

ACHIEVEMENT, CARE AND EXCELLENCE AT



SIXTH FORM

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY

Subject Information Booklet



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GWA Sixth Form Curriculum Structure

Achievement, Care and Excellence is at the heart of everything we do at Great Western Academy. Our Sixth Form Curriculum is designed to allow every student to flourish and achieve their potential. We have a broad and balanced curriculum, which enables students to choose a pathway that best meets their needs and supports them in achieving the post 18 destination they aspire for.

The curriculum is structured into three main 'pathways' to suit the range of learning requirements of our students. Our pathways aim to offer all students a route to their next steps and Post 18 destination. Each pathway has set entry criteria based on GCSE grades. GCSE Points are calculated by totaling the numeric grade from the **EIGHT BEST GCSE grades**. Vocational Qualification grades will be converted into numeric grades. Entry criteria are set to reflect the demands of the pathway and to support student success and achievement.

Academic Pathway

Entry requirements start from 30 GCSE Points including five at grade 5 or above

There are three progression routes on the Academic Pathway: Traditional (30 GCSE points), Traditional Plus (48 GCSE Points) and Competitive (55 GCSE Points). The entry criteria vary slightly depending on the pathway. Please see the curriculum diagram below. Each subject also carries its own entry requirements. Please see the subject information pages for more detail. Our Academic pathway allows students to study a combination of three or four A-Levels from our range of 25 courses. Some students may choose to compliment this with a vocational qualification, an AS Level or an EPQ. This can be discussed in your guidance meeting.

Most students will begin their A-Level study with four A-Levels, which allows them some flexibility when settling onto their courses. Students on the Competitive Pathway will continue with all four subjects. Those following the traditional routes will focus their studies onto three A-Levels for Year 13. On the standard traditional route this will happen after around 10 weeks. The traditional plus pathway allows students to complete an AS Level in one subject (please note AS Levels are only possible where indicated in the subject information).

In most cases, students will progress onto university or a degree apprenticeship from the Academic Pathway.

Vocational Pathway

Entry requirements are a minimum of 25 GCSE Points including five at grade 4 or above

The vocation pathway allows students to choose from our range of BTEC and Vocational courses to study subjects that are closely matched with career progression routes. Some of the courses will involve elements of work experience and industry-based learning opportunities. Assessment on vocational qualifications is focused more on project based and portfolio work, but there are some examined elements. Courses can be taken in combinations to the equivalent of 3 A-Levels. Some students may choose to study one A-Level course alongside two vocational courses.

Students studying on the vocational pathway will be able to progress on to university or apprenticeships, and some may go straight into full time employment.

Transitional Pathway

Entry requirements are a minimum of 20 GCSE points including five at Grade 3 or above

For some students, the transitional pathway can act as a stepping-stone between Year 11 and Level 3 qualifications or further vocational study. On this pathway students will choose from a range of Level 2 courses and often students will require re-sit GCSE Maths and/or English. The Transitional Pathway is a one-year course, and we aim for students to transition onto Level 3 courses in year 2. The level 2 qualifications that we offer have been selected to offer transition onto level 3 courses at GWA in year 2.

From the Transitional pathway some students will stay on at GWA to take our vocational level 3 route, some students will also progress to College or an Apprenticeship.



Our Subjects

Pathway	Academic (A-Level) * indicates AS Level option is available	Vocational	Transitional
Subjects	Art and Design (Fine Art) Art and Design (Photography) Art and Design (Textile Design) Biology * Business * Chemistry Computer Science Dance Design Technology (Product Design) Drama Economics * English Language English Literature French Further Mathematics * Geography History Law Mathematics Media Studies Music Philosophy and Religion * Physics Politics * Psychology Sociology Spanish	Cambridge Technical Business BTEC Health and Social Care (AAQ) BTEC Performing Arts BTEC Sport BTEC Travel and Tourism Cambridge Technical Digital Media Criminology A combination of these subjects will operate based on demand.	BTEC Level 2 Health and Social Care BTEC Level 2 iMedia BTEC Level 2 Production Arts BTEC Level 2 Travel and Tourism A combination of these subjects will operate based on demand.
Supporting Qualifications	EPQ Core Maths	GCSE Re-sit Maths and English	GCSE Re-sit Maths and English

Please note: all subjects are dependent on there being sufficient application numbers to run the course. Where we offer A-Level and BTEC qualifications in the same, or similar, eg Performing Arts and Drama, GWA may only run the option with the most applications. Only applications received before the deadline will be considered in this decision. We will be happy to discuss this further with you in your guidance meeting or please contact us for more information.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet the minimum academic entry criteria detailed above to be offered a place on their chosen pathway. This will be discussed during the guidance meeting. Where a student does not meet the minimum requirements, they will be offered a place on an alternative pathway. All places will be confirmed once GCSE results have been received, and students can transfer to an alternative pathway where relevant.

In addition to the academic entry criteria, all applicants must:

- meet the minimum requirements for the individual A Level or vocational subjects they wish to study (as listed).
- be under the age of 19 at the start of their programme of study, have not completed two years of Sixth Form study at another provider and meet regulations regarding nationality, residency and eligibility for study in the UK.

Where there are more eligible students than places, oversubscription criteria will determine who is submitted.

The full admission policy can be found at www.gwacademy.co.uk/school-information/policies

Art & Design (Fine Art) - A Level - AQA

60% Portfolio (Coursework)

40% Externally set assignment (Practical Exam)

Students are introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of art media, processes and techniques. Traditional and new media are explored.

Students will be expected to demonstrate skills in the following areas;

- Appreciation of different approaches to recording images, such as observation, analysis, expression and imagination
- Awareness of intended audience or purpose for their chosen areas of fine art
- Understanding of the conventions of figurative/representational and abstract/non-representational imagery or genres
- Appreciation of different ways of working, such as, using underpainting, wash, modelling, constructing, assembling, mono printing, lino printing
- Understanding of pictorial space, composition, rhythm, scale and structure
- Appreciation of colour, line, tone, texture, shape and form

What it could lead to: The course could lead to further education and in addition the following careers; Animator, Fine Artist, Book Illustrator, Graphic Designer, Cartoonist, Commercial Artist, Special Effects Make Up, Mural Artist, Art Therapist, Art Teacher, Architect, Costumer Designer, Florist, Prop Maker, Set Design, Tattoo Artist.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Art grade 5

Art & Design (Photography) - A Level - AQA

60% Portfolio (Coursework)

40% Externally set assignment (Practical Exam)

You will be required to work in one or more area(s) of Photography such as:

- Portraiture
- Landscape (urban, rural and/or coastal environment)
- Still Life (working from objects or the natural world)
- Documentary, photojournalism, Fashion
- Experimental
- Multimedia
- Photographic Installation

Students will be required to demonstrate skills in all the following:

- ability to explore elements of visual language, line, form, colour, pattern and texture
- awareness of intended audience and to respond to an issue, theme, concept or idea
- appreciation of viewpoint, composition, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement
- appropriate use of camera, lenses, filters
- understanding of techniques related to the production of photographic images and where appropriate, presentation and layout

What it could lead to: This A Level can lead you into some exciting jobs such as; Forensic Photographer, Military Photographer, Secondary School or University Teacher in Photography/Arts, Photojournalist, Nature Photographer, Fashion Photographer & Photo Editor.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Art grade 5

Art & Design (Textile Design) - A Level - AQA

60% Portfolio (Coursework)

40% Externally set assignment (Practical Exam)

In A Level Art and Design: Textile Design you will develop your own skills and knowledge through creative exploration. You will be given themes to inspire, together with technical guidance & contextual stimulus you will develop original projects and fashion & textile outcomes. You will learn how to use an extensive range of techniques and processes that embrace the 3 areas of embroidery, print & weave. Fashion illustration & portfolio & sketchbook presentation is also taught and individual style is nurtured.

What happens in lessons?

Lessons are practical where students develop their project while receiving support and guidance to help further their own creative journey. New techniques and skills are fed into the course and students create a technical & contextual sketchbook that supports their own project development.

What it could lead to: Students have gone on to study foundation courses in Art and Design at Bournemouth, Oxford Brookes and Surrey. Post foundation students have continued to study a range of courses in fashion design (menswear/women's wear/children's wear), textile art, pattern cutting and textile design (weave, print and embroidery). Other career options include visual merchandiser, jewellery design fashion journalism, costume design or fashion buying.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Art or Design Technology grade 4 (if taken)

Ideally the experience of having studied GCSE art and design &/or design and technology is advantageous but is NOT essential.

Biology – AS/A Level - AQA

100% Examination

Biology is the study of living things; how they function, how they evolved and how they interact. There is a strong practical element involving both lab and field work and students will develop their scientific investigation skills throughout the course, earning their practical endorsement.

The course is divided into the following topics:

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Transport across membranes
- Cell recognition and the immune system
- Organisms and the environment
- Genetic variation, information and relationships
- Energy transfer
- Responding to changes in the environment
- Populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

What it could lead to: Studying this A Level is a good foundation for degree courses in biological sciences, zoology, genetics, nursing and medicine. It could also unlock a life-long interest in living things and the environment we live in as well as developing laboratory skills and an enquiring mind.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Biology grade 6 (or combined science 66) and GCSE Mathematics grade 5

Business – AS/A Level - Edexcel

100% Examination

This A Level Business course introduces you to all you need to know about working in business, providing a solid foundation for further study. With a focus on helping you to become a good decision maker, you'll learn essential managerial skills, alongside techniques to help you become an analytical problem solver.

These skills are all highly sought after and valued in a wide range of careers. On this A-Level course, students are introduced to business in Themes 1 and 2 in Year 12 through building knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work. In Year 13, breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, with applications to a wider range of contexts and more complex business information, are developed. Students will learn to take a more strategic view of business opportunities developing key managerial skills along the way.

What it could lead to: Business A Level can lead to a wide variety of business, management, economics or finance subjects at university. The course will prepare you well for entering the world of work, particularly for management and leadership roles or for running your own business. It could lead to work in a wide range of sectors, including banking, sales, product management and general management and working in public sector organisations or charities.

Entry Qualification: Mathematics and English GCSE grade 5, plus Business grade 5 (if taken) or another Humanities subject. GCSE Business is not a requirement

Chemistry – AS/A Level - AQA

100% Examination

Chemistry is essential to understanding the world around us. Chemistry is a practical subject, but it also offers an opportunity to apply your mathematical skills and test your problem solving. The subject is split up into three main branches

Organic	Inorganic	Physical
- Alkanes - Haloalkanes - Alkenes - Alcohols - Analysis	- Periodicity - Group 2 - Group 7	- Atomic structure - Moles - Bonding - Kinetics - Equilibria - Redox

What it could lead to: Studying this A Level is a good foundation for degree courses in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Engineering, Veterinary and Medicine. It could also unlock a life-long interest in living things and the environment we live in as well as developing laboratory skills and an enquiring mind.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Chemistry grade 6 (or combined science grade 66) and GCSE Mathematics grade 6

Computer Science - A Level - OCR

80% Examination

20% Coursework

Computer Science is not just about learning to use tools or just training in a programming language. Instead it is about computational thinking and creativity. Computational thinking is a method of reasoning used by both humans and machines and the creativity element allows us to analyse problems and design new and innovative solutions within a range of disciplines from mobile app development to human computer interaction.

This course has an emphasis on abstract thinking, general problem-solving, algorithmic and mathematical reasoning, and scientific and engineering-based thinking. Students cover the following content under the main headings of Computer Science and Algorithms and Programming:

- Characteristics of contemporary processors
- Software and Software development
- Exchanging Data
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, Moral and Cultural issues
- Elements of Computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

What it could lead to: Computer Science students can progress onto University to read Computer Science, Information Systems (mixture of Business and Computer Science), Engineering, Software Development, Game Design and even Maths and Physics to name a few. Students may also open a range of apprenticeship and employment opportunities. Computing students will also develop transferable skills such as communication, independent research, project management, numeracy and digital literacy.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Computing Grade 6 GCSE Mathematics Grade 6

Dance - A Level - AQA

50% Practical examination

50% Written examination

A level Dance provides students the opportunity to develop their dance technique, knowledge of choreography, analytical skills and performance qualities. Students will perform as a soloist and in a quartet, choreograph a group dance and analyse and engage with professional works. The course will cover the necessary skills needed as a practical performer through technical training and choreographic experimentation. Students will develop an understanding of contemporary and historical areas of dance study, alongside professional practitioners and their works, and be taught the knowledge needed to appreciate the artistic context.

Throughout the two years students will participate in theatre outings, professional workshops and learn from external artists.

What it could lead to: Not only will students improve a range of skills such as problem solving, organisation, teamwork, leadership and creativity, but the course will encourage life-long learning and equip students for a range of careers and higher education studies. Careers include, but are not limited to, - dancer; choreographer; teacher; dance critic; writer; examiner; arts; production manager; show manager; dance captain and assistant.

Entry Qualifications: Level 5 or above in Dance GCSE or other performing arts subject

Design & Technology (Product Design) - A Level - AQA

50% Examination

50% Non-Examined Assessment

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries. They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning into practice by producing prototypes of their choice using the iterative design process.

Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers. A key requirement of the course is the use of mathematical skills and these will be tested in the exams. An understanding of scientific theory is also expected. Students will study materials and their applications; performance characteristics of materials; enhancement of materials and design and making principles

What it could lead to: An understanding of product design can lead to a large variety of career opportunities in; publishing, ICT, advertising, architecture, public works, building, animation, production/manufacturing, mechanical maintenance (e.g. cars/bikes etc.). Alternatively, this course can provide access to a wide range of other university and college courses.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Design and Technology grade 5

GCSE Mathematics Grade 5

Drama & Theatre - A Level - Edexcel

A Level Drama and Theatre is a creative and challenging course that allows students to explore a wide range of practical and theoretical skills. Lessons will cover devised, scripted, and written elements of theatre. Students will explore two set texts from the perspective of an actor, director and designer, as well as the historical, social and cultural context of the plays. Students will also engage with a variety of theatre practitioners and learn how to apply these methods to their own devised work. There are three performance opportunities at A Level. Students will perform/design for a devised performance and select two scripted pieces, one group and one monologue piece.

Live Theatre is an integral part of the course and theatre trips will be organised regularly as this is another requirement of the written exam. Students will study drama through the following components:

- Component 1: Devised
- Component 2: Text in Performance
- Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

What it could lead to: This is an excellent A Level to enrich communication, creative, analytical and reflective skills. Careers include, but are not limited to, - actor; teacher; director; law; journalism, media; writer; arts; social worker; drama therapist; project manager.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Drama and English grade 5 with proven participation in performing arts activities

Economics – AS/A Level - Edexcel

100% Examination

Economics doesn't just happen in banks and governments. It is everywhere and influences everything we do, and see, from the cinema screen to the streets. It can explain some of life's most intriguing questions.

Economics is about choice and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. An economic way of thinking can help you make better choices. In Year 12 you will be introduced to the nature of economics, how markets work and why they fail, consumer choices and enterprise in the economy. You will also consider the role of banks and life in a global economy. In Year 13 you will explore the impact of globalisation on consumers, firms and the labour market. You will also investigate the role of the government and have an opportunity to consider the role and impact of the financial sector.

What it could lead to: Studying economics will help you develop transferable skills that will prepare you for studying at university or moving into the world of work. These include skills in data interpretation and essay writing. You will also develop commercial awareness. Economics students can follow a wide range of careers in industry, commerce, finance and the civil service. You might choose a career in banking, sales, product management or general management.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Mathematics grade 6 GCSE English Grade 5

English Language - A Level - AQA

80% Examination

20% Coursework

The A Level English Language specification offers opportunities for students to develop their subject expertise by engaging creatively and critically with a wide range of texts and discourses. Students will create texts and reflect critically on their own processes of production, while analysing the texts produced by others. The specification explores the study of English Language both as a medium of communication and as a topic in its own right, with an emphasis on the ability of students to pursue lines of enquiry, debate different views, and work independently to research aspects of language in use.

Students will study:

- Language, the individual and society
- Language diversity and change
- Language in action.

What it could lead to: Higher level English Language degrees. Linguistics roles, Speech and Language Therapy, Teaching, Public Relations, Public Speaking, Public Sector roles, Marketing, Journalism, Health and Social care, Creative Writing, Marketing and Digital and Social Marketing

Entry Qualification: GCSE English grade 5

English Literature - A Level - AQA

80% Examination

20% Coursework

The philosophy of this course centres on teaching the students the different ways of reading and the connections which exist between texts. There is a clear focus on understanding genre, whereby the students will become experts in these areas as they explore a plethora of texts. Study of texts with the chosen literary and cultural genres in the examined topic areas is enhanced by the study of critical theory in Non-Examined Assessment (NEA). In this way, students can gain a solid understanding of how texts can be connected and how they can be interpreted in multiple ways so that students can arrive at their own interpretations and become confident autonomous readers.

By the end of the course, students will have gained a broad and rich literary experience, whilst also acquiring the necessary exam and non-exam skills, which will undoubtedly prepare them for studying the subject, or those closely linked, further afield.

Students will study English Literature through the following topics

- Aspects of tragedy
- Elements of crime writing
- Non-examined assessment (critical theory and independent study of texts)

What it could lead to: English Literature degrees, Classics degrees, Writing, Broadcasting, Publishing, Teaching, Advertising, Law, Librarian, Theatre and the arts, Museums, Editor, Marketing and Digital and Social Marketing.

Entry Qualification: GCSE English grade 6

French – AS/A Level - Edexcel

100% Examination (including oral)

A Level French at GWA aims to build your knowledge and skills gained at GCSE! The course will give you the opportunity to explore new areas of French culture, traditions and history through the language, as well as focusing on modern day themes which link to francophone communities.

You will discover new opinions on in depth topics while gaining confidence in your French abilities. Language is not the only focus of this course...as students will study a literary piece to enrich their understanding of the target language.

Through studying A Level French, you will have the opportunity to enhance your employment prospects, facilitate foreign travel and experience the enjoyment and motivation of improving your linguistic abilities.

What it could lead to: University (not just languages) – Russell group universities now look for a foreign language at A level! Working and living abroad. Apprenticeships for world renowned companies

Entry Qualification: GCSE French grade 5

Further Mathematics - AS/A Level - Edexcel

100% Examination

This A Level qualification is an opportunity to build on some previously learnt skills but also discover completely new elements of maths. You will be introduced to new concepts such as imaginary numbers, matrices, roots of polynomials and many more new topics. Further Mathematics is an excellent choice for students who enjoy maths and/or are considering studying a mathematics related course at University.

This course can be taken as either an AS Level (over one year) or a full A level (over two years). The topic headings for both years will be the same but the second year will involve studying each of the topics in more depth. Each year the students will study Pure Mathematics content alongside any two of the following options (according to demand):

Mechanics Statistics

Discrete Mathematics

What it could lead to: Further study in Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science, Accounting & Finance, Actuarial Science, STEM, Statistics, and many more.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Mathematics grade 7

Geography - A Level - AQA

80% Examination (40% Physical, 40% Human Geography)

20% Fieldwork

Geography is a diverse and relevant subject, with topics carefully chosen to reflect the world today. The wide range of topics give students an opportunity to broaden their understanding of the world around us, challenge their perceptions and stimulate their investigative and analytical skills. The course embraces contemporary Geography whilst retaining key elements of traditional Geography. Students will study:

Physical geography

- Water and carbon cycles
- Hazards
- Coastal systems and landscapes

Human geography

- Global systems and global governance
- Changing places
- Population and the environment

What it could lead to: Higher education, studying not only geography but subjects such as Geology, Earth Sciences, Meteorology, Climate Science, Oceanography, Archaeology and many others. Careers in fields such as environmental consultancy, urban planning, conservation, GIS, tourism, education and many others.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Geography, English and Mathematics Grade 5

History - A Level - Edexcel

80% Examination

20% Coursework

This fascinating A Level course focuses primarily on challenges to the authority of the state in the late 18th and 19th century. This was period of great upheaval with revolution challenging the traditional established elites. It was a period where strong leaders emerged, inspiring the masses and causing radical changes across Europe.

Unit 1 - Protest and Reform c1785 to c1870: how the changing nature of Britain caused the people to protest for reforms and demand greater democratic representation and living conditions.

Unit 2 - Italian unification: how through conflict, revolution and political change the traditional elites of separate Italian states succumbed to liberalism and nationalism so that by 1870 a unified nation of Italy emerged in southern Europe.

Unit 3 - The Witch Craze: how the witch craze of the 17th century in Britain, Northern Europe and America to uncover the causes and consequences of this astonishing period. Burnings, torture, hangings and total panic – what was at the heart of an unparalleled phenomenon that led to the execution of over 100,000 innocent people?

Unit 4 - Independent coursework: students will be required to identify an issue they wish to study and develop a question from this, which will be the focus of a historical investigation

What it could lead to: Studying History opens the door to further study at university. History A level provides skills of analysis, evaluation and explanation. All of which are essential skills for any professional career. A Level History complements further study in all subjects but has particularly strong links to Government & politics, Law and Economics. History is a highly regarded academic subject by all universities and employers.

Entry Qualification: GCSE History and English grade 5

Law - A Level - Eduqas

100% Examination

Studying Law gives students an understanding of the role of Law in today's society and raises their awareness of the rights and responsibilities of individuals. By learning about legal rules and how and why they apply to real life, students also develop their analytical ability, decision making, critical thinking and problem-solving skills alongside the ability to construct legal arguments. All these transferable skills are highly sought after by higher education and employers. The course includes looking at case studies and theories to keep content fresh, relevant and engaging. Topics are clearly structured and include:

- The nature of law and the English legal system
- Criminal Law
- Law of Tort
- Law of Contract
- Human Rights Law

What it could lead to: A career in law, medicine, accountancy, teaching, a religious sector, charity work – essentially any position where you may need to demonstrate an understanding of people!

Entry Qualification: GCSE English Language and Literature both grade 5

Mathematics – AS/A Level - Edexcel

100% Examination

Mathematics is one of the biggest facilitating subjects. As well as being a stimulating subject in its own right, Mathematics is an essential A Level course for many higher education courses and careers in science, technology and engineering and a highly desirable qualification for other courses in areas such as economics, geography, psychology and business.

In Pure Mathematics, students will study topics including sequences and series, trigonometry, coordinate geometry, exponentials and logarithms, vectors, proof and calculus. Excellent algebraic skills will be essential for success in these areas.

For the Applied element of the course, students cover a range of topics in both Mechanics and Statistics.

What it could lead to: Further study in Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science, Accounting & Finance, Actuarial Science, : STEM, Statistics, and many more.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Mathematics grade 6

Media Studies - A Level - Eduqas

70% Examination

30% Coursework

The media is the most dynamic, innovative and influential method of mass communication of modern times. It has been reported that adults in Great Britain are consuming media for almost 8 hours a day. That's 8 hours a day watching films and television, reading newspapers, and sifting through online media. Within that time, we are bombarded by other people's representations of the world and how we respond to these representations can affect our perceptions of people, places and society, of politics and culture, of ourselves and of our place in the world. Media Studies is a vital tool necessary to understanding the media's significance and its power. As a GCE Media Studies student, you will analyse how media products use language and representations to create meaning. You will learn about the media industry and how the industry affects how media products are made. You will investigate media audiences, exploring who are the people who watch, read and consume the products and considering how different people might respond to products differently, and why.

What it could lead to: Over one hundred universities offer courses in Media, Communications and Cultural Studies in the UK. A Level Media Studies helps you to progress to these courses, as well as to those in other areas such as English, Humanities and Social Sciences. There is a huge array of career opportunities in the media, which is an industry that is growing at an exponential rate. According to PWC the entertainment and media sector will be worth 76 billion in 2021.

Entry Qualification: GCSE English grade 4

Music - A Level - AQA

40% Examination

35% 10-min Recorded Performance 25%

Two Compositions

Those studying Music A Level will access a contemporary and creative course enabling them to study a wide range of musical genres, and to develop their own particular strengths and interests. The course values all music styles, skills and instruments. It is divided into three strands: listening/appraising, performing and composing. The Music Department at GWA boasts 5 bookable practice rooms, as well as a grand piano located in the Hall. Areas of study include:

- Music from the Western Classical Tradition
- Pop Music
- Music for Media

What it could lead to: Music Degree (BMus) at a University or a Music Conservatoire, Professional Musician in the Music Industry (e.g. Classical, Popular, Folk, World Music, etc...), Arts Administration, Music Teacher, Film Scoring.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Music grade 5

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics – AS/A Level - Eduqas

100% Examination

This course is broken down into 3 separate units – Religion (Christianity), Philosophy and Ethics.

Christianity is a complex religion and we will ask questions about Jesus: his birth and the resurrection, whether we think God must be male, how the Bible can support Christian life as well as asking whether the UK really is a Christian nation and what the effects have been of secularisation. In Philosophy, we study arguments for and against the existence of God. We look at the very nature of arguments themselves and are able to assess how strong or weak they really are. As well as this we consider the challenges faced by religious believers today such as the problem of evil and suffering and question whether religion is in fact a product of the mind. In Ethics, we ask questions around how someone can be guided by their moral principles and the wider effect this may have. We look at various theories which may help someone to make a more decision for example Utilitarianism and Situation Ethics.

What it could lead to: A career in law, medicine, accountancy, teaching, a religious sector, charity work – essentially any position where you may need to demonstrate an understanding of people!

Entry Qualification: GCSE English grade 4 . GCSE Religious Studies is not a requirement

Physics - A Level - AQA

100% Examination

The AQA A Level Physics course is interesting, exciting and relevant to the real world. The focus upon practical work, and the range of optional topics available for Year 13, make this a particularly attractive specification for teaching and learning. Students will learn about measurements and their errors, particles and radiation, waves, mechanics and energy, electricity, further mechanics and thermal physics, fields and nuclear physics. In addition, one optional subject will be studied in greater depth in the second year from a range including astrophysics, medical physics and engineering physics.

What it could lead to: The course is intended to inspire students, nurture a passion for physics and lay the groundwork for further study in science or engineering. In addition, Physics is held in high regard as a challenging and rewarding A Level subject and therefore provides a good qualification to support entry into many other careers.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Physics grade 6 (or combined science grade 66) and GCSE Mathematics grade 6

Politics – AS/A Level - Edexcel

100% Examination

In this course students will explore the nature of politics and how people engage in the political process in the UK; including the study of democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems and voting behaviour and the media. The course also covers three core political ideas of liberalism, conservatism and socialism.

The first year will focus on UK Government and Politics, whilst the second year will look at different international political systems and Global Politics.

What it could lead to: Politics is a very broad subject which, as well as leading naturally to further study of Politics, can also greatly complement courses such as Law, History and Economics.

Entry Qualification: GCSE English grade 5

Psychology - A Level - AQA

100% Examination

Psychology will allow you to have a better understanding of the human mind and how everyday behaviour is influenced by the world around us. It will enable you to develop your critical thinking and evaluative skills and have a better understanding of many social, scientific and contemporary issues involved in our daily life.

There are three papers that will be sat at the end of the course, all equally weighted. Topics that will be covered over the two-year course include Psychopathology, Attachment, Memory, Biopsychology and many more!

What it could lead to: Counselling, psychotherapist, social work, teaching, human resources, police, research roles.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Biology (or Science), English and Mathematics grade 5

Sociology - A Level - OCR

100% Examination

Our A Level in Sociology inspires students to reflect upon the world we live in, fostering an understanding of the inter-relationships between individuals, groups, institutions and societies. It enables students to develop critical thinking and appreciate theoretical and conceptual issues.

During the course you will develop a wide range of transferable skill which are sought after by higher education and employers alike. The course looks at a range of topics including:

- Culture, Identity and Socialisation
- Social Inequalities in Society
- Research Methods used in Sociology
- The Media
- Globalisation and the Digital World
- Education

What it could lead to: A lead into further study of similar subjects or subjects with a similar skill set. Many Sociology students move on to careers in the NHS, Policing, Social Work, Teaching, Public Services, Researchers for Business and Government Think Tanks.

Entry Qualification: GCSE English grade 4

Spanish – AS/A Level - Edexcel

100% Examination (including oral)

This course is not just about speaking Spanish. Students will study technological and social change, looking at the multicultural nature of Hispanic society. They will study highlights of Hispanic artistic culture, including a focus on Spanish regional identity and the cultural heritage of past civilisations. They will learn about aspects of the diverse political landscape of the Hispanic world. Students will explore the influence of the past on present-day Hispanic communities. Throughout their studies, they will learn the language in the context of Hispanic countries, covering the issues and influences which have shaped them. Students will study literary texts and film, and will have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice.

What it could lead to: A career in teaching, translation, interpreting, business, tourism, etc. It would also complement any other degree course, opening doors to work as a professional in a Spanish-speaking country as well as any context where proficiency in Spanish language is required.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Spanish grade 5

SUPPORTING QUALIFICATIONS

Core Mathematics - Level 3 - OCR

100% Examination

Core maths has been developed to provide progression from GCSE Mathematics for those students not wanting to follow an A level course in the subject.

It is specifically designed to equip learners to develop and apply real-world maths skills and support progression to university, employment or higher apprenticeships.

The course is designed to motivate learners and aims to engage them with the maths around them in everyday life.

If you are considering studying subjects such as Science, Geography, Business, Economics or social sciences at A level, core maths will be useful to help refine and develop skills to support your other subjects.

Core maths is different from both GCSE and A Level mathematics. It uses real-world, relevant, content and offers opportunities for learners with context-based problem-solving tasks and opportunities.

The course helps learners to view mathematics in context and equips them for the world around them, it supports studies in other subjects and prepares students for the next step in education or employment.

Core Maths is about students doing meaningful mathematical problems to increase their confidence in using mathematics to be better equipped for the mathematical demands of other courses, higher education and employment.

It has been designed to maintain and develop real-life mathematical skills.

What students study is not purely theoretical or abstract; it can be applied on a day-to-day basis, whether in work, study or life.

Most Core Maths courses will include a financial mathematics element and can help with other A level subjects, in particular with science, geography, business studies, economics and psychology.

Mathematical skills are becoming increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education - studying Core Maths will help students to keep up these essential skills.

What it could lead to: Further study in a variety of subjects at university, progressing to a higher apprenticeship or employment in a wide range of industry sectors or professional training opportunities.

Further study in science, geography, business studies, economics and psychology. Skills you will need in any workplace.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Mathematics grade 4

*Core Mathematics can only be chosen as a 4th subject alongside 3 full A Levels

Extended Project Qualification - Level 3

100% Coursework

The Extended Project Qualifications (EPQ) is different to other courses because it enables you to undertake independent research in a topic you find interesting. It is valued by many universities.

You will research a project of your choosing, which you will then develop into either a 5,000 word report, performance or artefact.

Alongside your research you will communicate your findings in a presentation at the end of the course. Throughout your course you will be supported by a tutor.

The EPQ is worth 50% of an A-level and gives you more UCAS points than an AS level (20 for grade E, up to 70 for a grade A*).

What it could lead to: The Extended Project allows learners to study a topic area which extends their learning in their area of study, as a standalone qualification.

The qualification will allow learners to develop and improve their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent learners.

They will develop and apply skills, creatively demonstrating initiative and enterprise to allow them to transfer skills developed as part of their project to other areas of study.

The EPQ supports their personal aspirations for further education and/or career development and is seen as a great qualification to bridge the gap between A levels and university.

Entry Qualification: no specific requirements

VOCATIONAL PATHWAY COURSES

Business – Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate

External assessed Units- 60%

Internally assessed Units - 40%

Cambridge Technical qualification in Business develops students' core skills and understanding of the requirements of the business sector.

Students gain hands-on experience and have the opportunity to focus on specific topics such as human resources, marketing, accounting and business planning

Units covered (as an example)

Unit 1 – The Business Environment. Why are businesses run and what influences decisions made – This is the platform for all the other units.

Unit 2 – Working in Business – You will develop a practical awareness of the skills needed by employees if a business is to be successful.

Unit 3 – Business Decisions – You will develop the skills to make business decisions, analysing and processing information to make informed choices

Unit 4 – Customer and Communications – Purpose, method and importance of business communication and how this is used with customers.

Unit 11 - Accounting Principals – An introduction and a foundation in the world of business finances and accounting.

What it could lead to: This qualification supports entry to a range of business and enterprise associated higher education courses, such as management, finance, entrepreneurship, economics etc when taken alongside other qualifications and is confirmed by the specific support of a number of universities. In addition, the qualification carries UCAS points.

Entry Qualification: GCSE English and Maths grade 4

Criminology – WJEC Applied Diploma

50% Controlled Assessment

50% Examination

What does this qualification cover?

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology. The WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is a qualification with elements of psychology, law and sociology that complements studies in humanities.

This course will enable students to use theories of criminality to analyse criminal situations and make recommendations for policy. Students also develop the knowledge and skills to research policy in practice, assess campaigns for changes in awareness and examine information to review verdicts in criminal cases.

What it could lead to: The qualification also enables learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service. Students could progress to university to degree courses such as Criminology, Criminal Justice and Sociology.

Entry Qualification GCSE English Language Grade 4

Health and Social Care – BTEC Extended Certificate (AAQ)

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care aims to provide a broad introduction to the sector. It is for learners who are interested in learning about the health and social care sector as part of a balanced study programme. It is equivalent in size to one A Level. The qualification supports access to a range of higher education courses possibly, but not exclusively, in health and social care, if taken alongside further Level 3 qualifications. The qualification typically makes up one-third of a study programme.

What does this qualification cover?

The mandatory content of the qualification incorporates topics relevant across the health and social care sector:

- Human Lifespan and Development
- Human Health and Biology
- Principles of Health and Social Care Practice.

Learners will complete one optional unit that covers the biological and sociological topics relevant to the different parts of the sector to support their progression to specialised degree programmes in the sector.

Optional units include:

- Health, Policy and Wellbeing
- Promoting Health Promotion
- Safe Environments in Health and Social Care
- Health Science

What it could lead to: Learners will be equipped with skills and knowledge for a career in the Health and Social Care sector. Learners can also progress to a degree programme chosen from a range of programmes in the health and social care sector, such as Psychology, Nursing and Primary Education.

Entry Qualification: GCSEs grade 4 in Science or Biology and English

Cambridge Technicals Level 3 Extended Certificate in Digital Media

External assessed Units – 66%

Internally assessed Units – 34%

What does this qualification cover?

This course will develop your knowledge, understanding, and skills in the media industry, preparing you for further study or a career in digital content creation. It is ideal for learners who want to apply creative and technical skills to real-world media projects. You will explore a wide range of media sectors and develop your ability to plan, produce, and evaluate media products.

You might be interested in this qualification if you want to apply what you learn to practical, real-life contexts, such as:

- Analysing audiences and media products across different platforms.
- Planning and producing audio-visual, print, or digital media content.
- Researching and applying pre-production and planning techniques.
- Developing and creating interactive or promotional digital media products.

This qualification not only enhances your media production skills but also builds valuable transferable skills, including teamwork, creative problem-solving, research and planning, communication, and time management. These are essential for progression to higher education or employment in the media sector.

Through project-based learning, you'll take ownership of the entire creative process—from idea generation to evaluation—developing a portfolio that reflects your skills and creative identity. You'll work on realistic assignments and respond to client briefs, helping you understand industry practices and meet professional standards.

You'll also develop reflective learning habits, enabling you to assess your creative decisions and continuously improve your work.

Presentation and pitching techniques are embedded in the course, helping you confidently share your ideas with a range of audiences.

What it could lead to:

This qualification meets entry requirements in its own right for some media-related courses such as HNCs or apprenticeships in Creative Media. For progression to university, it is best studied alongside other A Levels or BTECs in complementary areas such as English, Art, Media Studies, or Business.

Entry Qualification:

GCSE Grade 4 in English or a related subject is recommended.

Performing Arts – BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

External assessed Units- 58%

Internally assessed Units - 42%

What does this qualification cover?

Students will have 1 mandatory and 2 optional assessment units and must pass all units. Students will be able to specialise in any of the following:

- Acting Skills
- Dance Skills
- Or Musical Theatre Skills

BTEC in Performing Arts is a flexible and creative course that allows students to develop their technical performing arts skills through a process of critical evaluation, practice and review. The specification will allow students to continually revisit their approaches to making and understanding performing arts and specialise in a field of their choice.

What could it lead to: BTECs provide students with real world skills, practical experience specialised assignments allowing them to build the skills for a future in the creative industry. Students will be measured to international standards, facilitating progression to university and students will be prepared for employment in the performing arts industry.

Entry Qualifications: Grade 4 or above in a Performing Arts subject and English.

Sport - BTEC Extended Certificate

External assessed Units- 67% Internally assessed Units - 33%

What does this qualification cover?

The BTEC Extended certificate in Sport qualification allows students to work to their strengths and gain a strong theoretical understanding of sport by studying a variety of modules. These modules are predominantly theory based and so students should have the desire and ability to study the theory. The modules for this course are shown below; however, only one of the four bottom modules (shown in *italic*) will be chosen for the course.

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being
- Professional development in the sports industry
- *Sports Leadership*
- *Application of fitness testing*
- *Sports psychology*
- *Practical sports performance*

What it could lead to: The sport industry is one of the fastest growing sectors of modern society. With the rise in performance analysis across all sports and the continuing improvements within the Olympic and Paralympic movements the right chosen pathway can lead to all manner of exciting opportunities from sports psychology to physical education training

Entry Qualification: GCSE Science / Biology grade 4 and GCSE PE grade 4/BTEC Level 2 Pass

Travel and Tourism - BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

External assessed Units- 58%

Internally assessed Units - 42%

What does this qualification cover?

This qualification is equivalent to one A-Level. This qualification includes three mandatory units covering the following content areas:

- The travel and tourism industry
- Different types of destinations and their importance
- Principles of marketing in travel and tourism

Students then select one of two optional modules:

- Visitor Attractions - investigate the nature and role of both built and natural visitor attractions, their commercial success, appeal, response to diverse visitor needs and the importance of delivering a memorable visitor experience.
- Events, Conferences and Exhibitions - develop knowledge and skills in resource and financial planning as they gain an insight into a wide range of events, conferences and exhibitions that are relevant to the travel and tourism industry.

What it could lead to: The qualification will help the learner gain access to employment or an apprenticeship in the travel and tourism sector. In addition to the travel and tourism sector-specific content, the requirements of the qualification will mean that learners develop transferable skills, which are highly regarded by higher education providers and employers.

Entry Qualification: GCSE English Grade 4.

TRANSITIONAL PATHWAY (LEVEL 2) COURSES

Level 2 Vocational Qualifications

We also offer a transitional pathway that allows students to follow a one-year curriculum that is designed to enable them to gain the qualifications needed to access Level 3 courses.

Each year we will offer a range of courses and select which courses we run based on demand.

The aim of the Transitional Pathway is to enroll students onto a suite of Level 2 courses that will equip them with additional GCSEs or GCSE equivalent qualifications and enable them to progress onto further study, apprenticeships, or training after completing the one-year course.

Alongside the core curriculum, all students will also take part in Work Experience and have structured careers guidance to support them in making the transition to further study at level 3 or an apprenticeship.

The courses being offered in 2025 are:

- BTEC Level 2 Health and Social Care
- BTEC Level 2 iMedia
- BTEC Level 2 Production Arts
- BTEC Level 2 Travel and Tourism

A combination of these subjects will operate based on demand.

Many students will also be required to study GCSE Maths and/or English re-sit where they have not achieved a grade 4 or above. This is a statutory requirement of all post 16 providers, including apprenticeships.

What it could lead to: Students will progress on to further study at GWA or College or may go on to do an Apprenticeship at Level 2 or Level 3. These courses match with the vocational pathways offered by GWA at Level 3 to enable students to continue study at GWA in Year 2 and 3.

Entry Qualification: The standard entry requirement for the Transitional Pathway is a GCSE Point Score of at least 20 points, including at least FIVE GCSEs at grade 3 or higher and including Grade 3 or above in English and Maths.
