

Curriculum pathways

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. Students who narrowly miss entry requirements will be considered on an individual basis.

Pathway	English / maths GCSE minimum	GCSE average	Main programme and additional study
POST-16 ASPIRE Pathway A level (4)	GCSE English grade 5+ GCSE Maths grade 5+	6.8+	4 A Levels Additional study EPQ
A level (3)	GCSE English grade 5 GCSE Maths grade 4	4.8 and above	3 A Levels Additional study EPQ Maths GCSE re-sit if required
L3 Mixed Programme (A level and BTEC)	GCSE English grade 5 GCSE Maths grade 4	4-4.8	Mix of A levels and BTECs Additional study EPQ Maths GCSE re-sit if required
L3 BTEC	GCSE English grade 4 GCSE Maths grade 4	3.6-4	Double BTEC and Single Three single BTECs Additional study EPQ Maths GCSE re-sit if required
L1/2 Bridging course (1 year)	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 Business or Digital Systems (subject to Government funding approval) Additional study Where relevant: GCSE English re-sit GCSE Maths re-sit Functional Skills Numeracy

Compulsory elements for every pathway

- Study sessions
- Extra-curricular activities
- Registration and tutorials
- PSHCE
- Core RE
- Work experience

A level entry requirements

Students studying A Levels usually study 3 A Levels, plus an additional subject such as EPQ and Core Maths, alongside compulsory General RE, Study sessions and Enrichment

A GCSE average of 4.8 is required for every A level listed below.

Subject	English Language	Maths	Science	Other GCSE requirements
Art and Design (Fine Art OR Photography#)	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 6 in Art (Fine Art) Portfolio for Photography
Biology	5	6	77	Or Grade 7 in Single Biology
Business Studies#	5	5	n/a	Grade 5 at Business if taken Interest in Business essential
Chemistry	5	6	77	Or Grade 7 in Single Chemistry
Computing	5	6	n/a	Grade 6 in Computing GCSE if taken
Design and Technology: Product Design (3D)	5	5	n/a	Grade 5 in Design related subject eg: (Graphics, Resistant Materials, Textiles)
Drama & Theatre Studies	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 6 in Drama
Economics#	6	6	n/a	Interest in Economic issues essential
English Literature	6	n/a	n/a	Grade 6 in English Literature
Film Studies#	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 5 in Media subject if taken at GCSE
French	5	n/a	n/a	7+ at GCSE and/or home speaker.
Geography	6	5	n/a	Grade 5 in Geography if taken and ideally Grade 6 in Maths
History	6	n/a	n/a	Grade 6 in History
Maths	5	7	n/a	Grade 7 in GCSE Maths.
Maths (Further)	5	8	n/a	Further Maths is timetabled separately but MUST be taken with Maths and requires at least a grade 8 at GCSE
Physics	5	7	77	Or Grade 7 in Single Physics GCSE. Advised to combine with A Level Maths
Politics#	5	n/a	n/a	Prior knowledge in Politics and political systems is essential.
Psychology#	5	5	55	Interest in Psychology essential
Philosophy & Ethics	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 5 in RE at GCSE
Sociology#	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 5 in Sociology if taken at GCSE
Spanish	5	n/a	n/a	7+ at GCSE and/or home speaker.

Subjects marked with # do not require a GCSE in that subject to study them at A level.

Level 3 vocational requirements

Subject	GCSE average	English Language	Maths	Science	Other
Business BTEC (Single or Double) (Equivalent to 1 or 2 A Levels)	3.6	4	4	n/a	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken
Health and Social Care BTEC (Single or Double) (Equivalent to 1 or 2 A Levels)	3.6	4	4	44	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken
Childhood Studies BTEC AAQ (Equivalent to 1 A Level)	3.6	4	4	44	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken
ICT BTEC AAQ (Equivalent to 1 A Level)	3.6	4	4	n/a	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken
Media (BTEC) (Equivalent to 1 A Level)	3.6	4	n/a	n/a	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken
Sport (BTEC) (Equivalent to 1 A Level)	3.6	4	4	44	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken

Qualification review

BTEC subjects are currently under a curriculum review following the defunding of certain qualifications by the Government and the introduction of the new AAQs. The final list of qualifications available will be confirmed during interviews for the 6th form.

GCSE points scores

To access both the A Level pathway and the L3 BTEC Pathway, students are required to gain a GCSE average as outlined in the tables above. Level 3 study is challenging and requires an existing base of knowledge as proven by GCSE results.

Students can 'model' their likely GCSE average by adding up all their current predicted grades (in number form) and dividing by the total number of GCSEs.

Course availability

Subjects which do not recruit enough students will not run in Sept 2027. Final decisions will be made about subjects with small numbers once applications are completed. Students would therefore be strongly advised to research one or two 'reserve subjects'.

Level 2 bridging pathway

New for 2027

A supportive one-year pathway preparing students for progression to Level 3 study

From September 2027, the Government is introducing major changes to vocational and technical qualifications for 16-19-year-olds. These reforms will introduce new Foundation Certificates at Level 2 and V Levels at Level 3, alongside A Levels and T Levels.

At HFSIX, we are developing our Level 2 programme to reflect these national changes. We currently offer Level 2 Business and are exploring the introduction of the new Foundation Certificate in Digital Systems and Data, one of the first new Level 2 qualifications being introduced nationally in September 2027. Our final course offer will be confirmed later in the academic year as the new qualifications and specifications are finalised.

The Level 2 pathway is designed to give students additional time, teaching and support to prepare successfully for Level 3 study. Alongside their vocational qualification, students who have not yet achieved a Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and/or Mathematics will continue to study these subjects as part of their HFSIX programme.

For students who achieved a Grade 1 or 2 in GCSE Mathematics, HFSIX also offers the opportunity to study Functional Skills Mathematics as an alternative qualification, providing a more accessible route to developing essential numeracy skills and achieving a recognised mathematics qualification.

Students will also benefit from the wider HFSIX experience, including careers guidance, personal development, enrichment, academic mentoring and opportunities to develop the study and employability skills needed for their next steps.

Our aim is for the Level 2 year to provide a clear bridge to Level 3, enabling students to strengthen their qualifications, build confidence and progress onto the most appropriate Level 3 programme, training or employment.

Our final Level 2 course offer for September 2027 will be confirmed later in the academic year. Please check our website or contact HFSIX for the latest information.