



Holy Family Catholic School & Sixth Form

ASPIRE TO THE HOLY FAMILY WAY

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

## 2) Choosing your subjects



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# Core curriculum offer: Level 3 subjects

- A Levels
  - Linear two year courses with external exams at the end of Year 13.
  - Some coursework elements eg: Art, Photography, Design etc.
  - Students choose 3 or 4 subjects depending on GCSE average.
  - Provide direct entry to university, college or higher apprenticeships
- Level 3 BTECs
  - 2 year courses, mainly based on assignment work.
  - Less examined content than A Levels (approximately 30-40%).
  - Equivalent to between 1 to 3 A Levels, depending on subject weighting.
  - Students choose 1 or 2 subjects to study.
  - Provide direct entry to university college or higher apprenticeships
- Mixed programmes
  - It is possible to study a number of mixed combinations – these can be discussed at interview.



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# Curriculum offer: Bridging course

- The Holy Family ethos is to support students of all abilities.
- We therefore offer a bridging course for **internal students** who do not meet the entry requirements for Level 3 study by September 2021.
- The aim of this course is to allow students another year to prepare for their chosen pathway and to provide extra pastoral/careers support.
- The focus is therefore on either:
  - Re-sitting Maths and English GCSE's if a grade 3 is achieved, with a view to progressing to Level 3 study in September 2022.
  - Accessing stepping stone qualifications if grade 1 or 2 is achieved to progress to apprenticeships or further training in September 2022.
- Please do not hesitate to contact us for more details on this pathway.



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# Entry requirements

- A Levels and Level 3 BTECs require a high level of prior knowledge and skills, as demonstrated through GCSE results.
- As a result, we advertise clear entry requirements for each course. These are explained in full on the Curriculum Offer document online.
- Students who narrowly miss entry requirements will be considered on an individual basis, based on circumstance.
- General requirements for A Level are a **GCSE average of 4.8** or greater and **grade 5 in Maths and English GCSE.**
- General requirements for Level 3 BTEC are **GCSE average of 3.6** and **grade 4 in Maths and English.**
- Some subjects also have specific requirements eg: Maths A Level requires a grade 7 or greater in Maths GCSE.



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# GCSE Averages – examples

- **Example student who qualifies for A Levels:** Maths: 5, English: 5, Science double: 55, RE: 5, History: 6, French: 6, Resistant Materials: 6, Media Studies: 7 =  $50/9 =$  **GCSE average 5.6**
- **Example student who qualifies for L3 BTEC:** Maths: 4, English 4, Science double: 44, RE: 4, History: 5, French: 4, Resistant Materials: 4, Media Studies: 5 =  $34/9 =$  **GCSE average 3.8**
- **These entry requirements mirror other similar providers and in some cases are more lenient**



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# Study programmes

Core curriculum of:

- Level 3 Academic/Vocational Qualifications or Level 2 Bridging course Continued Level 2 English and/or maths.

Booster/revision classes in:

- Maths and/or English Language GCSE for November and/or May entry.
- Functional Skills classes to focus on core skills.

Additional supporting qualifications such as:

- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Core Maths
- Community based languages.



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# Study programmes

Non-qualifying activities:

- Timetabled General Religious Studies programme
- Timetabled study sessions.
- Super-curricular activities
- Personal/Community enrichment activities
- Personal Tutorials
- Extended registration PSD (Fridays)
- Year group assemblies (Wednesday)
- PSD drop down days focusing on; transition to sixth form, resilience & Mental/Physical Health, UCAS and Careers guidance, preparing for life after Holy Family!
- Opportunities for work placements, speakers and subject based trips.

# Option Blocks

- These form the basis for creating the timetable for September 2021.
- Students applying for **A Levels** should choose a minimum of 3 subjects and should choose one option from each block (A,B,C,D) only.
- You can also register interest in EPQ or Core Maths on the application form
- Students with a GCSE average score of 6.5 or above would be advised to start on 4 A Levels. This will be discussed at interview and enrolment.
- Students applying for **Level 3 BTEC** subjects should choose one subject from BTEC Block A and one subject from BTEC Block B.
- There is the potential to study a **mixed programme** of A Level and L3 BTECs. Students must still qualify for A Levels in order to study a mixed programme. In this case please choose one A Level subject in Block C alongside the BTEC choice in Block A.





# Option Blocks – A Levels

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Geography	Art (Fine Art)	Chemistry	Biology
History	Business Studies	D&T (Product Design)	English Literature
RE	Government & Politics	Economics	Physics
Psychology	Photography	Film Studies	French
Biology	Sociology	Spanish	Psychology
	Drama	Sociology	Maths
	Maths		

Clashes in the options blocks – please raise these at interview – we will do our best to accommodate clashes but this is not always possible.

Home spoken Languages (eg: Polish, Portuguese, Russian etc.) are not in the option blocks, but there is an option in step 1 of the form to indicate that you would be interested in studying these



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# Entry requirements – A Level

A Level Subject	GCSE Average required	GCSE English Language	GCSE Maths	GCSE Science	Other GCSE requirements
Art and Design (Fine Art OR Photography#)	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 6 in Art (Fine Art) Portfolio for Photography
Biology	4.8	5	6	77	Or Grade 7 in Single Biology
Business Studies#	4.8	5	5	n/a	Grade 5 at Business Interest in Business essential
Chemistry	4.8	5	6	77	Or Grade 7 in Single Chemistry
Design and Technology: Product Design (3D)	4.8	5	5	n/a	Grade 5 in Design related subject eg: (Graphics, Resistant Materials, Textiles)
Drama and Theatre studies	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 6 in Drama
Economics#	4.8	6	6	n/a	Interest in Economic issues essential
English Literature	4.8	6	n/a	n/a	Grade 6 in English Language also required
Film Studies#	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 5 in Media subject if taken at GCSE
French	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	7+ at GCSE and/or home speaker.
Geography#	4.8	6	5	n/a	Grade 5 in Geography if taken Preferred 6 in Maths
History	4.8	6	n/a	n/a	Grade 6 in History
Maths/Further Maths	4.8	5	7	n/a	Further Maths is not timetabled directly, but is supported on an individual basis
Physics	4.8	5	7	77	Or Grade 7 in Single Physics GCSE
Politics#	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	Prior knowledge in Politics and political systems is essential.
Psychology#	4.8	5	5	55	Interest in Psychology essential
Religious Studies#	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 5 in RE if taken at GCSE
Sociology#	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 5 in Sociology if taken at GCSE
Spanish	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	7+ at GCSE and/or home speaker.



# Option Blocks – L3 BTEC

<b>Block A</b>	<b>Block B</b>	<b>Block C (A Levels)</b>
BTEC Business	BTEC IT	Chemistry
BTEC Health & Social Care	BTEC Sport	D&T (Product Design)
BTEC Media Production	BTEC Performing Arts	Economics
	BTEC Music Production	Film Studies
		Spanish
		Sociology

Subjects in BTEC Block A are the equivalent to two or three A Levels.

Subjects in BTEC Block B are the equivalent to one A Level.

Students should select one choice from BTEC Block A and one from either BTEC Block B or A Level Block C



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# Entry requirements – L3 BTECs

Subject	GCSE Average required	GCSE English Language	GCSE Maths	GCSE Science	Other
Business <i>(Equivalent to 2 A Levels)</i>	3.6	4	4	n/a	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken
Health and Social Care <i>(Equivalent to 3 A Levels)</i>	3.6	4	4	44	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken
IT <i>(Equivalent to 1 A Level)</i>	3.6	4	4	n/a	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken
Media Production <i>(Equivalent to 2 A Levels)</i>	3.6	4	n/a	n/a	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken
Music Production <i>(Equivalent to 1 A Level)</i>	3.6	4	4	n/a	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken
Performing Arts <i>(Equivalent to 1.5 A Levels)</i>	3.6	4	n/a	n/a	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken
Sport <i>(Equivalent to 1 A Level)</i>	3.6	4	4	44	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken



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# Post-16 Curriculum pathways

Pathway	English/maths minimum GCSE requirements	Minimum GCSE average required	Main programme of study	Additional study	Compulsory Non-qualifying hours	Days in school
<b>A levels (4)</b>	GCSE English grade 5 GCSE Maths grade 5	6.5+	4 A Levels	EPQ or Core Maths	Enrichment Registration/tutorials PSD	5 days/week
<b>A levels (3)</b>	GCSE English grade 5 GCSE Maths grade 4	4.8 – 6.4	3 A Levels	EPQ or Core Maths or Maths GCSE re-sit if required	Compulsory study Enrichment Registration/tutorials PSD	5 days/week
<b>L3 BTEC Mixed &amp; A Level mixed programme</b>	GCSE English grade 5 Specific entry requirements for A level must be met	3.6+	1 Double L3 BTEC and 1 A Level OR Combination of 3 subjects from A Levels and Single BTECs	Core Maths if required for A Level choice Maths GCSE re-sit if required	Compulsory study Enrichment Registration/tutorials PSD	5 days/week
<b>L3 BTEC</b>	GCSE English grade 4 GCSE Maths grade 3	3.6 – 4.7	1 Double L3 BTEC and 1 Single L3 BTEC OR 1 'Triple' L3 BTEC	Maths GCSE re-sit if required	Work Experience linked to core aim Compulsory study Enrichment Registration/tutorials PSD	5 or 4 days/week depending on courses
<b>L1/2 Bridging course (1 year)</b>  <b>AVAILABLE FOR CURRENT HOLY FAMILY STUDENTS ONLY</b>	Dependent on Level of entry (GCSE grades 3 in maths and English usually required for L2 pathway)	Approximately 2.0-3.5 depending on individual students	L1/2 BTEC IT	Where relevant: GCSE English re-sit GCSE Maths re-sit Functional Skills Literacy and/or Numeracy	Work Experience linked to core aim Enrichment Registration/tutorials PSD	3 or 4 days/week in school depending on courses

# What if I am unsure about my subjects?

- Watch the subject videos and read the subject flicker book pages
- For current Holy Family students: use Taster day wisely to help guide you
- Have a look at the transition work on the sixth form website
- Speak to your current subject teachers
- Contact Mr Delf
  - Email: [m.delf@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:m.delf@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk) and/or Friday Drop in clinic
  - Happy to organise phone calls/Zoom meetings with parents
- What interests/motivates you?
- What career are you considering?
- Ensure you read the information on the Informed Choices website



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