

Sixth Form Pathways



University

3 A Levels / BTEC Level 3s

(usually start with 4 to see how they gel but will drop one by 31 Oct)

- + (optional) Extended Project in Year 2
- + specific activities / presentations



Work

2 A Levels / BTEC Level 3s

(usually start with 3 to see how they gel but will drop one by 31 Oct; exceptionally stay on 3)

- + Work Experience from November
- + (optional) Extended Project in Year 2
- + specific activities / presentations



Access

Three year pathway (limited spaces)

- English or Maths GCSE – pass in Year 1
- + BTEC L3 Applied Science in Years 1 & 2
- + Another A Level / BTEC in Years 2 & 3
- + (optional) Extended Project in Year 3
- + Work Experience in Years 1, 2 & 3
- + Group work + group mentor



Russell

Academic “hothouse” pathway

4 A Levels

(should include 2+ facilitating subjects, ability to drop to 3 A Levels as desired)

- + Individual mentoring
- + Group sessions and activities

Entry requirements

- 5+ GCSE A* - C including English Language and Maths (BTEC Level 2 Passes or higher are acceptable. RE Short course is half a GCSE)
- + Personal resilience and positive attitude to learning
- + Skills relevant to specific subjects chosen
- + Potential for applying to University

- 5+ GCSE A* - C including English Language and Maths (BTEC Level 2 Passes or higher are acceptable. RE Short course is half a GCSE)
- + Personal resilience and positive attitude to learning
- + Skills relevant to specific subjects chosen
- + Expectation of entering work after Y13

- 4 GCSE A* - C including a Science and exactly one of English Language and Maths (BTEC Level 2 Passes or higher are acceptable. RE Short course is half a GCSE)
- + Personal resilience and positive attitude to learning
- + Skills relevant to specific subjects chosen
- + Strong case for staying on into Sixth Form (Note that we will accept only a small number of students onto this pathway due to timetabling, management and other constraints)

- 10+ GCSE A* - C including English Language and Maths and including 6+ GCSEs at A* grade
- + Personal resilience and positive attitude to learning
- + Skills relevant to specific subjects chosen
- + Passion to “aim high” for a degree at a top University
- + Willing to attend extra sessions as required

**CHALLENGE
YOURSELF**

Choosing A Level subjects

- Most students made initial choices in the Spring Term. These choices gave rise to the subject timetable blocks. **You don't need to stick to your initial choices now but need to follow the blocks.**
- Think about your future:
 - If you're aiming for a top university you will have access to the widest choice of course if you take 2 or more **facilitating subjects** at A Level
 - If you're seeking work, choose subjects which will develop the skills you need
 - If you're not sure, choose subjects which will keep your options open
- Think about the subjects you enjoy and are good at
- Think about your skills:
 - BTECs strongly test your organisation and resilience over 2 years
 - Most A Levels strongly test technique and knowledge application and are awarded based on a few hours of exams
 - Creative subjects (e.g. Art, Product Design, Textiles, Performing Arts) require substantial work effort and require you to display and subject your work to the "public" scrutiny of others

**CHALLENGE
YOURSELF**

Choosing A Level Subjects (2)

Sixth Form subjects are either A Levels, BTECs or Level 3 Diplomas. The main difference between the qualifications is that BTECs and Level 3 Diplomas are more practical in nature than A Levels, involving frequent assignments which must be delivered to time, with feedback sought and acted on, and the assignment passed in order to continue with the course. Final exams carry less weight than at A Level and, in many cases, there are no final exams at all. A Levels tend to be more traditional, and grades are awarded based on end-of-course examinations, requiring some "cramming" and application of knowledge and techniques under exam pressure. There are some exceptions, for example A Level Art, Product Design and Textiles, which have substantial coursework elements which must be delivered on time during the course. Geography and Music have external exams in Year 12 as well as Year 13.

If you are joining Sixth Form with mostly Grade Cs at GCSE, you should think very carefully about which subjects will suit your strengths and skills and should normally start with three subjects not four. The BTECs, Level 3s, and coursework based A Levels such as Art, Product Design and Textiles are considered more accessible than traditional end-examined A Levels for students with the right interest and practical skills. Amongst the end-examined A Levels, Business and Geography are relatively accessible. In most cases you should consider A Level Biology, Chemistry, French, History, Mathematics, Physics or Psychology only if you have A*, A or B Grades in relevant subjects at GCSE (English Language and a Science, usually Biology). If you are considering English Literature and don't have an A*, A or B Grade in English Language or English Literature at GCSE, you should discuss your suitability with staff.

All three types of qualification are worth the same when applying for University, although they do demonstrate different skills. For those aiming to apply to top tier universities, you will have access to the greatest choice of courses if you have robust grades in 2 or more "**facilitating subjects**", comprising A Level Maths / Further Maths, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, the Foreign Languages, History, Geography and, if you are intending to do a related degree, Music and Economics.

Subjects offered under collaboration arrangements may/do involve travel to other schools. This travel is provided, usually by mini bus, but does take time which you need to learn to use productively. There is a greater need for you to proactively manage yourself and to raise any issues which you are facing. You will learn the skill of working with people you don't know well, which will be useful for the future, whether in higher/further education or work.

**CHALLENGE
YOURSELF**