Entry requirements and skills needed

Recommend minimum of grade C in Science and Maths, but B is better. About half of the topics are mathematical, so you need to be reasonably good at handling decimals, graphs, equations and formulae. If your highest science grade in Science is a C, you should only opt for either Biology, Chemistry or Physics at AS/A2.

Assessment

Both AS and A2 will be assessed by a combination of internal practical and external written examinations. Exams are in January and June, which should motivate you to work from the start. Question papers will include short and extended answer questions.

Progression

Chemistry combines naturally not only with Physics, Biology and Maths, but also with a wide range of other subjects. Degrees are now offered around the country which couple chemistry with economics, computing, languages, environmental science and business management among others. Opportunities in the chemical industry are excellent, and past students have gone into a wide range of fields, including electrical engineering, pharmacology, medicine, forensic science and marine biology (in California!). Awareness of the influence of chemical reactions on the quality of human life and the global environment increases year by year. The world is going to need more and more decisions to be made by people who understand chemistry.

What is interesting about this course?

Almost every problem facing the world today, global warming, alternative energy and outbreaks of flu pandemic, will require chemistry and chemists to find the answers. Opportunities and salaries for chemists will grow with this need. Chemistry is currently experiencing the equivalent career prospects, in terms of income potential to graduates, that ICT experienced in the seventies. This is reflected in enrolment figures in the United States, where it shows the highest increase for any subject over the last five years.

Entry requirements and skills needed

GCSE Core and Additional or Triple Science preferably with a minimum of B grades, but CC may be sufficient. The mathematical content is high so you need to have reasonable mathematical skills.

Assessment

We follow OCR's A Level Chemistry 'A' specification (H434). In addition to studying theoretical aspects, students pursue an extensive course of practical work, some of which is assessed and contributes to the final A Level grade.

AS Level: Unit 1 30% of the total AS GCE marks in a 1 hour written paper
Unit 2 50% of the total AS GCE marks in a 1.75 hour written paper
Unit 3 20% of the total AS GCE marks – practical and investigative work (3 best pieces).

A2 Level: Three further units

Progression

The study of Chemistry will inform, stimulate and challenge students of all abilities and provide them with opportunities to improve skills, both mental and practical, which will be useful not just in their academic careers but also in everyday life. By studying Chemistry you will have advantaged yourself in the highly competitive university selection process. Students attend events organised by the British Association of Young Scientists and symposiums by the Royal Society in London.

What is interesting about this course?

You will develop your own performance pieces and present them to audiences and examiners; you will rehearse monologues and take part in exciting practical exercises that will free your mind and body from the confines of a desk or a computer; you will work in a space with lighting, staging, costumes and props which you can use and experiment with. You will be challenged to express yourself, to analyse, to interpret – you will do all of this and have a huge amount of fun at the same time.

Entry requirements and skills needed

It is a course that you can take if you want to develop performance skills, or performance design skills or production skills such as directing and writing. It is not just for those wishing to pursue performance professionally nor do you need a GCSE in Drama to take the option, however, it is certainly advantageous if you have. Should you wish to study Theatre Studies at A level without having completed Drama GCSE, you will need to demonstrate a thorough passion for the subject and speak in detail with Miss Lacey prior to picking the course.

Assessment

It will be a mix of coursework, lots of practical exploration and performance work in the AS year (there is no written exam in the AS year). In the A2 year there is again coursework, practical exploration and performance work and in addition there is a written exam.

Progression

Aside from its obvious benefit if you intend to pursue Performance as a career, Drama and Theatre Studies can help to improve a number of communication skills which will help in numerous careers and it is the perfect complement to many subjects. It is fully accepted as a valid qualification into both Higher Education and industry - in particular Personnel Work, Retailing, Distribution and Teaching.

What is interesting about this course?

This is an excellent course—it gives you the opportunity to perform as well as to learn about different styles of Music, Dance and Drama. We will study a variety of practitioners and their approaches to artistic work in each of the discrete forms. You will acquire the skills to perform, ‘copy’ existing repertoire, devise your own pieces and discover the links that occur within the art forms.

Entry Requirements and Skills needed

You MUST be confident, creative, imaginative, open minded and willing to work co-operatively with others. Group work is a main feature of this course and working together to realise a project is of utmost importance. You must also be prepared to perform in public. You will be required to work independently; reading, researching and preparing for areas of study. You will need to have prior knowledge in two of the three areas studied. A GCSE C Grade or above is essential in one area, with evidence of knowledge of another.

Assessment

- AS:** Unit 1: Creating Performance – 4 elements make up this unit: Skills based workshops; 3 pieces in each individual art form; a community performance; a written commentary on all the performance work..
Unit 2: Performance Contexts 1 – a study of three practitioners, one from each discrete art form, followed by a written examination.
- A2:** Unit 3: Performance Contexts 2 – a study of politics and the arts followed by a written examination.
Unit 4: Performance Project – 2 elements make up this unit: a performance of one of the works studied for either Performance Contexts 1 or 2 and a devised performance in response to an OCR commission.

Progression

This is a useful qualification for any occupation that requires communication in a ‘human’ form! You can move onto Higher Education or the world of work. It could lead to a career in performance, arts administration or even teaching. It will develop your confidence, creativity and communication skills—the three Cs!

What is interesting about this course?

This is a difficult question for a teacher to answer, and so here follow some quotes from students: “Group discussions about economic affairs are stimulating”; “An interesting element is the variety of economic and public issues discussed”; “Even writing an essay about economic systems after research was interesting”; “We have many discussions about fairness and equality”. What issues, then, will be addressed in the Economics course? The answer is very many, some of which are inflation, unemployment, international trade, financial institutions, consumer decision making, government objectives, production decisions, environmental issues, third world problems.

Entry requirements and skills needed

The students, when asked, replied “a keen sense of humour”, and this is certainly a good attribute for any student. Unfortunately, to study economics, you need rather more than this; a GCSE grade C in English being essential and a grade C in Mathematics being advisable. You will also need to be capable of researching topics yourself and keeping yourself up to date with current economic issues; reading good quality newspapers and economics magazines will ensure this takes place.

Assessment

You will be following the modular syllabus. 4 x module OCR examinations will be taken, two in Year 12 (AS) and two in Year 13 (A2). There will be an opportunity to retake if necessary.

Progression

A level Economics is a qualification which will be widely accepted by higher education establishments for HND and degree courses in a variety of subject areas. As well as degree level Economics, past economics students have gone on to study Marketing, Law, Accountancy, Tourism, Social Studies, Business Studies, Design, Geography and many more. Even if you decide that University is not for you, it is also a qualification welcomed by employers, especially for entry into management training schemes or when joining firms of solicitors or accountants. It may prove to be a key to a vast number of doors.

What is interesting about this course?

You will be encouraged to read widely and to analyse in depth novels, poetry and plays. We assume that you have enjoyed reading a variety of texts at GCSE level, that you read privately for pleasure and that you have ideas of your own that you are happy to share in writing and discussion. You will be following the AQA 'A' Specification.

Entry requirements and skills needed

You are required to achieve the minimum of a grade C in English Literature at GCSE. You should be willing to discuss and reflect on the texts studied, and to spend time researching independently. Most importantly, you must enjoy reading!

Assessment

AS One exam and two pieces of coursework

A2 One exam and two pieces of coursework

Progression

We hope that your study of English Literature will help you to develop your ability to read with understanding, to reflect, to discuss, to argue, to express yourself, to write clearly and to think for yourself. We also hope that you will become **a lifelong lover of a good book!**

What is interesting about this course?

This course encourages you to develop interest in and enjoyment of English Literature, through reading widely, critically and independently. The literature covered during the course spans centuries, genre and gender. The course invites you to experience an extensive range of views about texts and to develop your own. The subject is taught with a variety of teaching and learning styles and where possible will incorporate theatre visits.

Entry requirements and skills needed

Most importantly you will need to enjoy reading and be willing to spend time researching independently the texts you study. You should also be willing to discuss and reflect on the texts studied as this is an important part of the learning process. You are required to achieve the minimum of a grade C in GCSE English Literature.

Assessment

AS English Literature: First Year Course

Two modules: Aspects of Narrative, Dramatic Genre

A2 English Literature: Second Year Course

Two modules: Texts and Genres, Further and Independent Reading

Progression

English Literature is an excellent basis for any degree, developing the analytical, critical and communication skills needed for most walks of academic, professional and vocational life.

Foundation Course

Sturminster

What is interesting about this course?

This exciting new course gives you the opportunity to participate in a broad range of subjects which offer ideal preparation for a college course or employment.

Entry requirements and skills needed

There are specific entry requirements but candidates will be interviewed to assess their suitability. A willingness to learn and enthusiasm for a wide range of challenging tasks is essential.

Assessment

Assessment will vary from subject to subject but will generally consist of ongoing assessment, coursework and end of year examinations.

Progression

This course leads to further level 2 qualifications to enhance prospects of fulfilling entry requirements for further college education or possible employment.

What is interesting about this course?

You will learn to express yourself accurately and fluently in the foreign language. The range of topics is very broad indeed. You can end up talking, listening or writing about everything from healthy diets to human rights. Not only will you study the language, but also you will experience an insight into the French culture and psyche. Just about everything is interesting about this course!

Entry requirements and skills needed

You must have an enquiring mind and be prepared to work. One of the great things about learning a language is that those people who are prepared to work will amass a broad vocabulary and a sound knowledge of grammar, both of which are essential for success at AS and A2. We welcome students on the course who have gained at least a C in their GCSE. Experience tells us though that unless you have gained a B grade, you will find the course quite challenging.

Assessment*AS French: First Year Course*

Two units: Speaking – a role-play, followed by a discussion on a topic of your choice. Listening, Reading and Writing – you will be tested on your listening and reading skills with responses in French.

A2 French: Second Year Course

Two units: Speaking – a discussion based on an article from a newspaper or magazine followed by a conversation on one or two topics chosen by the candidate.

Progression

Language graduates have some of the highest success rates in gaining graduate jobs. Career opportunities range from hotel management to international banking and everything in between. High quality linguists are a rare commodity and much sought after!

Geography AS/A2

Shaftesbury

Contact: Mr Turner

What is interesting about the course?

It was once written that “geography is everywhere” and by its very nature the subject embraces much of everyday life. Earthquake, flood, volcanic eruption, landslide, hurricane, migration, drought, famine, and the problems of the inner city are just a few of the geographical based items that are always in the news. Geographical skills help us to unravel the complex web of forces and decisions which shape our world and give us a framework to aid greater understanding. Regular field trips occur throughout the course.

Entry requirements and skills needed

The skills required can be condensed into the following: the ability to read and make notes and in fact to gather information from a wide variety of sources; keeping an eye on TV and in the newspapers for topical information and events relevant to your work, and using time wisely in order to meet deadlines.

Assessment (All examination based modules)

AS: Unit 1:Managing Physical Environments: 3 topics will be studied: cold, coastal and river environments. Unit 2: Managing Change in Human Environments: 3 topics will be studied: managing rural change, the energy issue and the growth of tourism. Fieldwork and field trips, research and investigation skills will be part of both modules.

A2: Unit 3: Global Issues: 3 topics will be chosen from earth hazards, ecosystems, climatic hazards, population and resources, globalisation and development and inequalities. Unit 4:Geographical Skills: identifying geographical questions, planning a strategy, collecting and presenting data and analysing and interpreting data, plus the use of G.I.S. and statistical analysis. There is no marked coursework, but you will be examined on coursework as well as geographical skills.

Progression

Many students move on to university where Geography is usually offered as a BA or BSc Single Honours or Combined Honours or they study a related subject such as Geology. The skills acquired are however an excellent background for many subjects and are treated as such. The ability to understand maps and diagrams also leads to careers in retail management, surveying, cartography, computing and many opportunities in local government.

What is interesting about this course?

This exciting course examines the nature of local and world environments and the relationships between them and human beings. It is an up-to-date and relevant syllabus that builds on skills and concepts gained by you at GCSE level. Some of the topics of study you will be involved in include rivers, climatic hazards, ecosystems, population dynamics, settlement and economic activity.

Entry requirements and skills needed

This is an academic subject that requires you to have an interest in the world around you and its peoples. You will need to be confident at carrying out your own enquiries into questions, issues and problems, using fieldwork as an important tool to help you. Geography GCSE does not need to be one of your five A* - C grades.

Assessment

Geography AS: First Year Course

Two modules: Physical and Human Geography and Applied Geography.

Geography A2: Second Year Course

Two modules: Contemporary Geographical Issues and Coursework.

Progression

This subject is acceptable for both Science and Arts Degree courses at University. There are enormous possibilities for careers open to geographers, ranging from town and country planning to geologists to economists. Above all it is widely accepted as a subject providing you with a wide variety of skills.

What is interesting about this course?

You should be interested in the Health and Social Care sector—particularly early years settings, the care of the elderly or special needs. This course encourages you to:

- develop an interest in health, early years care and education, social care and issues affecting the care sector.
- acquire knowledge and understanding of health, early years care and education and issues affecting the health and social care sector.
- develop skills that will enable you to make an effective contribution to the care sector including skills of research, evaluation and problem-solving in a work related context.

Entry requirements and skills needed

No prior knowledge will be assumed. The course will involve writing reports and portfolios, carrying out a Health Promotion campaign, as well as visiting chosen care settings eg early years settings, residential homes for the elderly etc to carry out the investigations.

Assessment

The assessments for the course involve examination and internally assessed coursework projects.

AS Health and Social Care: First Year Course

Three modules: Promoting Quality Care, Communication in Care Settings, Promoting Good Health.

A2 Health and Social Care: Second Year Course

Three modules: Care Practice and Provision, Understanding Human Behaviour or Anatomy and Physiology, Child Development.

Progression

This qualification can lead to further training for degree level studies or relevant employment within a wide range of health, social care and early years care and education environments.

What is interesting about this course?

- How can you make sense of the present unless you have a good understanding of the past?
- How can you understand Britain today if you've never looked at our past?
- How are you going to change the world if you haven't looked at how it got in the state it's in already?
- How are you going to deal with the challenges of the future if you don't understand the successes and failures of the past? Answer: by taking History

Entry requirements and skills needed

A GCSE in History is not essential. No prior knowledge will be assumed. You do need to be interested in what motivates human beings in their behaviour and beliefs. Reading and independent research should not be a chore. It is important to consider a range of interpretations before you arrive at your own opinion, which you should then be able to develop and defend, both orally and in writing. A Level History is about constructing and sustaining an argument – and demolishing rival views.

Assessment

AS: 1 x 1hr 30 minute exam: The struggle for Civil Rights in the USA 1950-68

1 x 1hr 15 minute exam: Britain 1906-1951

A2: 1 x 1½ hour exam: Britain 1951 - 2007

A 'Historical enquiry', commenced in the summer term of the AS year and handed in March of the A2 year. This may be focused on Tudor England, Protest and Revolution in the 19th Century, Totalitarian regimes in the Twentieth Century or you could investigate a period, event or individual entirely of your own choosing.

Progression

The skills of critical analysis, interpretation and evaluation you will learn through A Level History will be attractive to all universities. When applying for any degree course a background in History will be recognised as an indication of academic rigour and achievement. Degree courses in History are very popular and many students take advantage of the opportunity to continue studying a subject they enjoy or combine it in a multi-disciplined degree which can lead to careers in media, law, tourism, archaeology, the heritage industry, accountancy, business leadership or even teaching!

What is interesting about this course?

You will enjoy this course if you would like to:

- be able to select and use appropriate ICT tools and techniques to help you carry out investigations; capture and handle data; solve problems; make decisions; present and communicate information
- increase your awareness of the benefits and drawbacks of ICT and its impact on the way people live their lives

The AS units focus on developing your communication and decision-making skills. You will learn about The Information Age (Unit 1), The Digital Economy (Unit 2) and The Knowledge Worker (Unit 3). In the A2 units you will learn about Using Database Software (Unit 7), Managing ICT projects (Unit 8), Using Multimedia software (Unit 10).

Entry requirements and skills needed

An ICT qualification (GCSE/Dig. Apps) would be desirable but not essential. A keen interest in ICT is desirable along with the skills to work independently.

Assessment

AS: The course is assessed through two e-portfolios and one computer-assisted examination of work.

A2: As for AS.

Progression

The GCE Applied ICT qualifies for UCAS points. It gives students a wide choice of progression routes into study, training and relevant employment.

What is interesting about this course?

This course gives a general grounding in computing, including an understanding of computer systems, the principles of programming, and the solving of problems. This qualification will enable students to develop the capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. This new specification has been revised to include greater emphasis on programming and removal of topics entirely ICT based.

Entry requirements and skills needed

You will need to have a basic understanding of computers and the software available and some experience of the use of general-purpose software such as databases, spreadsheets, word-processors etc. As the project element of the course is very important, students who were able to produce high quality coursework for their GCSEs would be suitable. You will need 5 GCSE C grades or above, including Maths and English. If you have taken a GCSE in IT you must have achieved a C or above. If you have not taken a GCSE in IT, or have not achieved the minimum entrance requirements, you will be interviewed by the Head of IT before you are offered a place on the course.

Assessment

AS Level: Unit F451 Computer Fundamentals (External Written Exam 1½ hrs). 50% of AS GCE marks.

Unit F452 Programming techniques and logical methods (External Written Exam 1½ hrs) 50% of AS GCE marks)

A2 Level: (Both AS units as above, being 50% of the total Advanced GCE marks)

Unit F453: Advanced Computing Theory (External Written Exam – 2hrs) 30% of total Advanced GCE

Unit F454: Computing Coursework Project (Internally Assessed, Externally Moderated) 20% of the total A Level

Progression

This course provides the ideal foundation for students who wish to pursue Computing or IT at degree level or as a career. However, it also offers a way in which to develop highly sought-after information technology (IT) knowledge and skills – for the workplace, or to use in other subject areas or skills for everyday life.

IT Diploma

Sturminster

Contact: Mrs Williams

What is interesting about this course?

This exciting new course combines IT, Business and Work Experience. By the end of it, you will have the equivalent of 5+ GCSEs at Grade C. You will have a thorough understanding of how Business uses IT which will allow you to either move on to Level 3 courses (AS/A2, BTEC3), or move on to work-based learning.

Entry requirements

You will need a minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade E or above.

Assessment

The IT element is made up of seven units, only one of which is exam based. Assessment is through Case Studies, practical tasks, presentations and coursework.

Progression

You will be developing skills needed in Business. To complement your work in IT, you will be taking a Level 2 Business Administration course. Finally, there will be extra help with Maths and English if you need it.

Law AS

Shaftesbury

Contact: Mr Hayes

What is interesting about this course?

Law is relevant to all of us and this course equips students with experience and an understanding of the legal framework within which society operates. It is a very dynamic subject as it is necessary to keep up to date with new legal cases; it is continually drawing upon stories and topics from current affairs.

Entry requirements and skills needed

You will need a GCSE mean score of 43 (which means an average of between a 'C' grade and a 'B' grade), including English at Grade 'C'. As you will be studying this course through **videoconferencing**, you should already have proved yourself able to work conscientiously and independently. There will be 1 x 1hour videoconferencing session per week but also a meeting with the link teacher who will support the learning process.

Assessment

Two modular examinations at AS and two more at A2 – all written papers.

Progression

Law is relevant to almost every career from lawyer to nurse and provides students with an advantage if they choose a position in business and law related professions. It obviously gives students a thorough foundation if they are contemplating entering the legal profession but due to the analytical nature of the subject, it is highly regarded by every university for a range of degrees.

What is interesting about this course?

This is an exciting subject, which explains and supports many other subjects. Basic concepts from GCSE are further explored, new ideas discovered and the theory behind many mathematical techniques revealed.

It is both challenging and fun! You get the thrill of solving problems and that “buzz” when you get the right answer!!

Entry requirements and skills needed

You must enjoy the subject! You must have very good algebraic skills. You must think clearly and analytically and be able to communicate your ideas through logical thought processes. You need to be determined and persistent. You must sit the Higher Tier GCSE and get at least a grade B.

Assessment

For the A level, you will sit 6 modules (4 in pure mathematics and 2 in applied mathematics, usually mechanics and statistics). You will take 3 modules during Year 12 and 3 during Year 13. All modules are assessed by examinations.

Further Maths is also available as a taught course. This enables the most able mathematicians to study a range of harder topics which support degree level maths and engineering courses.

Progression

The world is your oyster!!! It is very useful (quite often essential) for many higher education courses: mathematics, physics, engineering, chemistry, medicine, veterinary science, computing, psychology, business/finance ...etc.

Possible careers include: management, engineering, computing, teaching, accountancy, actuary, or host on Countdown to name but a few.

What is interesting about this course?

The study of Mathematics encourages people to develop analytical skills which aid problem solving techniques. It also develops logic and reasoning and creative thinking. These skills can then be applied to the solution of real life problems as varied as calculating a trajectory for the space shuttle and forecasting the profits for your own business.

Entry requirements and skills needed

You will need to have achieved a grade B or above at Higher Tier Mathematics GCSE. You will also need to be interested in the subject and be prepared to work consistently hard.

Assessment

AS Maths: First Year Course

Three modules: Core 1, Core 2 (both contain pure mathematics) and Statistics 1. There will be a 1½ hour exam of each module. The Core 1 exam is non-calculator.

A2 Maths: Second Year Course

Three modules: Core 3, Core 4 (both are Pure Maths courses) and Mechanics 1. Again there will be a 1½ hour exam of each module.

Progression

A Level Mathematics is an excellent preparation for University courses, whatever the subject. It encourages an analytical, precise, logical approach which is an excellent base for all sciences, technical subjects, Geography, Business and Economics related subjects and of course degree Maths itself. **Further Maths** AS level is offered to appropriate students.

What is interesting about this course?

This is a course where you will have a chance to explore how the Media Industry operates—a close look at the world of film, television, radio, newspaper, the net and new electronic media. You will need to be interested in all these areas and be prepared to watch and listen and read about how the Media operates. In addition to studying the Media you will be asked to produce two pieces of coursework where you use film/photography/sound/computer media to produce a project. You will be taught through a mixture of teacher-led sessions, group discussion and analysis, research and practical projects.

Entry requirements and skills needed

You will need to be interested in how Media messages are constructed, and you must be prepared to discuss, watch and listen critically and be creative in finding projects you can realistically develop. It is not necessary to have studied GCSE Media (although it will help!). A Grade C in English would be helpful.

Assessment

AS Media Studies: First Year Course

Two units: Foundation Production, Key Media Concepts.

A2 Media Studies: Second Year Course

Two further units: Advanced Production, Critical Perspectives.

Progression

AS/A2 Media Studies is a stepping stone to further degree studies in Media. It will not qualify you to go into the Media Industry, but it will give you an understanding of how the Media operates, and the enthusiasm to study further.

What is interesting about this course?

The AS and A2 Music courses have been changed over the last year to make them more interesting, appealing and enjoyable to our students. We have funded several new improvements including a new guitar suite and a computer suite, which is presently equipped with both notational (Sibelius) and sequencing software (Cubasis and Cakewalk). In addition to this the A Level room is also equipped with Hi-Fi, Television, Video and Electronic Piano for students to use in their independent research. There are three units in the course, which are made up of performing, composing and analysing music. The course can be tailored every year to fit the requirements of the students with options of working on various types of classical music, 'pop' music or music from television and film.

Entry requirements and skills needed

The normal entry requirements for the course are:

- a. The ability to play an instrument or sing to Grade 5 standard.
- b. **Either** a pass in Music Theory at Grade 5 (or equivalent) **or** GCSE Music at Grade C or above.

Prospective students who are unable to meet these requirements should not be disheartened, but should contact Mr McMullan.

Assessment

The performance and composing modules are recorded throughout the year. They are then marked by Mr. McMullan (Edexcel examiner). Advice will be given on how to improve your performances and compositions with every student having the opportunity to re-record as many times as required to achieve the best possible results. There is a written exam during May, which covers the music analysis that you have covered throughout the year.

Progression

Music is an obvious choice for anyone wishing to pursue a career in areas such as a performer, instrumental or class music teacher, composing, sound engineer, music therapy or the Performing Arts in general. Many students, however, choose music in order to enhance their own music making, to keep a broad and balanced approach to their studies generally or to implement their studies elsewhere in the Arts.

What is interesting about this course?

This course helps us to understand how humans make important ethical decisions. Philosophers throughout the ages have asked questions such as: What is my duty?/What is goodness?/Are there rights?/How do I know how to behave? The theories have names such as Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics, Kantian Ethics and Christian Ethics. The course includes: Ethical Theory, Medical Ethics (abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering), war and peace, sexual ethics. In Philosophy you will study arguments about the existence of God, Classical Greek Philosophers (Socrates, Plato and Aristotle), evil and suffering, life after death and much more. You will consider religious views as well as non-religious views.

Entry requirements and skills needed?

You must be good at analysing arguments and putting your own views forward. You must be prepared to use your brain in an enquiring manner and enjoy thinking through different theories and puzzles to do with the world. You need a C or above at English GCSE as this is an essay based subject.

Assessment

In June 2010 you will sit two modules and two more in June 2011. Modules can be retaken.

Progression

You can follow a two year course and gain an A level, or you can follow the course for one year and gain an AS to support entry into university.

What is interesting about this course?

Physics uses concepts like force and energy to uncover the mathematical principles on which the everyday world and the universe operate. Topics include motion, electricity, waves, fields, electromagnetism, gravity, car safety, quantum and nuclear physics, and medical applications. If you enjoy finding out how things work, thinking carefully and logically, and using mathematical skills to analyse experiments and solve problems, then physics could be for you.

Entry requirements and skills needed

Ideally, you will have a Science GCSE at grade B or above and at least grade B in Maths. Physics is maths in action: the use of graphs, equations and calculations is an integral part of the subject. If your grades are lower than this we will have to have a careful discussion with you as to whether you are suited to Physics. Should you only achieve C grade in Science, you will be advised to only opt for either Biology, Chemistry or Physics at AS/A2.

Assessment

Students will be examined by a combination of written and practical methods. Module tests require short answers. Practical assessment is done by the teacher in normal lessons.

Progression

ANYTHING! Physics involves both words and numbers and the ability to present a clear concise argument in both, so it can be used for entry into science, social science and medical courses, anything that involves numbers, banking, accountancy, teaching, aircraft engineer, astrophysicist, software engineer, technician, armed forces, music and sound technology and so the list goes on. The country needs scientists and engineers!

Physics opens doors. The only limit to its potential is your ambition.

Product Design AS/A2

Shaftesbury

Contact: Mr D Smith

What is interesting about this course?

It is an in depth look at how design affects our everyday life. We study areas as diverse as manufacturing techniques, energy production, social change caused by technology & how existing designers affect our tastes and fashions. Along with this there is an emphasis on quality design and manufacture within workshop and design studio environments. Other subject areas include product analysis, ergonomics, aesthetics, the use of computers in industry (CAD/CAM). We focus on the relationships between designers, manufacturers and users analysing their contrasting needs and the juxtaposition of their requirements.

Entry requirements and skills needed

A Level candidates will need to be good thinkers and hard workers. We expect our students to demonstrate and develop qualities of autonomous thought, perseverance and self-confidence. Good passes in Design and Technology, English (or a Humanity) and Maths will be very useful (although not critical in some cases).

Assessment

AS: Assessment is by two units: a written examination and a design & make coursework unit.

A2: Assessment at A2 follows a similar pattern.

Progression

The major routes followed by our students are design and engineering courses at university. Some progress into high level manufacturing apprenticeships but the analytical, problem solving, practical and evaluation skills taught by Design & Technology mean that it is welcomed by a vast majority of university departments, business management training schemes and some Armed Forces careers.

What is interesting about this course?

Do you find yourself wondering what makes people tick and why people behave in the way they do? Then studying Psychology can provide some of the answers and probably raise many more questions. Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. Topics at A Level include Memory, Psychological Disorders (such as Schizophrenia), Obedience, Relationships and Aggression. As a ‘young’ science, studying Psychology means you will be working at the cutting-edge of recent discoveries and theories.

Entry requirements and skills needed

You must have a GCSE grade C in English Language and preferably C in Science and Mathematics. You need to have a willingness to think, discuss, read, carry out practical research and deal with new ideas and concepts. No previous experience of the subject is required. You should be ready to analyse and interpret experimental data to draw logical conclusions.

Assessment

This is a modular course consisting of 2 modules for AS Level, each with a terminal written paper. These are taken in January and May of Year 12.

For A2 there are also 2 modules; assessed in June with the possibility of January entries.

Progression

Psychology goes well with a variety of subjects eg. Biology, Sports Studies, Statistics, History and English.

Psychology is one of the most popular courses at University, where it is considered both as an arts and a science subject. It is useful if one is considering a career dealing with people such as education, the medical occupations, personnel management, advertising, or the media – or indeed as a psychologist.

What is interesting about this course?

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour and experience. Psychology is concerned with people - why they do things, how they think, how they develop, the theories which account for this and the methods of investigation.

Entry requirements and skills needed

You need to have a willingness to think, read, carry out practical research and deal with new ideas and concepts. No previous experience of the subject is required. You must have a GCSE grade C in English Language, Mathematics and Science.

Assessment

The AS level course is divided into 2 units – each with an externally assessed written exam.

Unit 1: Cognitive and Developmental Psychology plus research methods.

Unit 2: Biological Psychology, Social Psychology and Individual Differences.

The A2 level course also has 2 units:

Unit 3: Options are chosen from a selection of 8 topics including Aggression, Eating Behaviour, Biological Rhythms, Sleep and Dreaming etc.

Unit 4: Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods.

Each unit is externally assessed by written exams.

Progression

Psychology goes well with a variety of subjects eg. English, Sports Studies, History, Biology and Statistics.

Psychology is one of the most popular courses at University, where it is considered both as an arts and a science subject. It is useful if one is considering a career dealing with people such as education, the medical occupations, personnel management, advertising, or the media.

Spanish AS/A2

Shaftesbury

Contact: Mrs Day

What is interesting about this course?

You will learn to express yourself accurately and fluently in the foreign language. The range of topics is very broad indeed. You can end up talking, listening or writing about everything from healthy diets to human rights. Not only will you study the language, but also you will experience an insight into the Spanish culture and psyche. Just about everything is interesting about this course!

Entry requirements and skills needed

You must have an enquiring mind and be prepared to work. One of the great things about learning a language is that those people who are prepared to work will amass a broad vocabulary and a sound knowledge of grammar, both of which are essential for success at AS and A2. We welcome students on the course who have gained at least a C in their GCSE. Experience in French A Level tells us, though, that unless you have gained a B grade, you may find the course quite challenging.

Assessment

This will include a Listening and Writing exam, Reading and Writing and a Prepared Oral Topic.

Progression

Language graduates have some of the highest success rates in gaining graduate jobs. Career opportunities range from hotel management to international banking and everything in between. High quality linguists are a rare commodity and much sought after!

Why study this subject?

The sport and active leisure industry is relatively new but has expanded rapidly over the last few years and is set to increase further as the infrastructure is put in place to enable the Government's ambitious target of getting 50% of the population engaged in regular physical activity by 2014 to be met. An additional 100,000 jobs in 200 different roles will be created to meet the demand.

What will I be studying?

Students opting for Level One and Level Two complete 5 or 8 units respectively. At both levels:

- You will learn about the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle, analyse the factors that influence people in the choices they make and research strategies that encourage participation by people of all ages and abilities
- There will be practical lessons where you will study the science of exercise and how the body responds to different training regimes
- You will learn first hand from people working in the industry about how businesses work and you will become familiar with the needs of different consumer groups

How will I be assessed?

Level One – one written examination lasting 45 minutes and a series of assignments for the other four

Level Two- one written examination lasting 1 hour 30minutes followed by a series of assignments for the other seven units.

What does it lead to?

Careers in the leisure industry; or further study at a higher Diploma Level; or further studies in any other areas.

How do I find out more?

Attend a taster session on 27 January 2010

Contact Amanda Hollands-Smith or Alex More at Shaftesbury School

Research Sport and Active Leisure @ www.edexcel.com/quals/diploma/sport <http://saldiploma.skillsactive.com>

Sport and Physical Education (AQA) AS/A2

Shaftesbury

Contact: Mr More

What is interesting about this course?

This is the new format A Level redesigned for launch in September 2008. The new course replaces the old AQA syllabus. The focus is developing the student's skills as a critical performer/coach and official whilst learning about the physical attributes that promote elite performance. The new course offers a balanced approach to learning through coursework, practical performance tasks and examination assessment.

Entry requirements and skills needed:

It is highly desirable, but not essential, that you have studied a GCSE or BTEC Sport course prior to entry. The course is very science-based so it is recommended that intending students have a minimum of C grade at GCSE Science. A healthy interest in the roles of sports performer, coach and official are highly desirable.

Assessment:

Students follow 4 units throughout the course, two per year. One is examination based and the other is assessed through practical performance as a coach/performer or official, written up as a coursework portfolio.

AS: PHED 1: Anatomy and Physiology/Skill Acquisition/Opportunities for Participation

PHED 2: Analysis and Evaluation of physical activity in role as performer/coach/official

A2: PHED 3: Physiology and Biomechanics/Sports Psychology/Contemporary Issues

PHED 4: Optimising Practical Performance in a practical situation

Progression:

This course lays the foundation for higher-level degree studies in sport and Physical Education. It forms a natural progression into teaching, leisure, physiotherapy and sports medicine based careers.

Sports Leaders (Level 1 Coaching Courses)

Shaftesbury

Contact: Mr More

What is interesting about this course?

Sixth Form students have the opportunity to train as Sports Leaders through National Governing Body qualifications. We currently offer FA (Football Association) Level 1 and Rock Climbing Supervisors.

Entry requirements and skills needed

There are no entry requirements other than an interest in the sport and an ability to work with younger students. Most courses complete the Child Protection modules and CRB checks.

Assessment

Each training course is followed by a period of consolidation whereby students must log hours in their log book prior to assessment. Successful completion of the assessment means a Pass is given. Over the past 3 years we have had 100% pass rate. Students log hours and the top 32 students are selected to attend the Sixth Form residential, 3 days of surfing, coasteering and power-kiting in Cornwall.

Progression

Although this is not a GCSE equivalent course, the Level 1 coaching awards are looked upon favourably by University admissions and form a useful addition to any applicant's personal statement.

What is interesting about this course?

This course will allow you to develop your own innovation and creativity and to produce high quality products. The course offers the opportunity to study the influences on the design, production and sale of products. Manufacturing methods and product development will be covered through topic work. Fabrics, design, surface decoration and pattern-making will also be developed through the course.

Entry requirements and skills needed

You will need to have a strong interest in designing, modelling, making and evaluating products. You will need to be self-motivated and be willing to develop your ideas and skills into commercial designs. You will need to have achieved a Grade C or above in GCSE Textiles.

Assessment

AS Textiles: First Year Course

<i>Two units:</i>	<i>Unit 1</i>	<i>Product Development (coursework)</i>	<i>50%</i>
	<i>Unit 2</i>	<i>Knowledge and understanding of Product Design (2 hour written exam)</i>	<i>50%</i>

A2 Textiles: Second Year Course

<i>Two units:</i>	<i>Unit 3</i>	<i>Further study of Product Design (2 hour written exam)</i>	<i>50%</i>
	<i>Unit 4</i>	<i>Commercial Product Development (coursework)</i>	<i>50%</i>

Progression

Design qualifications can lead to a wide variety of Design/Art based foundation courses for degree level studies. The A Level qualification is seen by many employers as an indication that students can organise, plan and seek practical solutions to problems. Possible careers include costume theatre design, textile fashion design, retail management, interior design, teaching.

OCR Wordprocessing and Textprocessing

Shaftesbury

Contact: Mrs Cheasley

This course is available at three levels: Basic, Intermediate and Advanced.

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Operate the keyboard largely through touch typing
- Produce accurate documents of an academic or business nature
- Use computers and printers with confidence

The course is delivered by use of theory sessions and practical worksheets although you will be required and encouraged to work at your own pace outside of lessons.

Students will develop skills that are transferable to the workplace. OCR qualifications are nationally recognised and will assist students seeking employment whether holiday, part time or full time, especially where secretarial or administrative functions are required.

Studying the OCR qualifications will also enable students to present coursework effectively and efficiently at Level 2, 3 or in the future at degree level.

LEVEL 2 DIPLOMA COURSES

For students for are not yet ready to progress to level 3, and who have a special interest in particular areas of study, we are for the first time able to offer six of the new 14-19 Diploma courses. These have been launched by the North Dorset partnership of school and colleges, and are already proving very popular.

Three of the Diplomas are offered at other North Dorset schools. If you choose to study one of those Diplomas, transport would be provided for you to travel to that school for 2 full days each week.

Three of the Diplomas are offered at Shaftesbury or Sturminster. Again, you would study the Diploma for two full days a week.

In the remaining three days, all Diploma students will be offered a variety of additional courses, including Functional Skills in English, Maths and I.T., courses which form a preparation for working life and independent living, and work experience. To achieve the full Diploma will take two academic years.

Please be aware that it is possible that any or all Diploma courses might be full if your application is not made until the publication of GCSE results in August.

The following Diplomas are being offered, all at level 2:

Shaftesbury School: Sport & Active Leisure; Hospitality

Sturminster Newton High School: I.T.

Gillingham School: Engineering

Kingston Maurward College: Environmental and Land-based Studies

The Gryphon School, Sherborne: Business Administration & Finance

Please see the separate diploma booklet for further details.

