



**Arnold Hill
Academy**
Sixth Form

PROSPECTUS 2018

ABOUT ARNOLD HILL ACADEMY



Arnold Hill is an academy moving forward, we aim to build upon our strengths and become an outstanding centre for learning within the community. Our motto, 'Be Inspired and Achieve Together', reflects our aim that students are inspired by their lessons and experiences around school, that they go on to fully realise their potential and achieve the very best they can in life.

We aim for our students to become highly skilled, confident, articulate young adults well placed to succeed in further education and employment, and emerge as active members of the community. Striving to unlock the talents of all our

students, we aim to continually challenge them to achieve their best. It is only through challenge that students truly discover what they are capable of. Whilst we recognise the importance of examination success we believe that learning does not stop at the end of the school day and hence encourage students to engage with our wide range of extra-curriculum opportunities.

The academy became part of the Trent Academies Group in January 2015. This has enabled us to access tailored support to ensure sustained improvement. The opening of our new £14m academy building in September 2016 signalled an exciting new chapter in our development providing excellent teaching facilities and offering even more opportunities for students to be inspired and achieve together. As part of the Trent Academies Group we have five core values:

We all try our best; We support each other; We listen to different opinions; We keep each other informed; We are proud to be part of the academy

These lead to 'everyone having the chance to shine brightly'. This underpins everything that we do at the academy.

In our Sixth Form, students can follow a very academic A-level programme, or follow more vocational courses such as BTECs. In 2017 our students continued to make significant progress based on their KS4 results, putting us in the top 4% of sixth forms in the country. We offer high quality curriculum provision, engaging teaching and a diverse range of enrichment opportunities combined with out-standing care, guidance and support.

This is a warm and vibrant environment where creativity and effort are encouraged and we hope the information within this prospectus provides you with details about the Sixth Form that will be helpful to you. We are always happy to show visitors around and should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Matt Robertson
Head Teacher





ABOUT THE 6TH FORM



In recent years, the normal pattern for young people beyond 16 has been to stay in full-time education; indeed, all students leaving Year 11 must now remain in some form of education or training. We are pleased to be able to provide a broad range of courses that meet the needs of our own pupils when they have completed their Key Stage 4 studies. We are also pleased to welcome students from other schools; a good number of whom join Arnold Hill and, when they do, enjoy considerable success with us.

We are continuing to offer a range of courses and offer genuine progression routes for all learners, whether they have followed GCSE or more vocational pathways at Key Stage 4. Details of both our traditional A Level courses as well as our BTEC Level 3 courses can be found inside this prospectus.

Post 16 Education has seen a number of changes in recent years with A Levels becoming linear for all subjects, resulting in the old style AS exams in Year 12 no longer being a viable option for many subjects. Reforms have also taken place with the vocational courses and the Level BTEC courses now include external assessments. Our entry requirements for each subject is clearly provided on each subject page, and it is important to stress that we are consistent with these requirements.

As important as it is, a Sixth Form education should not be exclusively concerned with the pursuit of academic success. We believe that a Post 16 education should also provide the opportunity for all students to develop a wide range of intellectual, creative, physical and social interests. In addition, students should be encouraged to take greater responsibility for their achievement by effective management of their learning, work and time, both in and out of school.

Our Sixth Form has an established and successful history. We provide the opportunity for students to fulfil their potential and use their ability to achieve the highest academic success in preparation for Higher Education, professional training and employment.

We are committed to maintaining a strong Sixth Form. Post 16 students enrich the whole life of the school. Learning in a school environment gives our students opportunities to show leadership and take responsibility not just for their own learning but in helping others to succeed. This prospectus will give students and parents/guardians the key information about life in the Sixth Form at Arnold Hill and we look forward to welcoming you to Year 12 in September 2018.

Kevin Callaway
Head of 6th Form



CURRICULUM PATHWAYS

A Levels:

Art
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Computer Science
Dance
Drama & Theatre
Economics
English Language
English Literature
French
Further Maths

Geography
Government & Politics
History
Maths
Music/Music Technology
Philosophy & Ethics
Physical Education
Physics
Product Design
Psychology
Sociology
Spanish
Textiles

BTEC:

Business
Food & Nutrition
Health & Social Care
I.T. & Computing
Sport & Exercise Science

GCSE: (Resits)

English
Maths

We offer a broad range of courses and are proud of the way in which we match individual learners to appropriate curriculum pathways based on prior attainment, learning style and their desired path beyond the Sixth Form. Not only does this maximise the chances of success but it ensures learners enjoy their studies and get the most they can from their time in the Sixth Form. Crucially, we are flexible and able to adjust a student's programme should the need arise.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The A Level Reforms began in September 2015, and we have now reached the final stage of these 16-19 reforms, and since September 2017 all A Levels are now linear. New BTEC National Qualifications were also taught for the first time September 2016 so Post 16 students really have experienced a number of changes in the past few years. All GCE A Level, new and current, and BTEC Level 3 courses are modular in structure. Usually, this will be two or three units for Year 12, four or six units for the full A Level and six, twelve or eighteen units for BTEC courses. A Level courses are taught over two years with all exams at the end of the second year (Year 13). Most students will follow a course of three subjects over the two years. Some students may study four subjects but this can be a very demanding workload. The structure of our qualifications and our determination to tailor pathways precisely to student needs allows for considerable flexibility. It is important to note that all BTEC courses run for the full two years but students are able to follow a programme that combines A Level and BTEC qualifications. The BTEC Qualifications are awarded UCAS points the same as A Levels and further information can be found at the UCAS website (www.ucas.com) to clarify this for you. The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is also available for students should they wish to broaden their curriculum studies.

CHOOSING SUBJECTS

We endeavour to accommodate all approved combinations of the subjects listed on the previous page. The timetable will be designed around the subject combinations chosen by students not vice versa and, increasingly, students are considering broader and more flexible combinations of subjects. However, it is important that students take their time over subject choices as making changes later in the process can be more difficult. Having said that, we do try to accommodate all alterations as we understand that things do change, particularly once students have received their examination results. Students should take the opportunity to discuss their suitability for a course with their current subject teachers and form tutors as well as reading the information contained in this prospectus. It is possible to take some subjects at A Level or BTEC Level 3 where they have not been studied at Key Stage 4. Our application process includes the opportunity for each student to have an individual 'interview' with a senior member of staff, during which their option choices can be discussed fully and they can ask questions, review ideas and seek advice. Any student who does not achieve a GCSE grade 4 or better in English or Mathematics will be given compulsory timetabled lessons to attend, in order to improve their grade. We firmly believe in the importance of English and Mathematics whatever a student's path beyond Sixth Form.

SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Assessment and Monitoring

Students are encouraged to review their learning and progress regularly in each subject area through a series of individual dialogues with teachers and tutors. Targets are identified in order to help students to improve their progress. The reviews also lie at the heart of the formal reporting process, through which parents receive termly updates via our online management information system. Targeted, personalised support for individual learners is based on these assessments as well as our discussions with and knowledge of individual students. Small classes, small tutor groups and an excellent team of talented and caring staff ensure all students are able to get the individual attention and support they need and deserve. Parents and students are able to meet with tutors on our tutor parents' evening. They are also given the opportunity to meet subject staff to discuss progress twice during the year at subject focussed parents' evenings. However, tutors and subject staff can be quickly contacted by email or telephone and they are always happy to meet with parents should there be a concern or any help needed.

Guidance and Personal Development

The guidance and tutor time programme provides students with opportunities to develop study skills and build a portfolio of evidence for applications (for Higher Education, further training and employment). There are also a range of opportunities for enrichment activities and community projects. Students attend tutor time each morning from Monday to Thursday (Fridays are used for one-to-one meetings between students and their tutor). Tutor time is spent with the tutor and tutor group and is compulsory for all our sixth form students. Through the Bright Day programme and tutor time support, students will be encouraged to complete Future Learn courses as well as voluntary work in the community to support with Higher Education and apprenticeship/employment applications.

Tutorial System

Each student will be placed in a tutor group with a committed and experienced tutor, who will be responsible for the oversight of the student's programme in the Sixth Form.

Students are given the opportunity to indicate with which fellow students they would like to be grouped (this information is usually collected on the induction day). Tutors will be the first contact for both students and their parents, offering support, monitoring attendance and tracking student progress.

The Head of Sixth Form, Head of Year 13 and Head of Year 12 will also monitor progress and offer day to day support to tutors and students.

Private Study and Study Facilities

Sixth Form students are provided with study periods each week. This time allows students to work in private study areas or to discuss a piece of work with a member of staff or with fellow students. Students are expected to organise their work effectively during this time and a Sixth Form study planner is provided to help with this important aspect of Sixth Form learning. Sixth Form students have access to a range of books and printed resources designed to support learning as well as to provide reading for leisure and general interest.

Special provision has been made for standard texts and particularly useful books to be available on a short term loan basis, thus ensuring that most people have access to these texts when needed. There are dedicated Sixth Form computer facilities in the Sixth Form Centre, including the hire of laptops, and in other key parts of the school.

Work Experience and Part-Time Employment

Many students will gain valuable experience through their part-time jobs. Students must also arrange a week's work experience placement in a more career specific field towards the end of the summer term and we also actively encourage students to complete further work experience during holiday periods. Some vocational courses (e.g. BTEC Health and Social Care) require longer periods of work experience as part of the assessed units. In Year 13, students who are looking to move into employment will be supported in arranging more sustained work placements to prepare them for their next step in life.

Enrichment Opportunities

Whilst academic achievement remains paramount, it is important for students to be involved in a broad range of enrichment activities. Not only do these provide valuable experiences and help develop essential skills for Higher Education and/or employment but participation also ensures that a student's time in the Sixth Form is enjoyable and rewarding. In the Sixth Form, a range of activities outside the curriculum are on offer to students, including competitive and recreational sports, music and performing art, clubs and common interest activities, revision and study skills sessions, community and enterprise projects and social events.



As well as arranging new activities in which students can become involved, the Sixth Form also encourages students to maintain their involvement in activities developed lower down the school or at their previous schools: for example, sport, music or the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Although the Sixth Form provides great opportunities for students and caters for a huge range of interests, we are always open to new ideas.

Competitive Sport

For those who wish to play sport competitively, fixtures are available at various levels in a range of activities. Sixth Form teams have been immensely successful in a range of competitions in recent years at both local and national level and, while we wish to see continued success, students do not have to have represented the school previously to get involved.

Recreational Sport

As part of the extra-curricular provision offered by the Physical Education department, all students are encouraged to participate in the Sixth Form recreational sport sessions which are run during lunchtimes and after school. The activities on offer are tailored to meet the needs and wishes of our students and include accredited courses in Sports Leadership and access to a range of off-site sport facilities.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

Curriculum provision and guidance are supported by Bright Days, which cover a wide range of important personal, social, health and economic topics as well as a number of enrichment events. These allow for more extended and flexible learning, tailored to meet the needs of the learners and the specific courses each of them is following. They provide opportunities for coursework or examination skills days, additional educational visits, visiting speakers and a broad range of other activities. All of this, we hope, will enrich the learning experience for all students, improving both enjoyment and achievement.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

This scheme is very successful and has a very large take up within the school as a whole. Currently, approximately one third of eligible pupils are actively involved in the scheme with a large number of Gold participants. Our provision has been recognised nationally and our numbers and depth of expertise make us the largest and most successful state school provider in the system. Our Gold candidates have a choice of expeditions between the UK and more demanding experiences such as trekking in the Pyrenees or canoeing in Southern Ireland. Currently we have a number of Gold candidates preparing for their presentations at Buckingham Palace. Universities constantly acknowledge the importance they place on the personal qualities demonstrated by successful Gold candidates by making them offers of places on the most competitive courses. Application to the scheme is open to all. Those wishing to enter for the first time at the higher levels are merely required to fulfil a longer qualifying period.



Creative Arts

Sixth Form students take part in a broad range of arts activities across school including: taking on a variety of roles in shows (on stage and backstage); participating in musical events; organising the Arnold Hill Gig Night, in which many talented bands play; writing and producing the annual Sixth Form pantomime; leading or supporting with extra-curricular clubs for younger students.

Sixth Form Committee

Sixth Form events and the canvassing of student views are organised through the Sixth Form Committee, made up of representatives from tutor groups and headed by our Head Boy and Head Girl. There is also the opportunity to be appointed as a Treasurer, Enrichment & Events Co-ordinator, Community Officer and Sports Officer. The Committee discusses learning in the Sixth Form, social events, charity fundraisers and a range of other ideas. Members of the committee and other students volunteer to act as ambassadors; in this role, they take on a range of duties but, most crucially, support the work of the Sixth Form and are a point of contact for students. The Sixth Form emphasises the need for a balance between academic studies and relaxation. Students recognise that good relationships in the Sixth Form are vital to its success; both working and socialising together are essential. As already mentioned, the Committee arranges a number of social events. These are often quiz nights held in the evening in the Sixth Form Centre, which provide the perfect opportunity for individuals to meet in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. There are also a range of other events, including our traditional village sports day and the more formal Sixth Form Summer Ball, where everyone dresses in their finest to bid farewell to those who are leaving and celebrate the successes of the year.

Sixth Form Centre

The heart of the Sixth Form is the Sixth Form Centre. No teaching takes place in the centre and students are actively encouraged to take ownership and 'run' this area themselves. They can listen to music, watch TV, play pool and generally 'chill out'. There are study spaces on both floors with computer facilities (including a suite of iMacs and laptops to hire out), that allow students to work in the centre during their private study periods. There is also a dedicated Sixth Form cafeteria from which students can buy drinks, snacks and hot food throughout the day. There is a Sixth Form Library on the top floor of the building; this includes a broad range of books, newspapers and periodicals for studying and recreational reading. The flexible and modern design of the centre means that it can be used as a venue for Post 16 drama performances, music recitals or art exhibitions as well as a whole host of the events arranged by the committee. Sixth Form students were actively involved in the interior design of the centre and will continue to be regularly consulted with about changes and improvements.





Supporting Our Younger Students

As the most senior students in the school, members of the Sixth Form are looked upon to be positive role models to those in the younger years in terms of both learning and conduct. In addition to this, however, Sixth Form students are able to get involved in a number of projects that aim to help and support younger students including classroom support, paired reading and mentoring. These projects benefit our school community hugely but are also very rewarding for the Sixth Form students involved. They also make excellent additions to employment/University applications.

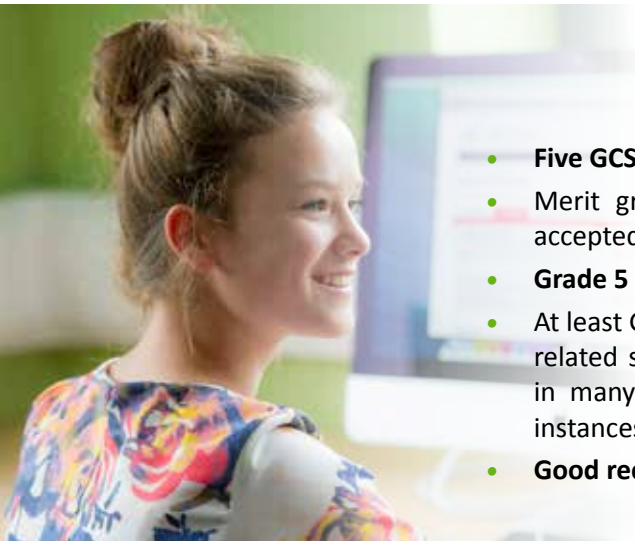
Community

The Sixth Form also gets involved in a range of fund-raising activities and other events that support the school or local community. Some of the charity events raise money for external charities; others help to fund additional resources for the Sixth Form Centre. Those events which involve fancy dress have been particularly popular, with students dressing to a theme like 'pirates' or 'film characters'. The school also liaises with outside agencies that provide opportunities for students. Students have taken part in competitions run by national newspapers and banks; they have gone on study tours, weekend schools and conferences at Universities. Some have been involved in work for charities, including helping organisations like Oxfam, and in the local community, particularly assisting at local primary schools.

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



- **Five GCSE passes at grade C/5 or higher**
- Merit grades in BTEC or other vocational courses will be accepted
- **Grade 5 (or better) in GCSE Maths and English Language**
- At least GCSE grade C/5 in subjects chosen for study (or closely related subjects for those not previously studied) at A Level; in many cases B/6 grades are recommended and in some instances grade A/7 is required
- **Good recent records of attendance, punctuality and conduct**

Applications

To apply for a place in the Sixth Form, please download the application form from our website, complete it and return it by email to: sixthform@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk

Students are asked to choose three subjects on their application. Once an application has been processed, we will invite the applicant for interview. Whilst we look to offer as many places as possible, we expect to be significantly over-subscribed for September 2018. As such, we advise students to return application forms as quickly as possible to avoid disappointment. External applicants still in Year 11 will need to bring to the interview a letter of reference (including forecast grades) from their current school. External applicants who have already received their GCSE results will need to bring a letter of reference and a copy of their results. It is important to note that we will try our best to run all the courses on offer, but may not be able to if numbers are particularly low.

Pathways

Tailored pathways are put in place for our students based on their GCSE grades. Examples of these pathways are as follows:

Pathway 1: A student who achieves mainly GCSE Grades of A*-A/7 would be encouraged to study 4 A Levels.

Pathway 2: A student who achieves 5+ A*-C/5 GCSE grades including good grades in GCSE English and Maths with mostly B and C grades will be asked to take 3 subjects and this can be a combination of A Level and BTEC courses.

Pathway 3: A student who achieves 5 A*- C GCSE grades including GCSE English and Maths with mostly C/5 grades will be encouraged to take a BTEC pathway.



A LEVEL ART & DESIGN (FINE ART)

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: OCR

Course Code: H601

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

The A Level Art and Design (Fine Art) will consist of two components, a Personal Investigation which equates to 60% of the overall marks and an externally set task which makes up the remaining 40% of the overall marks. The Personal Investigation is a practical portfolio of artwork which demonstrates a personal response based on the centre set or learner set theme leading to a finished final outcome. The externally set task follows the same structure as the Personal Investigation. Students receive an exam paper which outlines 7 different themes in which they must choose one. The response consists of a practical portfolio leading to a finished final outcome.

What support and enrichment will I get?

The department provides a studio solely for the use of A Level art students. A Level art students create an exhibition to showcase their work; parents and the public are able to view this work. Students are encouraged to visit local art exhibitions and galleries to aid their studies and we run a series of life drawing classes after school.

What next?

Students will be able to further their studies directly to University to study creative courses or go on to an Art foundation course. Students will leave the course with many creative qualities which are highly sought after within employment, students will leave with a portfolio of work so could go directly into the creative industry for employment.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, students should have studied GCSE Art & Design and, if they have done so, they should have attained a grade 6 or better. It is recommended that students who have studied the BTEC Art & Design course have achieved a Merit or higher in order to meet the demands of the Post 16 course.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mrs K Brown (katie.brown@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL BIOLOGY

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 7402

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

A Level Biology is a two year course, with exams at the end of the second year. A wide range of topics are covered including: cells, biological molecules, human systems, genetics and biochemistry to name but a few. Biology, like all sciences is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities such as: using microscopes to see cell division, dissection of animal or plant systems, investigating animal behaviours and investigating activity within cells. There is no coursework on this course, however your performance during practicals will be assessed.

What support and enrichment will I get?

In order to support students we run a range of lunchtime and after school booster and revision sessions. Members of staff are also available for more individualised tutorial help. In order to help students develop their fieldwork skills we run a four day trip to Wales covering all aspects of ecology in a variety of different habitats.

What next?

According to bestcourse4me.com the top seven degree courses taken by students who have an A Level in Biology are: Biology, Psychology, Sport and Exercise Science, Medicine, Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmacy Chemistry. Studying A Level Biology gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including: Doctor, Clinical Molecular Geneticist, Nature Conservation Officer, Pharmacologist, Research Scientist, Vet, Secondary School Teacher, Marine Biologist and Dentist.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, students should have studied GCSE Core and Additional Science or Triple Science at Key Stage 4. Students must achieve a grade 6 or higher in Additional Science, including a 6 or higher in the Biology exam, in order that they meet the demands of the Post 16 course. It is also recommended that pupils achieve at least a grade 6 in Maths due to the increased mathematical demands of the specification.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Ms Y Briggs (yasmin.briggs@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

BTEC BUSINESS

Qualification: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Course Code: 601/7159/5

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 8 or 4 in Year 12, 10 or 5 in Year 13

Why study this course?

The Business BTEC Level 3 is a vocational course. The three core units give learners an introduction to and understanding of business activity, finance and marketing and communication: all fundamental to the success of business organisations. The units will consist of Exploring Business (set and marked internally), Developing a Marketing Campaign (set and marked by Pearson Edexcel), Personal and Business Finance (written exam marked externally) and The Recruitment and Selection Process (set and marked internally).

What support and enrichment will I get?

We run a range of lunchtime programmes, coursework workshops and evaluation sessions where pupils can receive further help and advice on assignments set. There will also be revision sessions that are provided during lunchtimes in the run up to the exam. Pupils and parents will be informed in advance of when the revision sessions are going to run.

What next?

The Extended Certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the business sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of Higher Education courses, not necessarily in business related subjects. It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, it is recommended (but not essential) that students have studied GCSE Business and, if they have done so, they should have attained a grade C or better. If students have studied the Level 2 BTEC Business, it is recommended that they have attained a Merit grade or better in order to meet the demands of this Post 16 course.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mr M Howey (martin.howey@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL BUSINESS STUDIES

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 7132

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

Students will study business in a variety of contexts such as large and small, UK focused and global and service and manufacturing. The course will give students the opportunity to consider 'What is business?' They will also study the impact of managers, leadership and decision making as well as investigating the marketing, operational, financial and human resource performance of business. The study of strategic decision making will build on this as a function area, and is a key skill which is developed during the A Level course. The AS Level course is assessed by two papers worth 50% each. The A Level course is assessed by three external exam papers worth 33.3% each.

What support and enrichment will I get?

Students are welcome to attend lunchtime support sessions. Trips and speakers are organised to support the case study themes for that academic year. Students benefit from following business and international news and this is built into the course. Case studies and lessons are constantly updated to adapt to current events. The opportunity to take part in a number of competitions throughout the year e.g. Business Tycoon in association with The Peter Jones Foundation, Share Game and Business, Accounting and Skills Education Competition.

What next?

Business Studies students are well prepared to continue further studies in Business at University. During the A Level, team building, presentation, data analysis, problem solving and research skills will be developed which are qualities valued by both Universities and employers. In 2014 courses in Business, Finance and Economics were the most popular destination for Arnold Hill leavers.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, students should have achieved have a minimum of a grade 5 in Maths and English. You do not need to have studied Business at GCSE but we will look for a minimum Grade C in closely related subjects such as Economics, ICT, English Literature and Humanities subjects.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mr M Howey (martin.howey@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 7405

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

This specification is designed to inspire and nurture students, laying the foundation for further study and the work place, it splits the content into the three traditional branches of organic, inorganic and physical chemistry, students are able to see how their knowledge and skills build during the course and gain an insight into different kinds of Chemistry and see how the different branches work together. This course also provides numerous opportunities to use practical experiences to link theory to reality, and equip students with the essential practical skills they need.

What support and enrichment will I get?

In order to support students with coursework and revision, we run a range of sessions at lunchtime and after school. Members of staff are also available for more individualised tutorial help. Students who study Chemistry and are considering teaching will have the opportunity to support younger students in Science lessons. In order to help students understand the industrial context of Chemistry and possible careers that use the subject, we organise a range of visits (e.g. Spectroscopy in a suitcase and visits to The University of Nottingham).

What next?

Universities and employers value the analytical and conceptual skills that are developed during the study of Chemistry. Such skills, coupled with the ability to work in a meticulous and accurate manner, enable Chemistry students to pursue careers within, or outside, the vast area of Science. In fact, even employers such as large banks and other 'city' companies are keen to employ people with Chemistry qualifications.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, students should have studied GCSE Core and Additional Science or Triple Science at Key Stage 4. Students must achieve a grade 6 or higher in Additional Science, including a 6 or higher in the Chemistry exam, in order that they meet the demands of the Post 16 course. It is also recommended that pupils achieve at least a grade 6 in Maths due to the increased mathematical demands of the specification.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Ms K Stevens (kate.stevens@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: OCR

Course Code: H446

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

Computer Science builds on the work started at GCSE level, looking more in depth at how computers work, computational thinking and further developing a student's programming skills. The A Level qualification is split into three components.

Component 1 - Computer Systems (40% Exam)

Component 2 - Algorithms and Programming (40% Exam)

Component 3 - Programming Project(20%)

What support and enrichment will I get?

Computing students are encouraged to organise and run the after school programming club, helping the younger students learn how to write computer programs. Students have other opportunities to help within the ICT department, and regularly support other extra-curricular events including working with primary school students and to represent computing at open evenings

What next?

Computing teaches students skills beyond the basic ICT principles. They become advanced, independent users of computers and learn to produce programs. This provides them with opportunities in computing, web design, game production and other related fields. There are a range of University courses based around computing which students have previously gone on to study including Computer Science, Computer Games Design, ICT and Computing.

What are the entry requirements?

Students must have either a grade 5 in GCSE Computing at Key Stage 4 or have significant experience with programming. It is also recommended that students have achieved a grade 6 or higher in GCSE Mathematics.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mr S Brown (stuart.brown@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL DANCE

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 601/8297/0

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

A Level Dance is for students who are interested in studying dance through the creation and performance of choreography and the analysis of dance repertoire. Not sure if you want to pursue a career in dance? The skill-set gained from analysing dance repertoire, developing essay skills and taking the role of both a choreographer and performer in a practical setting develops a range of favourable skills for both employment opportunities and the performing arts industry. Students will participate in the development of a solo performance linked to a specified practitioner within an area of study. The focus of this is to accurately reflect the practitioners' choreographic style in terms of technical and physical skills. They will also take on the role of a choreographer to create a group piece in response to an externally set task. The question will take the form of a stimulus (poem, image, sculpture, historical figure, etc.) which will require thorough research and innovation. The written examination will test the students' knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation in relation to the two areas of study: Rambert Dance Company (1966-2002) and The Independent Contemporary Dance Scene (2000 – current).

What support and enrichment will I get?

In order to support students with their workload, members of staff are always available for advice. Rehearsal dates are organised and led by teaching staff for practical work in extra-curricular time. There are many theatre visits organised for students to fulfil the course requirements but also to increase their interest and breadth of dance experience including enrichment opportunities with Rambert Dance Company.

What next?

Students may progress to Dance related university courses or audition for professional vocational training. Previous students have entered the professions of dance performance; education; dance therapy; events management and other related careers. Moreover, Dance fits securely alongside careers in the media, English literature and other professions which require creativity, teamwork and persistence.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, it is recommended that students have studied GCSE Dance and achieved a grade 6 or above. It should be stressed that Dance is essentially an academic subject and not purely a practical one though previous dance experience is essential for this course.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Miss L Hays (lauren.hays@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL DRAMA & THEATRE

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: WJEC

Course Code: 601/8554/5

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

Students will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text chosen by a list prescribed by the exam board. The piece must be developed by using techniques and working methods of a theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. They will also create and develop two performance pieces, one devised piece based on stimulus from the exam board and an extract performed in a contrasting style. The written examination will be two questions, based on two different texts (one pre 1956 and one post 1956). The final section of the written exam will be a question based on a specified extract from *The Curious Incident of a Dog in the Night-Time*.

What support and enrichment will I get?

In order to support students with their workload, members of staff are always available for advice. Rehearsal dates are organised and led by teaching staff for practical work in extra curricular time. There are many theatre visits organised for students to fulfil the course requirements but also to increase their interest and breadth of Theatre experience including workshops with the Royal Shakespeare Company and enrichment opportunities with Nottingham Playhouse.

What next?

Many students go on to apply for courses at specialist Drama schools and courses at university. However, drama fits comfortably alongside careers in the media, creative arts, English, politics and a host of other professions where confidence and creative thinking is key. Attaining a good grade at A level will prove to employers and course leaders that you are confident, outspoken and used to working in the public arena.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, it is recommended (but not essential) that students have studied GCSE Drama or GCSE Performing Arts and, if they have done so, they should have attained a grade 5 or better. It is recommended that students who have studied the BTEC Performing Arts course have achieved a Merit or higher in order to meet the demands of the post 16 course.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Ms Burscough Bown (nicola.burscough-brown@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk)

A LEVEL ECONOMICS

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: OCR

Course Code: 7135

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

Economics is designed to give students the opportunity to study a range of topics from understanding how prices are determined to developing the ability to evaluate government economic policies on unemployment or the budget deficit. Students learn to analyse real work data and write precise, logical and technical essays that tackle the big questions facing governments all around the world. The AS course is assessed by two 90 minute written papers worth 50% each. The A Level course has three, two hour external written papers, each contributing towards 33.33% of the A Level result.

What support and enrichment will I get?

Students are welcome at weekly lunchtime support sessions and revision sessions are organised in the run up to exams. Students compete in the 'Chance to be Chancellor' competition and in 2013 an Arnold Hill Economics student was appointed Youth Chancellor and had the opportunity to meet George Osborne. Every two years the department runs a trip to London to visit the Bank of England where bank staff give a presentation tailored to the A Level course.

What next?

Recent published surveys have confirmed Economics as a course well regarded by Higher Education providers. The most obvious links are to do with any aspect of banking, investment, insurance, business and accountancy but almost any managerial or senior role will call upon some aspect of economics competence. The skills of analysing data and in writing persuasive essays using precise, technical language will undoubtedly aid later study or employment. In 2014 courses in Business, Finance and Economics were the most popular destination for Arnold Hill leavers.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, it is recommended (but not essential) that students have attained a grade 6 or better in GCSE Mathematics and at least a grade 6 in English. You do not need to have studied Economics or Business at GCSE but we will look for a minimum grade B in closely related subjects such as ICT, English Literature and Humanities subjects.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Ms J Stockwell (judith.stockwell@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 7702

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

This course introduces students to the in depth study of language and the skills of analysis. They will have the opportunity to learn about the ways in which children acquire language and express opinions on the ways groups, individuals and institutions are represented in language. Students are given the opportunity to conduct their own linguistic research, as well as learning about the ways in which language changes and the heated debates that language changes can create.

What support and enrichment will I get?

The examination board set up a variety of conferences to support students. Discussion programmes and programmes in which a wide variety of accents and dialects are used are also part of the teaching materials. Students also have the opportunity to conduct surveys into attitudes towards language variation and change. For their investigation, students have a wide range of opportunities to establish for themselves their own experiments for collecting data. Deep learning days will involve the exploration of various contexts in which language change and variation is evident and could involve visits to relevant exhibitions.

What next?

English Language A Level is a demanding and analytical course which is very good preparation for careers in law or politics. It is also excellent preparation for those wishing to teach at all levels, and it guarantees a very high standard of literacy to all employers.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, a grade 5 in English Language at GCSE is essential, but a grade 6 or above is preferred.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mrs S Marshall (sarah.marshall@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 7717

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

We are exploring the Aspects of Tragedy and the Political and Protest writing option. In year 12, we study 'Othello', Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' and the poetry of John Keats for the Aspects of Tragedy. In year 13, we study Margaret Atwood's 'The Handmaid's Tale' and Khaled Hosseini's 'The Kite Runner' together with the poet of William Blake for the Political and Protest writing. In addition, in year 13, students need to study two texts for their coursework essays, one prose and one poetry. This gives us the opportunity to study demanding texts in depth and to enjoy the challenge of exploring powerful literature.

What support and enrichment will I get?

We make every effort to organise trips to productions of interest, both for set texts and for their own sake. We encourage students to take part in writing and reading groups for younger pupils.

What next?

Apart from the sheer pleasure of studying great texts, English Literature is a prestigious subject that opens many doors, and is, of course, a respected course of study at Universities.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, a grade 5 in English Literature and English Language at GCSE is essential, but a grade 6 or above is preferred. You must also really love reading.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mrs S Marshall (sarah.marshall@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL FASHION & TEXTILES

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 7652

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

A Level Fashion and Textiles gives you the opportunity to develop your capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing. The subject will enable you to take a broad view of Design and Technology and to develop a wide range of skills, including working with others, thinking creatively and making quality products.

What support and enrichment will I get?

Pupils are invited to attend Textiles lunchtime and after school workshops where skills are developed to aid the development of a quality product. Textile exhibitions are visited and trips are planned for fabric fairs in Paris and The Clothes Show where students can understand the textile and fashion industry within a commercial environment. Industrial visits will take place and local designers will visit Arnold Hill to talk about their role within the Industry.

What next?

Textile Design could take you into a number of exciting career paths. Of course, being a textile designer is a natural outcome but there are other job prospects such as working as an interior designer or in fashion merchandising and buying. The advertising and marketing profession always needs creative people too, as does the manufacturing industry.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, it is recommended (but not essential) that students have studied GCSE Textiles Technology and, if they have done so, they should have attained a grade C or better.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mrs S Robinson (sarah.robinson@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL FRENCH

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 7651/7652

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

Students will enhance their linguistic skills and promote and develop their capacity for critical thinking on the basis of their knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of France. They develop control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary. They are encouraged to be confident, accurate and independent users of the language, developing their ability to interact effectively with users of the language in speech and in writing. This will include the use of online media, developing language learning skills and strategies, engaging critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the original language. Assessment is linear in the form of three examinations; one speaking, one writing, and one listening, reading and writing.

What support and enrichment will I get?

Small class sizes ensure that support is highly tailored to students' individual requirements. Trips offered by external agencies who can deal with small numbers are advertised and encouraged.

What next?

French is a subject that combines well with any other course at University as part of a joint honours degree which will offer a year of study or work abroad. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or to further study, including a Modern Languages degree.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, students should have studied GCSE French at Key Stage 4, achieving a grade 6 or better.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mrs J Smith (joanne.smith@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: OCR

Course Code: H245

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

The Further Mathematics course provides a balance between breadth and depth of mathematical knowledge. It extends students' skills in logical reasoning and algebraic manipulation, and encourages them to use mathematical skills and forms of communication to analyse situations within mathematics and elsewhere. The pure core provides the foundations for further mathematical study, in addition to which students will study two options taken from statistics, mechanics, discrete mathematics and additional pure mathematics. Students who wish to study Further Mathematics for one year only will be able to sit an AS Level at the end of Year 12.

What support and enrichment will I get?

We offer a lunchtime support club that students are encouraged to attend, and members of staff are also available for individual discussions. After school revision sessions are offered to support students in preparing for the final examinations. We enter students for the UKMT Maths challenge, both individually and as a team. Some Universities require applicants for a Mathematics degree to do STEP papers and we offer extra support to these students.

What next?

Studying Further Mathematics will help students to gain a deeper understanding of the A Level Mathematics course as well as supporting other subject areas. It broadens their knowledge base and prepares them for studying Mathematics at degree level.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, students should have studied the Higher Tier GCSE Mathematics course at Key Stage 4 and must also be studying A Level Mathematics. It is essential that students achieve a GCSE grade 7, or preferably higher, so that they meet the demands of the Further Mathematics course. Able mathematicians will be able to take this course as a fourth A Level.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Miss N Adams (nicole.adams@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 7037

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

The world we live in is constantly changing. Geography gives you the access to understanding our world. From this you will gain an understanding of why and how it is changing. Topics covered during the course include Physical Geography looking at water and carbon cycles, as well as Human Geography which will look at global systems and global governance as well as contemporary urban environments. Students will complete an individual geographical investigation which must include data collected in the field.

What support and enrichment will I get?

Students have the opportunity to attend a Field Trip during the A Level course where data is collected for geographical investigation. Support is given to students on essay style and preparation as well as targeted intervention for students during lunchtime and after school timetabled revision sessions.

What next?

As well as studying Geography in Higher Education, potential careers include working in agriculture, landscape design, housing and social welfare, business, marketing, IT, leisure and tourism, meteorology, education, social services and many more.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, it is recommended (but not essential) that students have studied GCSE Geography and, if they have done so, they should have attained a grade 6 or better. If GCSE Geography has not been studied a minimum grade 6 in GCSE English and Maths is required.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Miss E Collins (emma.collins@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: OCR

Course Code: H495

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

This course looks at the political and governmental structures of the United Kingdom, from Parliament and the Scottish Assembly through to trade unions and political parties. We examine the structure of the British state and its electoral system considering them in the light of contemporary events and issues. Students also study the political concepts and ideologies that have shaped the modern world, from Marxism to Thatcher's New Right.

What support and enrichment will I get?

As far as possible we try to include a number of trips out of school as part of students' enrichment. These have included in the past visiting Parliament, Berlin, and The EU Parliament in Brussels. We also invite a number of guest speakers into the school, including the local MP and representatives from the main political parties.

What next?

At University the skills and knowledge learned studying A Level Politics are good preparation for studying the broad range of Social Science subjects, including Sociology, Economics, Politics, International Relations, Law, Philosophy and Ethics. Careers in the civil service, teaching, the legal profession, administration and social work are all attainable through the study of Politics at A Level.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, students should have achieved grade 6 or better in GCSE English Language and a grade B or higher in a GCSE Humanities subject or a GCSE Science subject, as this demonstrates their ability to meet the demands of this Post 16 course.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mr A Massey (alex.massey@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk) or Mr B Slater (brett.slater@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

BTEC HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Qualification: BTEC Level 3 National Diploma

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Course Code: 601/7194/7

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 8 in Y12 and 9 in Y13

Why study this course?

The BTEC National Diploma in Health and Social Care qualification prepares learners for employment in the Health and Social Care sector. It is suitable for those who have decided that they wish to enter a particular area of work and is broadly equivalent to two GCE A Levels.

This qualification has been designed to account for two thirds of a two year, full-time study programme for learners who are intending to go onto further study in a related sector. It supports access to a range of Higher Education courses if taken as part of a programme of study that includes another BTEC or A Level alongside it. There are six mandatory units and two optional. One of the mandatory units is a task set and marked externally by the exam board, two are written exams marked by the exam board. The other units are internally assessed and externally moderated.

What support and enrichment will I get?

Teacher support is given throughout the course. Students also have access to guest speakers from a range of careers within the Health and Social Care sector. Work experience in a related area is also encouraged.

What next?

Staff in the Health and Social Care sector are involved in direct care, as well as specialists such as health scientists, technicians, support staff, supervisors and managers. Job opportunities exist in the statutory, private and voluntary provision of care services. This BTEC in Health and Social Care can provide a springboard to a University or Foundation degree in an appropriate vocational discipline, to BTECs/HNCs/HNDs or to employment.

What are the entry requirements?

To study this course, students should meet the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form and have a good work ethic in order to meet the demands of a course assessed solely by coursework. If students studied the Level 2 BTEC Health and Social Care course at Key Stage 4, they should have attained a pass in order to move onto the Level 3 course.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mrs S Norris (suzanne.norris@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL HISTORY

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 7041/7042

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

The History A Level course is split into two sections; Tudor England and The French Revolution. In this course you will develop skills in analysing both primary and secondary sources, whilst using this to form evaluative arguments. Tudor England looks chronologically at each Tudor ruler and assesses the impact their reign had. The French Revolution charts the change from an Absolute Monarchy into a Republic and identifies reasons for why this Republic failed and returned once more to rule by a single leader. Both of these courses look at significant changes which still have an impact today.

What support and enrichment will I get?

During the year students' performance will be monitored and intervention put into place. The course offers an engaging approach to learning History. In the past we have also run trips to Hampton court and Paris, encouraging students to fully embrace the History around them.

What next?

History is a well-respected academic subject and provides opportunities for further studies in Law, Economics, Politics and Classical Studies. Many politicians have studied History at University level. The skills gained in A Level History, such as evaluation of complicated information, are transferable to many professions.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, it is recommended (but not essential) that students have studied GCSE History and, if they have done so, they should have attained a grade 6 or better. If GCSE History has not been studied a minimum grade 6 in GCSE English is required.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mrs K Wilkinson (katherine.wilkinson@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

BTEC I.T. AND COMPUTING

Qualification: BTEC Level 3 National Ext. Certificate or Diploma

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Course Code: 601/7575/8

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 8 or 4 in Year 12, 10 or 5 in Year 13

Why study this course?

The BTEC IT Level 3 National aims to give learners the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in Information Technology systems, systems management and social media in business. The assessment structure of the course has changed, requiring students to complete a written examination and complete a task set and marked under controlled conditions. The key topics of the course involve computer systems (hardware/software/mobile devices), databases, spreadsheets and understanding the impact of IT in business.

What support and enrichment will I get?

To help support students complete assignment work there will be opportunities to attend lunchtime or after school sessions with the teacher who can offer more individualised help. Alternate years, students will have the opportunity to attend an ICT conference that has a range of guest speakers discussing the impact of ICT on their organisations.

What next?

BTEC IT Level 3 provides students with a range of ICT skills that are all tailored towards employment. The skills are taught with life like examples to ensure students are prepared for how they will use ICT within organisations. This qualification will acquire UCAS points that offer a progression route to a course at University.

What are the entry requirements?

To study this course the students should meet the standard entry requirements of the Sixth Form. Students will need a good work ethic and be able to meet strict deadlines. If students studied BTEC IT Level 2 at Key Stage 4 then they should have attained a Merit grade in order to move onto the Level 3 course.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mr S Brown (stuart.brown@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL MATHEMATICS

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: OCR

Course Code: H240

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

On this course students will develop logical reasoning skills and an ability to express a convincing argument, including mathematical proof. They will develop an understanding of mathematics, and mathematical processes, in a way that promotes confidence, fosters enjoyment and provides a strong foundation for progress to further study. They will learn to use technology such as calculators and computers effectively and also appreciate when such use may be inappropriate. The subject content is divided into the three areas of pure mathematics, mechanics and statistics.

What support and enrichment will I get?

We offer a lunchtime support club that students are encouraged to attend. Members of staff are also available for individual discussions. Revision sessions are offered to support students in preparing for the examinations. We enter students for the UKMT Maths Challenge, both individually and as a team. Students have the opportunity to support younger students and have access to websites to which the school subscribes, including MyMaths.

What next?

It is a real advantage to have an A level in Mathematics. It is very attractive to employers and Universities, even if applying for unrelated areas, and it is recognised in higher than average career earnings. Studying A level Mathematics will support many other subject areas, especially the Sciences, Geography and Economics. A level Mathematics can lead to careers in accounting, engineering and business amongst many other areas.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, students should have studied the Higher Tier GCSE Mathematics course at Key Stage 4 and achieved a grade 7 or higher so that they meet the demands of the Post 16 course. Students' GCSE grades will be looked at on an individual basis before entry to the course is agreed.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Miss N Adams (nicole.adams@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL MUSIC

Qualification: GCE A LEVEL

Examination Board: Eduqas

Course Code: AS Level (B660QSL) A Level (A660QSL)

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

Component 1 - Performing: Candidates produce a recital of between 6-15 minutes, depending on the option selected. Standard level of performance is Grade 5 for AS and Grade 6 for A Level.

Component 2 - Composing: Requires candidates to submit 2-3 pieces, depending on the option chosen, to both briefs set by the exam board and one set by the candidate.

Component 3 - Appraising: A number of areas of study are available to choose from, including Study of the development of the Classical and Romantic Symphony, Rock and Pop, Jazz and Musical Theatre. Assessed through a final written exam.

What support and enrichment will I get?

Arnold Hill Academy Music Department provides a number of exciting extra-curricular opportunities for music students. We run a number of school and student led ensembles, supported with a core of dedicated peripatetic teaching staff. The department boasts a high quality music studio with a wide range of professional standard microphones and outboard equipment.

What next?

Music is highly respected by both employers and Higher Education establishments. The dedication, academic prowess and creativity required to succeed in the subject means you will be a highly adaptable and sophisticated student with the skills sought after by the top Universities and employers around the world.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, students should have studied GCSE Music at Key Stage 4, achieving a grade 6 or better. Other music qualifications may be accepted, such as instrumental grades or exceptional scores at BTEC.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mr C Miles (chris.miles@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Code: 9MT01

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

Music Technology plays a key role in music across the world. This course involves practical work and encourages the cultivation of a wide range of skills. Students, including those who do not play a traditional instrument, are encouraged to explore their musicality and create original materials using technology. Students will have the opportunity to sequence MIDI and audio, record live instruments, produce CDs and compose using Music Technology. They will also build an understanding of the technical processes and principles that underpin effective use of Music Technology.

What support and enrichment will I get?

Professional quality recording studio with large live room and 5 practice rooms all linked to the control room; 6 macs running Logic; wide range of school ensembles, events and productions for students to become involved in throughout the year.

What next?

Music technology is an ever changing field of study and there are now several well established degree level courses at a range of prominent UK and international universities. The skills gained studying this subject will prepare you well for a career or further study in an exciting and vibrant area of the creative industries.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, students should have studied GCSE Music at Key Stage 4 and achieved a grade 6 or better. It is also recommended that students have achieved a Grade 6 in GCSE English and GCSE Maths as well as a Grade 6 in a Science Qualification.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mr C Miles (chris.miles@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Qualification: GCE A LEVEL

Examination Board: OCR

Course Code: H555

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

This course 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. Students will develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance. Students will gain an understanding of how physiological and psychological states affect performance, understand the key socio-cultural factors that influence people's involvement in physical activity and sport and understand the role of technology in physical activity and sport.

What support and enrichment will I get?

In order to support students with their coursework and revision, members of staff are also available for more individualised tutorial help. In order to help students supplement their practical scores we run a Hill Walking Expedition and circuit training course. Students are encouraged to participate in Post 16 recreational sport which takes place for 2 hours each week. In addition, the PE Department offers a number of school representative teams for students to play for. They can gain additional sporting qualifications through our close relationship with the Gedling Sports Partnership.

What next?

This course will equip students to work in careers such as commercial and community sport management, local authority and voluntary sector sport and public services. Courses students could apply for include Physical Education, Sports and Exercise Science, Sports Coaching, Sports Development and health and physical fitness related degrees.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, students should have studied GCSE Physical Education at Key Stage 4, achieving a grade 5 or better.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mr B Newson (brian.newson@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL PHYSICS

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 7408

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

The course is very modern. The practical applications considered include: planetary and satellite orbits, capacitors and their charge and discharge through resistors, and electromagnetic induction, motors and generators. Taught units include: 'Particles and radiation' where students learn about the fundamental nature of matter including the work at CERN. 'Nuclear physics', which links the properties of the nucleus to the production of nuclear power and famous $E=mc^2$ equation. We will also study an option which is yet to be decided but might be astrophysics, medical physics or special relativity.

What support and enrichment will I get?

Students are offered 'Maths for Physics' tutorials if they feel additional support is required. We also run lunchtime coursework clinics and various after school revision sessions closer to the exam. We endeavour to show students Physics in practice as much as possible and previous visits have included CERN (particle accelerator in Geneva), Daresbury (particle accelerator in Cheshire), the materials departments at Nottingham and Loughborough Universities (so students can carry out large scale experiments), the magnetic resonance centre at Nottingham (to get our brains scanned) and the London Science Museum.

What next?

Physics applications, like the career opportunities, are extremely varied. Employers today actively seek out people who can prove their ability to think logically, understand complex ideas and apply them to the real world. Some physicists tackle the application of physical ideas to industrial and engineering problems. Physics graduates also find employment in Medicine, Computing and Finance.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, students should have gained a 6 grade in the Further Physics exam and a minimum GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics; A grade in the Additional Physics exam and a minimum GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mr A Smiter (adam.smiter@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL PRODUCT DESIGN

Qualification: GCE A LEVEL

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 7552

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

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 in to practice by producing products of their choice. 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.

What support and enrichment will I get?

In order to support students with coursework they are encouraged to make use of the facilities in the department outside of lesson time and work alongside the fully supportive members of staff. Students who are considering teaching will have the opportunity to support younger students in their Design and Technology lessons. In order to help students, understand design in the real world, we organise a range of visits to design exhibitions and industrial contexts.

What next?

The course would provide an excellent foundation to a wide range of design related courses. The key skills developed through the design process, such as problem solving, researching, initiating ideas, planning and evaluating, are all key skills that would be sought after by many employers.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to standard entry requirements for sixth form, it is recommended (but not essential) that students have studied GCSE Product Design, GCSE Resistant Materials or GCSE Engineering and, if they have done so, they should have attained a grade C or better.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Ms F Berry (frances.berry@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: OCR

Course Code: H573

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

A Level Philosophy and Ethics contains three elements, each assessed by examination at the end of a two year study. The elements are as follows:

1. Philosophy: Ancient Philosophy; Body, Soul and Mind; Life after Death; Religious Experiences and Miracles; Arguments for and Against the Existence of God; The Problem of Evil; Is it meaningful to talk about God? (Religious Language)
2. Ethics: Ethical Theories; Applied Ethics (Euthanasia, Relationships); Meta-Ethics; The Free Will Debate; Ethics and Religion
3. A study into world theologies: Analysing Scripture; Practices; The Meaning and Purpose of Life; The "Self"; The Concept of Immortality; Is it possible to "know" God?; Pluralism; Religion and Gender in the 21st Century.

What support and enrichment will I get?

The department has a history of going to Debate Conferences and getting professors from Universities into school to hold seminars and workshops. Extra-curricular opportunities are available with the Debate Club run in the Humanities department and will support studies further. Debate Club is run by Sixth Form students and can be used to support a personal statement for University.

What next?

A Level Philosophy and Ethics is an excellent grounding for a degree in Philosophy, Theology and branches into other disciplines such as Law, Sociology, History, Physics and Mathematics. Employers recognise that an A Level in Philosophy and Ethics means you are able to think independently, you are ready for challenges and you can think 'outside the box'; useful in jobs such as Journalism, Medicine and Law. Within this subject you are able to show that you can recognise multiple points of view against your own; a skill highly appreciated in Social Work.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, it is recommended you should have gained at least a GCSE grade 5 in English and a minimum grade 5 in another Humanities subject.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Miss B Roberts (bethanie.roberts@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

Qualification: GCE A LEVEL

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 7182

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

Psychologists study human behaviour and in this course students learn about why humans act and think in the way they do, or in other words, what makes people 'tick'. The course introduces you to all the major approaches in Psychology – biological, cognitive, psychodynamic and behavioural. It covers areas such as stress, memory, abnormal behaviour, aggression and sleep. It also includes practical work. Students learn scientific methods by working in small groups to investigate aspects of behaviour such as eye witness testimony and aggression.

What support and enrichment will I get?

There is a weekly Psychology Club for support and wider activities. We also invite a number of speakers into school to speak with Post 16 students. A range of extra-curricular trips and activities include a trip to London, Nottingham Playhouse, Broadway Cinema, a sleep deprivation study night and a number of revision conferences. There are also a number of revision sessions prior to examinations.

What next?

Psychology is looked upon favourably by all Higher Education establishments and employers. Psychology can lead to specific careers in psychological fields such as industrial, educational, sports, clinical and forensic psychology. It can also lead to careers in counselling and therapy. It is a useful qualification to have if you are thinking of any career that involves dealing with people as it develops a number of transferable skills. It can lead, for example, to careers in teaching, health services, law and social work.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, students should have achieved grade 6 or better in GCSE English Language, and a minimum GCSE grade 6 in a Humanities subject or a GCSE Science subject as this demonstrates their ability to meet the demands of this Post 16 course.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mrs J Mecia (judy.mecia@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

Qualification: GCE A Level

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 7192

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

Sociology is the academic study of society and of human interactions. Sociological research ranges from the study of individual behaviour to the study of national and global structures and processes. The A Level course is intended to give students an understanding of the social and cultural world in which we live, the forces which shape our behaviour and the power relationships which influence our experience of the social world. Sociology is therefore an excellent subject for students who want to progress onto Higher Education and/or work in any profession which is concerned with people.

What support and enrichment will I get?

Before the examination season the Sociology Department put on a series of exam skills and revision sessions for all students. We also target individual sessions at students with specific needs.

What next?

Sociology is looked upon favourably by all Higher Education establishments and employers and many A Level Sociology students go on to study Sociology or other Social Science and Humanities related subjects, such as Psychology, Criminology and History at degree level. Therefore Sociology students tend to be attracted to professional areas such as journalism, social work, the criminal justice system, marketing and advertising, teaching and many other professional areas.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, students should have achieved grade 6 or better in GCSE English Language, and a minimum GCSE grade C in a Humanities subject or a GCSE Science subject as this demonstrates their ability to meet the demands of this Post 16 course.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mr B Slater (brett.slater@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

A LEVEL SPANISH

Qualification: GCE A LEVEL

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 2696

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 4 in Y12 and 5 in Y13

Why study this course?

Throughout the course of Spanish A Level, 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 learn the language in the context of Hispanic countries and issues and influences which have shaped them. Students will study texts and film and will have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice. The course focuses on how Spanish speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change. In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of Spanish speaking countries.

What support and enrichment will I get?

Small class sizes ensure that support is highly tailored to students' individual requirements. Access to subscription websites and online resources will be available to all students. A Y12/13 trip to Spain will be offered as well as opportunities to attend open language events at the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University.

What next?

Spanish as a language degree or a joint degree can open many opportunities in the future, it is a subject that combines well with any other course at University as part of a joint honours degree which will offer a year of study or work abroad. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or to further study, including a Modern Languages degree.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form, students should have studied GCSE Spanish at Key Stage 4, achieving a grade 6 or better.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Ms N Paz (natalia.paz@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).

BTEC SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE

Qualification: BTEC Level 3 Diploma/Extended Diploma

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Course Code: T5501

Number of Weekly Guided Learning Hours: 8 or 12 in Year 12 and 9 or 13 in Year 13

Why study this course?

This course is intended for anyone thinking about a career in sport and leisure. It enables students to gain a recognised vocational qualification that will equip them to enter employment or progress to higher qualifications. It allows students to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of sport while acquiring the qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life. The course can be completed at diploma (double) or extended diploma (triple) levels. Units covered include Sports and Exercise Physiology, Functional Anatomy, Field and Laboratory Based Fitness Testing and Coaching for Performance and Fitness.

What support and enrichment will I get?

Students are encouraged to participate in Post 16 Recreational Sport which takes place for 2 hours each week. In addition, the PE Department offers a number of school representative teams for students to play for. With our links with sports clubs in Nottinghamshire students have the opportunity to develop their skills in sports either through participation or leadership, for instance, Notts Athletics Club. They can gain additional sporting qualifications through our close relationship with the Gedling Sports Partnership. In order to support students with their coursework and revision members of staff are also available for more individualised tutorial help.

What next?

Universities and employers value the vocational skills that are developed throughout the study of the BTEC Sport and Exercise Science course. The BTEC course equips students for further education as well as going into employment areas such as sports coaching and leisure management. Sport is in the top fifteen industry sectors in England above motor vehicles, telecoms services, legal services, accounting and publishing.

What are the entry requirements?

To study this course, students should meet the standard entry requirements for the Sixth Form and have a good work ethic in order to meet the demands of a course assessed solely by coursework. If students studied the Level 2 BTEC Sport & Exercise Science course at Key Stage 4, they should have attained at least a Merit in order to move onto the Level 3 course.

Want more Information?

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Mr B Newson (brian.newson@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk).





Head Teacher - M Robertson
Head of 6th Form - K Callaway
Chair of Governors - A Pickin



Arnold Hill Academy Sixth Form
Gedling Road
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 6NZ

tel: 0115 955 4804

fax: 0115 955 4805

email: sixthform@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk

web: www.arnoldhillacademy.co.uk