



# Aston Academy

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## Post 16 Prospectus 2023

*B e E x c e p t i o n a l*

# Welcome to Aston Post 16

We are a lively, thriving and diverse community of learners. Our aim, in keeping with Aston Community Education Trust's mission statement, is that every student is enabled "to reach their full potential, whatever their age, ability, gender or ethnicity". As such, we provide a broad and varied curriculum which caters for a wide range of learning needs. We offer a broad range of traditional A Level courses as well as vocational Level 3 courses, including pathways linked to Health and Social Care, Sport and Physical Activity and Applied Science, which can include our exciting Forensic and Criminal Investigation option.



Welcome to Aston Academy – An 11-18 school in the ACET trust which sits at the heart of a friendly, hardworking and proud community. At Aston Academy, we believe that education has the power to transform lives and improve the life chances of our young people.

‘Be Exceptional’ is our vision.

We want to bring this vision to life by raising the bar and adopting a growth mindset, which allows every student to feel empowered through acquiring a passport of skills, experiences and qualifications which allows them to lead successful lives, and have the confidence to compete at a world class level.

As a parent myself I fully appreciate the wishes of parents and carers to have happy, healthy children who get the ‘best deal’ in terms of secondary education – expert teaching; academic support; positive discipline; cultural capital; careers education; character education; enrichment opportunities; all underpinned by high quality pastoral support.

At Aston Academy, we are on a journey driving consistently high standards across all areas and demanding the absolute best for our students, our staff and the wider community. Therefore, we have high expectations for student attendance, punctuality, uniform/presentation and conduct – these are the key characteristics for life long success and we value the importance of embedding these positive habits in all our students.

Through our partnership with the local and wider community we aim to support our students in successfully taking their place in society. All staff in the academy have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children.

‘We look forward to working in partnership with you on this exciting journey ahead’.

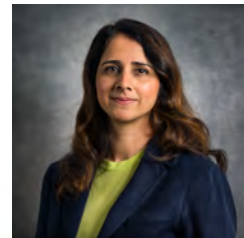


***“Leadership of the sixth form is a strength of the school.”***

***- Ofsted, 2018***



**Mrs Saeed, Principal**





# POST 16

## Why Choose Aston?



### **PERSONALISED SUPPORT**

We have a dedicated Post 16 team, an on site careers advisor and specialist teaching staff to support you during your time with us.



### **ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

There are many opportunities available including - extra-curricular clubs, volunteering and mentoring opportunities



### **WIDE VARIETY OF COURSE OPTIONS**

We offer a wide variety of A Level and vocational courses, leading into a range of career pathways



## Our Facilities

- Common Room
- Study Room
- Cafe
- Careers Area
- Social Pool Room

We have a dedicated area within school for our Post 16 students which consists of several areas. Firstly, we have a large common room with tables available for group work and socialising. We also have a Post 16 study room which is dedicated to silent study and revision. This is also used to timetable additional lessons for any students needing to catch up on work. We run weekly seminars in this room during tutor time on a Friday, often having guest speakers in to deliver talks to students. We have a careers area with an on site careers advisor, here you can receive tailored specialist advice on career aspirations, university and apprenticeship opportunities and job applications. Finally, our pool room provides a social space for students to relax and use during non-teaching periods.

# How do I choose what to study?

You might already know which subjects to choose, but if you are unsure, have a look at the tips below:

- Do your research. If you have a particular career in mind, find out what courses are relevant and will provide you with the qualifications you will need. If you are planning to continue on to Higher Education, at University or another type of institution, check to see whether they specify any particular subjects as entry requirements.
- Select courses which match your interests, career aspirations and talents. Students achieve the greatest success when they are studying courses which they are passionate about and enjoy. Choose subjects in which you feel you have the passion and ability to achieve the highest possible grades, and which will provide you with the best options for the future.
- Think about how you work best – are you better at exams or providing a portfolio for assessment? A Level courses are more academic and are usually assessed by end of course examinations. BTEC and Cambridge Technical courses provide alternative methods of assessment as well as an examined element and will prepare you with the skills you will need to pursue a particular career pathway.

We offer a full range of Level 3 courses, including both traditional academic routes and vocational pathways. You can combine studying more traditional A Level courses with an Extended Certificate or Diploma course. All courses are designed to be studied for two years.

***“I am loving my time at Aston! The teachers are lovely and so helpful with any enquiries I have about lessons, and it’s nice to be in such a positive environment.”***



## Our curriculum

We offer the following courses\*:

### A Level

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Art, Craft & Design | Philosophy         |
| Biology             | Physical Education |
| Business Studies    | Physics            |
| Chemistry           | Politics           |
| Computer Science    | Psychology         |
| English Language    | Sociology          |
| English Literature  | Spanish            |
| Film Studies        |                    |
| French              |                    |
| Further Mathematics |                    |
| Geography           |                    |
| History             |                    |
| Mathematics         |                    |

### Vocational (Level 3)

- Applied Science
- Criminology
- Forensic & Criminal Investigation
- Health & Social Care
- Sport & Physical Activity

*Vocational courses are studied as either:*

**Extended Certificate** (single option, equivalent to one A Level)

**Diploma** (double option, equivalent to two A Levels)

**Extended Diploma** (triple option, equivalent to three A Levels)

### Extended Project Qualification

*\*Courses will run subject to numbers.*

# Applied Science **BTEC Level 3**

## Why study it?

Today's BTEC Nationals are demanding, as you would expect of the most respected applied learning qualification in the UK. You will have to choose and complete a range of units, be organised, complete some assessments that we will set and mark, and keep a portfolio of your assignments. You can feel proud to achieve a BTEC because, whatever your plans in life – whether you decide to study further, go on to work or an apprenticeship, or to set up your own business – your BTEC National will be your passport to success in the next stage of your life.

## What will I study?

### ***Applied Science (Extended Certificate)***

Over two years you will study four units which cover: principles and applications of science, practical scientific procedures and techniques, science investigation skills and human physiology.

### ***Forensic & Criminal Investigation (Diploma)***

For the Forensic & Criminal Investigation Diploma, you will also study: forensic investigation procedures, applications of criminology, criminal investigation procedures, plus one optional unit in a specialised area of forensic investigation.

In order to study Forensic & Criminal Investigation, you must also select Applied Science as one of your subject options.

## How will I be assessed?

The new BTEC National will assess you in three ways:

- **Assignments** - You will complete a series of tasks set in a work-related scenario and produce a portfolio of evidence.
- **Tasks** - In controlled conditions, you will complete a practical task tackling an everyday challenge
- **Written Exam** - You will draw on essential information to create written answers to practical questions in test conditions.

## What do I need?

Grade 4 in GCSE English Language, Mathematics and Science (grade 4-3 in combined science or grade 4 in each of the separate sciences).



# Forensic & Criminal Investigation



## Where can it lead?

The requirements of the qualification will mean learners develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by both higher education and employers. A BTEC in Applied Science can lead to a wide range of further qualifications, including: Applied Science, Nursing, Midwifery, Biology, Biomedical Science, Sport Science and more. It can also lead to a variety of career options such as: Teaching, Science Journalist, Paramedic, Science Technician (in a range of industries) and more.

Forensic and Criminal Investigation will offer learners the opportunity to progress to some applied degree courses. The course provides a perfect pathway to Forensic Science courses, particularly if taken in combination with A Level Chemistry, or is a good complement to Psychology or Sociology if applying to Criminology courses.



# Art, Craft & Design **A Level**

## Why study it?

A Level Art is a perfect opportunity for students to explore and express their ideas and personal creativity. You will be challenged to take creative risks through your ideas, imagination and a variety of media in a studio environment. You will be encouraged to explore and question the significance of artists' work and the way in which it has, and continues to be, interpreted. After developing skills in fine art, photography and 3D, you will be able to focus on your preferred medium. This will be supported by trips to a variety of national Art Galleries.

## What will I study?

### Year One

In Year one you will develop knowledge and technical skills in the use of a variety of media and processes, such as painting, printing, sculpture and sketching, as well as becoming proficient in the use of the Formal Elements. You will be supported and inspired to follow your own interests, take creative risks and encouraged to become an independent learner.

### Year Two

The second year of A Level Fine Art actively promotes freedom of expression and personal development as a creative practitioner. The Personal Investigation will ensure concepts and skills are more specialised, developed and thoroughly explored, learning how to contextualise your work whilst fostering your own style.

## Where can it lead?

Many practitioners go on to study Fine Art, Product Design, Fashion, Photography, Sculpture, Media, Teaching, Advertising, Theatre Design.... The list really is endless!

## What do I need?

Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and English Language. If you do not have a GCSE in the Visual Arts, you will be expected to provide a portfolio of work which demonstrates your skills and interests.



# A Level Biology

## Why study it?

Interested in heart disease? Curious about cell biology, physiology and ecology? Want to know where all your energy comes from? Do you enjoy a challenge and want to sharpen your investigative skills and be successfully prepared for either university or a career in science? If the answer is yes, then A Level Biology is the course for you.



## What will I study?

### Year One

- Biological Molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

### Year Two

- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

## Where can it lead?

Biology opens up a number of opportunities covering careers in biomedicine, medicine, veterinary sciences, sports sciences, nutrition, teaching, botany, research (of many varieties) and many, many more.

## What do I need?

Grade 6 in GCSE Biology, or 6-6 in Combined Science, plus grade 5 in Mathematics.

***“Biology is an enjoyable subject that covers a wide variety of studies from anatomy and physiology to disease, genetics and ecology and opens up many options when applying to university”***

# Business Studies **A Level**

## Why study it?

Business Studies is a broad course that offers insight into the world of work. You will develop understanding of the various areas students require in preparation for entering employment. The course provides excellent opportunities to develop research, real world understanding, analytical and evaluation skills. It is a good foundation for university courses in Business, Management or Economics.

## What will I study?

### Year One

*The local business environment:* This unit gives an introduction to business, looking at enterprise and how businesses are set up. It looks at accounting and finance and who and what can influence business.

The wider business environment: The second unit focuses on the *functions of businesses*: marketing, the workforce and its management. It focuses on how the workforce are recruited, managed and motivated.

### Year Two

*Operating in a local business environment:* This unit gives an introduction to business and looks at management and enterprise.

*The wider business environment:* The second unit focuses on the functions of businesses: marketing- looking at marketing tools

like: The 4 P's, Ansoff's Matrix and Product Life Cycle, also the process of turning an idea into a finished, well-selling product, HRM- the recruitment of the workforce and its motivation and management, production and quality.

*The global business environment:* This looks at the objectives and strategy of a business, the global context of the business and the external influences that affect it and force it to change.

## Where can it lead?

Past students have gone on to take business related degree courses or Higher National Diplomas. This has proved to be a springboard to careers in finance, management, the law and other associated commercial occupations.

## What do I need?

Grade 5 in either GCSE English Language or English Literature, plus a grade 4 in Mathematics.

# A Level Chemistry

## Why study it?

The world we live in has been shaped by chemistry. Chemists help us to understand the world and develop solutions to the problems facing modern society. Medicines, materials that allow us to communicate electronically, and the clothes we wear all demonstrate the power of chemistry to make our lives better. Chemistry is everywhere and one reason why many students study chemistry is because they want to understand and help to change the world, through research and its application. If you enjoy scientific investigations, problem solving and a challenge this course will suit you.

## What will I study?

Key theory to be studied falls into three categories:

Physical chemistry, which is the study of how matter behaves on a molecular and atomic level, and how chemical reactions occur.

Organic chemistry, which focuses on the carbon-containing compounds typically found in organic materials such as plants and animals.

Inorganic chemistry, which covers the synthesis and behaviour of all other chemical substance which don't fall into the field of organic chemistry.

## What do I need?

Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or 6-6 in Combined Science, plus grade 5 in Mathematics.

## Where can it lead?

Chemistry gives you excellent training for many careers, both scientific and non-scientific. Those who have studied A Level Chemistry can be found in such diverse areas as finance, law and politics, retail, chemical engineering, medicine, dentistry, veterinary and teaching. So, if you are unsure about what career you want to follow, you can still study Chemistry and keep your options open.



# Computer Science **A Level**

## Why study it?

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism. There is a focus on computer programming, building on GCSE Computing and emphasis on the importance of computational thinking as a discipline. The subject has an expanded maths focus, much of which will be embedded within the course. The course puts computational thinking at its core, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence.

## What will I study?

### Year One

- Contemporary Processors
- Input, Output and Storage devices
- Software and software development
- Data Types
- Legal, Cultural, Moral and Ethical Issues

### Year Two

- Elements of Computational Thinking
- Programming and problem solving
- Algorithms

## How will I be assessed?

Programming Project (20%)

Examination (80%)

## Where can it lead?

Computer Science is useful for a range of degree level subjects including: Medicine, Maths, Statistics, Law, Computing, Business, Politics, Animation and many more.

Students who take Computer Science progress to a broad range of careers including: Software Engineering, Systems Analyst, Games Developer, Network Engineer, IT Consultant, Statistical Analyst, Artificial Intelligence Design and many more. Students who have studied A-Level Computer Science are now working for: Apple, Google, Spotify, Microsoft, Sun Microsystems, Ford, Barclays and many more 'blue chip' companies.

## What do I need?

Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics and Computer Science.

***“I've always wanted to learn how to program, and now I feel like I've got a good foundation to go on to further study.”***

# Criminology Vocational

## Why study it?

Not all types of crime are alike. Are you interested in the different types of crime that take place in our society? Are criminals born or made? How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? What are the different roles of everyone involved when a crime is detected? Then perhaps you are interested to know more about this exciting course in Criminology. Criminology is the study of the reasons why individuals commit crime. By understanding why a person commits a crime, we can develop ways to control crime or rehabilitate the criminal. This course will enable you to use theories of criminality to analyse criminal situations and suggest ways of reducing crime. You will also develop the knowledge and skills to research policy in practice, assess campaigns for changes in awareness and examine information to review verdicts in criminal cases. This course is very popular amongst our learners.

## What will I study?

The course is separated into four units you will study:

The Changing Awareness of Crime

Criminological Theories

Crime Scene to Courtroom

Crime and Punishment

## How will I be assessed?

The WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Criminology is assessed through a combination of two written examinations, set and marked by WJEC, and two centre-marked assignments.

## Where can it lead?

Criminology can allow access to a variety of courses at university for example BSC Criminology, BA Criminology and Criminal Justice, BSC honours Criminology and Psychology, Bsc Honours Criminology with Sociology, BSC Criminology with Law. An understanding of criminology is also relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, including police officers, probation and prison officers, and social workers. With their critical thinking, analytical and communication skills, criminology graduates are also attractive to employers outside the criminal justice sector in areas such as social research and politics.

## What do I need?

Grade 4 in GCSE English Language

# A Level English Language

## Why study it?

By studying the language as a real-life tool of communication, you will become a better speaker, reader and writer as you learn the structures and conventions that govern all human interaction. If you like discussing and evaluating how language is being used in a wide range of contexts and also enjoy producing your own texts, this course is for you.

## What will I study?

First, you will learn all the grammar concepts and terminology you need to evaluate how language is being used in any text. You will then explore how language is used in a range of different contexts, including spontaneous conversations, the media and multimedia, fictional and non-fictional texts. You will also explore a range of different issues surrounding the language, such as the history and development of English, language and power, language and gender, different varieties of English, and child language acquisition. You will use this knowledge to produce your own investigation for coursework and then apply all that you have learned over the two years in the final exams.

## Where can it lead?

Developing critical reading and writing skills make this subject useful for all degree level subjects and careers. Students have progressed into careers as diverse as law, education, media, business, social work, advertising and personnel management.

## What do I need?

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and English Literature.

***“Studying English Language has given me so much insight into how our language has evolved and can be used.”***





# English Literature **A Level**

## Why study it?

You will study a broad range of literary texts from different time periods. This will develop your critical thinking skills about universal human themes and your ability to construct a convincing argument.

## What will I study?

You will study a wide range of literary texts from the 16th century up to the present day. These will come from the three disciplines of poetry, prose and drama. You will study the works of two comparable poets from the twentieth century and then another poet from an earlier time. You will study two plays that have a similar theme as well as a whole Shakespeare play. You will also study prose from two key periods.

You will develop your critical reading and writing skills through a coursework unit where you choose your own texts from a list prescribed by the exam board.

***“English Literature is an interesting and thought-provoking course and one that I have thoroughly enjoyed studying.”***

## Where can it lead?

As with English Language, the development of critical reading and writing skills makes this subject very useful for all further study and careers. Students have progressed into careers as diverse as law, education, media, business, social work, advertising and personnel management.

## What do I need?

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and English Literature.



# A Level Film Studies

## Why study it?

The majority of us watch films at some point. This course gives you the knowledge and skills to understand how film influences people and how the values of a society are reflected in film.

The Film Studies course is designed to deepen your understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film; you will develop skills of observation, critical analysis and personal reflection, as well as developing their creativity and practical skills.

## What will I study?

Over the duration of the course you will study eleven full length feature films and a compilation of eight short films.

Exploring film form/film production: You will learn how to closely analyse and evaluate how meaning is created in film.

British and American film: You will learn about all aspects of the mainstream film business. You will study a range of British and American film texts, and a comparison of two British films.

Varieties of Film Experience: In this unit, you will also explore: two film movements, including silent film; global films; documentary film and; the short film.

## Where can it lead?

The skills learned in Film Studies are invaluable for most degree level subjects and careers. However, specific careers Film students have progressed onto careers are television, radio, journalism, animation, computer software and game design.

## What do I need?

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and English Literature.

***“Studying A Level Film Studies has been fascinating as it has taught us how to explore and question all of the media that we are bombarded with every day.”***

# French A Level

## Why study it?

If you enjoy interactive lessons with lots of opportunity for group work, discussion and debate, then this course will suit you. You will learn to discuss modern issues (poverty, crime, right to vote etc...) and learn about cultural aspects of the countries, through movies, music and literature. You will also develop the necessary skills to become confident to have a meaningful conversation with native speakers.

## What will I study?

Year One

Aspects of society: Family, “cyber-society”, Voluntary work.  
Artistic culture: Music and Cinema, including a movie.

Year Two

Current issues: Immigration, poverty, crime, racism. Political life: Right to vote, young people and politics, monarchy and republic. One book in French.

You will be able to research your own area of interest for the speaking exam.

## How will I be assessed?

Written examinations (70%)

Speaking examination (30%)

## Where can it lead?

Studying a Modern Foreign Language at A Level leads to many courses at Higher Education. Universities offer a variety of degrees that give students the chance to specialise in the knowledge of one country or develop skills in two or more Foreign Languages. Many universities also offer courses with one unit in languages. Students are often able to study abroad for one term or a year through the Erasmus programme.

Students who take Modern Foreign Languages progress to a broad range of careers including: law, teaching, business, travel, journalism and many others in which languages are not the main skill but bring an advantage, including promotion and leadership opportunities. Students are encouraged to complete work experience abroad during the course.

## What do I need?

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or English Literature, plus a grade 5 in GCSE French.

# A Level Geography

## Why study it?

Geography is a highly successful A Level subject at Aston Academy and will develop your independent learning skills and challenge your thinking. It is also a lot of fun! Geography will give you a greater understanding of people and their place and influence in the world. It will also provide you with wonderful opportunities to learn outside the classroom, participating in a range of field trip experiences.



## What will I study?

### Year One

- Water and carbon cycles
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Changing places
- Contemporary urban environments

### Year Two

- Global systems and governance
- Hazards
- Geographical investigations

## How will I be assessed?

Examinations (80%)

Geographical investigation (20%) - an individual investigation on a topic of your choice.



## Where can it lead?

Geography is useful for a range of degree level subjects, the Russell Group (24 leading UK universities) identify it as a facilitating subject, which means it will help you secure a place on courses such as: Law, Medicine, Town Planning, Architecture, Science subjects, History, Psychology, Sociology, Politics and many others.

Students who take Geography progress to a broad range of careers including: Law, Medicine, Teaching, Public Service, Military, ICT and Journalism; to name just some.

## What do I need?

Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics and English Language, plus a grade 5 in GCSE Geography (or other relevant subject, if Geography not studied at GCSE).

# Health & Social Care **Cambridge Technical**

## Why study it?

Cambridge Technical Health & Social Care offers a broad and varied course, providing a foundation for any student wishing to work in the caring professions. It combines knowledge of effective care and communication, understanding health conditions, patient care, pathways, educating children and young people and much more. The qualification is coursework based, with examinations in Year 12 and Year 13, allowing students to be assessed in a variety of ways to ensure they reach their desired grade.

## What will I study?

This course can be studied as a single, double or triple award qualification. Depending on the option you choose, you will study some or all of the following topics:

- Building positive relationships
- Equality, diversity and rights
- Health, safety and security
- Anatomy and physiology
- Infection control
- Personalisation and person centred approach
- Supporting people with learning difficulties
- Nutrition
- Career planning
- Sexual health, reproduction and early development stages
- The impact of long-term physiological conditions
- Promoting health and well-being

## Where can it lead?

Past students have gone on to study degree courses in: Health Management, Child, Adult and Mental Health Nursing, Midwifery, Health Studies, Paramedic, Radiography, Teacher Training and Special Needs Training

The course can also lead to successful careers in: Health Sector, Social Work, Police, Probation Service, Occupational Therapy, Early years such as nursery nursing or primary support workers and classroom assistants.

## What do I need?

Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and English Language.

***“We spend a lot of time doing enjoyable tasks that are relevant to the health sector”***

# A Level History

## Why study it?

History is a fascinating subject that allows you to investigate how key historical events and figures have shaped our thinking today. As a respected academic A Level, History will encourage you to think critically, analyse and evaluate information. These are all skills that are very useful in both the workplace and higher education. With the opportunity to develop both your written and verbal skills within lessons, an A Level in History will help prepare you for wherever the future takes you.

## What will I study?

Year One

Breadth Study: The crusades, c1095-1204

Depth Study: England and the Angevin Empire in the reign of Henry II, 1154-89

Year Two

Themes in breadth with aspects in depth: Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780-1928

Coursework: Focused on a historical controversy of your choice

## How will I be assessed?

Examinations (80%) Coursework (20%)

## Where can it lead?

History is useful for a whole range of degree level subjects including: Law, Medicine, Psychology and many other Humanities subjects.

## What do I need?

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and English Literature, plus a grade 5 in GCSE History (or other relevant subject, if History not studied at GCSE).



# Mathematics **A Level**

## **Why study it?**

A Level Mathematics is one of the most enjoyable, valuable and rewarding Post 16 qualifications available. Students taking the course study a mixture of Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics topics.

A Level Maths equals money! People with a maths A Level go on to earn significantly more than their peers with equivalent qualifications in different subjects. A national study compared the incomes of 4,500 people and concluded that having a maths A Level can increase long-term earning power. The maths skills learned at A Level, such as logical thinking, problem solving and statistical analysis, are closer to those actually used in the workplace than the skills developed in other subjects.

## **What will I study?**

This is a two year modular course in which you will study Pure Mathematics alongside Statistics and Mechanics topics.

Pure Mathematics consists of the following topics: Algebra, Calculus, Trigonometry, Co-ordinate Geometry, Vectors, Newton Raphson and Series.

Statistics consists of the following topics: Sampling, Probability, Venn Diagrams, Statistical models, Correlation, Hypothesis testing.

Mechanics consists of the following topics: Newton's Laws, Kinematics, Equations of Motion, Projectile motion, Dynamics, Friction and Moments.

Students will be encouraged to build upon their prior knowledge and learn to apply mathematics to real life problems and situations.

## **Where can it lead?**

Many degree courses have a substantial Mathematics component including: the Sciences, Psychology, I.T, Economics, Accountancy, Engineering and Architecture. This makes Mathematics a very marketable qualification when applying for a university place.

Students who take Mathematics progress to a broad range of careers including: medicine, chemical engineering, law, accounting, insurance brokers, engineering, teaching and many others.

## **What do I need?**

Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

# A Level Further Mathematics

## Why study it?

Students taking Further Mathematics overwhelmingly find it to be an enjoyable, rewarding, stimulating and empowering experience. For someone who enjoys maths, it provides a challenge and a chance to explore new and/or more sophisticated mathematical concepts. The course enables students to distinguish themselves as able mathematicians in the university and employment market, and makes the transition to a mathematics-rich university course easier.



## What will I study?

The Further Mathematics course is built up of Pure Mathematics, Further Mechanics and Decision Mathematics. It includes the following topics:

- Complex numbers
- Hyperbolic functions
- Series and sequences
- Matrices
- Proof
- Differential equations
- Polar co-ordinates
- Cartesian equations.
- Vectors

## Where can it lead?

Taking Further Mathematics at A Level can lead to degree courses where there is a high mathematical content such as Mathematics, Science subjects, Engineering and Financial qualifications. Students who take Further Mathematics progress to a range of careers including Actuarial work, Engineering, Statistical work and many forms of research.

## What do I need?

Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics and grade 4 in English Language. You must also be studying A Level Mathematics. This course involves a significant amount of independent learning, so students must be very proficient at self-study. Please speak to a member of the Mathematics faculty if you are considering this course.



# Philosophy A Level

## Why study it?

Philosophy investigates the deepest questions about what it means to be human. What can we know about the world we live in? Can we trust our experience of the world? Philosophy gives us logical and reasoned methods for discussing such questions. Philosophy asks you not to be too quick to jump to conclusions and aims to develop keen, independent thinkers. You will develop your transferable skills such as the ability to ask and discuss penetrating questions, the analysis and evaluation of complex arguments and the ability to present your own arguments logically and clearly.

## What will I study?

Year One

You will explore questions such as:

- What is knowledge?
- Is what we experience an illusion?
- Where does our knowledge come from?
- What does it mean to live a good life
- How do we know what is right and wrong?

Year Two

The second year examines questions to do with the relationship between mind and body. Where does our individual identity come from? Students will also explore the philosophy of religion by questioning the concept of God.

## Where can it lead?

Philosophy is useful for a whole range of degrees: Law, Medicine, Pharmacology, Biomedical Science, all other Sciences, Politics, Sociology, History, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, English, Maths and many others.

Business values clear and independent thinking skills.

Journalism and advertising see logical presentation of ideas as important.

Social work, public services, medicine and law see a background in ethics as important.

## What do I need?

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or English Literature.

# A Level Physical Education

## Why study it?

Along with a passion and talent for practical sport, A Level Physical Education allows a student to access a deeper understanding of what makes great sporting performance. Students will understand the psychological and physiological impacts on sport as well as the history behind certain sports and traditions.

## What will I study?

The theory aspect of the course, on which you will be assessed through examinations, includes:

- Physiological factors affecting performance
- Exercise Physiology
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Biomechanics
- Skill Acquisition
- Sports Psychology
- Sport in Society
- Contemporary Issues in Physical Activity and Sport

You will also carry out a practical performance and an oral evaluation and analysis of a performance

Students will also take part in practical sessions which will link into classwork and coursework. Aston is one of the few establishments still to offer a practical session as part of the course. To support this, each student will be offered Sports Leaders Level 2 and 3.

## How will I be assessed?

Examinations (70%)

Practical Performance and Oral Evaluation and Analysis of Performance (30%)

## Where can it lead?

Physical Education at A Level offers many opportunities and pathways:

- Sport and Exercise Science
- Teacher Training
- Sports Development
- Community Sports Work
- Sports Management
- Physiotherapy

## What do I need?

Grade 5 in Science and either English Language or English Literature.

# Physics A Level

## Why study it?

If you are ever curious about how the world around you works, then A Level Physics will provide the answers. Physics is the study of the physical world, from the smallest particles to the biggest galaxies, and everything in between.

The problem solving, analytical and reasoning skills that play an essential part in the study of A Level Physics, as well as the mathematical ability required, are all highly valued by employers across a wide range of fields. With a reputation as one of the most challenging A Level subjects, Physics is an excellent addition to any higher education or job application.

## What will I study?

The first year covers classical physics topics such as mechanics, material behaviour, waves and electricity. You will learn about fundamental concepts such as forces, how things move, how energy can be transferred from one place to another, as well as developing your problem-solving skills.

The second year of the course explores some more modern physics concepts, including our current understanding of particle physics and the accelerators (such as the Large Hadron Collider at CERN) that were used to discover them. You will learn about the history of the universe, the hunt for planets beyond our solar system, and the nuclear reactions that power the stars.

## Where can it lead?

As well as providing a pathway into further study in science, potentially leading to jobs in cutting-edge scientific research, physics qualifications are highly valued by employers and admissions tutors in all fields, including finance, engineering, design, IT and many more.

## What do I need?

Grade 6 in GCSE Physics, or 6-6 in Combined Science, plus a grade 5 in Mathematics. It is strongly recommended that you study A Level Mathematics alongside A Level Physics.



# A Level Politics

## Why study it?

Simply, because it affects everything that you do. Studying Politics will give you a greater insight into society and the complexity surrounding decisions that are made. The course allows you to focus on some of today's most interesting and significant issues and will give you a real insight into the workings of the modern world. You will take part in heated debates, participate in active learning, compete in team projects and express your ideas in written work.

## What will I study?

Year One

Topics: People and Politics, Governing the UK.

You will develop an understanding of the British political system and the nature of mass political and democratic participation. You will study elections, political parties, pressure groups and protest movements, the constitution, the role of Parliament, The Prime Minister and Cabinet, and voting behaviour and the Media. You will also study the big three political ideologies & parties: Liberalism, Conservatism & Socialism.

Year Two

Topics: Political Ideologies – nationalism.

Constitutional clashes in the UK – Prime Minister, Cabinet, Parliament and the Judges.

Global Politics and Globalisation. Are nation states disappearing into regional or even global governments?

Has global interconnectedness improved or worsened poverty, human rights, conflict and the environment? Is the UN effective?

Could we do away with the government altogether? What are the implications of Brexit? Will Scotland have another Independence referendum? Why do only 65% of the electorate vote in elections?

## Where can it lead?

Politics is useful for a whole range of degree level subjects including: Psychology, Law, Sociology and many others. Students who take Politics can progress to a broad range of careers including Law, Public Service, Teaching and Journalism to name just some.

## What do I need?

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and English Literature.

# Psychology A Level

## Why study it?

Psychology is a fascinating subject which is all about why people behave the way they do! Students will learn about research into a wide range of mental processes and behaviours. Lesson activities include reading, discussions, extended writing, quizzes and games. Prospective students should be confident in their literacy and numeracy and enjoy science. If you are curious about the causes of behaviour, you will enjoy psychology.

## What will I study?

- Research methods
- Issues and debates in psychology
- Approaches in psychology
- Biopsychology
- Memory
- Social influence
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Gender
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic psychology

## Where can it lead?

Psychology students go on to become psychologists, psychiatrists, speech therapists, social workers, lawyers, journalists, teachers, researchers, advertisers and many more occupations...

## What do I need?

Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics, English Language and Science.



# A Level Sociology

## Why study it?

Sociology is about people and society. It is about exploring the relationship between the individual and the society around them. Have you ever wondered why women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence than men? Why some students achieve higher grades than others? Why people, corporations and governments commit crime? Why Religious Fundamentalist movements have grown in number and influence? If so, then Sociology may be the subject for you!

## What will I study?

Year One

- Families and Households
- Education
- Sociological Methods

Year Two

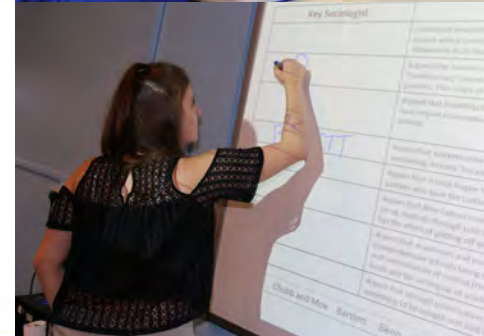
- Beliefs in Society
- Crime and Deviance
- Sociological Theory and Methods

## Where can it lead?

Sociology can lead to careers such as: Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work, Social Research, Charity Fundraising, Probation Officer, Teacher/Lecturer, Counsellor, Youth Work, Market Research, Civil Service, Journalism, Advertising .

## What do I need?

Grade 5 in either English Language or English Literature.



***“Sociology makes you think about life. It makes you ask questions and consider a range of possible answers.”***

# Spanish A Level

## Why study it?

If you enjoy interactive lessons with lots of opportunity for group work, discussion and debate, then this course will suit you. You will learn to discuss modern issues (poverty, crime, right to vote etc...) and learn about cultural aspects of the countries, through movies, music and literature. You will also develop the necessary skills to become confident to have a meaningful conversation with native speakers.

## What will I study?

Year One

Aspects of society: Family, “cyber-society”, Voluntary work.  
Artistic culture: Music and Cinema, including a movie.

Year Two

Current issues: Immigration, poverty, crime, racism. Political life: Right to vote, young people and politics, monarchy and republic. One book in Spanish.

You will be able to research your own area of interest for the speaking exam.

## How will I be assessed?

Written examinations (70%)

Speaking examination (30%)

## Where can it lead?

Studying a Modern Foreign Language at A Level leads to many courses at Higher Education. Universities offer a variety of degrees that give students the chance to specialise in the knowledge of one country or develop skills in two or more Foreign Languages. Many universities also offer courses with one unit in languages. Students are often able to study abroad for one term or a year through the Erasmus programme.

Students who take Modern Foreign Languages progress to a broad range of careers including: law, teaching, business, travel, journalism and many others in which languages are not the main skill but bring an advantage, including promotion and leadership opportunities. Students are encouraged to complete work experience abroad during the course.

## What do I need?

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or English Literature, plus a grade 5 in GCSE Spanish.

# Cambridge Technical Sport & Physical Activity

## Why study it?

Cambridge National Sport & Physical Activity offers students a broad and varied course on everything a passionate sports person needs. It combines knowledge of the human body, psychology, sports coaching and much more. The qualification is coursework based, with final examinations in Year 12 and Year 13, allowing students to be assessed in a variety of ways to ensure they reach their desired grade.

## What will I study?

This course can be studied as either a single or double award qualification. 5 units will be studied for the single award over two years. Up to a maximum of 11 core units that are listed below are to be covered over two years for the double award.

- Body systems and the effect of physical activity
- Sports coaching and activity leadership
- Sports organisation and development
- Working safely in sport
- Performance management
- Organisation of sports events
- Physical activity for specific groups
- Health and fitness testing
- Sports Injuries
- Practical skills in sport
- Sport and exercise psychology

Each student will be given the opportunity to participate in the Community Sports Leaders Award Level 2 and 3.

## How will I be assessed?

Assignments- You will complete a series of tasks set in a work-related scenario and produce a portfolio of evidence.

Written Exams- You will draw on essential information to create written answers to practical questions in test conditions

## Where can it lead?

Sport & Physical Activity can lead to a wide range of careers and university courses including:

- Sports Development
- Sports Management
- Teacher Training in Physical Education
- Community Sports Work
- Sports and Exercise Science
- Physiotherapy and Sports Injury

## What do I need?

Grade 4 in Mathematics and English Language or English Literature.



# Extended Project Qualification

## What is the Extended Project Qualification?

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a one-year qualification taken as a fourth (or occasionally fifth) option alongside other A Level/Vocational courses. You choose a topic and title for your research-based project, and will work on your project independently throughout the year. You will have one lesson per week, during which you will receive personalised guidance from staff relating to the research, writing, presentation, analysis and referencing skills required.

## Why study it?

The EPQ is highly valued by universities and other higher education providers, as it demonstrates advanced academic researching, writing and other study skills. Some universities will even offer reduced offers to students who have a good EPQ grade. As well as the possible benefits to your university application, the EPQ is an opportunity to study in depth a topic of your choosing.

## How will I be assessed?

You will produce a project based on your research. This can either be a written report/essay (5000 words), or can be practical (such as a piece of art or an organised event). You will also deliver a short presentation on your project.

Based on your project and presentation, you will receive a grade from A\*-U, which is worth up to 28 UCAS points and can be used towards a university offer for many courses.

## Examples of past project titles

- Can we reverse the effects of plastic on the oceans?
- Should euthanasia be legalised?
- What caused the outcome of the 2017 UK General Election?
- How does human activity affect elephant behaviour?
- Is a vegan diet sustainable?
- When should we use the label 'terrorist'?
- Should killer whales be held in captivity?
- Does the criminal justice system discriminate against black people?

# Subject Teaching and Options

All A Level subjects have five teaching hours allocated to them each week. BTEC and Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate (single option) courses also have five teaching hours allocated, with Diploma (double option) courses having ten hours and Extended Diploma (triple option) courses having fifteen hours. This will mean that you have a number of study periods available for independent learning activities. As an approximate guide, in Year 12 you should also be doing up to four hours per week of independent study for each subject.

The curriculum is designed to allow you the best chance of studying the combination of courses you select. However, please refer to the separate subject option blocks when considering your course choices to ensure that your chosen combination can be accommodated.

For timetabling reasons, you are only able to select one subject from each option block. You must select subjects from three option blocks, in order to have a sufficient number of teaching hours to be classified as a full-time student. You may choose a fourth subject if you wish, but we recommend studying a programme of three subjects.

The subject option blocks for 2024 entry will be published on our website via the Post 16 menu and will be available at our open evening in November.

## Post 16 Exam Success

We are proud of our students for their hard work and commitment having been faced with significant challenges over recent years, and we thank our staff for the dedicated support they provide to students, and for the accurate and robust monitoring and assessment that led to recent excellent outcomes.

**39%** A\*/A at A Level

**Distinction-** Average Vocational grade

**B** Average A Level grade

**100%** A Level pass rate



# Enrichment Opportunities

As well as providing you with the qualifications that you will need to pursue your chosen pathway, we also aim to provide you with opportunities to further develop yourself as a learner and an individual, and to acquire the skills and experience which will make your application more attractive to potential university admissions tutors or employers.

## Pathways Information

Throughout Year 12, a programme of activities will take place, designed to prepare students for applications to Higher Education, employment and apprenticeships.

## Expert Guests

Through our partnerships with local and national universities, businesses and other institutions, we are able to invite guest speakers in to the Academy to advise and inform our students about specific aspects of careers or Higher Education.

## Charity Fundraising

Throughout the year, students organise various events to raise money for good causes.

## Visits

We provide opportunities for visits to universities and an annual Higher Education Exhibition. Many courses also offer curriculum visits which enhance the learning experience.

## Work Shadowing

We encourage all students to take part in work shadowing, and our careers service and Post 16 team are able to assist in organising this.

## Ambassadors

You can volunteer to represent your Academy at school events. This develops communication and teamwork skills, and looks great on university applications.

## Peer Mentoring

Many of our Post 16 students take part in peer mentoring programmes, which help younger students in our Academies.

## Post 16 Committee

You can take a leading role in Post 16 life by joining the Post 16 Committee. This provides our students with the opportunity to contribute to the development of our provision, as well as gain leadership, teamwork and organisation skills.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We offer our students the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which develops a wide range of skills and is highly valued by universities and employers.

## World Challenge

In 2018, a group of our students spent two weeks in Swaziland and South Africa, and an exciting trip to Tanzania is planned for July 2023. New Year 12 students will have the opportunity to join the next expedition, in July 2025.



## Student Responsibilities

As an ACET Post 16 student, we expect you to work hard and show commitment to your studies and to Post 16 life in general.

We expect you to:

- Attend all lessons punctually
- Meet all deadlines on time
- Use non-contact periods effectively
- Contribute to the wider school community

***“The lessons have been really interesting, I look forward to the rest of the year and the opportunities I will have to do new things.”***



# Information, advice and guidance

In return for your commitment and hard work, you can expect excellent teaching and support.

Every student is allocated a tutor who will track and monitor your progress closely, talk with you regularly to review your learning, set targets and provide you with additional one to one support. Your tutor will discuss your formal assessment grades with you which subject staff provide on a regular basis, and help you to identify your key areas for development. Your tutor will be your first port of call should you have any difficulties or concerns and, in Year 13, will provide support with the completion of your UCAS application.

The majority of our students progress on to Higher Education or an apprenticeship. However, whichever path you choose, you will be offered advice and guidance to help you plan for your future. You will be encouraged to explore all options and take responsibility for your decisions. Our dedicated and experienced Post 16 team are always on hand to provide academic and pastoral support and advice.

You will also have access to expert careers advice and guidance and will be fully supported in securing your preferred pathway when you finish Post 16.

***“Students in the sixth form told inspectors that their teachers know them exceptionally well and that they provide support based upon their individual needs.”***

***- Ofsted, 2018***

# How to Apply

First, let us know if you are considering studying at Aston Post 16 by completing an expression of interest form. This can be found via the 'Post 16' tab on our Academy website: [www.astonacademy.org](http://www.astonacademy.org).

The expression of interest will tell us what you are interested in studying, and what your aspirations are, so that we can best advise you on your options. We will then invite you to a meeting to discuss your Post 16 pathway, to ensure that the courses you choose best match your interests and provide you with the best chance of success. This will also provide you with an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have.

Following your meeting, you will receive an offer of a place to study at Aston Post 16, subject to meeting the entry requirements for your chosen courses.

Our doors are open to applicants from local schools as well as our current Year 11 cohort.

*“I love the support sixth form gives me with all of my subjects. The sixth form team are so helpful and have really given me the confidence to apply to the top universities which before I thought I had no chance of getting in to. There’s always someone there to help, you just have to ask.”*







# Contact

If you would like further information about any aspect of our Post 16 provision, please do not hesitate to contact us by sending an email to **post16@astonacademy.org**. The Post 16 team will be very happy to answer your query, or will forward it to the relevant member of staff.

Alternatively, you can reach us by calling **01142872171** and asking to speak to a member of the Post 16 team.

Aston Academy is located at:

**Aston Academy  
Aughton Road  
Swallownest  
Sheffield  
S26 4SF**

Further information on Aston Academy and the Aston Community Education Trust can be found via our website:

**[www.astonacademy.org](http://www.astonacademy.org)**



Achieving Excellence Together



# POST 16



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