





SIXTH FORM
FRAMWELLGATE SCHOOL DURHAM

www.framdurham.com

Framwellgate Sixth Form

COURSE BOOK

 FSD – Sixth Form  @FSDSixth

CHOOSING THE RIGHT COURSE

Step 1

What are your recent GCSE grades?

Use the progress report to check your current predictions.

What can you study with your predicted grades?

See entry requirements on page 06.

Step 2

Consider your interests.

Consider your strengths and weaknesses

(how do you learn best, do you perform best in exams or coursework, do you like writing essays?)

See individual subject pages for details on assessments and course content.

Step 3

If you know what career and course you want to do, it is **vital that you research as thoroughly as possible the entry requirements for your chosen or possible career path.**

Step 4

Students should choose 3 courses in Year 12, unless they are taking Further Maths. All courses follow a two-year programme.

Students are also encouraged to gain accredited qualifications through the Enrichment Programme.

Students who have chosen to study BTEC can study up to 3 single award qualifications or alternatively a double award with 1 other single BTEC qualification.

Students can also choose to study 3 courses which are a mixture of BTEC and A level.





COURSES FOR 2024/25

Framwellgate Sixth Form is pleased to offer a broad curriculum that allows students to gain the qualifications necessary to academically challenge them and help to pursue their next steps.

Students are encouraged to choose 3 courses, from 3 of the 4 blocks in Year 12. These can be a combination of BTEC and A level.

Further Maths can be studied by those students who meet the subject requirements. Students who study Further Maths will study 4 subjects.

It is a requirement that all students need to achieve a grade 4 in either GCSE English language or English literature to study in the Sixth Form. Any student not achieving a grade 4 GCSEs in Maths will be required to re-sit the exam until they do so.

Below is an **example** of how the option blocks have been structured to reflect common combinations and interests of students in the past. These options blocks will be constructed to reflect the interests of the students. Students' interests will be discussed at the interviews.

A	B	C	D
PE	Art	Geography	Biology
English literature	Physics	Chemistry	Further Maths
Maths	Politics	Psychology	Sociology
BTEC National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care		Computer Science	Product Design
BTEC Extended Certificate in Sport	National Extended Certificate in Applied science	History	BTEC National Extended Certificate in Business
BTEC National Diploma in sport	BTEC National Diploma in sport	Languages- French	Music
BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport	BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport	BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport	
BTEC Diploma in Health and Social Care		BTEC Diploma in Health and Social Care	



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS 2024/25

In order to enrol onto sixth form courses, applicants will need to have achieved at least 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4 (or equivalent) including English Language or Literature. Some subjects may require higher grades. Please read our subject entry requirements below. All courses are two-year courses.

	Subject	English Lit Or Lang Grade	Maths Grade	Additional Entry Requirements
	National Extended Certificate in Applied Science (equivalent to 1 A Level)	4	4	Two grades at 4 or above in Science subjects
	Art and Design	4		Grade 4 or above in GCSE art
	Biology	5	5	Two grades at 6 or above in Science subjects, including a grade 6 in Biology
	National Extended certificate in Business (equivalent to 1 A Level)	4	4	
	Chemistry	5	5	Two grades at 6 or above in Science subjects, including a grade 6 in Chemistry
	Computer Science	5	6	Intermediate proficiency in a suitable programming language
	English literature	6		Grade 6 or above in GCSE English
	Languages - French	5		Grade 6 or above in GCSE French
	Further maths	4	8	
	Geography	5	4	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Geography
	National Diploma in Health and Social Care (equivalent to 2 A Levels)	4		
	National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (equivalent to 1 A Level)	4		
	Music	5		Music proficiency to be assessed individually

	Subject	English Lit Or Lang Grade	Maths Grade	Additional Entry Requirements
	History	5		Grade 5 or above in GCSE History
	Mathematics	4	6	Grade 6 or above in Maths
	Product design	4	4	Grade 5 or above in Product Design or Art
	Politics	5		Grade 5 or above in GCSE English or History
	PE	5	4	Grade 5 or above in GCSE PE Must play sport at a competitive level
	Physics	5	6	Two grades at 5 or above in Science subjects, including a grade 6 in Physics
	Psychology	5	5	Grade 5 in any GCSE Science
	Sociology	4		
	Extended diploma in Sport (equivalent to 3 A Levels)	4		Grade 4 or above in GCSE PE Merit or above in BTEC sport
	National Diploma in Sport (equivalent to 2 A Levels)	4		Grade 4 or above in GCSE PE Merit or above in BTEC sport
	National Extended Certificate in Sport (equivalent to 1 A Level)	4		Grade 4 or above in GCSE PE Merit or above in BTEC sport

Key:  A Level  BTEC/Extended Certificate/Diploma



SUBJECTS

NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

APPLIED SCIENCE

Why Study Applied Science?

There is an extremely wide variety of employment opportunities for those interested in science. Career options range from a vast choice of medical opportunities through to employment in conservation and environmental projects.

The AQA Level 3 Applied Science course will allow you to study how science is applied in many different types of professions and industries. The focus of the course is scientific usage, concentrating on how scientists and others use science in their work. You will learn how science contributes to our lifestyle and the environment in which we live.

You will be given the opportunity to study a course that concentrates on the application of science, focusing on practical work and the vocational opportunities that you may pursue as a future career.

Features of the Course

This Level 3 qualification offers a practical introduction to science and supports progression to further study or employment. At the end of the first year of the course, 2 units are assessed by examinations and one unit assessed as a portfolio of practical work that has been carried out over the year.

Studying this qualification will enable learners to develop their knowledge and understanding of scientific principles, as well as those scientific practical skills recognised by higher education, institutions and employers to be most important. The qualification also offers learners an opportunity to develop transferable skills such as problem-solving, research and communication as part of their applied learning. There is an opportunity to take exams in both January and June.

Topics covered in year 1

Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science (exam unit)

Unit 3: Practical Scientific

Procedures and Techniques (exam unit)

Topics covered in year 2

Unit 2: Science Investigation Skills

Unit 8: Physiology of Human Body Systems- other options are available

Assessment in Year 13

Equivalent to one A Level. Four units, of which three are mandatory, and two of which are externally assessed. Mandatory content: 83% External assessment: 58%

Entry requirements

Two grade 4 or above in Science subjects plus a grade 4 in GCSE English and Mathematics

ART & DESIGN

Why Study Art and Design?

Art and Design allows development of creativity and artistic expression, and is one of the only subjects to be almost entirely practical. Art and Design is vital in today's ever-changing world, where aesthetics are equally as important as function. Indeed, art surrounds us in our everyday living environment; from the buildings we live in, mobile phones used to text, and the clothes on the high street.

Students studying Art and Design will explore and develop their artistic skills in a variety of disciplines, including drawing and painting, textiles, graphic design and 3D design. Learners will also develop their ability to analyse artwork and think critically about the creative world and apply that knowledge to their projects. The course is designed with further education in mind, so that students who wish to pursue a career in Art and Design have the skills and knowledge required; many students do continue into highly successful careers in the widely increasing creative industries.

Features of the course

The course aims to develop students' skills in a wide range of 2D and 3D media and technology, including fluency in Photoshop which is frequently used in industry. Students are encouraged to opt into a particular discipline—fine art, textiles, graphic design or 3D Design—in which they will specialise.

Extra-curricular activities include visits to local and national galleries, working with artists, external workshops and production events throughout the year.

Key topics studied

Chosen area of study—self-directed

Assessment in Year 13

Coursework

Component 1
Portfolio: 60% of A level grade

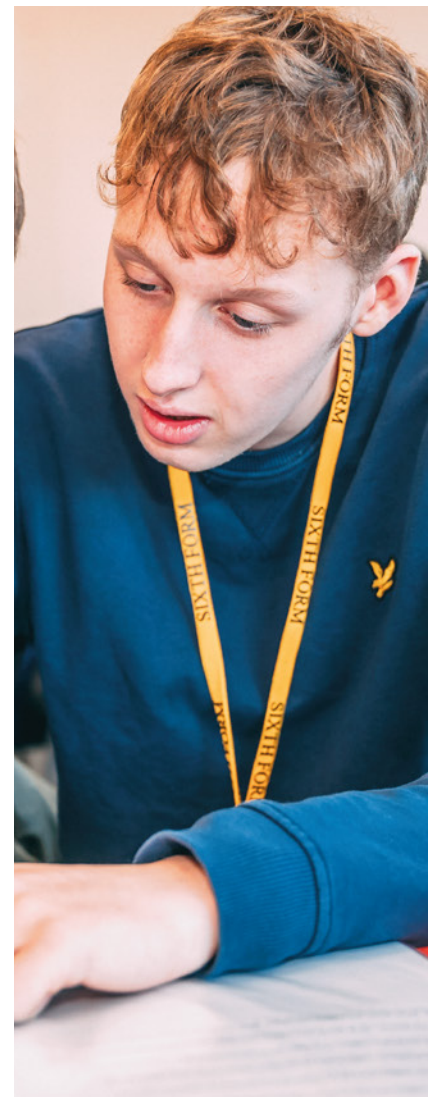
Examination

Component 2
• Externally set assignment: 40% of A level grade

- Preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time

Entry requirements

Grade 4 or above in GCSE Art



BIOLOGY

Why study Biology?

Biology literally means “the study of life”. Biology examines the structure, function, growth, origin, evolution and distribution of living things. The course includes studies at the molecular level, through to the cellular level, on to whole organisms and finally ecology, investigating organisms’ interactions with their environment.

Saving threatened species, feeding people, genetically modified organisms, stem cell research and curing diseases—the 21st century offers many challenges to a biologist. Which ones are you interested in meeting head-on?

Biological knowledge is increasing at a prodigious rate. Studying biology gives you the skills and opportunities to advance human knowledge and understanding in today’s world, in order to make a difference to tomorrow’s world.

Whether you decide to work in a laboratory, courtroom, hospital, ocean, zoo, classroom, TV studio or boardroom (to name a few) you can make a contribution

as a biologist. A background in biology gives you transferable skills and increases your career options. Biology is always relevant to life.

Features of the Course

Learning about Biology happens in a variety of ways—working sometimes in groups and sometimes on your own, but always with the support of your teacher.

You will have plenty of opportunities to develop your practical skills. You will develop your skills at presenting, discussing, analysing, writing, evaluating, dancing and many more.

Key topics studied

- 1. Biological molecules**
- 2. Cells**
- 3. Organisms exchange substances with their environments**
- 4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.**
- 5. Energy transfers in and**

between organisms

- 6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments**
- 7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems**
- 8. The control of gene expression**

Assessment in Year 13

Examinations

- 1 x 2 hour paper (35%) on topics 1-4 including relevant practical skills
- 1x 2 hour paper (35%) on topics 5-8 including relevant practical skills
- 1 x 2 hour paper (30%) on topics 1-8 including relevant practical skills

Entry requirements

Two grades 6 or above in Combined Science Trilogy or grade 6 in Biology plus grade 5 in English and Maths

NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

BUSINESS

Why Study Business?

There are many different career paths for those who wish to work within the business sector. These include management, HR, finance, marketing and business information management, with the opportunity to work both in the UK and internationally.

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved and consulted in order to confirm that the content is also appropriate for, and consistent with, current practice for students planning to enter employment directly in the business sector. Everyone taking this qualification will study three mandatory units.

They are:

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

The optional units have been designed to support choices in progression to business courses in HE, and to link with relevant occupational areas. There is an opportunity to take examinations in both January and June.

Modules studied

- Personal and Business Finance (examination)
- Recruitment and Selection (examination)

Examinations

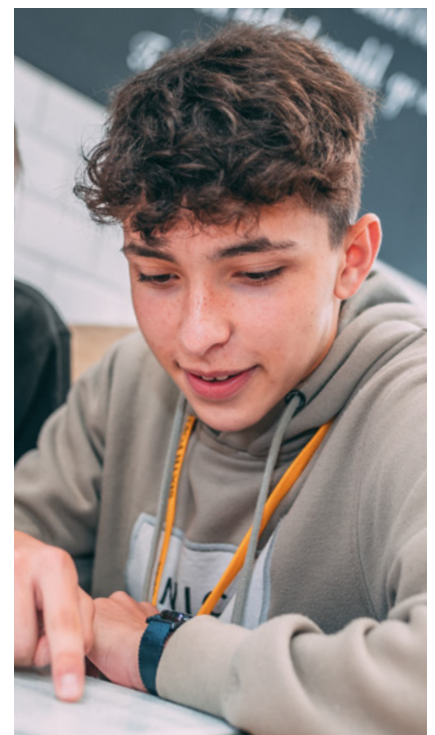
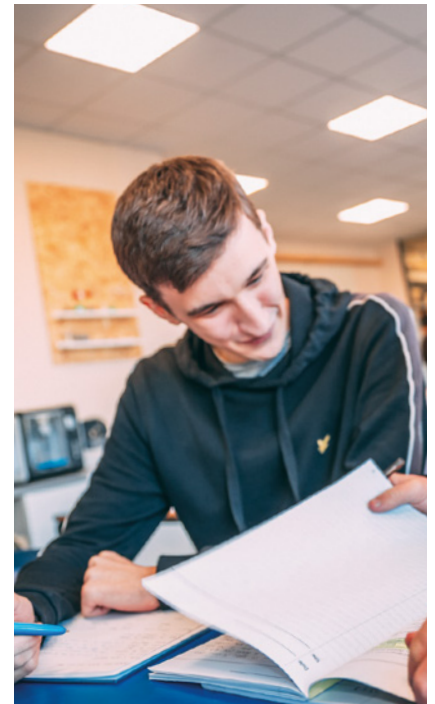
- Developing and marketing campaign (examination)

Coursework

- Exploring Business (coursework)

Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in GCSE English and Maths



CHEMISTRY

Why Study Chemistry?

Ever wondered who was behind developing the latest shampoo or painkiller? Ever thought about the people who discovered treatments for cancer or AIDS? Well, chemists are behind these discoveries and developments and those that will shape our lives in the future. Chemistry is all around us, in the air we breathe, the food we eat and the stuff that make our lives easier.

Chemists work in almost every industry and environment you could think of, from the food industry to drug research, working in the bleak landscapes of Antarctica to state-of-the-art laboratories in renowned universities. Even if you do not want to become a Chemist, an A Level Chemistry qualification gives you a set of skills that could allow you to become a vet, doctor, pharmacist, engineer, geneticist, geologist or even space scientist.

Features of the Course

In the first year there are three topic areas: physical chemistry, organic chemistry and inorganic chemistry. These topic areas include atomic structure, periodicity, bonding, kinetics, energetics, alkanes, alkenes and alcohol and analytical techniques. In the second year, the topic areas remain as physical chemistry, organic chemistry and inorganic chemistry. However, students move on to study areas such as thermodynamics, rate equations, equilibria, acids and bases, transition metals, optical isomerism, aromatic chemistry, polymers and organic synthesis.

Key topics studied

1. Physical chemistry
2. Inorganic chemistry
3. Organic chemistry

Assessment in Year 13

Examinations

- 1 x 2 hour paper (35%) on relevant sections of topic 1, all of topic 2 and relevant practical techniques

- 1 x 2 hour paper (35%) on relevant sections of topic 1, all of topic 3 and relevant practical techniques
- 1 x 2 hour paper (30%) on topics 1, 2 & 3, including practical technique questions and data analysis

Entry requirements

Two grades 6 or above in Combined Science Trilogy or grade 6 in Chemistry plus grade 5 in English and Maths



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Why Study Computer Science?

Computer Science is a practical and rewarding subject to study at A Level, preparing learners to employ creative problem-solving techniques to real-world systems and situations. Organisational, analytical and programming skills developed throughout the course, together with a sound understanding of computer systems theory, are highly valued by universities and employers alike.

Every aspect of our lives is affected in some way by technology and future computer scientists will hold the key to unlocking its potential to help solve some of the world's most important challenges. Whether you are concerned about climate change, biodiversity, food security, healthcare or any number of other pressing global issues, governments and large corporations are already spending billions of pounds on computer science projects to better understand what is happening and find innovative solutions.

Features of the Course

The course will provide an understanding and the ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science: including abstraction, decomposition, computational logic, algorithms and data representation. Students will learn to analyse complex problems through practical experience, including designing algorithms, planning projects and writing programs whilst developing their capacity to think creatively, logically and analytically. Factors affecting the operation, performance and security of modern hardware, software and networks are explored alongside important global trends such as cloud computing, big data and artificial intelligence. In addition, learners will explore the relationships between different aspects of computer science and its impact on wider legal, moral, cultural, ethical and privacy issues in a world that is becoming increasingly reliant upon technology.

Key topics studied

Characteristics of modern computer hardware and

software, legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues and computational thinking, problem solving, algorithms and programming. Data exchange between different systems and the different methodologies used to develop software. Independent programming project (non-examined assessment).

Assessment in Year 13

Examinations:

2 x 2.5 hour exam (80% of marks).

Component 1 -
Computer systems

Component 2 -
Algorithms and programming

Coursework:

Programming project (20% of marks)

Entry requirements

GCSE Mathematics at Grade 6 or above. Intermediate proficiency in a suitable programming language

Criminology

Why Study Criminology?

Criminology is offered as an Enrichment subject; year 12 students have the option to study it alongside their 3 A level/Btec courses. It is particularly suited to students who are also studying psychology and/or sociology. The qualification carries Ucas points.

Key topics studied

Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime - Controlled Assessment

Candidates follow the content of the specification, which includes a focus on unreported crime; the media's representation of crime, and the impact of campaigns for change relating to crime. At the end of this unit, candidates complete an 8 hour controlled assessment that tests their ability to apply their knowledge and understanding to a previously unseen crime scenario. There is also a practical element to the controlled assessment, as candidates must also plan and design a detailed media campaign in relation to a type of crime. Candidates are allowed to take their class notes in to the assessment to support them.

Unit 2: Criminological Theories - Exam

This unit focuses on psychological, biological and sociological explanations of crime, as well as on how these theories influence policies on crime. The unit also explores how definitions of crime and laws/policies change over time, and are different according to place and culture.

Unit 2 is assessed by a 90 minute external exam in the summer. This is a synoptic unit; some of the Unit 1 content is also examined in the exam.



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Why Study English Literature?

Sir Richard Steele, a politician born in 1672, once said that "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body". He was right, of course, but it's not only the reading which exercises the brain, it's the thinking, discussing, arguing and writing about what we read that keeps our most vital organ in shape.

Students with an interest in people and in the way they behave, think and feel will enjoy this course. There will also be the chance to develop the skills of analysis, of argument, persuasion, and of discussion, sometimes working independently but also in groups. If a subject where there are no real right and wrong answers and one person's opinion is as valuable as anyone else's appeals, then this may be the perfect choice. This is a rewarding course which will suit those students who thrive on hard work and challenge. A love of reading and books is also a key requirement.

Features of the Course

Students studying this A Level

will develop an interest in, and enjoyment of, English Literature, through reading widely, critically and independently; across centuries, genre and gender, and through experience of an extensive range of views about texts and how to read them. They will also become an informed, independent reader, reaching an understanding of meaning through close study of the primary text, knowledge of the context of the text and of other possible meanings. There may be theatre visits to see texts in performance.

Key topics studied

Unit 1:

Literary Genres Aspects of Tragedy or Aspects of Comedy

Unit 2:

Texts and Genres Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing OR Elements of Crime Writing

Unit 3:

Theory and Independence Application of critical theory to a prose and poetry text

Assessment in Year 13

Examination

Paper 1:
2 hour 30 min closed book exam (40%)

Paper 2:
3 hour open book exam (40%)

Coursework

2 x 1500 word essays critiquing texts and applying literary theory

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or above in English language or English literature



FRENCH

Why Study French?

As society becomes increasingly globalised, so language study becomes increasingly important. Studying French opens doors not only to Europe, but also to French speaking countries throughout the world.

Universities and employers are keen to emphasise the importance of language study recognising the skills that students develop. Language students set the standard in terms of analytical, communicative and interpretive skills. They demonstrate independent as well as collaborative learning skills and prove themselves to be adept at expressing their opinions concisely and eloquently on any number of contemporary social issues both in English and in the language they are studying. The Russell Group of universities list a Modern Language as a "facilitating" subject which means that is among those subjects most highly valued by these institutions.

Graduates of language courses can be found in a vast variety of careers from medicine, teaching and law to

marketing, sales and accounting demonstrating their flexibility and employability.

Features of the Course

Considerable emphasis will be placed on developing students' spoken and written French through creative projects based on contemporary social issues. Students will be encouraged to form opinions about these issues and will develop the confidence to express these opinions concisely and accurately in the target language. Extensive access to authentic French resources will develop listening and reading skills and allow students an important glimpse into the lifestyle, culture, literature and cinema of French speaking countries.

Modules covered in Year 12

- Social Issues and Trends
- Film and Literary Text
- Grammar

Modules covered in Year 13

- Political and Artistic Culture
- Film/Text
- Contemporary Social Issues

Assessment in Year 13

Examinations:

15-20 minute speaking exam

2 hour listening, reading and writing paper

2 hour written paper based on film/text

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or above in GCSE French plus Grade 5 or above in GCSE English

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Why Study Further Mathematics?

Further Mathematics is an enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding subject to study. It offers the opportunity to explore new and more sophisticated Mathematical concepts, whilst consolidating learning in A Level Mathematics.

Students intending to study a Mathematics related degree will find Further Mathematics a huge benefit as it makes the transition to university easier. This covers a wide range of academic areas including engineering, the sciences, computing, finance, economics, as well as Mathematics.

Students who study Further Mathematics are held in high regard by universities and employers as it shows a strong commitment to their studies and is considered a prestigious qualification.

Features of the Course

Further Mathematics introduces new topics such as matrices and complex numbers, as well as developing a more independent style of learning,

equipping students with essential skills for studying at university or a future career. In addition, students are able to broaden the range of applied modules and study them in depth.

All students are supported through links with the Advanced Maths Support Programme, access to online resources, as well as extra-curricular activities. These include participation in the UKMT challenges, enrichment opportunities and university and business links as appropriate.

Assessment in Year 13

Examination

Pure Mathematics – 2 exams
 Mechanics – 1 exam
 Discrete – 1 exam
 Statistics – 1 exam
 Each exam lasts for 1hr 30 mins each.

Entry requirements

Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics



GEOGRAPHY

Why Study Geography?

Geography provides a strong foundation for understanding both the human and physical aspects of Earth, and the interaction between natural forces and mankind. Human Geography deals with how people and the environment interact and the way in which they coexist. It also looks at how people and groups live (and move) in the world around us. Physical geography is concerned with the scientific aspects of the world, with the emphasis being upon how these can be managed.

Geography students will be equipped with a diverse range of skills such as: undertaking research and analysis, teamwork on practical projects, investigating global issues and the ability to interpret natural phenomena.

These transferable skills developed in Geography are sought after by many employers in a wide variety of careers such as advertising, environmental management, town planning, business and project management. Geography also lends itself well to a number of subject combinations and can be combined with the arts or the sciences.

Features of the Course

To develop a greater depth of understanding, A Level Geography is divided into human and physical themes. In Year 12, students will develop an understanding of topics such as; tectonic activity, coastal environments, globalisation and urban regeneration. In Year 13, students are likely to follow topics such as; the water cycle and water insecurity, the carbon cycle and energy security, superpowers and health, human rights and intervention. All students will be provided with access to online support and extra resources to extend their learning. Students will be examined in fieldwork techniques practiced throughout the course with fieldwork opportunities.

Key topics studied

Physical geography (with fieldwork):

- Tectonic processes and hazards
- Coastal landscapes and change

Human geography (with fieldwork):

- Globalisation

Physical geography:

- The water cycle and water insecurity
- The carbon cycle and energy security

Human geography:

- Superpowers
- Health, human rights and intervention

Synoptic geography

Assessment in Year 13

Examination

Physical geography paper (30%)

Human geography paper (30%)

Synoptic paper (20%)

Coursework - 20%

Entry requirements

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Geography plus grade 5 or above in English

BTEC HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Why Study Health and Social Care?

This qualification provides the underpinning knowledge and vocational skills needed to be effective in a wide range of health & social care settings.

In addition to the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin the study of the health and social care sector, this qualification gives learners experience of the current issues within health and social care.

This qualification is designed to prepare students for progression into employment and is recognised as progression towards higher education courses, for example:

- BSc (Hons) in Nursing
- BA (Hons) in Social Work
- BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy
- BSc (Hons) in Occupational Therapy
- BSc (Hons) in Speech Therapy
- BSc (Hons) in Paramedic Science.

Features of the Course

Students can either choose to study the BTEC National Extended Certificate which is equal to one A-level or the BTEC National Diploma which is equal to two A-levels.

The qualification requires students to complete a range of coursework-based assignments alongside external examinations throughout the two years.

Modules covered in Year 12

Human Lifespan Development

Enquiries into Current

Research in Health and Social Care

Meeting individual care and support needs.

Sociological perspectives

Assessment in Year 12

Examinations:

Human Lifespan Development

Enquiries into Current
Research in Health and Social
Care

Coursework

Meeting individual care and support needs.

Sociological perspectives

Modules covered in Year 13

Working in Health and Social Care

Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care

Promoting Public Health
Physiological Disorders and their care

Assessment in Year 13

Examinations:

Working in Health and Social Care

Coursework:

Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care

Promoting Public Health

Physiological Disorders and their care

Entry Requirements

Grade 4 GCSE in English

HISTORY

Why Study History?

History enables us to understand the society in which we live today. It helps us to appreciate the civil rights we can easily take for granted such as democracy and freedom of speech. Historians are in demand in professions where a knowledge of politics and citizenship are vital such as law, journalism, the civil service and in education. Historians have analytical minds and love to talk, discuss and argue. They think logically and critically and are confident in their own opinions while respectful of others.

History is exciting. Many of our students choose to study it at university. Many more continue to be fascinated by the colourful stories of the past and read books and watch television programmes long after their studies are over. There is no escaping the past for, without an understanding of where we came from, how can we work out where we are at present and where we are likely to go in the future?

Features of the Course

Students will follow the OCR History A Level course. In Year 12, students study Britain in the period from 1900-1951, including an in-depth source enquiry on the 1900-1918 period. The second (and contrasting) Year 12 unit is The Crusades and the Crusader States (1095-1192) which, whilst being a fascination in its own right, will help students identify the context behind some of the contemporary on-going problems in the Middle East. There is no coursework in Year 12.

In Year 13, students examine the turbulent history of Russia in the 19th and 20th centuries, by comparing the country under the Tsars and the Communists. They also produce a 3000-4000 word coursework style essay. There is some scope for individual flexibility here in terms of essay topic and title.

Key topics studied

Unit Y112: Britain 1900-1951
Unit Y203: The Crusades and the Crusader States (1095-1192)

Unit Y318: Russia and Its Rulers 1855-1964
Unit Y100: own choice topic-based essay

Assessment in Year 13

Examination

Y112: 1 hour 30 minute examination
Y203: 1 hour examination
Y318: 2 hour 30 minute examination

Coursework

Y100: 1 x 3000-4000 word essay

Entry requirements

Grade 5 or above in GCSE History plus

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English

MATHEMATICS

Why Study Mathematics?

Mathematics plays an important role in a lot of what we do each day, even though it may not be obvious. Listening to a CD, watching the weather forecast, playing the latest computer game, using the internet or making a call on a mobile phone all rely on knowledge of a range of branches of Mathematics. Along with the practical applications, Mathematics has a beauty of its own which can be seen in nature and our environment.

Students studying Mathematics will be equipped with the skills of logic, the ability to analyse and model complex problems and interpret solutions. All of these are transferable skills that will be required in other subjects and enhance your employment prospects.

The skills developed in Mathematics are sought after by many employers, in a wide variety of careers such as financial work, computer game development, engineering, science-based roles, and project management.

Features of the Course

Mathematics is a language that can be used to solve very complex problems. You will develop the tools for Mathematics in your Pure lessons and apply them in and Mechanics or Statistics.

The course will include the use of graphical calculators and ICT as appropriate. Students should purchase the CASIO FX991EX calculator to support their learning. All students are provided with access to online support and extra resources to support their learning.

There will be a range of extra-curricular opportunities which will vary across the modules chosen, but may include UKMT Mathematics challenges, links with industry and opportunities to see Mathematics in context.

Assessment in Year 13

Examination

3 examinations, each lasting 2 hours

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics and grade 4 in English



MUSIC

Why Study Music?

Music permeates our everyday lives. From concert halls to the cinema, Spotify to social media, podcasts to live performance, music is more diverse and readily available than ever before. Through the interrelated disciplines of analysis, composition, and performance, we encourage pupils to appreciate, understand, and think critically about the music around them.

Our overriding aim is to allow pupils to develop to a point that they can leave the department at the end of year 13 with the skills and knowledge which will allow them to work in the industry (as a professional or amateur), or to continue their study of music further.

Musicians working in the current industry should be able to call on an arsenal of proficiencies which include diverse, cross-genre performance; composition and arranging for multiple settings; and a deep understanding of Music.

Aside from the musical benefits – Music will allow pupils to genuinely develop

their transferable skills in independent learning, teamwork, listening, analysis, confidence, and creativity to name a few.

Features of the Course

Pupils regularly perform on their instrument and compose both in and out of lessons, but also study music from a range of sources academically. Areas of study include Music for Film, Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions and New Directions – each of these areas spans a wide chronological period, as well providing a breath of genres, artists, and composers. Compositional skills are developed through a combination of writing to a brief and free composition - and students' performance can be on any instrument or voice. Students work with a team of instrumental tutors in school alongside the FSD music team to develop a repertoire for final submission. Although the final performance can be in any genre, you will be stretched to develop your stylistic playing across most areas.

Key topics studied

Performance:
on chosen instrument

Composition:
to brief and self-directed Appraising

Assessment in year 13

Performance coursework
30%: 8 minute recital

Composition coursework
30%: Two compositions totalling 6 minutes

Appraising Exam 40%: 2 hour listening and appraising exam

Entry requirements

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Music

ABRSM (or equivalent) grade 4 on any instrument/ voice.

PRODUCT DESIGN

Why Study Product Design?

Virtually everything you buy is designed or engineered. This course could be the pathway to many exciting and rewarding career paths in a rapidly changing technological society. From engineers to technicians, high-level manufacturing in the UK needs a skilled, highly-trained workforce which you could be part of. As well as developing knowledge and skills in technology-based topics, this subject is one which naturally develops transferable skills such as team work, problem solving and communication skills - all of which are vital in the 'world of work'.

Product Design is about making things that people want, that work well. Creating these products is hugely exciting and inventive, fun activity; this could be workshop based or focused more on graphic design.

This course can be used as a complementary subject to Mathematics, Science and Art, or to provide a contrast to Humanities subjects. This is a valuable course for anyone seeking a career in architecture, surveying, graphic, product or furniture

design, civil, structural or mechanical engineering, or just to broaden your post-16 education.

Features of the Course

You will learn through practical work and theory lessons and will have the opportunity to work independently and as a member of a group. You will be encouraged to design and make products with creativity and originality through a variety of practical activities, using a range of materials and techniques including ICT and CAD/CAM to help you design, evaluate and manufacture high quality practical outcomes.

You will be encouraged to research the needs of a real client and then develop a solution. This gives you the opportunity to work as a professional designer by approaching local industries and companies for support with your design solution.

In order to recognise the importance of practical and design work within the subject, the course consists of 50% coursework. The remainder of the course is assessed through examinations.

Assessment

Examination

1 x 2.5 hour paper –
Technical Principles (30%)

1 x 1.5 hour paper –
Designing and Making
Principles (20%)

Non-examined assessment

Substantial design and make project – practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles (50%)

Entry requirements

Grade 5 or above in Product Design or Art



POLITICS

Why Study Politics?

Politics is about who gets what and how they get it. In that sense it is about everyday life—conflict, argument and compromise. Aristotle described politics as the “master science” as it is the essence of everything.

The course itself aims to widen students’ understanding of the key issues in modern society. It investigates where power now lies, how people are represented and the opportunities for change. This includes for example, debates over whether we should go to war, civil liberties, the influence of Europe, the United States and rising powers like China, the obstacles facing minorities plus the role of political parties and pressure groups. Politics is an intellectually challenging and rewarding subject. It opens our eyes to what is really going on in the world in which we live.

A Level Politics is particularly useful if you are considering employment in law, journalism or the civil service. The awareness and the skills that you develop through a study of politics, however, are relevant to almost every aspect of life.

Features of the Course

In the first year of A Level, there is a considerable focus on British politics. This will help develop an understanding of the key political institutions as well as examining broader issues such as the extent of political participation and representation. As students move deeper into the course, their understanding of British politics will be contrasted with an in-depth study of the government and politics of the USA. The third component of the two year A Level course examines the role of ideas in politics with specific focus on the philosophical ideas of liberalism, conservatism and socialism and ecologism. There is no coursework in A Level Politics.

Key topics studied

Government and Politics of the UK

Government and Politics of the USA/Comparative Politics
Political Ideas

Assessment in Year 13

Examination

Three 2 hour examinations:

- 1: Government and Politics of the UK (33.3%)
- 2: Government and Politics of the USA; comparative politics (33.3%)
- 3: Political ideas (33.3%)

Entry requirements

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English or History

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Why Study PE?

Physical Education allows the development of a wide range of sporting roles. Firstly, it will allow further practical progression in your leading activity, as well as the opportunity to develop coaching and leadership skills. Aside from the practical aspect of the subject, it will develop a range of transferable skills in subject areas such as psychology, physiology, applied science and sociology.

Students studying Physical Education will be equipped with a range of skills, such as the ability to analyse sporting performance, research and plan appropriate fitness programmes and evaluate issues within a sporting context. All of these are transferable skills that will be required in other subjects and enhance your employment prospects. The skills developed in these areas are sought after by many employers, in a wide variety of careers such as physiotherapy, medicine, employers using psychology, media, professional athletes, sports development, coaching, teaching and the

ever-increasing health and fitness sector.

This is an A Level course assessed through practical and examination based methods. All students are provided with access to online support and extra resources to support their learning.

Key topics studied

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Skill acquisition
- Sport and society
- Exercise physiology and biomechanics
- Sport psychology
- Sport and society and technology in sport

Assessment in Year 13

Examination Paper 1 (35%)

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Skill acquisition
- Sport and society

Paper 2 (35%)

- Exercise physiology and biomechanics
- Sport psychology
- Sport society and technology in sport

Coursework

- Practical performance (15%)
- Analysis of performance (15%)

Entry requirements

Grade 5 or above in GCSE PE plus grade 5 or above in English and grade 4 or above in Maths, plus the ability to play sport at a competitive level



PHYSICS

Why Study Physics?

Physics is the subject that provides you with the Theory of Everything and answers the most important question of all: Why?

Physics will take you on a journey from the fundamental building blocks of matter to the forces that hold galaxies and the whole universe together. It will give you grounding in general physics concepts, dealing with forces and motion plus the more abstract concepts involved with electricity, waves and WIMPs. It may delve deeper into the realms of astrophysics or take you back in time to the important experiments that have enhanced our lives today.

Studying Physics will enhance your practical and analytical skills and is ideal if you are considering a career in the physical sciences, engineering, architecture, medicine or even archaeology.

Physics is a traditional subject that is valued by academic institutions and employers due to the challenges it demands of its students.

Features of the Course

Physics is the science that leads us to new technologies that will shape our future. Learning about important theories is backed up by a significant amount of practical work to develop your analytical skills and also provide further enjoyment.

Key topics studied

1. Measurements and their errors
 2. Particles and radiation
 3. Waves
 4. Mechanics and materials
 5. Electricity
 6. Further mechanics and thermal physics
 7. Fields and their consequences
 8. Nuclear physics
- Options:**
9. Astrophysics
 10. Medical physics
 11. Engineering physics

12. Turning points in physics

13. Electronics

Assessment in Year 13

Examinations

1 x 2 hour paper (34%) on topics 1-5 and 6.1

1 x 2 hour paper (34%) on topics 6.2, 7 and 8

1 x 2 hour paper (32%) on practical skills and the option unit

Entry requirements

Two grades 6 or above in Combined Science Trilogy or grade 6 in Physics plus grade 5 in English and Maths



PSYCHOLOGY

Why Study Psychology?

Research in Psychology seeks to understand and explain thought, emotion and behaviour of humans and animals. Psychologists use scientific methods in an attempt to understand and predict behaviour, to develop procedures for changing behaviour, and to evaluate treatment strategies.

Psychology is a combination of science and theory. Psychologists are interested in how people act, react and interact as individuals and in groups. Applications of Psychology include mental health treatment, performance enhancement, self-help, ergonomics, and many other areas affecting health and daily life. The common factor linking people who study Psychology is curiosity and the search for knowledge about human behaviour.

Psychology is a fascinating science concerned with the study of the mind and human behaviour. It has links with a variety of disciplines such as the biological, computer and forensic sciences, as well as with the humanities such as sociology, philosophy and

literature. People who study Psychology gain a range of valuable skills such as viewing the world around them from different perspectives, the ability to plan and conduct scientific investigations and analyse and interpret data. In addition, Psychologists develop critical reasoning skills. There are a large number of careers in Psychology, but the skills you learn will also readily transfer to many other careers.

Features of the Course

The course will include the study of social influence which explores obedience and conformity, how our memory works, attachment and child development of relationships, approaches in Psychology, research methods and psychopathology which explores abnormality and psychological disorders. All students are provided with access to online support and extra resources to support their learning.

Key topics studied

Social influence, memory, attachment, approaches in psychology, research methods and psychopathology.

Biopsychology, issues and debates in psychology, research methods, relationships, schizophrenia, forensic psychology.

Assessment in Year 13

Examinations

3 x 2 hour exam to constitute the A2 level qualification.

Paper 1

Introductory topics in Psychology

Paper 2

Psychology in context

Paper 3

Issues and debates in Psychology

Coursework

None

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 or above in a science and maths plus a grade 5 in GCSE English

SOCIOLOGY

Why Study Sociology?

'Sociology lifts the lid on the ordinary and extraordinary, digs around in the hidden meanings and contexts of our lives, and shows that what we take for granted rests on complex and dynamic social processes.' (Tony Bilton et al 1996).

Sociologists study people in society. Put simply, Sociology is the attempt to understand how society works. It provides description and analysis of the patterns and structures in human relationships, and it encourages us to see the world through the eyes of other people. The need to understand the society in which we live is a pressing one. We all have a personal stake in this as we try to make sense of our own lives, as well as a wider responsibility to contribute to public debates about the way our society is organised and how it relates to other societies. Sociology helps us to do this.

People who study Sociology gain a range of valuable and transferable skills such as the ability to work in collaboration with others as well as working effectively without close supervision. Students also

learn how to extract information from a variety of sources and turn this into an argument. These skills, along with insights into the workings of society are sought after by many employers, in a wide variety of careers such as education, politics, the police force, law, health service and social research to name but a few.

Features of the Course

The course will include the study of the family and the education system in year 12 alongside a study of the research methods that sociologists employ. Year 13 will focus on crime and deviance and beliefs in society. All students are provided with access to online support and extra resources to support their learning. There will be a range of extra-curricular opportunities that will be determined and organised by those on the course that may include a visit to Durham Prison and a Sociology conference.

Key topics studied

- Sociology of Education
- Sociological Theory and Methods
- Topics in Sociology: Family
- Crime and Deviance
- The Media

Assessment in Year 13

Examinations

3 x 2 hour exams:

- Paper 1 (Education and Theory & Methods)
- Paper 2 (Family & Methods)
- Paper 3 (Crime)

Entry Requirements

Grade 4 or above in GCSE English

BTEC SPORT

Why Study BTEC Sport?

BTEC Sport allows the development of a wide range of sporting roles. Firstly, it will allow further practical progression in your leading activities, as well as developing coaching and officiating skills in those fields. Aside from the practical aspect of the subject, it will develop a range of transferable skills, useful for subject areas such as psychology, physiology, applied science and sociology.

The skills developed in these areas are sought after by many employers, in a wide variety of careers such as physiotherapy, psychology, media, professional athletics and the ever-increasing health and fitness sector.

Features of the Course

The BTEC in Sport offers a vocational pathway and has a different assessment model to A Level. The BTEC has a strong coursework element, whilst still being assessed through some exam units. The course will include the use of ICT as appropriate, including the use of Dartfish to analyse

sporting performance. All students are provided with access to online support and extra resources to support their learning. There will be a range of extracurricular opportunities in the Sixth Form in physical education and sport, as well as the opportunity to complete the relevant sports leadership courses of Level 2 in Sports Leadership and HSLA. Another feature of the course includes visits to Durham and Sunderland Universities to use their state-of-the-art facilities. There is an opportunity to take examinations in both January and June.

Modules covered in Year 12

Anatomy and Physiology (exam), Practical Sports Performance (CW), Sports Leadership (CW), Coaching for Performance (CW), Investigating Business (exam), Sports Development (exam), Principles for Outdoor and Adventurous Activities (CW)

Assessment in Year 12

Examination

Anatomy and Physiology
Fitness Training for Health,
Sport and Wellbeing

Coursework

Fitness training and programming
Professional development in sports industry
Sports leadership
Application of fitness testing

Modules covered in Year 13

Fitness Training and Programming (exam),
Professional Development (CW), Application of Fitness Testing (CW), Sports Injury (CW), Still Acquisition (CW), Research Methods (CW), Sports Psychology (CW)

Assessment in Year 13

Examination

Development and provision of Sport and Physical Activity
Investigating Business in Sport

Coursework

Skill acquisition
Investigating business in sport
Sport injury management

Entry requirements

Merit or higher in BTEC Sport or grade 5 in GCSE PE. Students without a GCSE or BTEC may be accepted if they have strong sporting ability and academic practical ability in one team and one individual sport

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

The enrichment programme is designed to complement and extend academic studies. It provides opportunities for students to demonstrate qualities and develop skills that will prepare them for their next steps. It consists of a range of accredited qualifications which can enhance university applications as well as allowing students to tailor their academic and personal profiles.

Universities and employers often use personal statements to differentiate between applicants and view this wider engagement with learning very positively. Coupled with good grades at BTEC and A Level, the right enrichment course distinguishes individuals from the crowd and shows future employers what type of person they really are.

Student Opportunities Include:

- Extended Project
- Community/Higher Sports Leaders Award
- Sports Teams
- Internships
- Paired Reading
- Numeracy and Literacy Buddies
- British Sign Language Short Course
- First Aid Course
- Music Groups

Extended Project Qualification

The EPQ allows you to research a subject of your choice in depth, taking your studies in a direction that interests you! You are responsible for setting your own targets and deadlines, sticking to them and choosing how to present your findings at the end. Writing up your research can take the form of a 5,000-word essay or a practical project. Throughout the project you should be developing the ability to draw conclusions from critically analysing your research and learning how to manage your time successfully.

MAKING AN APPLICATION

You don't have to attend the school in order to apply to the Sixth Form. Students from other schools can request an application form by contacting the school by telephone or emailing enquires@framdurham.com. Every year we have a number of students who join us from other school.

All students will have an options interview with a member of the leadership team in February to discuss course choices and suitability for studying them. Students who are expected to meet the grade criteria for their course choices and have a positive academic and attendance record will receive a letter offering a conditional place in the Sixth Form. The interviewer will use your predicted grades given in the January data collection which follow your first set of mock examinations. Students will select THREE options for which they are currently predicted to meet the entry requirements

Following GCSE results, students who do not meet the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form, will be offered an appointment with the Head of Sixth Form in August to discuss alternative courses or other options.





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