

St Bede's Areté Sixth Form Options



Contents

Page 3	Fine Art
Page 4	Biology
Page 5	Business Studies
Page 6	Chemistry
Page 7	Computer Science
Page 8	Drama
Page 9	Economics
Page 10	English Language
Page 11	English Literature
Page 12	French
Page 13	Geography
Page 14	History
Page 15	Law
Page 16	Mathematics
Page 17	Further Mathematics
Page 18	Maths Studies
Page 19	Music
Page 20	Physical Education
Page 21	Physics
Page 22	Politics
Page 23	Product Design
Page 24	Psychology
Page 25	Religious Studies
Page 26	Sociology
Page 27	Spanish

Any courses offered may be cancelled if there is insufficient interest

Fine Art



The art department has specifically chosen a course to suit the diverse needs of all students.

This course will allow students to explore and experiment with a range of media, develop ideas and delve deep into the work of others.

In year 1 there is a focus on practical exploration, allowing for students to develop an extended project, exploring work in their own preferred specialised area.

In year 2 it is tailored to encourage the students to work more independently.

Content Overview

Students are required to work in one or more areas of fine art:

- Drawing and painting
- Mixed media
- Sculpture
- Ceramics
- Installation
- Printmaking
- Moving image and photography

Students may explore overlapping areas and a combination of areas.



Assessment Overview

Exam board—AQA

Component 1- Personal Investigation. A body of research and investigation—60% of total mark.

Component 2- Externally set assessment. 15 hour exam—40% of total mark .

Biology



The OCR A level Biology A specification will give you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of biology. The topics cover molecular biology, ecology, disease and plant biology. Practical skills are integrated throughout the course and you will be awarded a separate qualification for these skills. This combination of academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A Level Biology highly appealing. You will learn about recent advances in genetics, medical sciences and about the impact of biological research and how it links to everyday life. You will study the biology of living organisms and the investigation of the science behind living things. The course is composed of a foundation module focusing on subjects such as cell theory and molecular biology, evolution, physiology and adaptation, gene theory, and homeostasis as well as more specialised topics.

Content Overview

The course is split into 6 modules:

Module 1: Development of practical skills in biology

Module 2: Foundations in biology

Module 3: Exchange and transport

Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy

Module 6: Genetics, evolution and ecosystems



Assessment Overview

Exam board—OCR

Paper 1- 2 hour 15 minute Written paper—37% of total mark

Paper 2- 2 hour 15 minute written paper—37% of total mark

Paper 3- 1 hour 30 minutes written paper 26% of total mark

Practical endorsement (non exam assessment)

Business Studies



Students are introduced to business in Themes 1 and 2 through building knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work. Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, with applications to a wider range of contexts and more complex business information, are developed in Themes 3 and 4, requiring students to take a more strategic view of business opportunities and issues. Students are encouraged to use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of business, to understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives and to challenge assumptions.

Content Overview

Theme 1—Marketing and people

- Meeting customer needs, The market, Marketing mix and strategy, Managing people, Entrepreneurs and leaders

Theme 2— Managing business activities

- Raising finance, Financial Planning, Resource management, External influences

Theme 3—Business decisions and strategy

- Business objectives and strategy, business growth, decision-making techniques, influences on business decisions, assessing competitiveness, managing change

Theme 4—Global business

- Globalisation, global markets and business expansion, global marketing, global industries and companies



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—Edexcel

Paper 1– 2 hour written paper—
35% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour written paper—
35% of total mark

Paper 3– 2 hour written paper—
30% of total mark

Chemistry



The A level Chemistry specification will develop a candidate's knowledge and understanding to provide a pathway to further study, employment and general career development. You will study 10 modules over the 2 years. The specifications are designed to thus motivate both teachers and students and to encourage more students to study chemistry at a higher level. Students will study aspects of chemistry that are often in the media and affect their lives. They will need to have the necessary knowledge and understanding to explain many different aspects of contemporary chemistry.



Content Overview

Module 1—Practical skills

Module 2—Foundations of chemistry

Module 3—Periodic table and energy

Module 4—Pure organic chemistry and analysis

Module 5—Organic chemistry and analysis

Assessment Overview

Exam board— OCR

Paper 1— 2 hours 15 minutes
written exam—41% of total
mark.

Paper 2— 2 hours 15 minutes
written exam—37% of total
mark

Paper 3— 1 hour 30 minutes
written exam—22% of total
mark

Practical Endorsement (non
exam assessment)

Computer Science



The computer science specification builds upon knowledge, understanding and skills developed at KS4 and is particularly suitable for students who have studied computer science or computing at GCSE.

Content Overview

The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices.

Software and software development

Exchanging data

Data types, data structures and algorithms

Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues

Elements of computational thinking

Problem solving and programming

Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

You will also choose a computing problem to work through:

- Analysis of the problem
- Design of the solution
- Developing the solution
- Evaluation



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—OCR

Paper 1– 2 hours 30 minutes
written exam—40% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hours 30 minutes
written exam—40% of total mark

Programming project (non exam
assessment) - 20% of total mark

Drama



This A Level is an ideal choice for anyone who loves performing, creating and studying literature. You need to have an ability to consider literature from both a performance and theoretical perspective. It is a highly respected A Level that can be instrumental in helping students gain university places in a variety of subjects. Students will also gain a great deal of academic prowess through a subject that promotes the development of transferable skills. Drama students are taught to be empathetic, allowing themselves to consider the decisions of themselves and others. Drama insists that students take part in class discussion and the development of analytical skills. Ultimately Drama teaches students how to present themselves and information to an audience.

Content Overview

Devising: Students work in groups to devise a piece of theatre based around a script stimulus which is influenced by the style of a theatre practitioner. Students document their devising process and evaluate their performance

Text in performance: Students participate in the creation, development and performance of two contrasting texts.

Theatre makers in practice: Students conduct a practical exploration of a set text and a re-imagining of a set text for a contemporary audience in light of a practitioner. Students must also analyse and evaluate a piece of live theatre.



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—Edexcel

Non-exam assessment 1—assessed on either acting or design—40% of total mark

Non exam assessment 2—assessed on either acting or design—20% of total mark

Written exam— 2 hours and 30 minutes—40% of total mark

Economics



Economics is about choices and the impact of our choices on each other and the works around us. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals to the policies and systems created by governments and firms. The economics way of thinking can help us make better choices.

Content Overview

Individuals, firms, markets and market failure

Economic methodology and the economic problem, individual economic decision making, price determination in a competitive market, production, costs and revenue, perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly, The labour market, the distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality, The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets.

The national and international economy

The measurement of macroeconomic performance, How the macro economy works, economic performance, financial markets and monetary policy, fiscal policy and supply-side policies , the international economy



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1— 2 hour written exam—
33.3% of total mark.

Paper 2— 2 hour written exam—
33.3% of total mark.

Paper 3— 2 hour written exam—
33.3% of total mark.

English Language



At A-Level, this specification enables candidates to explore the fundamental structures and functions of writing, speech and conversation and how language functions in different social contexts and at different stages through childhood; students are able to study children's language development, exploring how children learn language and how they are able to understand and express themselves through language as well as studying the uses of language within different social contexts.

Content Overview

- Textual variations and representations
- Children's language development
- Language diversity and change
- Language discourses
- Writing skills
- Language investigation
- Original writing

A language investigation will be undertaken allowing students the opportunity for original writing. Further analysis and commentary will be expected of their writing.



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– 2 hour 30 minute written exam—40% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour 30 minute written exam—40% of total mark

Non– exam assessment—20% of total mark

English Literature



This course takes a historic approach to the study of literature and focuses on reading texts within a shared context. It works on the belief that no text exists in isolation but is a product of the time in which it was produced.

The specification is designed to:

- Deliver as much choice as possible for teachers and candidates.
- Develop interest in and enjoyment of English literature, through reading widely and through experience of an extensive range of views about texts.
- Encourage candidates to develop as informed, independent readers and critics of literary texts.
- Develop personal responses to literary texts.

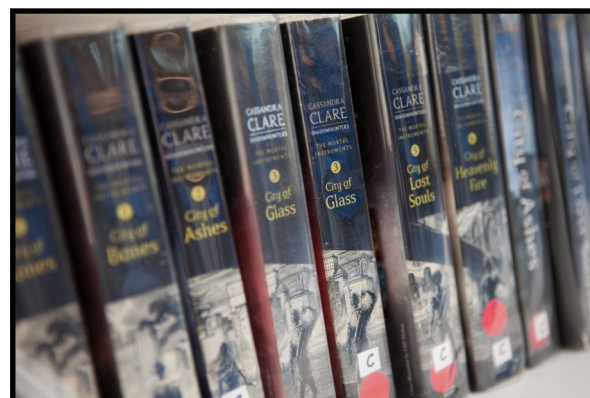
Content Overview

Core content

- Love through the ages
- Texts in shared contexts
- Independent critical study: Texts across time

Options

- WW1 and its aftermath
- Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1— 3 hour written exam—40% of total mark

Paper 2— 2 hour 30 minute written exam—40% of total mark

Non-exam assessment—20% of total mark

French



Students study technological and social change, looking at diversity and the benefits it brings. They will study highlights of French-speaking artistic culture, including francophone music and cinema, and learn about political engagement and who wields political power in the French-speaking world. Students also explore the influence of the past on present-day French-speaking communities. Throughout their studies, they will learn the language in the context of French-speaking countries and the issues and influences which have shaped them. Students will study texts and film and have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice.

Content Overview

Social issues and trends:

- The changing nature of family
- Cyber-society
- The place of voluntary work

Artistic culture:

- A culture proud of its heritage
- Contemporary music
- Cinema

Literary texts and films:

- A study of one film/text

Grammar

- Knowledge



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– 2 hour 30 minute written paper—50% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour written paper—20% of total mark

Paper 3– 21-23 minute oral exam—30% of total mark

Geography



Our A-level geography course is the perfect progression from GCSE, and offers a strong base for students that are motivated by studying a global issue-based or analytical subject at university. Learners will have the opportunity to consider their own values and attitudes towards a range of world issues, take a scientific approach towards physical concepts and broaden deeper existing skills, including map skills, statistical and analytical skills.

Content Overview

Physical geography

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

Human geography

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

Geography fieldwork investigation

Geographical skills .



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– 2 hour 30 minute written exam—40% of total mark.

Paper 2– 2 hour 30 minute written exam –40% of total mark.

Geography fieldwork investigation (non exam assessment) - 20% of total mark.

History



The A-level history qualification has been designed to help students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time.

This qualification will help students to gain a deeper understanding of the past through practical, social, economic and cultural perspectives.

Content Overview

Component 1—Breadth Study—The Tudors—1485-1603

- Students will be expected to study and respond to the different interpretations of historians on the Tudor period.

Component 2—Depth Study—Democracy and Nazism—1918-1945

- Students will be expected to study and respond to primary sources or sources contemporary to the period

Component 3— Historical Investigation— USA Civil Rights Movement

- This consists of students studying an overview of the USA civil rights movement and then focusing on a particular area for their independent research.



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– 2 hour 30 minute written exam—40% of total mark.

Paper 2– 2 hour 30 minute written exam—40% of total mark.

Historical Investigation—Non-exam assessment– 20% of total mark.

Law



The law A-level course offered is aimed at students who are critical thinkers who enjoy problem solving and applying what they have learned about the law to different situations. The course covers a range of fascinating legal cases and encourages students to evaluate how the law was applied so that they can learn to apply the law to new scenarios.

Content Overview

The nature of law and the legal system

- Nature of law
- The rule of law
- Law making
- The legal system

Criminal law

- The rules of criminal law
- Liability
- Fatal and non-fatal offences and property offences

Tort

- Liability in negligence
- Occupiers liability
- Defences and remedies

Law of contract

- The rules & development of human rights law
- Restrictions on human rights
- Enforcement of human rights



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—OCR

Paper 1— 2 hour written paper—
33% of total mark.

Paper 2— 2 hour written paper—
33% of total mark.

Paper 3— 2 hour written paper—
33% of total mark.

Mathematics



A - level maths consists of pure maths, mechanics and statistics.

Mechanics is the study of forces and motion, statistics is the study of data and probability and pure maths is primarily about algebra and functions.

A-level maths is taught mainly by exposition by the teacher. Although students will be expected to contribute to class discussions of new topics. A significant part of the course will be in keeping up with the home learning tasks, normally set after each lesson.

Much of the course involves problem solving and students will need to demonstrate perseverance in order to succeed.

Maths A-level is a necessity if you wish to study any form of engineering or physical science at degree level and is also desirable if you wish to study any other form of science.

Content Overview

Pure Maths

- Algebra and trigonometry
- coordinate geometry
- calculus

Mechanics

- Dynamics (moving objects)
- Statics (stationary objects)

Statistics

- Analysis of data
- Elementary probability theory



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—Edexcel

Paper 1— 2 hour written exam—
33% of total mark.

Paper 2— 2 hour written exam—
33% of total mark.

Paper 3— 2 hour written exam—
33% of total mark.

Further Mathematics



Students studying further mathematics A –level do this in addition to the Single mathematics A –level course. Students will be introduced to new areas of maths such as complex numbers and matrices. There will also be an opportunity to study decision mathematics. Decision mathematics is the study of algorithms and optimization, finding efficient solutions to problems. The work covered is applicable to many real world situations and is a useful part of the course for students studying Computer Science.

The extra mechanics unit would be particularly useful for any students planning on studying Engineering or Physics at a higher level.

Content Overview

Students complete two additional pure units:

- Further pure mathematics 1 (FP1)
- Further pure mathematics 2 (FP2)

Students complete two additional applied units, we are currently offering:

- Mechanics (FM1)
- Decision mathematics (D1)



Assessment Content

Exam Board—Edexcel

FP1– 1 hour 30 minute written exam

FP2– 1 hour 30 minute written exam

FM1- 1 hour 30 minute written exam

D1- 1 hour 30 minute written exam

You will complete the exam of the units you have studied.

Maths Studies



Maths Studies is a new course that gives students the opportunity to continue studying aspects of mathematics that will be useful to them at university or in employment. The course has been developed with the help of many universities and major employers. The content will include both GCSE Higher and A Level mathematics content and is suitable for students with a grade 5 or above at GCSE.

Content Overview

Analysis of data:

- Collecting and sampling data
- Representing data numerically
- Representing data diagrammatically

Maths for personal finance

- Percentages
- Interest rates
- Borrowing money
- Estimation
- Taxation

Estimation

Critical analysis of given data and models

You will also cover some other optional units.



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– 1 hour 30 minute written exam

Paper 2– 1 hour 30 minute written exam

Music



The A-level music specification enables students to enhance their knowledge and understanding of music, to create and develop their own musical ideas and to demonstrate technical and interpretive skills through performing music.

This course builds on the knowledge and skills gained from GCSE music and/or musical experience gained outside the classroom. The A-level music programme provides a sound preparation for the study of music in higher education, as well as providing opportunities to develop strengths and interests leading to music-related careers.

Content Overview

Component 1

- Appraising music—one exam paper with listening and written questions using excerpts of music

Component 2

- Performance— A performance as a soloist and/or as part of an ensemble. A minimum of 10 minutes of performance is required

Component 3

- Composition— A composition of two pieces of music. A minimum of four and a half minutes of music in total is required



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– Written and listening exam—40% of total mark

Performance— Minimum 10 minute performance (solo and/or ensemble) - 35% of total mark

Composition—Minimum 4 minutes and 30 seconds of music—25% of total mark

Physical Education



Studying A-Level physical education will give you a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform or coach a sport through the non-exam assessment component, you will also develop a wide ranging knowledge into the how and why of physical activity and sport.

The combination of physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students. You can perform, and then through the academic study improve your performance or coaching through application of the theory.

Content Overview

Physiological factors

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Exercise physiology
- Biomechanics

Psychological factors

- Skill acquisition
- Sports psychology

Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport

- Sport and society
- Contemporary issues in physical activity and sport

Performance in physical education

- Performance or coaching of an activity
- Evaluation and analysis of performance



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—OCR

Non-exam assessment— One practical performance—30% of total mark

Paper 1— 1 hour written exam

Paper 2— 1 hour written exam

Paper 3— 1 hour 30 minute written exam

The 3 exams make up 70% of the total mark

Physics



The dictionary definition of physics is “the study of matter, energy, and the interaction between them”. This really means that physics is about asking fundamental questions and trying to answer them by observing and experimenting.

Physics is a seriously useful subject for the majority of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) careers and you'll find physicists everywhere, in industry, transport, government, universities, the armed forces, the secret service, games companies, research labs and more.

Content Overview

Module 1

- Development of practical skills in physics.

Module 2

- Foundations in physics

Module 3

- Forces and motion

Module 4

- Electrons, waves and photons

Module 5

- Newton's world of astrophysics

Module 6

- Particles and medical physics



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—OCR

Paper 1– 2 hour 15 minute written exam—37% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour 15 minute written exam—37% of total mark

Paper 3– 1 hour 30 minute written exam—26% of total mark

Practical endorsement– non-exam assessment .

Politics



Lively, relevant, controversial... there are many ways to describe A-level Politics. There's no denying that it's one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose. Covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, it helps you understand how the UK is run and develops research, written communication and debate skills. It also helps grow your confidence. It's ideal if you're considering studying politics, sociology, ethics, criminology, philosophy, economics, advertising or journalism at university and is highly regarded by employers in industries including politics, international organisations, the media, government and the civil service.

Content Overview

Government and politics of the UK

- The government of the UK
e.g. parliamentary system; devolution; the EU
- The politics of the UK
e.g. electoral system and voting behaviour; role of political parties.

Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics

- Government and politics of the USA
e.g. the presidency; federal system; pressure groups
- Comparative politics
e.g. judiciary; checks and balances; civil rights

Political ideas

- Core ideologies
e.g. conservatism; liberalism; socialism
- Other ideologies
nationalism; multiculturalism; ecologism



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– 2 hour written paper—33.3% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour written paper—33.3% of total mark

Paper 3– 2 hour written paper—33.3% of total mark

Product Design



This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives you the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industrial and engineering industries.

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

You will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

Content Overview - (A sample of topics covered)

Product Design requires you to engage in both practical and theoretical study.

- Materials and their applications
- Performance characteristics of materials
- Enhancement of materials
- The use of adhesives and fixings
- The use of finishes
- Efficient use of materials
- Digital design and manufacture
- The requirements of product design and development
- Health and safety
- Protecting designs and intellectual property
- Design for manufacturing, maintenance, repair and disposal
- Feasibility studies



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1—120 marks

Paper 2—80 marks

Non exam assessment— 200 marks

You must undertake a substantial design and make task and produce a final prototype based on a context and design brief developed by yourself.

Psychology



Psychology is the scientific study of human behavior and experience. This stimulating subject combines fascinating content with a rigorous and scientific approach to investigation. It has recently undergone a huge growth in popularity, both as a choice for A level and undergraduate students. The course aims to develop both an academic understanding of the subject and an appreciation of its impact on people's daily lives.

Content Assessment

Compulsory content:

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

Other optional units (other options are available)

- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic psychology



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1— 2 hour written paper—33% of total mark

Paper 2— 2 hour written paper—33% of total mark

Paper 3— 2 hour written paper—33% of total mark

Religious Studies



Religious Studies A Level is an essay based subject aimed at encouraging students to develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, a rigorous study of religion and relate it to the wider world. There are three papers: Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and New Testament Studies.

Content Overview

Philosophy of Religion:

- The classical arguments for the existence of God
- The nature of religious experience
- The problem of evil and suffering
- Philosophical language
- Works of scholars
- Influences of developments in religious belief

Religion and Ethics:

- Environmental issues
- Equality
- Natural Moral Law
- War and Peace
- Sexual Ethics
- Medical ethics (abortion, euthanasia)
-

New Testament Studies:

- The prologue in St John's Gospel
- The 'I am' sayings in John
- Miracles and signs
- Interpreting the text
- Ways of interpreting scripture
- Scientific and historical challenges

(This is just a selection of the content studied)



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—Edexcel

Paper 1– 2 hour written paper—33.3% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour written paper—33.3% of total mark

Paper 3– 2 hour written paper—33.3% of total mark

Sociology



Ever wondered how we developed into the society we are today?
How has the family changed and what is its purpose in the 21st century?
What makes someone a criminal?

A Level Sociology will help you to make sense of the society we live in and understand the cultural and identity issues which affect us all. You will learn a number of skills including the use of evidence to support your arguments, how to conduct research, and critical thinking. It is relevant to the society you experience so you can relate to the topics but also learn other perspectives; plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

Content Overview

Education with theory and methods

- The role of education
- Gender, class & race in context

Crime and deviance

- Theories of crime and deviance
- Social distribution of crime

The media

- How the media affects behaviour
- Media representations

Families and households

- The relationship of the family
- Gender roles
- Childhood

Sociological Theory



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– 2 hour written paper—33.3% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour written paper—33.3% of total mark

Paper 3– 2 hour written paper—33.3% of total mark

Spanish



Students will study technological and social change, looking at the multicultural nature of Hispanic society. They will study highlights of Hispanic artistic culture, including a focus on Spanish regional identity and the cultural heritage of past civilisations. They will learn about aspects of the diverse political landscape of the Hispanic world. Students will explore the influence of the past on present-day Hispanic communities. Throughout their studies, they learn the language in the context of Hispanic countries and issues and influences which have shaped them. Students will study texts and film and will have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice.

Content Overview

Social issues and trends:

- The changing nature of family
- Cyber-society
- The place of voluntary work

Artistic culture:

- A culture proud of its heritage
- Contemporary music
- Cinema

Literary texts and films:

- A study of one film/text

Grammar

- Knowledge



Assessment Overview

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1— 2 hour 30 minute written paper—50% of total mark

Paper 2— 2 hour written paper—20% of total mark

Paper 3— 21-23 minute oral exam—30% of total mark