BRITISH SCHOOL MUSCAT




KEY STAGE 5

# POST 16 OPTIONS

## EXAM YEAR **2029**

Growing learners who are best for the world



# Our Vision

A world class British education where everyone is valued, respected and inspired to learn

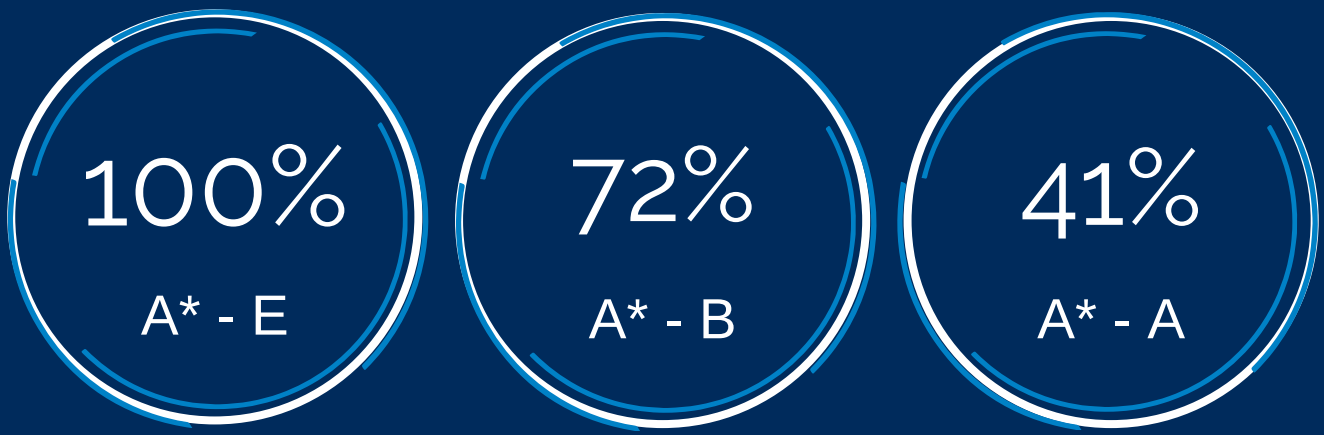
BRITISH SCHOOL
MUSCAT

Everyone Can

# STUDENT OUTCOMES

# A LEVEL & BTEC

## POST 16 RESULTS 2026




## VALUE ADDED PROGRESS +**0.85**

Our Post-16 students continue to achieve at an exceptional level, reflecting both outstanding academic attainment and impressive individual progress. In 2026, 100% of all grades were A–E*, with 72% A–B* and 41% A/A*, results that demonstrate the strength of our teaching and the dedication of our learners.

Yet at British School Muscat, success means more than examination grades. Guided by our values of Excellence, Kindness, Courage and Innovation, our students grow into confident, compassionate and ambitious young adults, ready to make a difference in the world and be best for the world.

Each year, our students secure places at leading universities across the globe - a testament to their hard work, curiosity and the world-class education they experience here at BSM.

# QUALIFICATIONS

BRITISH SCHOOL MUSCAT

## 2 year courses

All subjects are two year courses, many of these are now modular offering greater flexibility

## Subjects

19 subjects on offer, students choose 4 to specialise in. This typically reduces to 3 subjects by Year 13

## Form groups

Small form groups in Post 16, supporting University and career discussions

## Academic Skills/EPQ

All students in Year 12 are enrolled in our academic skills prrogramme. students can specialise into EPQ in Y13

# WELCOME



Welcome to Sixth Form at British School Muscat (BSM). We provide a stimulating and friendly environment in which students can continue their education and begin to specialise their further studies.

A breadth of choice is offered with a wide range of A Level and BTEC Level 3 courses available and a truly enviable programme of extracurricular opportunities. As a school, we have a fantastic record of helping students achieve high grades and gain entry into their first choice university.

We are able to boast excellent teaching, academic challenge and a Sixth Form team skilled in key areas such as University applications (including UCAS) and student attainment monitoring. We also offer supportive pastoral care and guidance to ensure that Sixth Form students make a smooth transition to adulthood; they have every opportunity to develop their potential to the full, and focus on skills which will enable them to become world class citizens.

The Sixth Form is very much a staging post between the directed learning of the GCSE years and the independent learning that will be undertaken at university. Within a context where appropriate direction is available, Sixth Formers can develop the attitudes, attributes and skills to enable them to learn on their own and to become high-performing learners.

It is absolutely essential for students in the Sixth Form to enjoy their academic work for its own sake, and they are encouraged to choose subjects that they enjoy. Sixth Form study provides a passport to university or the foundations for entry into the world of work. That passport will carry far greater weight if it is imprinted with a genuine desire to learn. Academic work will be the priority in the Sixth Form. However, we recognise that the world of work demands much more than a good set of qualifications.

The Sixth Form years allow the development and broadening of many other abilities besides the academic: the ability to work in a team; the ability to communicate in a variety of circumstances; the ability to network; the ability to lead others through leading extra-curricular activities or being part of our Student Impact Committees; the ability to have fun and enjoy life appropriately; the ability to accept responsibility and use it effectively. All of these are encouraged by our wide Enrichment Programme.

In today's rapidly changing world, creativity, flexibility, adaptability and resilience are essential characteristics of successful individuals. The Sixth Form at BSM fosters and values these qualities. Our aim is that those who leave our Sixth Form should be self-confident young people who will find fulfilment and happiness in their future lives. It is something that we remain passionate about.

We look forward to supporting you in the next stage of your education.

Zoe Atkinson - Goffe
Head of 6th Form
atkinsongoffez@britishschoolmuscat.com

# POST 16: INFORMATION

## Welcome to 6th form

As students move into BSM 6th form they will receive a welcome to 6th form letter which will details various aspects of life as a 6th form student. Alongside this guide, students and parents will be well informed around 6th form at BSM. However, should there remain any further queries, please do contact the senior office in the first instance.

## Choosing Options

Most students typically start with choosing four options in Year 12 to help keep their options and choices open as they begin to finalise decisions on University courses.

Universities in the UK only ever require three subjects and their conditional offers for entry into their courses are always three-grade offers.

However, occasionally, those taking four A Levels may receive a four-grade offer. The vast majority of students tend to drop their 4th subject during Year 12 to focus fully on the three subjects which support their University choice.

Students often find great value in studying four subjects due to the greater academic enrichment and diversity of study. However, this should not come at the expense of high quality achievement and a student's focus on their long term goals

## Students and parents **please note**

Whilst we endeavour to ensure all students can study their preferred choices, this may not always be possible due to option block combinations or entry requirements.

Where there is limited demand British School Muscat may collapse groups in the same subject or withdraw the offer of the subject.

Parents and students are advised to have reserve subjects considered, should initial preferences not be available.

## Changing options

Students and parents have two opportunities to confirm option choices.

These typically occur in November and February of Year 11. If GCSE/BTEC grades attained in Summer qualifications necessitate a change of options, this will be discussed with parents and students prior to the commencement of Year 12 studies.

The deadline for any option swaps is September 30th.

## Exam leave

Students are entitled to the day before and the day of any formal external examinations.

Students are not entitled to exam leave arrangements for any internal assessments. Students are expected in lessons to support preparation for any internal assessments.

## Predicted grades/UCAS

British School Muscat guidelines for predicted grades is crafted in line with those issued by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

A predicted grade will be constructed and awarded which reflects an honest judgement as to what the student can realistically achieve. This holistic approach considers a range of factors including evidence based data points, professional expertise and judgements.

Predicted grades will not be awarded or adjusted based on student desires, promises or requests.

Early entry/early requests must be made in writing to the Head of 6th form

# STUDENT DESTINATIONS



## Every option can lead to somewhere amazing

Upon completion of their studies at Post 16, British School Muscat students went on to study at Universities around the world.

In a few years, you will be one of these students…but where!
EveryoneCan

# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & DESTINATIONS

BRITISH SCHOOL MUSCAT









## Entry requirements for BSM 6th form

5 GCSE/BTEC subjects grades 9-4 or A* to C.
These subjects must include GCSE Grade 4 (or above) or C (or above) in English Language and Mathematics. Each Post-16 subject has its own minimum entry requirement for that subject course.

## Progression from Year 12 to Year 13

Students are expected to pass Year 12 with at least grade D (or the equivalent in internal examinations) before continuing onto the Year 13 course.
Students who achieve E or U grades will not be permitted to continue with that subject in Year 13. Students who do not meet the entry requirements into Year 13 will be given guidance by the Sixth Form team about a change of pathway. If students do not meet the minimum entry requirements, they will not be able to progress into Year 13; students may be offered to re-sit Year 12 provided there are places available.

## Academic skills & Core PE

All Year 12 students will undertake the Academic Skills programme and core PE within their weekly timetable. This Academic skills course endeavours to build skills of effective planning, research, problem-solving, as well as organisation and time-management. Upon moving into Year 13, students can continue this programme and complete the EPQ qualification alongside their Post-16 subjects of study

## University destinations

BSM students have gone on to study courses at a variety of universities globally. Representatives from world class universities, including the UK's Russell Group, visit BSM regularly and we host a number of University Fairs for our senior students throughout the academic year.

**Recent University destinations for BSM students:**

- Arizona State University, University of Bath, Boston University
- University of Cambridge, Constructor University, Durham University
- Eindhoven University of Technology, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Imperial College London, University of Leicester, University of Liverpool
- Loughborough University, University of Manchester, Monash University
- University of Nottingham, University of Oxford, Özyeğin University
- Queen's University, Belfast
- RCSI (Bahrain), University of Sheffield, Stanford University
- University of Toronto, UMCH, University College London
- University of Warwick, University of Waterloo, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- University of York

# OPTIONS

## Key Stage 5/Post 16 **Option** Considerations

**Choosing the right combination of subjects for your post-16 course can appear, at first, quite challenging.**

These notes will help, but it is important that parents and teachers are also involved in the process. Further information can be obtained from the Head of Sixth Form, Heads of Departments, subject staff, the Deputy Head teachers and last but not least, by talking to our present Sixth Formers who are already taking the subjects.

Some UK University degrees can be taken without studying any particular A Level subject. However, if you are thinking of studying a course at university that is commonly available at post-16, it is usual to take that course as one of your subjects. If you have a particular degree course in mind, and are planning on applying to universities in the UK, we would strongly recommend that you check university entry requirements at http://www.ucas.co.uk

Competition for many courses is high. Consequently, students should ensure that they are choosing the right subject for their interests, which enables them to achieve their best possible grade.

**The following questions may support in making your choices:**

- What do I enjoy and would like to continue studying further?
- What are the requirements of the course I might like to study at University?
- Have I chosen subjects that will keep my options open and offer flexibility when applying to University?
- Am I capable of being successful in this subject - can I meet the entry criteria?

It is recommended that 4 subjects are chosen. Often students will start with four choices in Year 12 and reduce this to 3 subjects prior to Year 13, there is no disadvantage to this approach.

The choice of subjects should be made on the basis of ability and interest in the subject alongside meeting entry requirements. We stress again that interest is key; the depth of study and required focus for those subject will require a student's enthusiasm and commitment to their chosen subjects.

**The following questions are always worth considering:**

- Does this subject help support me and to qualify for my likely path?
- If I am not sure what I would like to do in the future, have I chosen subjects that will keep my options open?
- Am I capable of being successful in this subject?
- Am I really interested in studying this subject?

It is good practice to hold a **reserve subject. This will be a backup option subject should a course not run/there is a clash in option blocks or if a chosen course is oversubscribed.**

# OPTIONS: INFORMATION

## Pathways and choices

Students can design their choices to suit their aspirations and broaden their horizons, ensuring they are best for the world. In this respect the following pathways are all viable options to be considered.

## Guidance on Choosing Options

Typically at this stage it is common for students to fall into two clear categories

- Those who are unsure on what they wish to study and where they wish to take their studies
- Those who are clear on what they wish to study and why

Every student is unique and every ambition is personal to them. The advice we offer is designed to support the process of making choices for Options to study at Post 16 and beyond.

Form tutors, teachers, heads of department and senior leaders are all on hand to help answer any questions.

## Students and parents **please note**

While every effort will be made to meet students' choices, it may not be possible to provide every combination requested. We also reserve the right to not offer a course if there is insufficient demand for it.

If either of these scenarios occur, parents and students will be advised and offered appropriate advice and guidance.

When making option choices, please follow the deadlines for submission. Students who miss deadlines may not be able to receive their preferred choices.

## What if my results are not as expected? **please note**

Student subjects are confirmed following Summer results. Where students have not met the entry criteria the 6th form team will endeavour to make an offer of subjects to study - however, this may be different to the original subject choices made.

## Timeline of events

A more comprehensive timeline can be found in the letter sent to parents in October. The key highlights to be aware of include

- Options Evening: 11 November 2026
- Options Form: 12 November 2026
- Options Deadline One: 03 December 2026

- Options Deadline Two: 11 February 2027
- Summer results: August 2027
- Key Stage 5 begins: August 2027

At BSM we know how important it is to talk with people to make an informed choice. With Options evening, parent engagement days and parents evenings, you can rest assured advice and support is available throughout the whole process.

If you wish to make an inquiry, please contact our Senior School Office on senioroffice@britishschoolmuscat.com for help.

## Options Booklet

The options booklet will provide students and parents with more information around choosing options and the option courses available. Please be aware some subjects may/may not run and this will change year on year according to student demand.

## Unifrog

Each student of Year 11 will have access to Unifrog, an online tool designed to assist students in researching careers and courses.

Students will be introduced to this in September and provided with associated login details at this time.

## Future Planning

All students in Year 11 receive an consultation meet with a member fo SLT or the 6th form prior to the second round of option choices

To help all parties The Russell group of Universities have produced an interactive guide to choosing subjects for study at degree level. This can be found at www.informedchoices.ac.uk.

# Key Stage 5

Year 12 & 13

## A Level & BTEC
## Subject Information

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# FINE ART

*"Art allows me to push the boundaries of creativity, I never stop exploring new and original visual ideas."*



## Exam Board: Pearson

## Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or above at GCSE Art (5 accepted under exceptional circumstances) including evidence of a portfolio of work.

## Brief overview

Personal Investigation: Practical work provides opportunities for students to pursue their own creative, visual ideas in a chosen area of art, craft and design.

Work for the Personal Study requires students to produce an illustrated dissertation on a selected aspect of others' art, craft and design. Students are required to research, evaluate, analyse and establish coherent and sustainable links between their own practical work with that of historical and contemporary references.

Students will receive the set paper for the Externally Set Assignment in January of Year 13.

Submissions must include:

- All preparatory work, including sketchbook(s)
- Unaided work produced under examination conditions in a period of 15 hours

*Photography A Level can be taken alongside Art A Level if students wish to and have the motivation to do so.*

## What will I study?

The Visual Elements: Including line, tone, colour, shape, pattern, texture, form and structure. Students develop these skills, experimenting with a wide range of media and methods. Students learn how to transform materials in order to reflect their different qualities of personally chosen subject matter. Students are expected to show evidence for an ongoing critical and analytical review of their progress.

Practical Work provides opportunities for students to pursue their own creative, visual ideas in their own chosen area of art, craft and design.
All of the above will be supported through a range of specific tasks relating to art in a historical, social, cultural or political context.

Personal Portfolio unit 2: Completed in term 1 of year 11, this project is based on natural forms which students investigate in a personally chosen direction, selecting media and techniques of their choice

## How can I support my learning

Draw what you see, draw from your imagination. Be inspired by artists online, in books, galleries or museums. Follow your favourite artists or designers on social media. Download some art apps or programmes and use them to doodle on your photos and to create new images.
Be patient and enjoy the process from concept to realisation.

# BIOLOGY

*"Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution."*
*Theodosius Dobzhansky*



## Exam board: Pearson
Homework Expectations: at least 5 hours of homework/independent study per fortnight.

## Entry Requirements
Grade 7 equivalent in GCSE/IGCSE Biology from Combined or Separate Science and a good grade in English Language.

## Brief overview
This course will develop the knowledge and understanding of key biological principles so that students will satisfy their innate curiosity about the structure and function of living organisms, and have the skills to analyse and interpret data that is required to pursue a career linked to Biology.

Mathematical skills will be used throughout the course and 16 core practical activities will be carried out to develop the ability to solve a range of problems in a variety of different contexts.

This is a modular course, with each AS (Year 12) and A2 (Year 13) module contributing towards the overall A Level grade. Most modules will be assessed during the summer examination period; however, Unit 1 will be taken in the January examination period of Year 12, and Unit 4 will be taken in the January examination period of Year 13.

## What will I study?
**AS Biology**

- Unit 1: Molecules, Diet, Transport & Health
- Unit 2: Cells, Development, Biodiversity & Conservation
- Unit 3 Practical Skills in Biology I

**A Level Biology**

- Unit 4: Energy, Environment, Microbiology and Immunity
- Unit 5: Respiration, Internal Environment, Coordination and Gene Technology
- Unit 6: Practical Skills in Biology II

## How can I support my learning?

- Be proactive in seeking help from other students and your teachers
- Use the Cornell method to take notes at home about what you have learned in the classroom
- Deliberate & focused practice until you can't get something wrong

## Online support

- The Student Room (Biology)
- Seneca Learning,
- CramNow Biology,
- Physics & Maths Tutor (Biology page),
- A Level Tutor House,
- GetRevising

# BUSINESS

*"Business opportunities are like buses, there's always another one coming."– Richard Branson*



## Exam Board: Pearson

Homework Expectations: minimum of 4 hours of homework/independent work per week

## Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade B in iGCSE English. Cannot be chosen alongside Economics. Students must choose either Business or Economics.

## Brief overview

The International A Level (IAL) Business course offers students a rigorous and globally relevant introduction to how businesses operate and make decisions in dynamic environments.

The course is divided into four units: students study Units 1 and 2 in Year 12 (IAS), and Units 3 and 4 in Year 13 (IA2). Across these units, students explore everything from marketing and people management to strategic planning and globalisation. The curriculum provides opportunities to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world business contexts, develop critical thinking skills, and understand multiple stakeholder perspectives.

Students gain a solid foundation in business decision-making, financial analysis, marketing, organisational behaviour, and international trade, preparing them for further study or a career in business-related fields.

## What will I study?

In the IAL Business program, students will study a broad range of topics to understand how businesses operate in both local and global contexts. Unit 1 introduces the fundamentals of marketing, customer needs, and people management, including the roles of entrepreneurs and business leaders. Unit 2 focuses on finance and operations, covering topics such as financial planning, resource management, and the impact of external factors on business activity. Units 1 and 2 are assessed through two 2-hour exams, leading to the IAS qualification.

In Unit 3, students move toward strategic thinking, analysing business objectives, growth strategies, decision-making techniques, and assessing competitiveness. Unit 4 expands this understanding to a global scale, exploring international markets, global marketing strategies, and the ethical responsibilities of multinational corporations. Units 3 and 4 are assessed through two 2-hour exams, contributing to the full International A-Level (IA2) qualification.

## How can I support my learning?

- Take a proactive approach to learning. Seek support from online resources, your peers and your teachers
- Read around the subject to develop wider knowledge of Business in the real world using your free Financial Times account FT for schools

# CHEMISTRY

*"Chemistry is necessarily an experimental science: its conclusions are drawn from data and its principles supported by evidence from facts." — Michael Faraday*



## Exam board: Pearson
Homework Expectations: at least 5 hours of homework/independent study per fortnight.

## Entry Requirements
Grade 7 equivalent in GCSE/IGCSE Chemistry from Combined or Separate Science.

## Brief overview
This course will develop students knowledge and understanding of key chemistry principles which will enable them to analyse, interpret and evaluate a range of scientific information, ideas and evidence using their knowledge and understanding covered in this course.

Mathematical skills will be used throughout the course and 16 core practical activities will be carried out to develop the ability to solve a range of problems in a variety of different contexts.

This is a modular course, with each AS (Year 12) and A2 (Year 13) module contributing towards the overall A Level grade. Most modules will be assessed during the summer examination period; however, Unit 1 will be taken in the January examination period of Year 12, and Unit 4 will be taken in the January examination period of Year 13

## What will I learn?
**AS Chemistry**
- Unit 1: Structure, Bonding and Introduction to Organic Chemistry
- Unit 2: Energetics, Group Chemistry, Halogenoalkanes and Alcohols
- Unit 3 Practical Skills in Chemistry I

**A Level Chemistry**
- Unit 4: Rates, Equilibria and Further Organic Chemistry
- Unit 5: Transition Metals and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry
- Unit 6: Practical Skills in Chemistry II

## How can I support my learning?
- Be proactive in seeking help from other students and your teachers
- Use the Cornell method to take notes at home about what you have learned in the classroom
- Deliberate & focused practice until you can't get something wrong

Websites:
- Seneca Learning,
- Physics & Maths Tutor,
- Chemguide,
- MaChemGuy,
- AlleryTutors,
- Knockhardy,
- Dr. Beattie's Chemistry,
- A Level Chemistry,
- Royal Society of Chemistry
- Miss Natalie Chemistry

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

*"Everybody in this country should learn to program a computer, because it teaches you how to think." — Steve Jobs*



## Exam board: CAIE
Homework Expectations: 5-6 hours per fortnight.

## Entry Requirements
7 in Maths or 7 in GCSE Computer Science or other GCSE-level Computing specification or exceptional circumstances.

## Brief overview
Computing at Key Stage 5 focuses on the fundamentals of a range of Computer Science topics, giving students the foundation needed for further study at university.

Schemes of Work are designed to develop a personalised learning style for our students, who are encouraged to interact with resources in a way that reflects their learning style. Pre-reading is encouraged with materials shared with students before each unit. The six main units covered at KS3/KS4 are expanded, with the introduction of new topics on Databases, Artificial intelligence and Advanced programming

Study and Assessment Plan:
The Computer Science qualification is a MODULAR course which can give students a distinct advantage.

- Study AS Computer Science and sit 2 exams at the end of Year 12. 'Bank' the AS grades, then:
- Study A2 Computer Science and sit 2 exams at the end of Year 13, the results of which are added to the 'Banked' AS grades to result in a full A Level.

## What will I study?
The course is broken down into the following topics in Year 12:

1. Information Representation
2. Communication
3. Hardware
4. Processor Fundamentals
5. System Software
6. Security and data integration
7. Ethics and ownership
8. Databases
9. Algorithm Design and Problem-Solving
10. Data Types and structures
11. Programming
12. Software Development

The A Level is assessed through:
Y12
- Paper 1 (Written) - 1.5hrs (25%)
- Paper 2 (Written) - 2.0hrs (25%)

Y13
- Paper 3 (Written) - 1.5hrs (25%)
- Paper 4 (Practical) - 2.5hrs (25%)

## How can I support my learning
On the Google Classroom students will find various links to supporting websites which can help support their learning, such as specialist video tutorials and interactive lessons that students can use to work independently and further their knowledge. Each unit of study also has a learning resources area which they can drop into at any time with additional activities, notes, videos and questions.

# CREATIVE MEDIA BTEC LV3

*"He who controls the media controls the minds of the public"*
*Noam Chomsky*




## Exam Board: Pearson (BTEC)
Homework Expectations: 8 hours per fortnight.

## Entry Requirements
Merit in Level 2 Creative Media or through discussion with Head of Department

## Brief overview

Equivalent to an A Level (UCAS) Level 3 Creative Media will equip you with the communication and technology skills needed to succeed in the modern workplace, whether in the media industry or not.

Whether you choose to pursue a career in media, film or communications, fight for your own fame, or take your skills into business – you'll be well equipped for what the modern workplace is looking for.

From television to cinema, radio to podcasts, social media to blogs and vlogs, and everything in between – Creative Media plays a big part of our every day. And it's never been so relevant than in the internet age, where actors, singers, influencers, vloggers and personalities can make their own celebrity online using their media skills.

As technology, creativity, and competition increases, these skills become more in demand all over the world.

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## What will I study?
**Informing ideas**: investigation/critical analysis skills used to interpret briefs, develop ideas, inform plans for progression.
**Problem Solving**: confident application of new concept generation, experimentation, testing and review used to make considered choices.
**Technical Skill**: application of media, materials, techniques and processes. Filming using professional equipment including greenscreen & teleprompter. Editing using Photoshop, Premiere Pro and After effects. Desktop publishing using InDesign and Illustrator.
**Professional Practice:** understanding and application of professional practice skills, behaviours and approaches.
**Communication:** Fluent, concise and imaginative communication of meaning, purpose and function of work in relation to intentions and audience.

## Assessment
**Unit A1: Exploring and Developing Media Skills**
**Review** - An exploration of styles and formats of film reviews with emphasis on The Criterion Collection.
**Pitch** - Compose and deliver a pitch for a new horror movie to a specific audience demographic.
**Production** - Devise, plan, film and edit a horror trailer developing the ideas from the pitch.
**Photography:** assignment considering the concept of 'Journeys'.
**Marketing** - Research into film magazines and how they are used to market movies to a range of different audiences. Using the photography skills, produce a magazine article for the horror trailer.

**Unit A2: Working to a brief**
A short unit working through a media industry brief from concept and planning through to production, choosing a media platform of your choice.

# DT - PRODUCT DESIGN

*"Design and Technology gave me the skills to excel on my Engineering degree course"*



## Exam board: Pearson
Homework Expectations: up to 6 hours per fortnight.

## Entry Requirements
6 in GCSE Mathematics and 6 in DT (5 under exceptional circumstances).

## Brief overview
This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries.

They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning into practice by producing prototypes of their choice.

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.

The A Level is 50% external exam and 50% project work. Students choose their own context and client and ultimately their project. Students will sit 1 exam at the end of Year 13 which is 2 hours 30 mins long.

A Level Product Design is a natural progression from Design & Technology at GCSE.

## What will I study?

Students will gain knowledge and apply the theory learnt to small focused tasks designed to prepare them for both the examinations and Non Exam Assessment. There is a large amount of materials theory, selection of materials, manufacturing processes and understanding new and emerging technologies. Also included in the course is health and safety, and legislation around products. Students will start their final Non Exam Assessment after the winter break in Year 12.

## How can I support my learning?

To make progress in A Level Product Design you must be aware of the world around you. You should always look at the built environment and ask yourself "Why was this material used and how was this form created"?

You must always look at and use products with a critical eye and ask yourself how this product could be improved. There are many websites that you could use to support your learning including:-
www.focuselearning.co.uk
Design & Technology Site

You should also follow some channels on YouTube which will support your learning, examples include:- Product Design Maker & Product Design Online.

# ECONOMICS

*"The purpose of studying economics is not to acquire a set of ready made answers to economic questions, but to learn how to avoid being deceived by economists."*
*Joan Robinson*




## Exam board: Pearson

Homework Expectations: a minimum of 6 hours of homework/independent work per fortnight.

## Entry Requirements

6 in GCSE Mathematics and B in English iGCSE. Cannot be chosen alongside Business A Level. Students choose **either** Business **or** Economics - not both.

## Brief overview

Embark on an exciting journey with our Economics International A-Level course, where you'll gain a balanced understanding of both microeconomics and macroeconomics. Through an engaging thematic approach, you'll deepen your knowledge and enrich your perspective on real-world economic scenarios.

Learn to use economic models to analyse global markets, interpret data, and evaluate government policies. This comprehensive exposure prepares you for nuanced discussions and critical analyses, attuned to diverse economic perspectives.

The course's modular structure offers a strategic advantage. In Year 12, you can undertake iAS Economics and complete two exams, securing your iAS grades. In Year 13, you advance to A2 Economics, and after two more exams, your scores are combined with your AS grades to award a full International A-Level in Economics. This approach provides flexibility and a clear, structured progression.

## What will I study?

The course is broken down into the following topics, units 1 & 2 are studied in Year 12 and units 3 & 4 in Year 13:

In the IAL Economics program, students will study four units. Unit 1 covers fundamental economic concepts, supply-demand dynamics, market failures, and government market interventions. Unit 2 delves into economic performance metrics, national income, and macroeconomic policies.

Unit 1 and 2 will be assessed with two 1 hour 45 minutes assessment leading to IAS.

In Unit 3, students explore business types, revenue metrics, market structures, and government's role in business. Lastly, Unit 4 offers insights into globalisation, trade dynamics, exchange rates, global inequality, and economic growth across different economies.

Unit 3 and 4 are assessed with two 2 hours assessment leading to IA2.

## How can I support my learning?

Take a proactive approach to learning. Seek support from online resources, your peers and your teachers
Keep notes up to date and regularly practice exam technique
Read around the subject to develop wider knowledge of Economics in the real world using your free Financial Times account FT for schools

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

*The study of English Literature trains the brain and frees the imagination; it is about life and living and just where you fit into the world around you*




## Exam board: Pearson

Homework Expectations: up to 4 hours per fortnight.

## Entry Requirements

B at iGCSE in World Literature, B at iGCSE in First Language English.

## Brief overview

In an ever-evolving world, English Literature offers fascinating insights into diverse human experiences, cultures, places near and far, and the complexities of human psychology. Studying literature allows students to immerse themselves in imaginative worlds, critically analyse writers' methods and intentions, and deepen their understanding of the social and historical contexts in which texts are written and received.

The course provides students with opportunities to develop their interest in and enjoyment of literary studies, while acquiring transferable skills that will help them become informed, thoughtful and empathetic members of society. Literature not only offers escapism but also scrutinises perspectives, politics and ideologies, broadens general knowledge and encourages disciplined writing and communication skills through research and academic writing.

By embracing this challenge and exploring the humanity at the heart of literature, students gain a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

## What will I study?

Year 12: students will undertake an in-depth study of two drama texts for Component 1 ('A Streetcar Named Desire' and 'Othello') and two prose texts for Component 2 ('Frankenstein' and 'The Handmaid's Tale').

Year 13: For Component 3, students will study a range of pre-20th-century poetry (Christina Rossetti's work) and modern poetry ('Poems of the Decade' anthology), in addition to working on their Component 4 NEA coursework on a thesis and set of two texts of their choice.

## How can I support my learning?

To excel in English Literature, students will need to immerse themselves in reading both the prescribed texts and supplementary material. Mastery of a range of linguistic, structural and literary terminology is essential.

Students are encouraged to:

- read materials from prestigious literary prizes, such as the Man Booker Prize
- regularly engage with broadsheet news websites.
- participate in online literary events, such as the Guardian Hay Festival or the BBC Proms Literary Festival.

Cultivating an enriched reading repertoire is fundamental to achieving success in A Level English Literature.

# FRENCH

*"A different language is a different vision of life" - Federico Fellini*



## Exam board: Pearson

## Entry Requirements
6 and above at GCSE French

## Why should I choose French:

This course is designed to inspire students, enabling them to use the French Language independently. The course encourages a deeper understanding of the language and culture, whilst catering to a wide range of interests. A French language qualification will support those who wish to study abroad, wish to enhance their career prospects or are passionate about travel.

The flexible modular structure comprises of four units. Unit 1 and 2, can be taken as an International AS (IAS) at the end of Year 12. This contributes up to 50% of the total International Advanced Level (IAL) marks. Students can then opt to continue in Year 13, completing units 3 and 4. This qualification is recognized by French universities, achieving a level B2 will open doors for those that may wish to study in a French speaking country.

## Brief overview
The course takes an in depth look at the following topics. Students are able to compare and contrast, these with their own lives reaching a better understanding of the world.

- Youth matters
- Lifestyle, health and fitness
- Environment and travel
- Education and employment
- Technology in the French-speaking world
- Society in the French-speaking world
- Ethics in the French-speaking world

## What will I study?

Students will be expected to prepare a presentation and debate, on a topic of their own interest. By the end of the course, students show expertise in their chosen field. Students will also have the opportunity to study a film and literary text. Subject to student interest, students will be given the opportunity to visit a French-speaking country to contextualise their learning.
As this is a modular course, the breakdown for the IAS and IA2 differ:

| | IAS | IAL |
|---|---|---|
| **Unit 1: Spoken expression and response** | **30%** | **15%** |
| **Unit 2: Understanding and written response** | **70%** | **35%** |
| **Unit 3: Understanding and written response** | **30%** | **15%** |
| **Unit 4: Research, understanding and written response** | **70%** | **35%** |

## How can I support my learning?
To make progress in French, please immerse yourself in the culture, traditions and language by watching French TV and film. Ensure you read the news daily. Subscribe to French podcasts and follow French speaking activists on Twitter or Instagram. If you ever have the opportunity visit a French speaking country, this will help you put it into context.

# GEOGRAPHY

*" Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future."*
*Michael Palin*



## Exam board: CAIE

## Entry Requirements
Geography GCSE Grade B (or C under exceptional circumstances).

## Brief overview
Geography at AS and A Level encourages students to acquire, and apply knowledge and understanding of the physical and human environments, and the way that they interact. Students develop an appreciation of how places, environments and issues change, and how people respond to these changes. Geography combines both science and humanities whilst also developing a range of transferable skills. As such, Geography is highly regarded by the leading universities as a facilitating subject that is looked on favourably alongside the Sciences and Mathematics A Levels. With university courses and diverse career pathways in mind, Geography is considered a wise choice as one of the core three, or as a fourth A Level choice.

## Study and Assessment Plan:
Geography is a modular course, therefore students can

Study AS Geography and sit 2 x 90 min exams at the end of Year 12. 'Bank' the AS grade*.

Then study A2 Geography and sit 2 x 90 min exams at the end of Year 13, the results of which are added to the 'Banked' AS grades to result in a full A Level.

## What will I study?
Geography is a MODULAR course

**AS Geography**

**Unit 1:**
**Physical Geography**
Hydrology, river processes and hazards
Atmospheric processes and global climate change
Earth processes and mass movement**s**

**Unit 2:**
**Human Geography**
Population and migration
Water resources and management
Urban areas and management

**A2 Geography**

**Unit 3:**
**Global Environments**
Coastal Environments
Arid Environments

**Unit 4:**
**Global Themes**
Trade, Aid and Tourism
Environmental Issue or Climate Change (See department for more information).

# HISTORY

*"History is not a burden on the memory, but an illumination of the soul"*
*John Dalberg-Acton*




## Exam board: Pearson

Homework Expectations: at least 4 hours of homework/independent study per fortnight.

## Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in History GCSE to be accepted onto the course. Under exceptional circumstances a student who has not previously studied History; then a Grade 7 or equivalent in both World Literature & English FLE. The Head of Department will review case by case should any student not meet the above entry criteria.

## Brief overview

We study a combination of International Edexcel papers. You will sit four exams. These exams are modular. The first module exam will take place in January of Y12. You will have the opportunity to resit previous modules in the June of Y12 and the January of Y13.

We are conscious of our international heritage, and thus our International A Level focuses on a broad range of histories - Russia, China, Cold War in Asia and African American Civil Rights. We study a variety of themes, from political movements, revolution, economics, society and international relations.

Students who wish to study new disciplines such as Classics, Politics, Economics, International Relations, PPE or Law at university will find History A level a great stepping stone in helping prepare them for Higher Education. Students who are likely to enjoy History often display intellectual curiosity, are willing to read around the subject and able to make links between the past and current affairs.

## What will I study?

**Year 12**

- The collapse of Qing China and the rise of Mao's (China) 25%.
- The collapse of the Tsar Regime and the rise of the Bolsheviks (Russia) 25%.

**Year 13:**

- The Cold War in Asia 25%
- African American Civil Rights Movement 25%

## How can I support my learning?

- Be proactive in seeking help from other students and your teachers
- Read, watch, and listen around the subject. We regularly share recommendations of books, podcasts and documentaries
- Familiarise yourself with the demands of each exam question, and create essay plans around the key topics.

# MATHEMATICS (REGULAR)

*"Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas."*
*Albert Einstein*




## Exam board: Pearson

## Entry Requirements

At least Grade 7 for GCSE Mathematics to be accepted onto the Regular Mathematics course (RM).

## Brief overview

At BSM, the the Regular Mathematics (RM) stream covers the International A Level syllabus in 9 periods per fortnight.

Edexcel is our examination board and they offer AS Level examinations (three papers) and A Level examinations (six papers). The qualification is awarded purely via examinations. The examination for each unit is 90 minutes and contains 75 marks.

For Mathematics, it is possible to gain an AS Level qualification at the end of Year 12. This is particularly useful for students who do not require an A Level Mathematics qualification for their university course, or for students who may be leaving BSM at the end of Year 12.

## What will I study?

Covering a combination of pure mathematics, statistics and mechanics, the flexible modular course allows students to demonstrate their learning in examinations that are spread out over the two-year course, unlike a linear structure where all examinations are taken at the end of a two-year course. The results from each module examination provide formal feedback on progress and attainment throughout the course.

**AS Mathematics**
P1 - Pure Mathematics 1
P2 - Pure Mathematics 2
S1 - Statistics 1

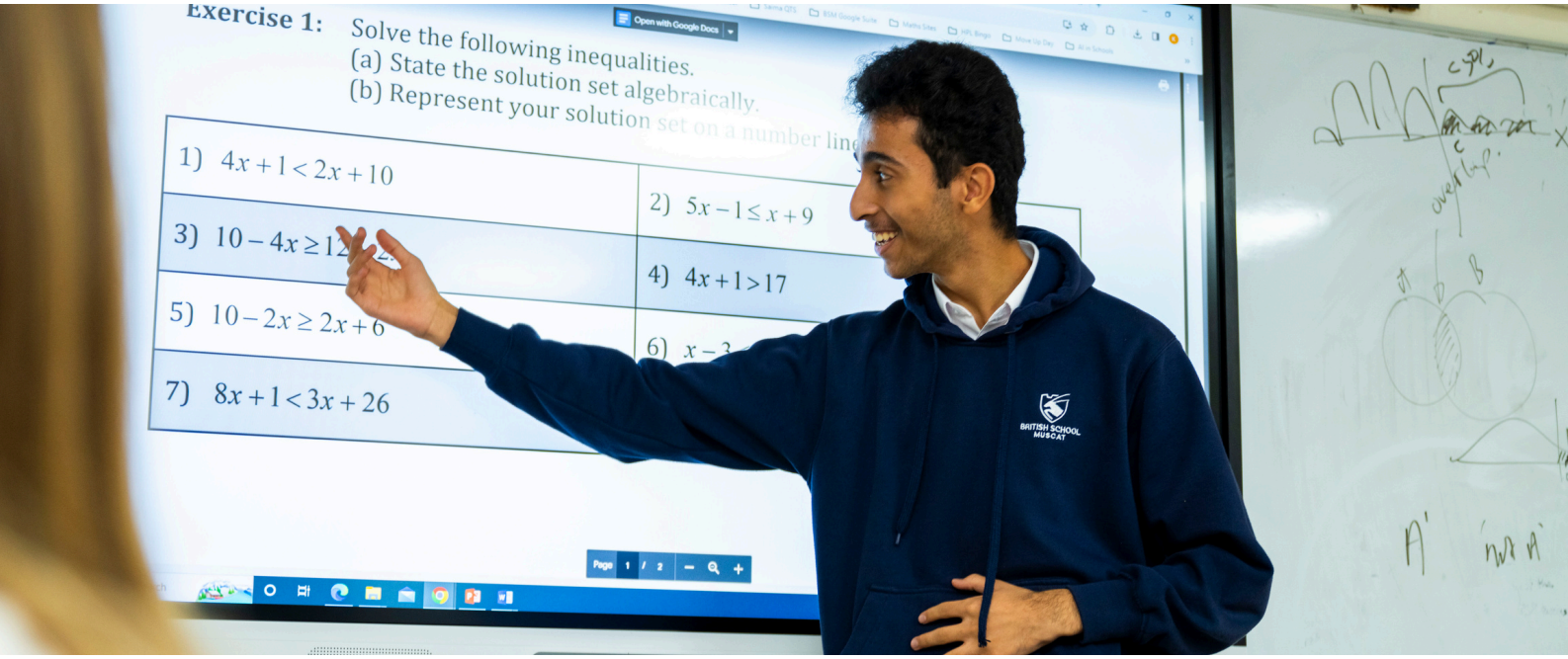
**A Level Mathematics (taken in addition to the 3 AS modules listed)**
P3 - Pure Mathematics 3
P4 - Pure Mathematics 4
M1 - Mechanics 1

## How can I support my learning?

Being able to study Mathematics independently is the most important skill to master during your time in Sixth Form. The textbooks we use are full of examination-standard questions and will support you to take charge of your own learning. It is also crucial that you do not allow yourself to fall behind with your work as it is extremely difficult to catch up due to the high pace and demanding level of the course.

# MATHEMATICS (FURTHER)

*"The more I study mathematics, the more I am drawn to its beauty."*
*— Archimedes*




## Exam board: Pearson

## Entry Requirements

Grade 8 or 9 and have been in the Accelerated Mathematics stream.

## Brief overview

Students studying Further Mathematics will first complete their study of the A Level Mathematics course at the end of Year 12. Only students in the Accelerated Maths (AM) stream are eligible for Further Mathematics in Year 13.

Moving into Year 13, students in the Accelerated Mathematics (AM) stream undertake and complete their study of the Further Mathematics syllabus. The qualification is awarded purely via examinations. The examinations for each unit are 90 minutes and each contain 75 marks.

Opting for Further Mathematics in Year 13 means students will gain an additional AS or A Level qualification. Further Mathematics is delivered at a high pace and as an additional option. It is extremely demanding and only recommended for our highest performing students who are willing to undertake a substantial quantity of independent study. In some cases, students may opt to only pursue an AS in Further Mathematics, as opposed to a full A Level.

*NB students Please just choose Further Maths in Options, not Regular and Further Maths

## What will I study?

There are very few university subjects where Further Mathematics is an entry requirement. However, for some courses, it may be required or advantageous for students to have a Further Mathematics qualification, such as some Mathematics, Engineering or Computer Science courses.

**AS Further Mathematics**
FP1 - Further Pure Mathematics
S2 - Statistics 2
M2 - Mechanics 2

**A Level Further Mathematics (taken in addition to 3 AS modules listed)**
FP2 - Further Pure Mathematics 2
D1 - Decision Mathematics 1
S3 or M3 - Statistics 3 or Mechanics 3

Students will have the opportunity to showcase their skills in a variety of events at BSM throughout the two year course.

## How can I support my learning?

In this course, the highest level of independent study is expected from you: be determined, proactive, and above all critical about your own learning. The websites we use will support you to take charge of your own learning. It is also crucial that you do not allow yourself to fall behind with your work as it is extremely difficult to catch up due to the high pace of the course.

# MUSIC BTEC LV3

*"To play a wrong note is insignificant; to play without passion is inexcusable." — Beethoven*




## Exam board: Pearson (BTEC)
Homework Expectations: 8 hours per fortnight.

## Entry Requirements
The principal requirement is enthusiasm and a love of Music. Applicants will be considered on their own merits and can begin a new instrument/voice on commencement of the course.

## Brief overview
The Arts industry is one of the biggest in the UK and continues to grow. Employment prospects are extremely good for graduates and Music is widely accepted by all universities and employers as an academic subject. Careers and further study are not restricted to the Arts however. In addition to students who've gone on to study Music, recent BTEC music students at BSM have gone to study forensic science, food technology, engineering and English.

This course:

- Prepares young people for careers in the Music, Arts and other industries
- Presents students with knowledge that could lead to higher learning in all fields, but especially in the fields of Music, the Arts, Media or teaching
- Presents students with opportunities to develop their own skills and creative interests
- Develops highly desirable interpersonal skills

Broadens students horizons and develops understanding of Music and the Arts and their place in society.

## What will I study?

Learners taking this qualification will study from four mandatory learning and teaching modules:

- Music Skills Development or Music Production Skills Development
- The Global Music Industry
- Personal Music Profile
- Collaborative Music Project

The mandatory content allows learners to concentrate on either the development of their musical performance or production skills and creation techniques and relate them to the music industry.

## How will I be assessed?

This qualification is modular, therefore there are ongoing assessments in which students must meet deadlines. Assessment is internal and verified externally. Assessment is continuous and based on practical music making done in class.

There are no examination papers sat by candidates at the end of the course. Candidates must succeed in all modules to pass.

# PHYSICS

*Less than 5% of the universe that we observe is made up of matter. The rest is dark matter and dark energy and is only just now starting to be studied and understood*



## Exam board: Pearson

Homework Expectations: at least 5 hours of homework/independent study per fortnight.

## Entry Requirements

Grade 7 equivalent in GCSE/iGCSE Physics from Combined or Separate Science. A strong grade in Mathematics is also required.

## Brief overview

This course will develop the knowledge and understanding of key Physics principles so that students will satisfy their innate curiosity about how the universe works and have a deep appreciation of the skills and scientific methods required to pursue a career linked to Physics.

Mathematical skills will be used throughout the course and 16 core practical activities will be carried out to develop the ability to solve a range of problems in a variety of different contexts.

This is a modular course with each AS and Year 13 module contributing towards the overall A Level grade. All modules will be taken in the summer examination period of that academic year with the exception of Unit 1 which will be taken in the January examination period of Year 12.

## What will I study?

**AS Physics**
1 - Mechanics and Materials
2 - Waves and Electricity
3 - Practical skills in Physics 1

**A Level Physics**
4 - Further Mechanics, Fields & Particles
5 - Thermodynamics, Radiation, Oscillations and Cosmology
6 - Practical skills in Physics 2

## How can I support my learning?

- Be proactive in seeking help from other students and your teachers
- Use the Cornell method to take notes at home about what you have learned in the classroom
- Deliberate & focused practice until you CAN'T get something wrong

## Websites

- Isaac Physics,
- Seneca Learning,
- Physics & Maths Tutor,
- A Level Physics Online,
- CramNow Physics,

# PSYCHOLOGY (ONLINE)

*The scientific study of the mind and behaviour ….*



## Exam board: CAIE

Please note that this course will be taught online by a qualified Psychology teacher with adult supervision in the classroom provided by a member of BSM staff.

Homework Expectations: at least 5 hours of homework/independent study per fortnight.

## Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or equivalent in GCSE Science and Grade B or equivalent in GCSE English Language

## Overview

This course enables students to explore the fascinating science of human behaviour and mental processes, developing a deep understanding of how and why people think, feel, and act as they do. Through studying key approaches, research methods, and real-world applications, students will strengthen their ability to analyse evidence, interpret data, and evaluate psychological theories critically.

Throughout the course, students will engage in practical investigations and apply psychological principles to everyday situations, building strong research, communication, and problem-solving skills. The development of ethical awareness and respect for diversity is central to the study of Psychology, encouraging students to think with curiosity, empathy, and scientific rigour.

## What will I study?

A-level Psychology is an exploration of human behavior, thought processes, and emotions through scientific investigation. This subject is especially popular for students interested in fields like social sciences, healthcare, education, or even business and law, where understanding human behavior can be valuable.

A-Level Psychology

1. Critical Thinking Skills: The course develops critical thinking and analytical skills, helping students evaluate studies, interpret data, and draw conclusions based on evidence.
2. Understanding of Human Behavior: Psychology provides a scientific approach to understanding why people think and act as they do, which is valuable in both personal and professional relationships.
3. Research Skills: The research methods component equips students with skills in experimental design and data analysis, applicable in many academic and career paths.
4. Career Flexibility: Psychology knowledge is beneficial in numerous fields like healthcare, social work, education, marketing, and law. Analytical and interpersonal skills gained from A-level Psychology offer versatility in career choices.

This modular course comprises AS and A Level components, each contributing to the final A Level qualification. Examinations are taken at the end of each academic year, assessing students' knowledge, understanding, and ability to apply psychological concepts to a range of contexts and issues

# SPANISH

*"The limits of my language mean the limits of my world."*



## Exam board: Pearson

## Entry Requirements
6 and above at GCSE Spanish

## Why should I choose Spanish
This course is designed to inspire students, enabling them to use the Spanish Language independently. The course encourages a deeper understanding of the language and culture, whilst catering to a wide range of interests.

A Spanish language qualification will support those who wish to study abroad, wish to enhance their career prospects or are passionate about travel.

The flexible modular structure comprises of four units. Unit 1 and 2, can be taken as an International AS (IAS) at the end of Year 12. This contributes up to 50% of the total International Advanced Level (IAL) marks.

Students can then opt to continue in Year 13, completing units 3 and 4. This qualification is recognised by Spanish universities, achieving a level B2 will open doors for those that may wish to study in a Spanish speaking country.

To make progress in Spanish, please immerse yourself in the culture, traditions and language by watching Spanish TV and film. Ensure you read the news daily. Subscribe to Spanish podcasts and follow Spanish speaking activists on Twitter or Instagram. If you ever have the opportunity visit a Spanish speaking country, this will help you put it into context.

## What will I study?
The course takes an in depth look at the following topics. Students are able to compare and contrast, these with their own lives reaching a better understanding of the world.

- Youth matters
- Lifestyle, health and fitness
- Environment and travel
- Education and employment
- Technology in the Spanish-speaking world
- Society in the Spanish-speaking world
- Ethics in the Spanish-speaking world

Students will be expected to prepare a presentation and debate, on a topic of their own interest. By the end of the course, students show expertise in their chosen field. Students will also have the opportunity to study a film and literary text. Subject to student interest, students will be given the opportunity to visit a Spanish-speaking country to contextualise their learning.

## Assessment structure
As this is a modular course, the breakdown for the IAS and IA2 differ:

| | IAS | IAL |
|---|---|---|
| Unit 1: Spoken expression and response | 30% | 15% |
| Unit 2: Understanding and written response | 70% | 35% |
| Unit 3: Understanding and spoken response | 30% | 15% |
| Unit 4: Research, understanding & written response | 70% | 35% |

# SPORT BTEC LV3

*"If my mind can conceive it and my heart can believe it - then I can achieve it"*
*Muhammed Ali*



## Exam board: Pearson

## Entry Requirements

Level 5 or above accepted. A GCSE in PE is not necessary but certainly an encouraging platform. A keen interest in sport and involvement in practical activities is beneficial.

## Brief overview

This Subsidiary Diploma (2 year course) is the equivalent to one A-Level. It is a modular course with no end examination papers. One compulsory unit will be carried out where the assessment assignments are set by Pearson (exam board). All other unit assignments are set internally. 360 GLHs are to be completed throughout the course; minimum 5 units must be completed.
Assessments take place in many different formats, for example: essays, presentations, video analysis, quizzes, data related findings, information leaflets/posters etc.

Assignments are marked via a Pass, Merit, Distinction achievement system. A Distinction Star can be awarded for those that achieve in the highest overall point bracket. The course relies on students producing work to strict deadlines but is flexible in its assessment approach and tends to suit students who do not favour final examinations.

## What will I study?

Minimum 5 units (one mandatory) from the options below (collective group decision):

- Health, Wellbeing & Sport (mandatory)
- Applied Sports Anatomy & Physiology
- Nutrition for Physical Performance
- Organising Events in Sport & Physical Activities
- Practical Sports Performance
- Rules, Regulations and Officiating in Sport

Other options:

- Sports Psychology
- Fitness Testing

## How can I support my learning?

Depending on the electives the group decides upon, students may need to have one key sports (either games or individual) that is performed to a good level. The student's knowledge of this sports needs to be of a sound understanding. Additionally, being part of the BSM Sports Council (and possibly Community Sports Clubs) will be of benefit so students can immerse themselves in performance, analysis, coaching, sporting events and other sporting leadership roles (e.g. officiating).

# Key Stage 5: Summary

Summary of entry criteria for subjects available at Key stage 5

| Subject | Examination Body | Entry criteria |
|---|---|---|
| Fine Art | Pearson | Grade 6 in Art GCSE |
| Biology | Pearson | Grade 7 equivalent in GCSE/IGCSE Biology from Combined or Separate Science and a good grade in English Language. |
| Business | Pearson | Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade B in iGCSE English. Cannot be chosen alongside Economics. Students must choose either Business or Economics. |
| Computer Science | Pearson | 7 in Maths or 7 in GCSE Computer Science or other GCSE-level Computing specification or exceptional circumstances. |
| Chemistry | Pearson | Grade 7 equivalent in GCSE/IGCSE Chemistry from Combined or Separate Science. |
| Creative Media Lv3 BTEC | Pearson | Merit in Level 2 Creative Media or through discussion with Head of Department |
| Design & Technology | Pearson | 6 in GCSE Mathematics and 6 in DT (5 under exceptional circumstances). |
| Economics | Pearson | 6 in GCSE Mathematics and B in English iGCSE. Cannot be chosen alongside Business A Level. Students must choose either Business or Economics. |
| English literature | Pearson | B at iGCSE in World Literature, B at iGCSE in First Language English. |
| Geography | CAIE | Geography GCSE Grade B (or C under exceptional circumstances). |
| History | Pearson | Grade 6 in History GCSE or Grade 7 English if no prior History. Head of department will review case by case |
| Mathematics (Regular) | Pearson | At least Grade 7 for GCSE Mathematics to be accepted onto the Regular Mathematics course (RM). |
| Mathematics (Further) | Pearson | Grade 8 or 9 and have been in the *accelerated stream*. |

# Key Stage 5: Summary

Summary of entry criteria for subjects available at Key stage 5

| Subject | Examination Body | Entry criteria |
|---|---|---|
| MFL: French | Pearson | 6 and above at GCSE French |
| MFL: Spanish | Pearson | 6 and above at GCSE Spanish |
| Music Lv3 BTEC | Pearson | The principal requirement is enthusiasm and a love of Music. Applicants will be considered on their own merits and can begin a new instrument/voice on commencement of the course. |
| Physics | Pearson | Grade 7 equivalent in GCSE/iGCSE Physics from Combined or Separate Science. A strong grade in Mathematics is also required. |
| Psychology (online) | CAIE | Grade 6 or equivalent in GCSE Science and Grade B or equivalent in GCSE English Language |
| Sport BTEC Lv3 | Pearson | Level 5 or above accepted. A GCSE in PE is not essential but certainly an encouraging platform. A keen interest in sport and involvement in practical activities is beneficial. |

# OPTIONS: FAQ

BRITISH SCHOOL MUSCAT

### What are options blocks?

When choosing options in November, all students have 'free' choice. All students can choose 4 option choices. This free choice is then analysed and 'Option Blocks' are created. These are designed to enable provision of desired subjects within our timetable - think carefully on this choice as changing option blocks is not always possible.

A second round of options is then presented to students and parents in February. These options are now in blocks. The blocks are designed from the initial feedback gained in *November - therefore initial choice is important.*

While every effort will be made to meet students' choices, **it may not be possible** to provide every combination requested/subject choices become full. We also reserve the right to collapse A Level groups across Yr12/13 or not offer a course if there is insufficient demand for it.
*Students are parents are advised to have a reserve subject of study should this be the case.*

### Can I change subjects after September 30th 2027?

The end of September is a set deadline for changes to Options choices. Students begin Post 16 with four subjects - it is common for this to reduce throughout the academic year to 3 subjects - typically most students study 3 subjects in Year 13.
All changes are to be agreed by the Head of Year, Head of Department and Deputy Head of Curriculum. Parental consent is required in order to action the change.

### How do Universities make their decisions?

Universities make their decision to accept a student onto the course based on a variety of factors. Some of these factors include GCSE grades, predicted A Level/BTEC grades, references and extra curricular enrichment.

### Are there any restrictions on choices?

Whilst it is the aim of the school to meet 100% of student option choices there are occasions where this may not be possible. If this occurs, students and parents should consider the reserve subject of study as indicated in the initial options enquiry.
The other restriction is for Business and Economics. This combination is not allowed due to the close nature of the subjects and content within them.

### Will I be disadvantaged for dropping a subject?

Students will not be disadvantaged if dropping from four to three subjects. This decision is made in consultation between student, teacher, parents, Head of department and Head of 6th form.

### When are examinations?

When completing a full linear A Level course, the examinations are typically taken at the end of Year 13. There are some exceptions to this process which are course dependent and typically associated with modular examined courses, such as the International A level (IAL).

Students will also sit internal BSM assessments at the end of Year 12 to assess suitability for progression on their course. There is no study leave granted for any internal assessments.

Students are expected to achieve at least a grade D in this internal assessment in order to progress into Year 13. If this is not achieved a meeting will be held in conjunction with the Head of 6th form. It may be necessary to drop the subject or as an alternative to consider retaking Year 12. These options will be discussed with parents and the student involved.


BRITISH SCHOOL
MUSCAT

## Contact Us

British School Muscat
PO Box 1907, PC 112
Sultanate of Oman

+968 24 600842
senioroffice@britishschoolmuscat.com

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