

# Sixth Form Prospectus

September 2016-17



George Stephenson High School  
Longbenton Community College  
Seaton Burn College



# OFSTED says

## Choose our Sixth Forms for.....

- Over 30 A-Level courses as well as a range of vocational options
- Excellent working links with local training providers offering a wide range of programmes at Level 2
- The benefits of a small, caring Sixth Form combined with the breadth, scale and opportunity of our large collaboration
- Free bespoke transport between campuses
- The opportunity to mix with students from different sites and experience greater independence
- Close partnerships with universities locally and further afield

And recent Ofsted inspections say.....

*The sixth form curriculum is organised well in conjunction with courses offered in two other secondary schools, George Stephenson High School, Seaton Burn College and bespoke work placements. As a result, students benefit from a wide range of academic and vocational experiences.*

*Sixth form students show positive attitudes to learning, take private study time seriously, behave well and are good role models for younger students. They fulfil their roles as sixth form leaders well and bolster the school's activities in a number of ways. For example, students plan fundraising events, support subject teachers in lessons and mentor younger students.*



# George Stephenson High School • Longbenton Community College • Seaton Burn College

It is with great pleasure that we present to you our Prospectus for entry to the Sixth Form in September 2016. Our three schools which make up the North West Cluster maintain their distinct identities but benefit greatly from the close partnership which we have developed over many years.

Students appreciate our outstanding care, guidance and support as well as the benefits of learning in optimum group sizes. This means that we are able to give highly personalised, individual support and guidance as well as the detailed and focused feedback on their performance which students need in order to thrive and succeed. Our students benefit from the breadth and range of curriculum choice characteristic of much larger schools where, for the most part, it is difficult to receive such highly personalised care and guidance.

## Extracts from the Local Authority Review of our Sixth Form Provision :

"The strong collaborative arrangements enable the curriculum offer to be broader and deeper than it otherwise would be"

"29% of the lessons seen were judged to have outstanding teaching"

"Students spoke very highly of this arrangement and view it as a key strength of the partnership, enabling them to develop important life skills as they prepare for university, further training or work"

This prospectus forms part of the information and guidance process in which students and their parents and teachers will take part over coming weeks.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that our young people make the best choices and secure the best opportunities they can for September.

We commend to you our Sixth Forms. We believe that we offer unparalleled commitment from our staff, a strong curriculum and excellent wider opportunities tailored to the needs of our young people.



*Ian D. Wilkinson*

**Ian Wilkinson**  
Headteacher  
George Stephenson  
High School



*Paul Quinn*

**Paul Quinn**  
Headteacher  
Longbenton  
Community College



*Steve Campbell*

**Steve Campbell**  
Acting Principal  
Seaton Burn College

*Provision in the sixth form is good. It is well enhanced through partnership to ensure students' aspirations and needs are met. Students achieve well; teaching is consistently good and prepares students well for the next stage of their lives.*

(Ofsted-2012)

# OUR Sixth forms

## Welcome to our Sixth Forms

Because our three schools work so closely together, and have done so for many years, we have a proven track record of success. Our results are consistently high and our students progress very successfully to universities both locally and far afield, including Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, as well as following other chosen pathways into work.

We offer a very wide range of subjects in the Sixth Form, including more than 30 A Level courses and a wide range of Vocational programmes.

For courses which involve students travelling between any of our centres, we provide free, exclusive transport in our dedicated minibuses.

As well as studying for formal qualifications, our students benefit from a range of exciting enrichment activities and opportunities, which enhance both enjoyment and experience, and increase the chance of success in the highly competitive environment beyond the Sixth Form and into the future.

Such opportunities include participation in dramatic and musical productions; being part of superb field trips, both rural and urban and in the UK and abroad; and numerous opportunities for community engagement and volunteering. These include our strong partnership through our long standing link with schools in Kenya. Many students have had truly life changing experiences as part of this fantastic project!

We have an excellent relationship with our local universities who attend our advice and guidance sessions and provide hands-on experiences and bespoke opportunities to help our students progress successfully to university, should this be their chosen option. We also

arrange university visits further afield such as Cambridge, Leeds, Edinburgh and York. Our careers advice and guidance for other pathways into employment are run in parallel with university preparation for those students who wish to enter the workplace more immediately.

All three of our schools are members of North Tyneside Learning Trust, which is enhancing our links with local and global employers and providing significant advantage to our students in relation to the support which they are able to receive in their preparations for the future. For example, our close working relationship with Procter & Gamble has seen students from our schools benefiting from the highly sought after Procter & Gamble Internships.

Our three Sixth Forms working together demonstrate in action the wonderful benefits of partnerships in providing both a rich curriculum and a very personalised and tailored individual guidance structure.

Please contact any one of the three schools if you are interested in joining us and we will take the time and care to welcome you!

You will find on the following pages detailed information about our curriculum and our courses. If you wish to speak to one of the Heads of Sixth Form, contact details are to be found on the back page of this prospectus.



**Rebecca Tate**  
Head of Sixth Form  
(George Stephenson  
High School)



**Ian Williams**  
Head of Sixth Form  
(Longbenton  
Community College)



**Chris Ayres**  
Head of Sixth Form  
(Seaton Burn College)





# OUR Subjects

## ARTS AND DESIGN 9-18

- Art Craft and Design
- Photography
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Media Studies
- Film studies
- Design and Technology
- Music

## BUSINESS 19-22

- Business Studies
- Law

## HUMANITIES 23-33

- English Literature
- English Language
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- CACHE

## ICT 34-35

- ICT

## LANGUAGES 36-38

- French
- Spanish

## MATHS 39-42

- Core Maths
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics

## PE 43-45

- PE
- Sport

## SCIENCE 46-51

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Advancing Physics
- Psychology
- Science

## ENGINEERING 52-53

## BEAUTY 54-57

## ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM 58-63



# September 2016 post 16 curriculum



The reform of A Levels and AS Levels continues from September 2016 and we have new Linear A Level specifications for Modern Foreign Languages, Geography, Theatre Studies, Music and PE. They join English Language, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Art and Design, History and Sociology.

AS Levels will still be offered in those subjects, however according to the new regulations they are freestanding qualifications, meaning that they do not count toward your overall A Level grade. AS qualifications and A Level qualifications will be assessed at the end of your course and will mostly be exam-based assessment.

For those subjects mentioned above, the schools intend to allow all students to study the AS qualification in the first year and the results of the examinations can then be used to determine the subjects that will be studied in the second year of Sixth Form. However, it is important to note that the individual circumstances of each student will be considered and the appropriate advice and guidance given on this basis.

We have a small number of subjects that will remain as the previous specification with the AS level contributing to the overall A Level. They are due to be reformed from September 2017 and in the meantime students are still able to choose a combination of reformed and non-reformed subjects.

Applied AS Level qualifications are currently available in ICT and Health and Social Care.

## Vocational Qualifications - Level 3

As well as the reforms to academic qualifications, there have been changes to the vocational qualifications we offer. They are now referred to as applied general qualifications or tech levels. This covers the qualifications we have previously offered as BTEC, Cambridge Technical and CACHE. The specifications to most of the subjects we offer are currently being reformed ready for delivery from September 2016. Therefore, the course

titles, qualifications and awarding bodies may not be available for those subjects until after this prospectus has gone to print.

We plan to offer vocational qualifications in Science, Performing Arts, Business, ICT, Beauty, Childcare (CACHE), Music, Sport and Engineering. More detailed course information will be provided at the beginning of 2016.

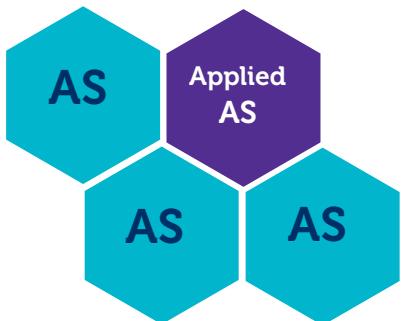
In partnership with local training providers we also provide a Level 2 Alternative Curriculum.

## Compulsory English and Maths resit

Students who enrol in our sixth forms who have not achieved a Grade C or above at GCSE in English and or Maths are required to attend resit classes. This is compulsory. Depending upon the grade you have achieved you will either resit the GCSE or work toward an approved stepping stone qualification.

You will find further information on how the qualifications combine to make your individual sixth form pathway on the pages that follow.

# Our Sixth Form Pathways September 2016



## A LEVEL PATHWAY

- Choose 4 or 5 qualifications from a combination of AS or Applied AS Level subjects.
- You should have at least 5 A\* - B grades at GCSE.
- There are specific criteria for some courses so check the subject entry requirements.



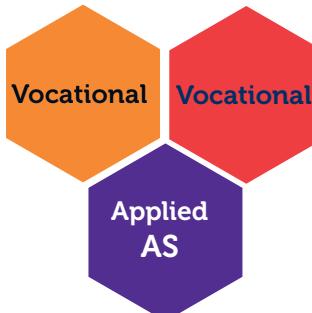
## COMBINED PATHWAY

- Choose 3 or 4 qualifications from a combination of AS, vocational subjects.
- You should have at least 5 A\* - C grades at GCSE with a high proportion of B grades.
- There are specific criteria for some courses so check the subject entry requirements.



## ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM

Choose a vocational area to study at one of our partner training organisations.  
Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications are available. You should have achieved 5 A\* - G at GCSE to gain entry on to a course.



## ADVANCED VOCATIONAL PATHWAY

- Choose 3 or 4 qualifications from a combination of Applied AS levels, vocational subjects.
- You should have at least 5 A\* - C grades at GCSE.
- There are specific criteria for some courses so check the subject entry requirements.



## CACHE

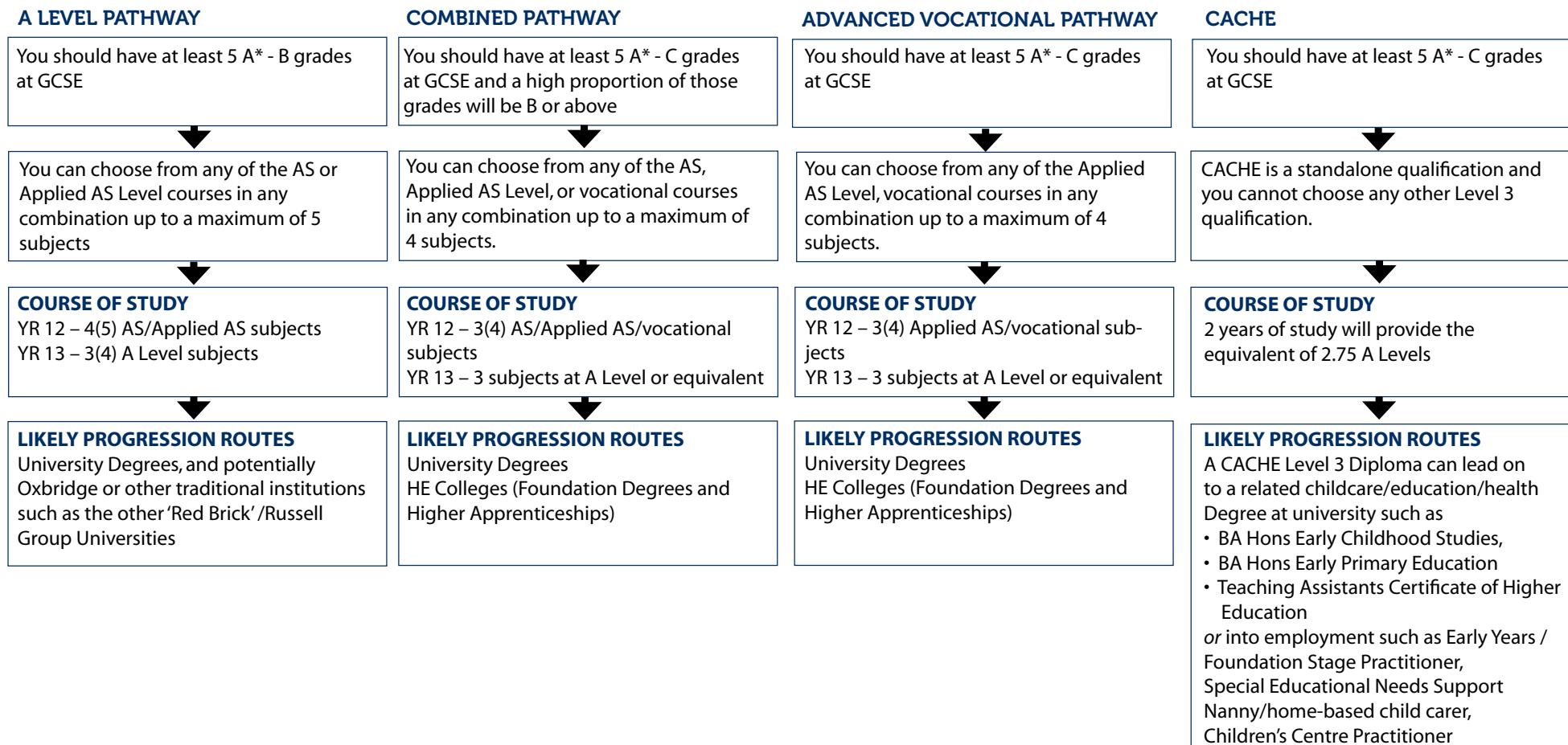
- CACHE is a standalone qualification and should you choose this subject you cannot take any other Level 3 qualification.  
You should have at least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C.



## Our Sixth Form Pathways – September 2016

During the Spring Term we will be working hard to ensure that each of you chooses the best route in education or employment/training following the end of Year 11. Many of you will wish to enrol in our Sixth Form. It is important that we work closely with you and your parents to ensure you select courses that are right for you.

We have created four Pathways to maximise the potential of our Sixth Form students to complete choices that will lead to exam success in the Sixth Form. We know from experience that students will need at least 5 GCSEs or equivalents at A\* - B to be successful on many of our traditional Advanced Level courses. We also know that students achieving 5 A\* - C with most grades at B or C level will benefit from our Combined Pathway or Advanced Vocational Pathway.





# Arts



## Qualifications

AS

### AS and A2 Art and Design

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including a grade B in Art or equivalent.

AS

### AS and A2 Art and Design: Lens and Light-based media (Photography)

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including a C or above in a creative subject such as Photography, Art and Design, Graphics or Product Design

AS

### AS and A2 Drama and Theatre Studies

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including at least grade C in English and Drama or Level 2 BTEC Acting (Pass or Above) Where Drama has not been studied at GCSE then demonstration of experience in performance is required.

AS

### AS and A2 Media Studies

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including a grade C or above in English.

AS

### AS and A2 Film Studies

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including a grade C or above in English.

AS

### AS and A2 DT Product Design (3D Design)

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including grade C or above in a GCSE DT subject.

AS

### AS and A2 Music

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including C or above in GCSE Music. Participation in instrumental lessons and study towards Grade V Music Theory essential.

Vocational qualifications in Music and Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) will also be available and the specifications are due to be published in 2016. See any of the schools' websites for more details.





AS

## Art and Design: Art, Craft and Design

**Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, AQA**

### What will I learn?

#### YEAR 1:

In Year 12 you will follow a course of combined practical and critical study using a variety of media and processes. You will be encouraged and guided to research and develop your own ideas in a variety of disciplines, including painting and drawing, mixed media, sculpture, three-dimensional design, installation, printmaking and lens and light-based media. During the year you will produce a portfolio module of experimental work based around a set theme, and an externally set assignment.

#### YEAR 2:

In Year 13 you will build upon the level of skills, knowledge and understanding developed in Year 12. During the year you will produce a self-devised practical assignment, accompanied by a written component of 1000-3000 words, and an Externally Set assignment.

### How will I be assessed?

Each unit is assessed by a display of the completed assignment, including preparation, analysis, developmental work and final outcome. Students may work in the studio at any time during school hours. Visits to galleries and artistic sites are an integral part of the course and a fundamental requirement.

### Further information

The work produced during the Art A Level course would form the portfolio content for admission to further education in Art. There are many opportunities for future study at Further Education Colleges and Universities in areas of Art and Design such as: Fine Art; Graphic Design; Illustration; Three Dimensional Design; Textiles; Ceramics; Fashion; Jewellery; Photography; Video; Interior Design; Television/Theatre Set Design; Display; Landscape Architecture; Architecture; Conservation of Artefacts; Art Therapy; Art Education. For further information on the course, visit the AQA website at [www.AQA.org.uk](http://www.AQA.org.uk) and follow the subject link.

AS

## Art and Design: Lens and Light-based media (Photography)

**Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, AQA**

### What will I learn?

#### YEAR 1:

In Year 12 you will follow a course of study which allows you to become proficient in using a variety of digital photography equipment, media and techniques. Learners will have the opportunity to pursue independent projects exploring location and studio photography. Learners will explore tungsten and studio flash, they will use light meters and reflectors, tripods and speed lights. Digital image manipulation plays a key role within photography; therefore students will learn how to edit images using Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Lightroom on our Mac books.

Students will find inspiration from the work of other artists, photographers and designers, and there will be opportunities for students to visit photographic studios and galleries.

During the year you will produce a portfolio module of experimental work based around a set theme, and an externally set assignment.

#### YEAR 2:

In Year 13 you will build upon the level of skills, knowledge and understanding developed in Year 12. During the year you will produce a self-devised practical assignment, accompanied by a written component of 1000-3000 words, and an externally set assignment.

### How will I be assessed?

Each unit is assessed by a display of the completed assignment, including preparation, analysis, developmental work and final outcome. Students may work in the photography studio during and after school hours. Visits to galleries and artistic sites are an integral part of the course and a fundamental requirement.

### Equipment

We would prefer students to have a digital 35mm camera, although cameras will be available to rent. Students are required to provide their own AA batteries card reader and external hard drive. Students will also need to contribute towards their final show printing costs.

AS

# Drama and Theatre Studies

## Qualification and exam board: AQA

### AS Level: One Year Course

The subject content for AS Drama and Theatre is divided into two components:

**1. Interpreting drama.** You will develop your knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre through the study of one set play text and the analysis and evaluation of live theatre. This component is assessed through a 1hour 45min written exam and is worth 40% of the AS Level.

**2. Process and Performance.** You will undertake practical exploration and interpretation of two extracts, each taken from a different play. You will apply the methodology of a theatre practitioner to the second extract which you will perform to a visiting moderator. This is worth 30% of your final AS mark. You will also complete an accompanying portfolio, evidencing your interpreting process as well as your analysis and evaluation of the final performance, making up the final 30% of your AS Level.

### A2 Level: Two Year Course

The subject content for A-level Drama and Theatre is divided into three components:

**1. Drama and theatre.** You will develop your knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre through the study of two set play texts and the analysis and evaluation of live theatre. This component is assessed through a 3 hour written exam and is worth 40% of the A Level.

**2. Creating original drama.** You will create and perform a piece of devised drama, influenced by the work and methodologies of a drama and theatre practitioner. You will also complete an accompanying workbook, evidencing your process as well as your analysis and evaluation of the final performance. This is worth 30% of your final A Level mark.

**3. Making theatre.** You will undertake the practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts, each taken from a different play. You will apply the methodology of a theatre practitioner to the third extract which you will perform to a visiting moderator. You will also complete an accompanying reflective report, evidencing your analysis and evaluation of your interpretation of all three extracts. This will make up the final 30% of the A Level.

*The AS qualification is a stand-alone qualification. Marks awarded at AS cannot be carried forward to the A level. However, some of the content covered as part of the AS course will be part of the A level and can be repeated and re-used in the three units in the second year, should a student decide to continue after AS.*

### Further Information

Students will be expected to visit the theatre regularly, read a wide range of texts and plays and also be involved in the performance opportunities offered in school and beyond.







AS

# Media Studies

**Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, AQA**

## What will I learn?

### YEAR 1:

Students at AS level will explore the key concepts of media studies, AUDIENCE, REPRESENTATION, INSTITUTION and LANGUAGE. They will then be able to effectively analyse and investigate a range of different media texts such as TV opening sequences, film trailers, advertisements, music videos, video games, print advertising and websites. In preparation for the exam, students will produce their own case study on either films or TV programmes and complete tasks which require them to look at the way these texts have been marketed and promoted using different media platforms (print, e-media and broadcast texts). Coursework is a choice of three briefs which gives students the opportunity to produce productions such as their own music programme, film trailer and/or website.

### YEAR 2:

Students at A2 level look at WHY the media produce certain texts and explore current debates around issues like size zero, video gaming, social networking, 'hoodies' and perception of youth. They are required to produce two case studies (this year topics are Identity and the Impact of New media) which will then be used to answer questions in the exam. In addition to this students produce a critical investigation on a media subject of their choice – this year titles have included; Audience and the horror genre, the depiction of the war in media texts and why has the film industry felt it necessary to produce remakes of classic films? And a linked production which will take the form of a film trailer, magazine feature or website.

## How will I be assessed?

AS – Coursework and a 2 hour exam (2 sections)  
A2 – Coursework and a 2 1/4 hour exam (2 sections)

## Further information

AQA AS / A2 media studies student guides –  
Series editor: Julia Burton pub: Nelson Thornes  
Mediaedu, IMDB, Mediaknowitall – are all really useful websites

AS

# Film Studies

**Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, WJEC**

## What will I learn?

Love film? Film Studies is designed to deepen students understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film, the major art form of the twentieth century and one developing new modes of expression and exhibition in the first decades of the twenty first century. Film Studies builds on your experience of film since childhood and will explore a wide range of films as well as developing your creative and practical skills.

### YEAR 1:

AS is made up of two sections: Coursework, which invites students to research a film extract and create their own film sequence and examined sections which include the study of the horror genre in British film, producers and audiences and a comparative study of American gangster films.

### YEAR 2:

A2 film studies aims to further your knowledge of film and study films from a range of countries and contexts. Examined sections explore; world cinema and international film styles, different ways audiences experience film and a single film study. Coursework consists of a small scale research project where students will research, produce a present their ideas and produce a creative project which could be a film extract, screenplay or outline for a documentary.

## How will I be assessed?

AS – Coursework and 2 1/2 hour exam on three sections  
A2 – Coursework and 2 3/4 exam on three sections

## Further information

Students will have the opportunity during the course to visit the Tyneside cinema pop up film school to assist in the creation of their projects and specialist workshops will be available which focus on areas of the course.





AS

## Design and Technology

### Product Design (3-D Design)

**Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, AQA**

#### What will I learn?

##### YEAR 1:

At AS level you should develop an understanding of a broad range of materials, with emphasis on the life cycle of products, manufacture and final disposal. This specification also considers the broader issues for the designer including the environmental sustainability of products and consumer safety.

##### YEAR 2:

At A2, the specification offers you the opportunity to further develop the knowledge and practical skills from AS. You will continue to develop a body of coursework (one major project of your choice) alongside an understanding of the processes and procedures of commercial production and manufacture.

#### How will I be assessed?

At AS level there is a written exam (50%) and coursework (50%) and together this will make up 50% of your total mark at A-Level. Then in your second year of study at A2 there will be a further written exam and coursework to complete.

#### Further information

Anyone interested should speak to their Design Technology teacher.



AS

# Music

## Level: GCE AS and A2 Edexcel

### AS Level: One Year Course

The subject content for AS Music is divided into three areas:

1. Performance. Students are required to perform a programme of at least 6 minutes in length. It can be a solo and/or ensemble programme. The programme does not have to be performed on just one instrument if the candidate has multiple instruments. Grade 6 ABRSM/Rock School/Trinity/London College performance exam pieces are the standard required for AS students. The recital is recorded in school but is assessed externally. This unit is worth 30% of AS music.
2. Composition. Students are required to write two compositions totalling 4 ½ minutes in length. One composition is to be written in response to a set brief, the second is a free composition. The compositions are assessed externally. This unit is worth 30% of AS music.
3. Appraising. This unit is assessed by an externally set written exam worth 40% of AS music. Students will study a range of piece within areas of study such as Vocal Music, Music for Film, Fusions and Popular Music and Jazz. Students will study the pieces in detail using the notated musical scores. Students will be required to answer listening questions on these pieces in response to short listening extracts. Students will also respond to pieces of music that relate to the set pieces but that have not been formally studied in class.

### A Level: Two Year Course

The subject content for A Level Music is divided into three components. Each unit is a natural progression from those of AS music. If a student chooses to take A Level music, assessments take place over two years; students are not assessed at the end of the first year.

1. Performance. Students are required to perform a programme of at least 8 minutes in length. It can be a solo and/or ensemble programme. Grade 7 ABRSM/Rock School/Trinity/London College performance exam pieces are the standard required for A Level music students. This unit is worth 30% of A Level music.
2. Composition. Students are required to write two compositions totalling 6 minutes in length. The first composition is either a free composition or a composition in response to a brief. The second composition is a short pastiche technical study in the style of a Bach Chorale. This unit is worth 30% of A Level music.
3. Appraising. This unit is assessed by an externally set written exam which is worth 40% of A Level music. Students will study the same set pieces as the AS course with an additional set piece in each of the areas of study. As with the AS exam, students will be required to answer questions on set pieces as well as respond to pieces that are related to the set pieces but have not been formally studied in class.

The AS qualification is a stand-alone qualification. Marks awarded at AS cannot be carried forward to the A level. However, some of the content covered as part of the AS course will be part of the A Level and can be repeated and/or re-used for the three units in the second year should a student decide to continue after AS.

### Further information

It is highly beneficial for students to have private instrumental/singing lessons to support the performance aspect of the course. In addition, weekly attendance at a departmental extra-curricular ensemble such as Senior Choir or Guitar Legends would also be valuable. Grade 5 standard music theory is also a significant advantage.

# Business



## Qualifications



### AS and A2 Business Studies

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including English and Maths and a grade B or above in GCSE Business is recommended.



### AS and A2 Law

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C and a grade B or above in English is recommended.

A vocational qualification in Business will also be available and the specification is due to be published in 2016. See any of the schools' websites for more details.





AS

# Business Studies

## Qualification and Exam Board - A LEVEL GCE , OCR

### What will you learn:

- Business objectives and strategic decisions
- External influences facing businesses
- Marketing and marketing strategies
- Operational strategy
- Human resources
- Accounting and financial considerations
- The global environment of Business

The OCR A Level in Business will provide learners with the ability to apply basic business concepts to a wider range of contexts, understand and apply sophisticated concepts and techniques, analyse, interpret and evaluate complex business information and take a more strategic view of business opportunities, problems and issues. It will develop skills such as data analysis, problem solving and essay writing. These transferable skills can be used within any subsequent course of study. They can also be applied by any learner progressing into a managerial role within any organisation. It is important that the content of this specification is seen as a whole and not as a series of discrete elements, as the content listed in one section may be assessed in any context.

### Assessment

Operating in a local business environment (01\*) 80 marks 2 hours

written paper 33.33% of total A level

The UK business environment (02\*) 80 marks 2 hours

written paper 33.33% of total A Level

The global business environment (03\*) 80 marks 2 hours

written paper 33.33% of total A Level

### Further information

The main areas of study in the OCR A Level in Business include accounting and finance, external influences, marketing, operations and people in organisations. The required depth of study has been amplified within topics such as marketing (the marketing mix, digital and international marketing, service marketing), human resources (recruitment, selection and training, workforce planning, appraisals), operations management (research and development, stock control and logistics/supply chain solutions) and accounting and finance (final accounts, including the calculation of profit).

**Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, OCR****What will I learn?****YEAR 1:**

You will study the courts, both civil and criminal courts and look at how they work. You will learn the extent of Police Powers and what they can and cannot do. You will study the Legal Profession as well as look at those who work in the Law who are not legally qualified. You will also gain an understanding of Sources of Law i.e. where the law comes from.

**YEAR 2:**

You will study Criminal law for the whole year including: Principles of criminal liability, attempted crimes, murder and manslaughter, offences against the person, general defences, and offences against property.

**How will I be assessed?**

In Year 12, Unit 1 is assessed by a 2 hour written exam paper and Unit 2 by a 1 hour written exam paper and in Year 13, there is a 2 hour written exam paper and a synoptic study exam paper of 1.5 hours.

**Further information**

Any GCSE Law Book or AS Law Book will give some insight into the subject. Law provides you with the skills necessary to enable you to interpret and evaluate information and gives you a better understanding of the world in which you live.



# Humanities



# Qualifications

AS

## AS and A2 English Literature

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C  
A\* to B grades are required in English Literature and English Language

AS

## AS and A2 English Language

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C  
A\* to B grades are required in English Literature and English Language

AS

## AS and A2 Geography

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C, including a grade B or above in Geography.

Applied AS

## AS and A2 Applied Health and Social Care

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C.

AS

## AS and A2 History

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C, including a grade B or above in History  
(if previously studied at GCSE)

AS

## AS and A2 Philosophy and Ethics

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including English.

AS

## AS and A2 Religious Studies

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including English.

AS

## AS and A2 Sociology

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including English.

CACHE

## CACHE

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C. GCSE Child Development or Level 1 and 2 CACHE useful.





AS

# English Language

**Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE Spec B, AQA**

## What will I learn?

### YEAR 1:

#### Paper 1: Language and the Individual

The aim of this part of the subject content is to introduce students to language study, exploring textual variety. This area of study introduces students to methods of language analysis to explore concepts of audience, purpose, genre, mode and representation. For the exam, two texts linked by topic or theme are chosen from a range and are analysed and compared.

#### Paper 2: Language varieties

The aim of this area of study is to allow students to explore language variety. Students will study the key concepts of audience, purpose, genre and mode and will explore language in its wider social and geographical contexts. Students will study varieties of English within the British Isles. This part of the subject content also requires students to study social attitudes to, and debates about, language diversity. Students are expected to study a range of examples of language in use and be able to interpret data and refer to research methods such as tables, graphs and statistics.

## How will I be assessed?

The AS exam leads to a stand-alone qualification and does not contribute to the final A Level grade.

You will sit 2 exams:

Paper 1: 1hr 30 mins, 70 marks, 50% of AS Level

Paper 2: 1 hr 30 mins, 70 marks, 50% of AS Level

### YEAR 2:

#### Paper 1: Language, the individual and society

The aim of this part of the subject content is to introduce students to language study, exploring textual variety and children's language development. This area of study introduces students to methods of language analysis to explore concepts of audience, purpose, genre, mode and representation. It also introduces students

to the study of children's language development, exploring how children learn language and how they are able to understand and express themselves through language.

#### Paper 2: Language diversity and change

The aim of this area of study is to allow students to explore language diversity and change over time. Students will study the key concepts of audience, purpose, genre and mode and will explore language in its wider social, geographical and temporal contexts. They will explore processes of language change. This part of the subject content also requires students to study social attitudes to, and debates about, language diversity and change.

#### Coursework: Language in action

The aim of this area of study is to allow students to explore and analyse language data independently and develop and reflect upon their own writing expertise. It requires students to carry out two different kinds of individual research:

- A language investigation (2,000 words excluding data)
- A piece of original writing and commentary (750 words each).

Students can choose to pursue a study of spoken, written or multimodal data, or a mixture of text types, demonstrating knowledge in areas of individual interest.

## How will I be assessed?

Students will sit two written exams.

Paper 1: 2 hrs 30 mins, 100 marks, 40% of A Level

Paper 2: 2 hrs 30 mins, 100 marks, 40% of A Level

Non-exam assessment: Total word count 3,500, 100 marks, 20% of A Level, assessed by teachers, moderated by AQA.

## Further information

English Language A level is a challenging and engaging subject, but it is very different to GCSE English Language. To find out more about this fascinating subject, have a look at the following website: <http://www.universalteacher.org.uk> or ask your English teacher for more advice.

AS

# English Literature

**Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE Spec B, AQA**

## What will I learn?

### YEAR 1:

#### Paper 1: Literary Genres Drama

Paper 1 focuses on Aspects of Tragedy. They will study one Shakespeare play (pre 1900) and one further drama text.

#### Paper 2: Literary Genres: Prose and Poetry

Again students will focus on Aspects of Tragedy. They will study one prose text and one poetry text.

This course will allow students to read widely and independently, engage critically and creatively with set texts and wider reading, develop and apply own knowledge and explore the contexts of texts and different interpretations of them.

## How will I be assessed?

The AS exam leads to a stand-alone qualification and does not contribute to the final A Level grade.

You will sit 2 exams:

Paper 1: 1hr 30 mins, closed book, 50 marks, 50% of AS level.

Paper 2: 1 hr 30 mins, open book, 50 marks, 50% of AS level

### YEAR 2:

#### Paper 1: Literary Genres Drama

Paper 1 focuses on Aspects of Tragedy. Students study three texts: one Shakespeare text; a second drama text and one further text, of which one must be pre-1900. Students will have studied at least two of these already while studying AS. Students will answer three questions.

#### Paper 2: Texts and Genres

Students will study either Elements of crime writing or elements of political writing. They will study 3 texts: one post 2000 prose text, one poetry and one further text one which must be pre-1900. The exam will include an unseen passage.

## How will I be assessed?

Students will sit two written exams.

Paper 1: 2 hrs 30 mins, closed book, 75 marks, 40% of A level.

Paper 2: 3 hrs, open book, 75 marks, 40% of A level.

Non-exam assessment: Study of two texts, one poetry and one prose text, informed by a study of the Critical Anthology.

Two essays of 1250-1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to an aspect of the Critical Anthology.

## Further information

Please speak to your English teacher for more information about the course and to have any further questions you may have answered. They will also be able to recommend background reading that you should embark on prior to starting the course.





AS

# Geography

## Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, AQA

The AS Level and A Level Geography courses are challenging but highly relevant for the world we live in. The courses address contemporary world problems from a variety of perspectives and aim to help develop an understanding of the relationship between people and their environments, of the challenges faced, and the range of possible solutions.

### AS Level Geography

#### Physical geography

- Water and carbon cycles
- Hot desert environments and their margins
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Hazards

#### Human geography

- Global systems and global governance
- Changing places
- Contemporary urban environments

Geography fieldwork investigation

### How will the Geography AS Level be assessed?

The course will be assessed through two examinations at the end of the year. This will include both a physical Geography paper and a human Geography and fieldwork paper. Each examination will be 1 hours 30 minutes in length and account for 50% of the Geography AS Level.

### A Level Geography

#### Physical geography

- Water and carbon cycles
- Hot desert environments and their margins
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Hazards
- Ecosystems under stress
- Cold environments

#### Human geography

- Global systems and global governance
- Changing places
- Contemporary urban environments
- Population and the environment
- Resource security

#### Geography investigation

Students complete a 3,000-4,000 individual investigation on data collected at High Borrans. The investigation is worth 20% of the A Level.

### How will the Geography A Level be assessed?

The course will be assessed through two examinations at the end of the second year. This will include both a physical Geography paper and a human Geography paper. Each examination will be 2 hours 30 minutes in length and account for 40% of the Geography A Level.

### Further information

The course includes a residential visit to High Borrans in the Lake District during a weekend in the October of Year 12. The students will carry out practical activities and develop skills needed for the AS and A Level courses whilst in the Lake District.

Geography contributes strongly to employability as it will develop a wide range of sought after skills, and is relevant to the following fields: media, army and the law, location analysis, event management, conservation, town planning and banking, along with many others. Many of the skills you will learn in Geography are transferable to other AS and A Level subjects.



Applied AS

# Applied Health and Social Care

**Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, OCR**

**There is a choice of 2 qualifications: single or double**

## What will I learn?

This is an A level qualification that provides a broad introduction to the subject and prepares you for further study in higher education. Most students who take this subject successfully gain places on Health and Social Care related degrees at universities across the country.

You have the choice to select the single A level qualification which contains 3 units per year (you receive one A level grade) or you can opt to take the double qualification which is 6 units per year (you receive two A level grades).

## YEAR 1:

Single and Double students study the following core units 'Promoting Quality Care', 'Communicating in Care Settings' and 'Promoting Good Health'. Double students study a further three units on 'Health and Safety', 'Working in Early Years Care and Education' and 'Health as a Lifestyle Choice'.

## YEAR 2:

Single and Double students study the following core units 'Care Practice and Provision', 'Understanding Human Behaviour', and 'Child Development'.

Double students study a further three units on 'Anatomy and Physiology in Practice', 'Mental Health Issues' and 'Research Methods'.

## How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through coursework and exam. Assessment is 33% exam tested and 67% by coursework. This means for single option students 1 exam per year and 2 coursework pieces. For double option students this will be 2 exams per year and 4 coursework pieces.

## Further information

Past students have pursued pathways in the following Health and Social Care sectors: Nursing, Midwifery, Teaching, Dentistry, Medicine, Mental health care, Health Advisor Roles, Care Assistant Roles, Special Education, Residential Care, Speech Therapy, Dietician Work, Physiotherapy, Youth Offending Services, Counselling, Social Work, Foster Care, Psychology, Nursery work.



AS

# History

## Qualification and exam board: A Level GCE, AQA

### The set up of the course:

#### YEAR 1:

Component 1; Breadth Study, the study of historical developments over a period of about 100 years.

You will study 50% of this component in Year 1.

Component 2; Depth Study, the study in depth of a major historical change or development. You will study majority of the content of this component in Year 1.

Students will take the AS Level Component 1 and 2 examination at the end of Year 1 but this will not count towards the final A Level and can only be used as an AS qualification if the students then does not continue into Year 2. These AS examinations are based on 50% of the content of both components.

#### YEAR 2:

Component 1; Breadth Study, the study of historical developments over a period of about 100 years.

You will study the second 50% of this component in Year 2.

Component 2; Depth Study, the study in depth of a major historical change or development This is a study of Russia from the revolution in 1917 to the end of the rule of Stalin. You will complete the content in this component in Year 2.

Component 3; Historical Investigation, a personal study in the form of a question which spans approximately 100 years.

### What topics will I study?

Component	Topics at Longbenton Community College	Topics at George Stephenson High School
Component 1	<b>The Tudors: England 1485-1603.</b> This is a study of Tudor England from the reign of Henry VII to the end of the reign of Elizabeth I.	<b>The Making of a Superpower: USA, 1865-1975.</b>
Component 2	<b>Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia 1917-1953.</b> This is a study of Russia from the revolution in 1917 to the end of the rule of Stalin.	<b>Wars and Welfare, Britain in Transition, 1906-1957.</b>
Component 3	<b>Spain 1469-1598.</b>	<b>Spain 1469-1598.</b>

### How will I be assessed?

This course is made up of 3 components.

Component 1; worth 40% of A Level. A written exam of 2 hours 30 mins in 2 sections, including the evaluation of historical interpretations.

Component 2; worth 40% of A Level. A written exam of 2 hours 30 mins in 2 sections, including evaluation of primary sources.

Component 3; worth 20% of A Level. 3,000-3,500 word essay marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

### Further information

A Level History is a highly regarded qualification. It demonstrates high literacy levels and the ability to analyse and assess information or evidence. There are lots of skills involved in studying History that can be used in Higher Education or the Workplace.



AS

# Philosophy & Ethics

## Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, OCR

*Studying RS: Philosophy and Ethics you will have the opportunity to explore some of the big questions which fascinate us all. It is one of the fastest growing A level subjects and you will study the AQA Religious Studies specification for this award.*

### What will I learn?

#### YEAR 1:

Within Philosophy and Religion, you will begin by considering the nature of God, life after death and authority before considering issues regarding the existence of God, religious experiences and the problem of evil. Within Ethics, Religion and Society, you will examine different ethical perspectives such as Kantian ethics and Utilitarianism whilst considering what are the key moral principles. You will then examine how these theories can be applied to real life topics relating to life such as medical ethics and animal testing.

#### YEAR 2:

In Ethics, Religion and Society, you will consider debates that are the background to all ethical discussions such as "Are we really free?" and "What is a conscience?" You will also investigate religion and identity, including different sexual identities as well as religious pluralism. In Philosophy and Religion, you will think about the meaningfulness of religious language and consider the nature of religion and science and the place of religion in contemporary society. You will also look at the philosophical issues with miracles.

### How will I be assessed?

Assessment is essay based and you will be taught how to create and sustain an argument before coming to a reasoned and justified conclusion. At AS, you will sit 2 papers that each last 1 hour and 45 minutes. At A2, you will sit 2 examinations that each last 3 hours.

### Further information

Please speak to Miss Rigby or Miss Howard directly or to gain a further understanding of the course, look at the specification available on the AQA website (7061 / 7062).

AS

# Religious Studies

## Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE AQA

### What will I learn?

#### YEAR 1:

You will study two units: Religion and Ethics in which you will study a range of ethical theories as well as religious teaching and views. You will tackle questions such as "which is more important – quality or quantity of life?" You will be required to apply and assess these views in relation to topical issues such as abortion and euthanasia. You will also study Religion, Philosophy and Science. In this unit you will study miracles, creation, the Big Bang Theory, the design argument and quantum mechanics and a religious world view. Questions such as "if miracles happen, do they make it reasonable to believe God exists?" will be tackled.

#### YEAR 2:

In Year 13 you will study another two units: Religion and Ethics 2 in which you will study Virtue Ethics theory, free will, and the ethics surrounding both human relationships and science. You will also study the unit Religious Authority in which you will aim to answer questions such as 'How valid is religious authority?' and 'What challenges are there to religious authority in the modern world?'

### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by two 75 minute examinations near the end of each academic year. There will be one examination per unit of study.

### Further information

An A Level in Religious Studies is recognised by universities and employers as an academic qualification.

Longbenton Community College has a comprehensive website to go with the AS/A Level courses: <http://www.religionrocks.me.uk/welcome.htm>



AS

# Sociology

## Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, AQA

*Sociology is the study of society and looks at how human behaviour is influenced by different social institutions. It is about understanding why people do as they do and considers how society has changed and the impact of such changes on human behaviour and thought. What will I learn?*

## What will I learn?

### YEAR 1:

In Year 1, students will cover 3 topics: Families and Households, Education and Methods. As part of the Families and Households, you will learn about the trends within family life in the UK, different theoretical perspectives on the Family and about the emergence of childhood. Within the Education module, you will undertake the study of Education and how it has changed. You will also examine why some social groups do better than others within education. You will study research methods sociologists use and the strengths and limitations of such techniques.

### YEAR 2:

In Year 2, students will study 3 topics again. They are Crime and Deviance, Sociological Theories and either Beliefs in Society (at George Stephenson High School) or Global Development (at Seaton Burn). Within the Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods unit, you will learn about theories relating to which social groups are most likely to commit crimes and examine media representations of crime. You will also learn more about sociological theories and evaluate their significance for the study of society today and consider questions such as 'Is Sociology a science?' and 'Can sociological research ever be value free?'

## How will I be assessed?

Students will sit 3 exams which comprise of a series of short and longer, essay style questions. The exams are 2 hours long each and are of equal weighting.

## Further information:

Please speak to Miss Rigby and Miss Bennett at George Stephenson High School or Mr Campbell at Seaton Burn. For further information regarding the specification, please look at the AQA website.

*'The sixth form was easy to get to and familiar but allowed me to meet lots of new people from the other schools, I also recommend doing A levels even if you're not sure what you want to do in the future as it opens up a lot of opportunities and allows time to mature.'*



CACHE

# Child Care and Education

**Qualification and exam board: CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Education and Care**

## What will I learn?

Over the two years you will study four themes. The first theme is Health and Well-being where you will gain knowledge in supporting healthy lifestyles of children through food and exercise, as well as understanding how to support a child who is unwell. The second theme is Legislation, Frameworks and Professional Practice in which you will gain an understanding of the principles underpinning the role of the practitioner including knowing how to keep children safe and working in partnership with other agencies. The third theme is Play, Development and Learning in which you will gain specific knowledge of the growth and development of children from conception to 5 years, as well as studying play and learning in children's education. The fourth theme will give you an understanding of Professional Development. Throughout the course, you will spend two days per week out of College on work placement, in a private nursery or school, working with children from 0-7 years.

## How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed mostly through tasks which will be completed and marked in school. Throughout the course you will complete a longitudinal study which again will be marked in school. There are three external assignments which are based on each of the first three themes. The placement part of the course is assessed through observations in the workplace and reports from the placement supervisor.

## Further information

You will need to apply for a Enhanced DBS check to complete your work placement. Further information about the course can be found at [www.cache.org.uk](http://www.cache.org.uk)



# ICT





# Qualifications



## AS and A2 Applied ICT

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including English and Maths.

A vocational qualification in ICT will also be available and the specification is due to be published in 2016. See any of the schools' websites for more details.



## Applied ICT

**Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE Single Award, OCR**

### What will I learn?

#### YEAR 1:

At AS level, you will explore the use of ICT in many different areas, including using ICT to present information, the use of ICT systems in business organisations and modelling of spreadsheets. The majority of this work involves independent investigations for which you will present your evidence via written coursework. You will undertake one examination.

#### YEAR 2:

At A2 level, you will explore and build your own multimedia solution for a given brief, analyse and develop a fully functioning website and learn project management techniques. All of this work is evidenced through coursework.

### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed primarily through portfolio (coursework) evidence with only one AS unit assessed through an examination. Portfolio work will be the result of independent research that will showcase your achievements. It will be assessed by your teacher and moderated by the exam board. The emphasis of this course is on the student to learn through doing. As the name suggests this is an Applied A Level and therefore for the vast majority of the time you will be working on computers.

### Further information

The GCE in Applied ICT qualifies you to move on to study for a degree in related subjects such as Computer Science, Information Systems, Multimedia, Software Engineering, Computer Networking, e-Business and Information Management. You could also go on to work based training such as IT User/Practitioner NVQs. This qualification would also complement many other subjects in higher education including Business, Science, Engineering and Humanities.

# Languages





## Qualifications

AS

### AS and A2 French

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including a grade B at GCSE in French, or Spanish.

AS

### AS and A2 Spanish

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including a grade B at GCSE in French, or Spanish.

*'The sixth form experience within the North-West cluster is excellent, the quality of teaching is superb and the other schools are welcoming.'*





AS

# Modern Foreign Languages

## (French, Spanish)

**Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, AQA**

### What will I learn?

The course aims to extend your command of the language through listening, reading, writing and speaking. You will also develop your understanding of the culture and society of countries where French/Spanish is spoken.

### YEAR 1:

You will study

- Aspects of French/Spanish speaking society: current trends
- Artistic culture in the French/Spanish speaking world
- Grammar
- One text or one film

### YEAR 2:

You will study

- One text and one film or two texts
- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Grammar

We use an interactive course which gives you the opportunity to work online at home or in school at your own pace. You will also undertake an individual research project.

### How will I be assessed?

AS Level – 3 exams (1 covers speaking, 1 covers listening, reading and writing and 1 further writing exam)

A Level – 1 speaking, 1 covering listening, reading and writing and 1 further writing exam.

In the listening tests you have personal control of the listening equipment.

*'Whenever help is needed teachers have been on hand with a range of advice, facilities are superb with a study, library and revision lessons available all the time. Teachers and students are very friendly and help to create a great learning environment.'*

# Maths



## Qualifications



### AS and A2 Mathematics

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including a grade A or A\* in Mathematics



### AS and A2 Further Mathematics

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including an A or A\* in Mathematics.  
(Higher paper must have been taken).

### Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths)

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including a C or above in Mathematics.

*'I've really enjoyed both AS Maths and Further Maths this year. There has always been help available in and out of lesson time and the teachers work very hard to get the best out of everyone.'*





AS

# Mathematics

**Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, OCR**

## What will I learn?

### YEAR 1:

We will build upon many of the algebra topics studied at GCSE as well as introducing new techniques such as calculus in Core Mathematics. We will also introduce algorithms, networks, graph theory and linear programming in Decision Mathematics.

### YEAR 2:

In the second year of the course we will look further at algebra and functions, trigonometry, calculus, differential equations and vectors in Core Mathematics. Statistics will involve the extension of many topics introduced at GCSE; in particular, representation of data, probability and bivariate data.

## How will I be assessed?

Each module is assessed by written papers taken in June of Years 12 and 13. There is no coursework component. You will be given a test at the end of October of Year 12 which you must pass in order to continue with the course.

## Further information

The study of Mathematics can open the doors to many careers including medicine, accountancy, software design, pharmacology, dentistry, teaching and engineering to name but a few. Mathematics A level is a pre-requisite of many degree courses which include Computer science, Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Dentistry, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Accountancy and Economics.

AS

# Further Mathematics

**Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, OCR**

## What will I learn?

### YEAR 1:

In Further Pure Mathematics you will study Summation of series, Mathematical induction, Roots of polynomial equations, Complex numbers and Matrices. You will also complete 2 applied modules: one in Mechanics and one in Decision Mathematics. Mechanics involves the study of force as a vector, equilibrium of a particle, kinematics of motion in a straight line, Newton's laws of motion and linear momentum. Decision Mathematics covers Game theory, flows in a network, matching and allocation problems, critical path analysis and dynamic programming.

### YEAR 2:

You will study Further Pure 2 which will build upon the Core Maths covered at A level and the techniques from year 1. You will also study 2 applied modules from Statistics 2, Statistics 3 and Mechanics 2.

## How will I be assessed?

You will complete one exam for each module in June.

## Further information

There are many good reasons to take Further Mathematics:

- Students taking Further Mathematics overwhelmingly find it to be an enjoyable, rewarding, stimulating and empowering experience.
- For someone who enjoys mathematics, it provides a challenge and a chance to explore new and/or more sophisticated mathematical concepts.
- It enables students to distinguish themselves as able mathematicians in the university and employment market.
- Some prestigious university courses will only accept students with Further Mathematics qualifications.

# Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths)

**Qualification and exam board: Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies, AQA**

## About Core maths

Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is a new qualification designed for students who have achieved a grade C or above at GCSE. It helps to develop students' mathematical skills and thinking and supports courses such as A-level Psychology, Sciences and Geography as well as technical and vocational qualifications

## Qualification aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the Level 3 Certificate in Mathematics in Context are to enable students to:

- develop competence in the selection and use of mathematical methods and techniques
- develop confidence in representing and analysing authentic situations mathematically, and in applying mathematics to address related questions and issues
- build skills in mathematical thinking, reasoning and communication.

## How will I be assessed?

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all the exams at the end of their course. Students sit two papers

Paper 1 is compulsory and must be taken by all students

There are three options for paper 2:

- 2a is on statistical techniques
- 2b is on critical path and risk analysis
- 2c is on graphical techniques.

Paper 1	Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (60 marks)
Paper 2a	Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (60 marks)
Paper 2b	Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (60 marks)
Paper 2c	Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (60 marks)

## Further information

What does this mean for me?

Now you can have peace of mind that: our qualification will receive UCAS tariff points equivalent to AS level it will be included in school and college performance tables from 2017 for the 16 to 19 Level 3 Maths measure it will count as the maths element of the TechBacc (Technical Baccalaureate)\*

\* Students successfully completing Core Maths along with at least one tech level qualification and the extended project will be recognised as having achieved the Technical Baccalaureate measure from 2016.

# PE



## Qualifications

AS

### AS and A2 PE

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including a grade B in English and a Science subject. A strong practical ability in a minimum of 2 sports.

A vocational qualification in Sport will also be available and the specification is due to be published in 2016. See any of the schools' websites for more details.

*"The wide range of topics you study makes it really interesting, but it's a whole lot harder than I thought it'd be!"*





AS

# Physical Education

## Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, OCR

A-Level PE is an academic subject that challenges pupils both mentally and physically. It prepares pupils for a number of different roles after Sixth Form, including undergraduate study, and is particularly relevant for any pupils looking to develop their understanding of the human anatomy. Please note that unlike GCSE PE this course is mainly theory based.

The qualification is a two year course, comprising an AS qualification completed in Year 12, and the A-Level qualification completed in Year 13. Over the two years pupils will be assessed in:

- Physiological factors affecting performance:  
Applied anatomy and physiology.  
Exercise physiology.  
Biomechanics.
- Psychological factors affecting performance:  
Skill acquisition.  
Sports psychology.
- Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport:  
Sport and society.  
Contemporary issues in physical activity and sport.
- Performance in physical education:  
Performance or coaching in one sport or physical activity.  
Evaluation and analysis of performance for improvement.

## Entry Requirements

This is an academic subject so 5 or more A\* - C grades are required. It will be of benefit if students have Grade B or better in GCSE PE or a Distinction or better in BTEC Sport and have a good foundation in sciences. Only in exceptional circumstances will pupils without GCSE PE be accepted. Students must be participating in at least one sports activity to a good level (ask your PE teacher about which activities are assessed at A-Level).

## The Course

A-Level Physical Education will equip learners with both a depth and breadth of knowledge, understanding and skills relating to scientific, socio-cultural and practical aspects of physical education. This requires them to develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance. Understand how physiological and psychological states affect performance and the role of technology in physical activity and sport. Understand the key socio-cultural factors that influence people's involvement in physical activity and sport. Refine their ability to perform effectively in physical activity and sport by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas. Develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance and understand the contribution which physical activity makes to health and fitness, and to improve as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with curious and enquiring minds.

## Assessment Method

The AS qualification is assessed as follows:

- 35% physiology examination.
- 35% psychology and socio-cultural examination.
- 30% practical assessment as either a performer or coach (including a verbal evaluation of another pupil's performance).

The A-Level qualification is assessed as follows:

- 30% physiology examination.
- 20% psychology examination.
- 20% socio-cultural examination.
- 30% practical assessment as either a performer or coach (including a verbal evaluation of another pupil's performance).

## Progression from the course

Studying PE at A Level will prepare you to study for any degree and will prove useful for many career pathways, such as working with performers, teaching and coaching, science and healthcare, sports doctor or physiotherapist to name a few careers.

## Further information

In both years you will be provided with a text and revision book.

# SCIENCE





# Qualifications

AS

## AS and A2 Biology

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including a minimum of B grade at Additional Science (including B grade in Biology) and grade B in Maths and English.

AS

## AS and A2 Chemistry

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including at least 2 grade B in a science subject and grade B in both Maths and English.

AS

## AS and A2 Advancing Physics

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including at least 2 grade B in a science subject and grade B in both Maths and English.

AS

## AS and A2 Psychology

At least 5 GCSE grades A\* to C including at least a grade B in a science subject and a C in English.

A vocational qualification in Science will also be available and the specification is due to be published in 2016. See any of the schools' websites for more details.



AS

# Biology

## Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, AQA

### What will I learn?

#### YEAR 1:

Firstly we look at how digestive and gas exchange systems may be affected by communicable and non-communicable diseases. How knowledge of basic biology allows us to understand the symptoms of disease and interpret data relating to risk factors. We then move on to look at the influence of genetic and environmental factors on intraspecific variation. How the variety of life is reflected in similarities and differences in its biochemical basis and cellular organisation. How size and metabolic rate affect an organism's requirements and gives rise to adaptations.

#### YEAR 2:

This year we look at how living organisms form ecosystems through which energy is transferred and chemical elements cycled. How human activity affects ecological balance in a variety of ways. How genetic variation and isolation may lead to the formation of new species. We then move on to look at stimulus and responses-the biology of the nervous and endocrine systems, homeostasis and the maintenance of a constant internal environment, genes and genetic expression.

### How will I be assessed?

AS will consist of 2 90 minute exams in the summer term of Year 12 and 12 assessed practical skills throughout the year.

A level will consist of 3 120 minute exams in the summer term of Year 13 and 12 assessed practical skills throughout the year.

### Further information

Students not taking a mathematical A level, may need to take some maths support lessons. There is a Field Study in Year 12 for those going on to take the full A Level qualification. We use the AQA endorsed text book written by Glenn Toole and Susan Toole, published by Nelson Thornes

### Entry requirements

2 x GCSE's in Science. Minimum of B grade at Additional Science (including B grade in Biology exam). In addition to this a B grade in Mathematics is also required. Students not taking a mathematical A level, may need to take some maths support lessons.





AS

# Chemistry

## Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE, AQA

### What will I learn?

The new A-Level Chemistry course is organised between the three main disciplines of Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Physical Chemistry. They are studied at different times during the two years according to the level of difficulty and prior knowledge required.

#### YEAR 1: AS-Level topics include:

Inorganic Chemistry: Periodicity, and the properties and reactions of elements in groups 2 and 7 of the periodic table.

Organic Chemistry: An introduction to organic chemistry focussing on the alkanes, haloalkanes and alcohols.

Physical Chemistry: Atomic structure, bonding, kinetics and chemical equilibria.

#### YEAR 2 topics include:

Inorganic Chemistry: The properties and reactions of elements in period 3 of the periodic table, and the transition metals.

Organic Chemistry: Understanding more complex organic molecules such as esters and aromatic compounds, and organic synthesis.

Physical Chemistry: Acids and bases, thermodynamics and rates of reaction.

### How will I be assessed?

Knowledge and understanding of the three disciplines, as well as relevant practical skills, are assessed across three exams at the end of Year 13:

- Paper 1: inorganic chemistry, relevant physical chemistry topics and relevant practical skills
- Paper 2: organic chemistry, relevant physical chemistry topics and relevant practical skills
- Paper 3: any content and practical skills form across the specification

If a student chooses to sit the AS examination they will be assessed across two exams at the end of Year 12:

- Paper 1: inorganic chemistry, relevant physical chemistry topics and relevant practical skills
- Paper 2: organic chemistry, relevant physical chemistry topics and relevant practical skills

### Further information

Chemistry students learn to see the world differently. You will gain an insight into the important roles chemists play in the modern world and be able to make informed input into scientific debate and discussion. The course helps you to think logically and develop problem solving skills. You are encouraged to apply your knowledge to unfamiliar situations, perform practical techniques competently, make appropriate use of ICT, use your own initiative and show you are a good team member. A sound grasp of Maths and the ability to work with precision and accuracy is important, as is a good imagination to enable you to picture the abstract concepts we will study.

AS

# Advancing Physics

**Qualification and exam board: AS/A2 GCE A OCR**

## What will I learn?

### YEAR 12

In Year 12 you will study:

The key mechanical engineering principles of; Motion, Forces in action, Work and energy, and Materials. This is then followed by a thorough exploration of the core principles of electrical engineering; Electric charge and current, Energy, power and resistance, and Electrical circuits. Finally, you will be presented with an opportunity to study the bizarre and fascinating world of quantum mechanics and wave particle duality. As Niels Bohr famously said "If quantum mechanics hasn't profoundly shocked you, you haven't understood it yet." Throughout Year 12, practical aspects of physics will be a key focus and you will develop some of the essential skills of scientific investigation; planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation.

### YEAR 13

In Year 13 you will study:

The scientific principles laid down five hundred years ago by the greatest scientist who has ever lived, Sir Isaac Newton. You will become expert in the use and application of; Newton's laws of Gravitation, Circular Motion, and Oscillations. You will then learn about the Physics of George Stephenson and the industrial revolution in the Thermal Physics topic, followed by; Electric fields, Magnetic fields and Capacitors. Probably, the most exciting topics in the A Level course are left to the end. You will have your mind blown by the Nuclear/particle physics, Medical imaging and Astrophysics units. Again, practical skills are an essential, common thread running throughout Year 13 physics. These will build on the skills acquired in the previous year of study.

## How will I be assessed?

In Year 12 the course is divided into two modules. Each module is assessed by an exam. Both exams will assess students on the practical skills and scientific theory covered in Year 12. Paper 1 will use a mixture of multiple choice and structured questions, whereas Paper 2 uses a mixture of structured and extended response questions to assess understanding.

In Year 13 the course is divided into three modules. Again, each module is assessed by an exam. All exams are synoptic and will assess students on the practical skills and scientific theory covered in Year 12 and Year 13. Papers 1 and 2 use a mixture of multiple choice and structured questions, whereas Paper 3 uses a mixture of structured and extended response questions to assess understanding. In addition to the exams taken at the end of Year 13, students will also be assessed on their performance across a series of key practical activities carried out periodically during both years of study. This will allow students to pass the 'Practical endorsement for physics' element of the A Level qualification.

## Further information

This course was developed by the Institute of Physics to cover a wide range of contemporary topics in an innovative and interesting way. You will be provided with text books, and CDs specifically written to accompany this course. For additional information you can visit the following websites:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-physics-a-h158-h558/>



AS

# Psychology

**Qualification and exam board: AS/A2, GCE B, AQA**

## What will I learn?

### YEAR 1:

During the first year of study you will learn about a number of topics in Psychology which will give you a good understanding of Psychology and issues relating to it. You will study the different approaches that Psychologists take to the study of the mind and the research methods they use to do this. You will also study memory, social influence and attachment as well as psychopathology.

### YEAR 2:

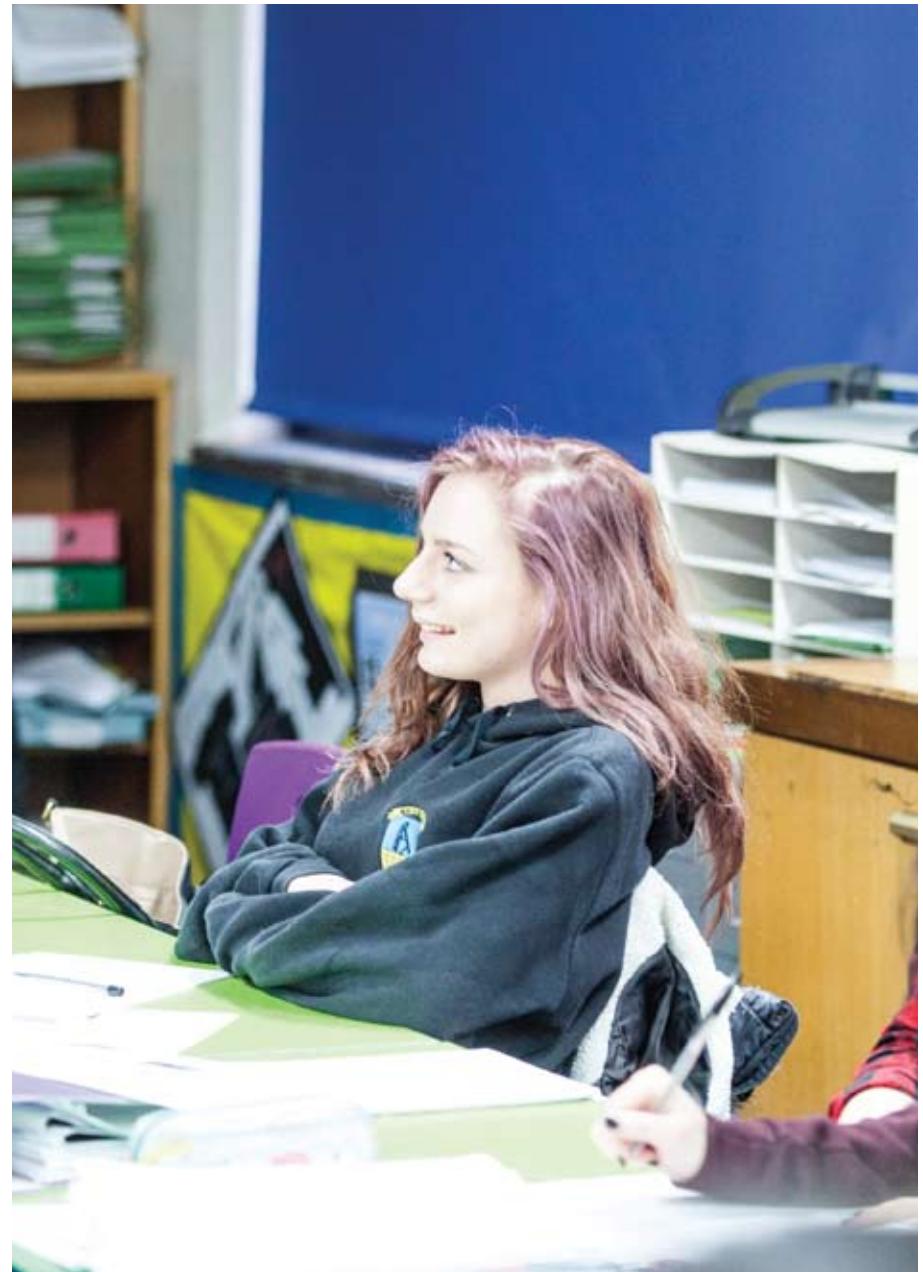
The second year of Psychology gives you the opportunity to learn about different approaches to Psychology, including Biopsychology and allows you more freedom to apply your psychological knowledge. The applied topics studied at Year 2 are schizophrenia, forensic psychology and cognition. In addition to this, you will study some of the key questions within Psychology such as "Are we really free?"

## How will I be assessed?

There are 3 papers which are of equal weighting and the papers are made up of a combination of multiple choice questions, short and longer, essay style questions. Each exam will last 2 hours long.

## Further information

Please speak to Miss Bennett or Miss Rigby at George Stephenson High School and look at the specification on the AQA website for further course details.



# ENGINEERING





## Qualifications

A vocational qualification in Engineering will be available and the specification is due to be published in 2016. See any of the schools' websites for more details.

This qualification will be delivered by engineering staff at TDR Training Ltd's new premises at Q1, Quorum Business Park, Benton Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 8EX [www.tdrtraining.co.uk](http://www.tdrtraining.co.uk);

TDR Training Ltd is an approved Awarding Body to deliver BTEC qualifications up to HND level in Engineering.



# BEAUTY





ALT

# Beauty

## Level 2 & 3 Beauty Therapy Options at Seaton Burn College

### Year 12 VTCT Level 2 VQR Diploma in Beauty Therapy General (QCF)

This qualification is based at Seaton Burn College and you will work in our salon Sparkle @ Seaton.

The course will provide you with the requisite knowledge, understanding and skills to work competently as a beauty therapist. This includes both theory and practical work and will incorporate anatomy & physiology.

#### Modules

Provide facial skin care treatment

Enhance the appearance of eyebrows and eyelashes

Carry out waxing services

Provide manicure services

Provide pedicure services

Develop & maintain effectiveness at work

Promote additional services or products to customers

Ensure responsibility for actions to reduce risks to health and safety.

Provide make up services

Fulfil salon reception duties

Gel nails

The course will be delivered by theory sessions, practical workshops and you will work in our very own commercial salon. Independent study is an essential part and requirement of this course.

#### Methods of assessment

Throughout the programme you will be continually assessed through observation of practical skills, oral questioning, assignment work and written questions, module tests and you will also produce a portfolio of evidence towards your competency.

#### Progression

On successful completion of the Level 2 qualification you will be able to progress on to any other Level 3 Beauty Therapy course.

#### General

You will require a kit and have to wear full beauty therapist uniform (more details at interview)

Qualifications for entry should include 3 GCSE Grade D or above.

You will require a good work ethic demonstrating enthusiasm & commitment. You will be asked to attend an interview for this course.

### Year 13 - VTCT Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Beauty Therapy Massage (QCF)

The level 3 VRQ Certificate in Beauty Therapy Massage (QCF) is a job ready qualification based on National Occupational Standards.

This qualification will provide you with the requisite knowledge, understanding and skills to work competently as an advanced beauty therapist specialising in massage and holistic therapies.

#### Modules

Provide body massage treatments

Provide Indian head massage

Carry out massage using pre-blended aromatherapy oils

Provide stone therapy treatments

Monitor and maintain health and safety practice in the salon

Client care and communication in beauty related industries

Contribute to the effective running of business

Spray tanning

The course will be delivered by theory sessions, practical workshops and you will work in our very own commercial salon. Independent study is an essential part and requirement of this course.

#### **Methods of assessment**

Throughout the programme you will be continually assessed through observation of practical skills, oral questioning, assignment work and written questions and end of module tests. You will also produce a portfolio of evidence showing your competency in both theory and practical work.

#### **Progression**

On completion of this course you will be qualified to work in a salon, spa, work on cruise ships, open your own mobile or salon based business.

#### **General**

You will require a kit and have to wear full beauty therapist uniform (more details at interview)

Qualifications for entry are Level 2 VRQ Beauty Therapy General

You will require a good work ethic demonstrating enthusiasm & commitment.





## ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM





ALT

# Alternative Curriculum

## What is the Year 12 Alternative Curriculum?

This is a one year programme which gives you the opportunity to attend work based learning for up to three days each week (where you will gain practical skills in your chosen vocational area) and continue your education at school for two days.

- Following an assessment, you can work towards an Apprenticeship, a Study Programme Qualification or equivalent.
- All work based learning providers have fully qualified staff to support you throughout the programme.
- You will still have the support of your school in completing your education.

There is the option to then transfer to the Learning Provider in the second year

### Who provides the work based learning?

- Barnardo's Palmersville Training
- Northumbria Youth Action (NYA)

### Where will I go for my work based learning?

Both learning providers are easily accessible by public transport. Palmersville Training is in Benton and NYA is in North Shields. In addition to attending these training centres there will be an expectation that you go out on a work based placement in order for you to develop your skills and experience in a real working environment.





*"I came to NYA on the Year 11 alternative education programme after being excluded from school. I found the staff very down to earth and approachable. They treated me like an adult using first names and gave clear rules and boundaries.*

*When I completed the Year 11 programme I had achieved the ABC award and decided I really wanted to do more on the motor vehicle side so was allowed to start on the Study programme.*

*I commenced this in August. Within 6 weeks NYA had found me a work experience placement which I really enjoy. The staff at NYA visit me every month to review my progress and observe me in the garage doing my tasks. I have worked hard in the placement and this has resulted in them offering me an Apprenticeship from beginning of December.*

*I am really pleased with how well I have done and feel very supported by NYA in helping me progress."*



*"I have been attending Palmersville Training since Year 9. In year 9 I picked three trial courses I would like to and these included Hairdressing, Catering, Painting & Decorating. In year 10 I had to pick one of the three courses and I chose Painting and Decorating because it keep you busy and it's amazing the new skills you learn. Some of these skills that you learn are teamwork; communication and it builds up your confidence greatly.*

*I'm now in Year 12 and I'm doing my NVQ Level 2 which involves course work on a Monday and on a Tuesday I go in the Painting and Decorating area to keep my skills and learn more skills.*

*The things I like the most about Palmersville Training is that I'm treat more like an adult and if I have a problem the staff are always on hand to help me sort the problem out. Coming to Palmersville has greatly helped me to build my confidence greatly and I have made lots of new friends which I didn't think I would be able to do. I am staying with the training centre because they also help you to find employment or an apprenticeship. On a Friday I also do Functional Skills to get my grades higher than they were (Maths and English). The centre is smaller and it makes things less intimidating and this helps me to focus more. The last thing I really like about Palmersville is that they have a zero tolerance for any bullying they have the situation sorted the same day.*

*Palmersville Training is totally different from school because I have a bit more freedom here. You can get on with the staff really well and they are so welcoming which make you feel more relaxed. Coming to Palmersville has helped me to get along with more people and actually socialise than keeping myself to myself. In the winter time they always have the heating on and you feel more comfortable than going to school and you don't have to go too far for your dinner."*



# VOCATIONAL AREAS AVAILABLE:

## **Beauty Therapy -**

You will gain experience and knowledge in the following areas:- facials, waxing, eye lash and eyebrow treatments, manicure and pedicure, nail art, reception duties, health, safety and security in the salon.

**Qualifications – Introduction to the Hair and Beauty Sector level 1 and 2 (Award, Certificate or Diploma) additional bespoke programmes available on request**

## **Hospitality and Catering -**

Following an induction period you will be based in an external placement which will enable you to gain skills and knowledge in:- food preparation, customer care, working relationships, food storage and preparation, health and safety.

**Qualifications - Hospitality – Food Preparation and Cooking (Award, Certificate and Diploma) additional bespoke programmes available on request**

## **Retail/Warehousing/Customer Services -**

You will gain the necessary skills in stock control, manual handling, dealing with customers, and health and safety. Your training will take place in a range of internal/external warehouse projects and work placements.

**Qualifications – Certificate in Customer Services and a Certificate in Retail Skills, additional bespoke programmes available on request**

## **Business Administration -**

Whilst on a work placement you will develop skills in the following areas:- handling data, word processing, filing, photocopying, handling post, reception duties and health and safety.

**Qualifications – Level 1 (Award or Certificate) in Business Administration, additional bespoke programmes available on request**

## **Painting and Decorating -**

You will gain skills, knowledge and experience in the following areas:- use of tools, surface preparation, painting including undercoat, gloss and emulsion, wallpapering and other general painting and decorating skills.

**Qualifications – Introduction to Painting and Decorating (Award, Certificate and Diploma) additional bespoke programmes available on request**

## **Motor Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs -**

at **Northumbria Youth Action's** purpose built workshop you will gain experience in the servicing of vehicles, tyre fitting, exhaust systems, the use of equipment and health and safety.

**Qualifications – Vehicle Systems Maintenance (Award or Certificate)**

## **Bicycle Repairs, Maintenance and Salvage -**

at **Northumbria Youth Action** you will gain experience in the maintenance and repair of bicycles i.e. braking systems, gear linkage systems, tyre/wheel changing and servicing.

**Qualifications - Vehicle Systems Maintenance (Award or Certificate)**







*'I love being at Sixth Form.  
The teachers treat you like adults and I really feel like I'm doing  
well. The lessons are fun and I feel well prepared for my exams.'*



*For further details please contact one of our schools*



**George Stephenson High School**

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Tel: 0191 2161115

Fax: 0191 2165169

Email: [georgestephenson.high@northyyneside.gov.uk](mailto:georgestephenson.high@northyyneside.gov.uk)

[www.gshs.org.uk](http://www.gshs.org.uk)



**Longbenton Community College**

Hailsham Avenue, Longbenton, NE12 8ER

Tel: 0191 2189500

Fax: 0191 2706760

Email: [lcc@lblearning.com](mailto:lcc@lblearning.com)

[www.longbenton.org.uk](http://www.longbenton.org.uk)



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