

#### SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

# 2) Choosing your subjects









## 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.









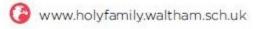
### Curriculum offer: Bridging course

- 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.









### **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.









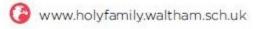
## GCSE Averages – examples

- 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









### 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.









## 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, resiliance & Mental/Physical Health, UCAS and Careers gudience, 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









# Entry requirements – A Level

A Level Subject	GCSE Average	GCSE English	GCSE	GCSE	Other GCSE requirements
	required	Language	Maths	Science	
Art and Design (Fine	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 6 in Art (Fine Art)
Art OR Photography#)					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

Block A	Block B	Block C (A Levels)		
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









## Entry requirements – L3 BTECs

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









# 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
A levels (4)	GCSE English grade 5 GCSE Maths grade 5	6.5+	4 A Levels	EPQ or Core Maths	Enrichment Registration/tutorials PSD	5 days/week
A levels (3)	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
L3 BTEC Mixed & A Level mixed programme	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
L3 BTEC	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
L1/2 Bridging course (1 year) AVAILABLE FOR CURRENT HOLY FAMILY STUDENTS ONLY	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 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





