The Ilfracombe Church of England Academy

Post 16 Options Booklet

For entry in September 2027



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Life in all its Fullness

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Welcome to the Sixth Form at The Ilfracombe Academy

We are proud to have such a successful and dynamic Sixth Form, judged "*Good*" time after time by multiple inspections. Whether you are currently a student at The Ilfracombe Academy or visiting us to find out more, I am confident that you will be impressed by the Sixth Form experience we offer.

Our aim is to ensure that every student fulfils their potential, both academically and outside the classroom. We are committed to the highest standards of academic excellence but also to equipping our students to leave us as happy, resilient young people prepared for their next steps. We are very proud of the achievements of our Sixth Form students. Examination results in the Sixth Form have historically been very good and the vast majority of our Year 13 students gain places at their first-choice university, with a significant number applying every year to elite Russell Group universities and Oxbridge.

We are on the Bristol University Aspiring State School list and therefore receive automatic contextual offers from Bristol. In addition, we qualify for automatic contextual offers from Exeter University on the same basis.

"Pupils are taught well. Teachers are experts in their subjects. Teaching enables students to acquire the deep knowledge and subject-specific vocabulary they need. Teachers check what students have learned. Students who face barriers to their learning are well supported so that they can achieve well and participate in all the Sixth Form has to offer." (OFSTED, January 2026)

As a school based Sixth Form, we offer continuity of experience and unrivalled pastoral care alongside a dedicated team of approachable, specialist teachers and tutors. Every student is known by us and every student matters to us. Students have a morning tutorial with their tutor who will remain with them for their entire Sixth Form career. Tutors guide and mentor their students through their studies whilst also building their confidence to take opportunities that will develop their talents.

We have high expectations for all our students yet recognise the need to offer support and guidance where needed. Life and learning is different in the Sixth Form; students are expected to take more responsibility for their own learning. Students prepare ahead of lessons, take their own notes, meet deadlines, and undertake independent research. To support their independent learning, students will benefit from the excellent facilities in our Sixth Form Centre.

We also strive to offer many different enrichment opportunities to help our students stand out when applying for jobs and university. Students in the Sixth Form are encouraged to take on leadership roles and other responsibilities to develop their skills and experiences. Students are able to participate in Young Enterprise, Duke of Edinburgh, and Ten Tors, amongst many others. Students organise many activities themselves, volunteering with our younger students, sporting events and our annual Sixth Form trip to London. Additionally, there are many opportunities for students to visit universities, attend summer schools, visit careers fairs, and explore their next steps after Sixth Form.

I hope you enjoy reading this Options Booklet to find out more about the courses and study programmes we offer and how the application process works.

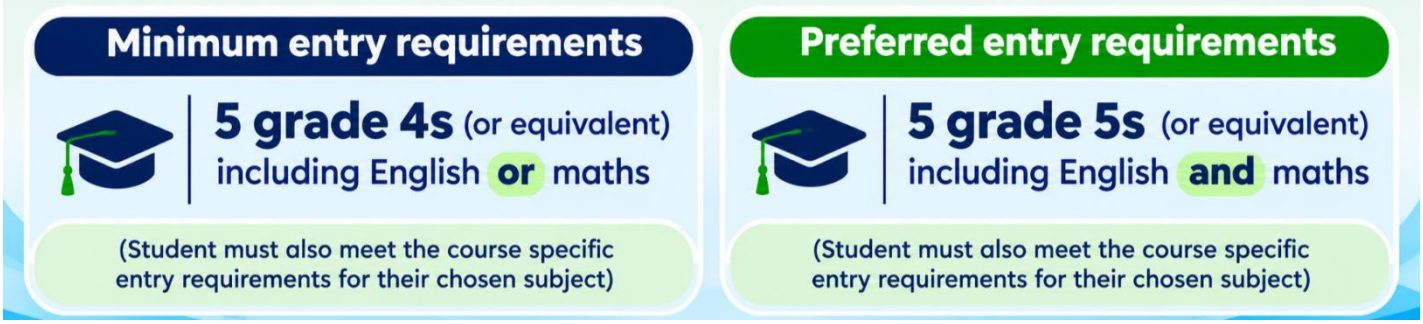


Mr N Beesly
Head of Sixth Form

Entry Requirements

Entry Requirements for The Ilfracombe Academy Sixth Form

Students wishing to be considered for a place at the Ilfracombe Academy Sixth Form will need to meet our minimum entry requirements. **To ensure that students have access to the widest range of subjects we would strongly encourage students to aspire to our preferred entry requirements:**



We are unable to accept any student that has passed neither maths nor English at GCSE.

Students will also need to meet the entry requirements for the individual courses they select. Most subjects have a minimum entry requirement of a grade 5 (or equivalent) within the subject at GCSE.

- Example: Geography = minimum of a grade 5 in GCSE geography. A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is also required in both maths and English.

If a student has not studied a subject at GCSE we would still welcome their application. In these circumstances students will need to evidence grade 5 (or equivalent) achievement within a suitably similar subject.

- Example: Fine Art = Grade 5 or higher in GCSE art or GCSE photography. If neither subject has been studied at GCSE consideration may be given to student achievement in another creative subject at GCSE pending a review of their portfolio. A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is also required in English.

Some subjects have higher course entry requirements; these are listed on the course information pages.

- Example: Mathematics = minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE mathematics

Why do we have Entry Requirements?

The Level 3 qualifications we offer are academically demanding. It is therefore essential that students have demonstrated, through their GCSE studies, the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to succeed.
We will not enrol students onto courses where there is a significant risk of failure or where they are unlikely to achieve at least a grade C. This represents a common minimum requirement for many university courses and higher/degree apprenticeships.

Supporting Evidence

The Department for Education produces an online tool which compares student achievement on each A level qualification relative to their achievement at GCSE. This tool is called the 16-19 transition matrices.

- Example: Students of A level geography starting the qualification without a grade 5 at GCSE typically achieve U-D on the A level geography course.

The Application and Enrolment Process

Key Dates (Timeline):

Thursday 26th November 2026	Sixth Form Open Evening
Friday 27th November 2026 (09:00)	Online application form opens (link available via the school website)
Wednesday 16th December 2026 (18:00)	Online application form closes - DEADLINE
February 2027	Anticipated date of Sixth Form interviews
March 2027	Anticipated date of post interview letters
Thursday 19th August 2027 (09:00-12:00)	GCSE results day + Sixth Form Enrolment

How do I apply?

Our online application form will be available on the school website (Sixth Form Admissions page) from 09:00 on Friday 27th November 2026. **The deadline for completing the online application form is 18:00 on Wednesday 16th December 2026.**

Can I select any combination of 3 subjects?

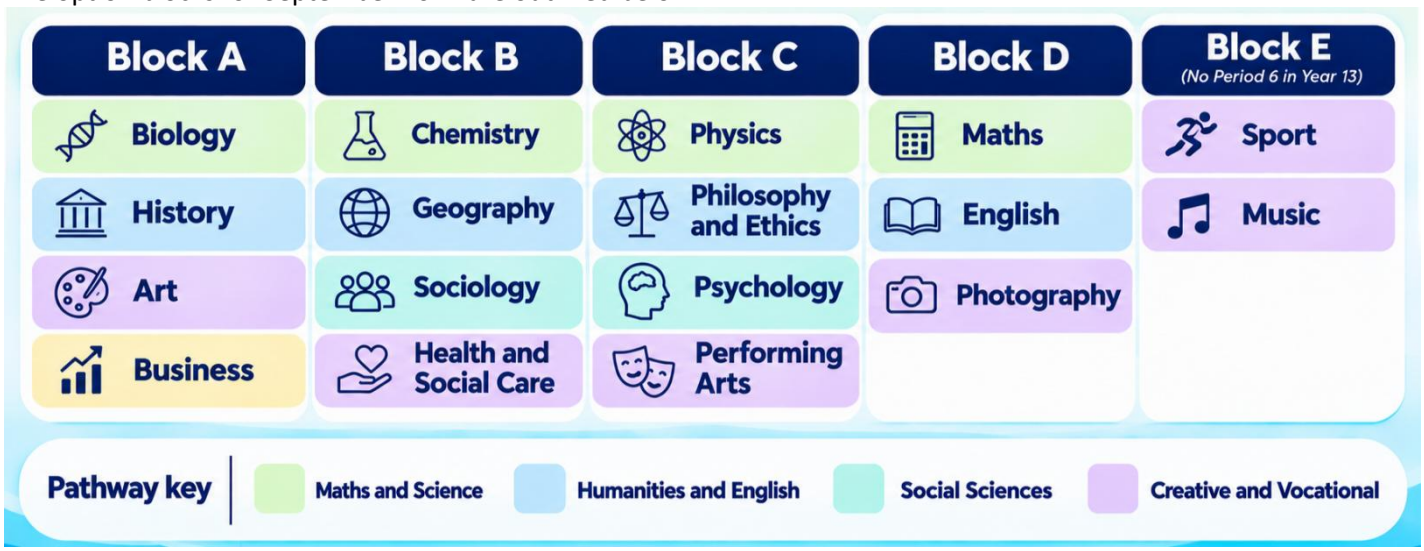
Not every subject combination is possible. Our 17 Level 3 subjects are organised into five option blocks (A–E). Students must select three subjects, choosing no more than one subject from each block.

Our option blocks have been carefully designed around three key priorities:

- Protecting important subject combinations required for progression to university and competitive courses.
- Ensuring the viability of popular subject combinations, based on historical patterns of student choices.
- Providing suitable alternatives where subject clashes occur, allowing students to pursue related interests and future pathways.

While some subject clashes are unavoidable, our aim is to maximise choice and ensure that students can access appropriate combinations to support their future ambitions.

The option blocks for September 2027 are outlined below.



What happens after I apply?

All students who apply to our Sixth Form before the published deadline will be offered an interview. The purpose of this interview is to ensure that students select appropriate courses based on:

- their current academic achievement,
- their potential for academic improvement, and
- their future aspirations.

Selecting appropriate courses at this stage allows us to set ambitious but achievable targets for improvement throughout Year 11. Where we believe a student's choices may be unsuitable, we may recommend alternative courses during the interview.

Making informed decisions at this stage also provides accurate information to support our strategic planning for September 2027, helping us deliver the highest possible standard of Sixth Form provision.

How do I formally enrol into the Sixth Form?

Formal Sixth Form enrolment will take place on GCSE Results Day, **Thursday 19th August 2027**, at The Ilfracombe Academy. The enrolment stand will be open from **9:00am to 12:00pm**.

All students wishing to secure their place for September 2027 must formally enrol. We expect students to attend in person wherever possible. Where holidays or exceptional circumstances prevent attendance, enrolment can be confirmed remotely by email or telephone. **All enrolments must be completed by midday on GCSE Results Day.**

Students who have not confirmed their place by this deadline will forfeit their offer. These places may then be allocated to other applicants awaiting confirmation, subject to course availability.

What happens if I apply after the deadline?

The online application form will close at **18:00 on Wednesday 16th December 2026** and be replaced by a separate late application form. **Late applicants will not be offered an interview.**

Late applications will be collected between January and June 2027. At the end of the academic year, we will contact all late applicants to confirm the availability of places on their chosen courses and the status of their application. This information will be communicated before GCSE Results Day and Sixth Form enrolment.

How many places are available on each course?

The vast majority of Sixth Form subjects operate with just one class per year group, meaning that places on popular courses can be limited. Our options process supports strategic planning, helping us ensure sufficient capacity for students who are committed to joining our Sixth Form and are predicted to meet their chosen subjects' entry requirements.

We aim to limit Sixth Form class sizes to a maximum of 18 students, providing a high-quality, personalised learning experience. Where projected class sizes exceed this target, we will take appropriate steps to ensure that all students continue to receive the support and attention they need to succeed.

What if I don't achieve the entry requirements?

This document outlines the entry requirements for our Sixth Form and individual subjects and should be read carefully before applying. We encourage students to reflect on their mock examination results with both ambition and realism, selecting courses for which they believe they can meet the entry requirements.

Our interview and enrolment processes are designed to provide students with appropriate guidance on their course choices.

Students who do not meet the entry requirements for their chosen courses will need to discuss alternative options during enrolment. These discussions will consider each student's overall academic achievement, potential for improvement and individual circumstances.

Where appropriate, we may recommend that a student follows a reduced programme of Level 3 qualifications to maximise their chances of success.

What happens if I do not pass English or maths?

Students who have not achieved at least a grade 4 in GCSE English or maths will be required to work towards resitting the relevant qualification.

Sixth Form students resitting GCSE English or maths will attend taught lessons alongside Year 10 and Year 11 students. Students required to resit either qualification will typically follow a reduced programme of Level 3 courses to ensure sufficient time and support for successful improvement.

Will my chosen courses run in the Sixth Form?

We only advertise courses in this Options Booklet that we reasonably expect to offer from September 2027. Although course withdrawals are rare, they may occasionally be necessary.

Where insufficient interest is identified during the application process, we may withdraw a course. In such circumstances, alternative course options will be discussed with affected students during their Sixth Form interviews. Final decisions regarding course viability will be made following enrolment in late August. A course may be withdrawn if staffing cannot be secured or if insufficient students confirm their places. Where this occurs, we will discuss alternative course options with affected students between enrolment and early September.

High Expectations, High Challenge, High Support

At The Ilfracombe Academy Sixth Form, we believe that **student success is built upon three fundamental principles: high expectations, high levels of challenge, and high levels of support.** Together, these create an environment in which students are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning, develop independence, and achieve their full potential.

Challenge and support go hand in hand. Our teachers set ambitious academic expectations and use a structured student support system to identify and address difficulties at an early stage. Where students require additional support, clear targets, personalised guidance, and agreed timescales for improvement ensure that they understand what is expected and have the support necessary to make progress.

Academic success is also underpinned by **high-quality pastoral care and careers education, information, advice and guidance.** Our dedicated Sixth Form team, experienced tutors and wider school staff work collaboratively to monitor student progress, share information, and provide coordinated support. This ensures that students are supported not only in achieving strong academic outcomes, but also in making informed decisions about their future pathways.

A Shared Commitment to High Expectations

Choosing to enrol at The Ilfracombe Academy Sixth Form represents a clear commitment from both students and their parents/carers to uphold the high standards and expectations that underpin our success.

Every student joining our Sixth Form is required to sign a **Sixth Form Enrolment Agreement**, which must also be countersigned by their parent or carer. By signing this agreement, students and their families formally acknowledge and commit to meeting our expectations regarding attendance, punctuality, academic engagement, independent study, and behaviour.

These expectations are not simply aspirations; they are an essential part of the commitment students make when choosing to join our Sixth Form. In return, we commit to providing high-quality teaching, academic challenge, personalised support, and the guidance necessary to help every student succeed.

Our established policies and procedures ensure that these expectations are applied consistently and fairly. Where difficulties arise, we intervene promptly, providing clear guidance, appropriate support, specific targets, and agreed timescales for improvement. However, we are equally committed to maintaining a purposeful and productive learning environment in which the progress of others is not compromised by individuals who fail to meet our shared expectations.

We believe that the most successful Sixth Form experience is built upon a genuine partnership between students, parents/carers, and staff, with each accepting responsibility for maintaining the standards that enable everyone to flourish.

An example of our **2026 Sixth Form Enrolment Agreement** can be found on page 9 of this Options Booklet. This is reviewed annually. We strongly encourage all prospective students and their parents/carers to read this agreement carefully before applying, ensuring that they fully understand the expectations and commitments associated with joining our Sixth Form.

Our commitment to your future

Ultimately, our approach to high expectations, meaningful challenge and personalised support is about opening doors. We want every student to leave The Ilfracombe Academy Sixth Form with the knowledge, qualifications, confidence, and independence to pursue their ambitions and maximise the opportunities available to them beyond Sixth Form.

Sixth Form Enrolment Agreement

Welcome to The Ilfracombe Academy Sixth Form. This agreement sets out the standards and expectations that we have established for you to be successful during your Level 3 courses. It also gives you our assurances that we will provide you with: a choice of subjects to study which are well managed and resourced; a developing enrichment programme; opportunities to lead and represent the student body; high quality career guidance; UCAS, Oxbridge, and apprenticeship guidance; and a pastoral system to safeguard your welfare.

In return we ask that you and your parent/carer sign below to show your agreement to the following:

As a student I agree to:

- Respond well to requests and guidance given by school staff
- Act as a role model to the younger students in all ways around the school site and be an ambassador for the school when outside it
- Attend on time and focus well in taught lessons, study periods, tutor time, and assembly
- Abide by the Sixth Form Attendance and Behaviour Policy, accept any steps on the policy, and engage positively with any support deemed necessary
- Respond well to guidance from the Sixth Form staff about personal appearance and dress

Signature: _____ Printed name: _____

As a parent/carer I agree to:

- Encourage my child to abide by the Sixth Form Attendance and Behaviour Policy
- Contact the school myself by 9am on every day that my child does not attend due to illness, in line with the Sixth Form Attendance and Behaviour Policy, and also contact the school in advance regarding any planned absence due to other unavoidable reasons such as medical and dental appointments or compassionate circumstances.
- Engage in such meetings as are needed to support my child
- Not take my child on holiday during the term time as I recognise that this will negatively impact their Level 3 outcomes

Signature: _____ Printed name: _____

Head of Sixth Form:

Signature: _____
Mr N Beesly

Extra Curricular and Super Curricular Activities

Extra Curricular activities

Extra curricular activities are opportunities for students to participate in experiences beyond their normal lessons and academic studies. These may include sports, music, performing arts, clubs, volunteering, leadership roles, or community projects.

Such activities help students develop wider interests, build confidence, and strengthen valuable skills, including teamwork, communication, independence, and leadership.

- North Devon Wake Park adventure
- Student vs Staff football and netball
- Ski trip
- Sports fixtures (Bideford vs Ilfracombe Sixth Form Cup)
- London trip
- Ten Tors
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- University visits (e.g., Exeter College, Oxford, and Bath University)
- School drama performances
- School music performances
- Learn2Live Young Drivers programme
- Road Safety Awareness (Devon & Cornwall Road Safety Team)

This is not an exhaustive list but an indication of opportunities available to our students.

Super Curricular activities

Super curricular activities are opportunities that allow students to explore and develop their academic interests beyond the taught curriculum. These may include wider reading, academic lectures, university masterclasses, independent research, subject competitions, and online courses.

Such opportunities help students deepen their subject knowledge, develop critical thinking and intellectual curiosity, and demonstrate genuine enthusiasm and commitment to their chosen subjects and future pathways.

- UCAS fair
- 1:1 careers meetings
- Work Experience Week
- Young Enterprise
- University visits (e.g., Exeter College, Oxford, and Bath University)
- Oxford University - Exeter College visit and personal statement writing workshop
- Somerset, Devon and Cornwall Residential Programme (SDC) at Exeter College, Oxford
- Sutton Trust Summer Schools (various universities)
- Causeway Education - OSCAR Library of super-curricular reading and planning platform
- Sixth Form super-curricular library: >150 undergraduate level texts for further research & reading
- >50 signposted essay writing competitions annually
- Get into Dentistry Mentor Opportunities
- Get into Medicine Mentor Opportunities
- A Taste of Medicine ATOM Programme
- NHS shadowing at NDDH
- North Devon District Hospital Medic Days

- Ex-student 4th Year Veterinary Medicine - 'Voice of Experience' session
- UKMT senior maths challenge
- Young Professionals Virtual Law Events - Clifford Chance, Freeths
- Ad Unlocked - Advertising Social Mobility Initiative
- KS2 science ambassadors outreach programme
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Bookable workshops and webinars with Advancing Access
- Eden Project biology workshop
- Holocaust Education Trust - Ambassadors programme and visit
- Ilfracombe Photography Festival workshops
- Rotary Young Photographer competition
- Life drawing classes
- Stage Right (performing arts leadership committee)
- West End Stage Summer School
- ESU School's Mace Debating Competition

This is not an exhaustive list but an indication of opportunities available to our students

Summary of Courses and Qualifications - A Level Courses

Level 3 A Level Courses			
Subject	**Qualification (Awarding Body)**	**Level**	**How is the result reported?**
Biology	A Level (OCR A)	3	Grades A* to E
Chemistry	A Level (OCR A)	3	Grades A* to E
Business	A Level (AQA)	3	Grades A* to E
English Language and Literature	A Level (AQA)	3	Grades A* to E
Fine Art	A Level (OCR)	3	Grades A* to E
Geography	A Level (Edexcel)	3	Grades A* to E
History	A Level (OCR)	3	Grades A* to E
Mathematics	A Level (Edexcel)	3	Grades A* to E
Music	A Level (OCR)	3	Grades A* to E
Philosophy and Ethics	A Level (OCR)	3	Grades A* to E
Photography	A Level (AQA)	3	Grades A* to E
Physics	A Level (OCR A)	3	Grades A* to E
Psychology	A Level (AQA)	3	Grades A* to E
Sociology	A Level (AQA)	3	Grades A* to E

Summary of Courses and Qualifications - Vocational Courses

Level 3 Applied General Vocational Courses			
Subject	**Qualification (Awarding Body)**	**Level**	**How is the result reported?**
CamTEC Health and Social Care	OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate	3	DISTINCTION*, DISTINCTION, MERIT, or PASS
BTEC Performing Arts	Edexcel BTEC Extended Certificate	3	DISTINCTION*, DISTINCTION, MERIT, or PASS
BTEC Sport	Edexcel BTEC Extended Certificate	3	DISTINCTION*, DISTINCTION, MERIT, or PASS

UCAS Tariff Points and Level 3 Equivalence

Qualification	Grade	UCAS Tariff Points
A Level	A*	56
A Level	A	48
A Level	B	40
A Level	C	32
A Level	D	24
A Level	E	16
AS Level	A	20
AS Level	B	16
AS Level	C	12
AS Level	D	10
AS Level	E	6
Cambridge Tech Extended Certificate BTEC Extended Certificate	DISTINCTION*	56
Cambridge Tech Extended Certificate BTEC Extended Certificate	DISTINCTION	48
Cambridge Tech Extended Certificate BTEC Extended Certificate	MERIT	32
Cambridge Tech Extended Certificate BTEC Extended Certificate	PASS	16

Biology

Exam Board	OCR	Qualification	A Level

Course Overview

The course specification has the development of Advanced Level subject knowledge at its core with a clear focus on the applications of Biology and fundamental laboratory techniques in Biology.
Students will be regularly assessed using examination materials to track their progress across the two years and will be provided with timely feedback to facilitate their ongoing development as a Biologist.
An A Level in Biology is a prerequisite for applications to University in the following areas: Veterinary Science, Biology, Zoology, Genetics and Human Biology (to name a few). An A Level in Biology is desirable in supporting an application to numerous other University courses.

Overview of Course Content

The OCR A Level in Biology is divided into distinctly separate units that cover the key principles of Biology. Over the two years, students will study both the breadth and depth of the following topics:

- Module 1: Development of practical skills
- Module 2: Foundations of 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 Model

The course is assessed by three formal examination papers. Examinations will be sat at the end of the two-year qualification (during May/June):

Paper	Title	Length	Weighting
1	Biological Processes	2hrs 15min	37%
2	Biological Diversity	2hrs 15min	37%
3	Unified Biology	1hr 30min	26%

Practical skills in Biology will be assessed across the two-year A Level course. Student competency will be evaluated within practical lessons by their classroom teacher and will be reported alongside their A Level as a 'practical endorsement' (reported as a pass/fail grade).

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Grade 6 (or higher) in separate science GCSE biology, or grade 67 (or higher) in GCSE combined science.
A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is required in both maths and English.
Students wishing to study more than one science/maths subject will need to exceed these course specific entry requirements.

Business Studies

Exam Board	AQA	Qualification	A Level

Course Overview

This newly updated A Level course from AQA reflects the ever changing environment in which todays modern businesses operate. This course is an exciting and engaging opportunity to learn about the world of business, which empowers students with relevant and contemporary case studies. Students will develop real-world knowledge and practical skills to analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions – all of which are essential for further study and employment regardless of your future aspirations.

Overview of Course Content

There are 3 units of study throughout the Business Studies A Level.

Unit 3.1: What is Business? Marketing and Finance

Becoming an entrepreneur and different business ownership types
Market capitalisation
Calculating dividend share
Calculating cash flow, profit, break even and liquidity

Unit 3.2: Managing People and Operations

The role of HR
Leadership models
Manging operations and efficiency

Unit 3.3 Business Strategy and Society

Business strategy and planning
Corporate Social Responsibility and operating in a sustainable and ethical manner
Strategic investment decision making
Business digital and global strategy

Assessment Model

The AQA Business Studies A – Level is sat as 3 linear exams at the end of the two year course in May / June.

Paper	Title	Length	Marks
1	What is business? Managing marketing and finance	2hrs	
2	Managing people and operations	2hrs	
3	Business strategy and society	2hrs	

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

GCSE (or equivalent) in business is not required but, if this subject has been taken, students are expected to have obtained a GCSE grade 5 (or higher, or equivalent).
A GCSE pass grade (5 or higher) is required in both maths and English.

Chemistry

Exam Board	OCR	Qualification	A Level

Course Overview

The course specification has the development of Advanced Level subject knowledge at its core with a clear focus on the applications of Chemistry and fundamental laboratory techniques in Chemistry.
An A Level in Chemistry is a prerequisite for applications to University in the following areas: Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Pharmaceutical Science (to name a few). An A Level in Chemistry is desirable in supporting an application to numerous other University courses.

Overview of Course Content

The OCR A Level in Chemistry is divided into distinctly separate units that cover the key principles of Chemistry. During students first year the syllabus ensures the study of both breadth and depth in Chemistry, these concepts are consolidated and built upon within the second year.

Year 12

- Module 1: Development of practical skills in Chemistry
- Module 2: Foundations in Chemistry
- Module 3: Periodic table and energy
- Module 4: Core organic Chemistry

Year 13

- Module 5: Physical Chemistry and transition elements
- Module 6: Organic Chemistry and analysis

Assessment Model

The OCR A Level in Chemistry is assessed by three formal examination papers. Examinations will be sat at the end of the two-year qualification (during May/June):

Paper	Title	Length	Weighting
1	Periodic Table, Elements and Physical Chemistry	2hrs 15min	37%
2	Synthesis and Analytical Chemistry	2hrs 15min	37%
3	Unified Chemistry	1hr 30min	26%

Practical skills in Chemistry will be assessed across the two-year A Level course. Student competency will be evaluated within practical lessons by their classroom teacher and will be reported alongside their A Level as a 'practical endorsement' (reported as a pass/fail grade).
Students will be regularly assessed using examination materials to track their progress across the two years, and will be provided with timely feedback to facilitate their ongoing development as a Chemist.

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Grade 6 (or higher) in separate science GCSE chemistry, or grade 67 (or higher) in GCSE combined science.
A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is required in both maths and English.
Students wishing to study more than one science/maths subject will need to exceed these course specific entry requirements.

English Language and Literature

Exam Board	AQA	Qualification	A Level

Course Overview

The AQA A Level English Language and Literature specification draws on the academic field of Stylistics in order to create an integrated English Language and Literature course. For many, it will feel a natural progression from GCSE studies in English as both English Literature and English Language have been taught side by side. This specification offers opportunities for students to develop their subject expertise by engaging creatively, critically and independently with a wide range of texts. This qualification is clearly essential for a degree in English and is also desirable in supporting an application to a range of other university courses such as History and Law due to the insightful analytical skills gained over the course.

Overview of Course Content

Year 12

Dystopian Fiction: 'The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
Remembered Places: 'Paris' Non-fiction anthology produced by AQA
Poetic Voices: Robert Browning
Writing About Society: 'The Great Gatsby' (initial study)
Exploring Conflict: 'Othello' (initial study)

Year 13

Writing About Society: 'The Great Gatsby' (in depth study)
Exploring Conflict: 'Othello' (in depth study)
NEA - coursework: students complete an independent analysis comparing a literary with a non-literary text
Revision of all topics for terminal exams

Assessment Model

Paper	Title	Length	Weighting
1	Telling Stories Remembered Places - the representation of place Imagined Worlds - point of view and genre in prose Poetic Voices - the forms and functions of poetic voice	3 hours	40%
2	Exploring Conflict Writing about Society - the role of the individual in society, re-creative writing based on set texts Critical commentary - evaluating own writing Dramatic Encounters - conflict in drama	2 hrs 30 mins	40%
	NEA (non-exam assessment: coursework)	3000-3500 words	20%

Students will be regularly assessed using examination materials to track their progress across the two years and will be provided with detailed feedback to support them in achieving their grade.

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Grade 5 or higher in both GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language.

Fine Art

Exam Board	OCR	Qualification	A Level

Course Overview

Students will produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas of study, for example, portraiture, landscape and human form.

Personal Investigation is a practical portfolio that consists of a sustained project, theme or course of study. It will demonstrate the experience of working with a broad range of media, showing that students can develop a high level of knowledge and skills that include critical, contextual and analytical understanding, giving them the skills and knowledge to access either higher education or the work place.

Overview of Course Content

The course is made up of two components: the personal investigation and the externally set exam.

Personal Investigation	**60%**
Externally set task	**40%**

Assessment Model

Students are assessed against the Assessment Objectives and their ability to **Develop, Experiment, Record and Present.**

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Grade 5 or higher in GCSE art or GCSE photography. If neither subject has been studied at GCSE, consideration may be given to student achievement in another creative subject at GCSE pending a review of their portfolio.
A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is required in English.

Geography

Exam Board	Edexcel	Qualification	A Level

Course Overview

A Level Geography is all about helping you understand some of the most important and relevant environmental challenges that the World faces in your lifetime. The course has a balance of physical and human topics and focuses on the management of issues, this makes it an attractive qualification in preparing you to succeed in your chosen pathway - whether that be into Higher Education, public services and amenity companies or local employment. You should consider this course if you are interested in the environment. You will need to be able to write with coherent justification, research independently and take an interest in other places, the news and current affairs.

Overview of Course Content

Topics covered will include: Tectonic Hazards; Coastal Landscapes; Globalisation; Urban Regeneration; Water Insecurity; Carbon Cycle & Energy; Superpowers; and Development, Health & Human Rights.

Assessment Model

Paper 1: Physical exam [2hrs 15mins - 30%]
Paper 2: Human exam [2hrs 15mins - 30%]
Paper 3: Synoptic exam based on a specific issue [2hrs 15mins - 20%]
Coursework: Independent Investigation [3000-4000 words - 20%]

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Grade 5 or higher in GCSE geography. If GCSE geography has not been studied, consideration may be given to student achievement in another humanities subject.
A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is required in both maths and English.

History

Exam Board	OCR	Qualification	A Level

Course Overview

This A Level History course involves the study of four units over two years.

Overview of Course Content

Unit 1: British Period study and enquiry: Britain 1930-1951
Enquiry topic: Churchill 1930-1951
This is an enquiry and source-based study coupled with an outline period study. It includes a study of Churchill as wartime Prime Minister.

Unit 2: Non-British period study: Democracies and Dictatorships in Germany 1919-1963
Includes 4 key topics: The establishment and development of the Weimar Republic: 1919–Jan 1933, The establishment of the Nazi Dictatorship and its domestic policies Feb 1933–1939, The impact of war and defeat on Germany: 1939–1949, Divided Germany: The Federal Republic and the DDR 1949–1963.

Unit 3: Thematic Study and interpretations: Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors 1485-1603
This theme focuses on the causes, nature and extent of disorder in England and Ireland during this period.

Unit 4: Personal Study: Topic based essay 3,000-4,000 words.
This is the 'jewel in the crown' for any budding historian: the chance to choose a historical topic and research it in depth. Decide upon a question and then answer it in a piece of extended written work.

Assessment Model

UNIT 1: British period study and enquiry: Y13 exam 1hr 30 minutes **25% of total A Level**
UNIT 2: Non-British period study: Y13 exam 1hr **15% of total A Level**
UNIT 3: Thematic study and interpretations: Y13 exam 2hr 30 minutes **40% of total A Level**
UNIT 4: Non exam assessment (coursework) **20% of total A Level**

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Grade 5 or higher in GCSE history. If GCSE history has not been studied, consideration may be given to student achievement in another humanities subject.
A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is required in English.

Mathematics

Exam Board	Edexcel	Qualification	A Level

Course Overview

The value of studying A Level Mathematics cannot be overstated, and it is a vital requirement for many University courses.

Mathematics allows you to understand and manipulate statistics, calculus and mechanics. It is at the core of science subjects. It enables you to make sense of the economy, medicine and law. An A Level in Maths is a prerequisite for applications to University in actuarial Sciences, Computing and Maths. An A Level in Maths is desirable in supporting an application to numerous other University courses such as Medicine and Engineering.

Maths has long been one of the most popular courses at the Academy. Students are well supported with specialist teaching and resources enabling them to study independently.

Overview of Course Content

Pure Maths - proof, functions, coordinate geometry, sequences & series, trigonometry, exponentials & logarithms, calculus, vectors, numerical methods

Statistics - sampling, data presentation & interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, hypothesis testing.

Mechanics - quantities & units in mechanics, kinematics, forces & Newton's laws, moments

Assessment Model

The Edexcel A Level in Mathematics is assessed by three formal examination papers. Examinations will be sat at the end of the two-year qualification (during May/June):

Paper	Title	Length	Weighting
1	Pure 1	2hrs	33.3%
2	Pure 2	2hrs	33.3%
3	Applied (Statistics & Mechanics)	2hrs	33.3%

Students may use a calculator in all A Level Mathematics examinations, and the use of technology permeates the whole course. We recommend all students have a Casio CG-50 graphical calculator for this course. Further information can be found through the Mathematics department.

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Grade 7 (or higher) in GCSE mathematics.

Students wishing to study more than one science/maths subject will need to exceed these course specific entry requirements.

Music

Exam Board	AQA	Qualification	A Level

Course Overview

AQA's A Level in Music provides a contemporary, academic, and creative education in Music with an integrated approach to the three main elements of performing, composing, and appraising. Pupils are stretched theoretically and encouraged to be creative and to broaden their musical horizons and understanding.

Overview of Course Content / Assessment Model

The table below outlines the requirements of the course and how each component is assessed.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
Performance • 10+ minutes and 3 or more contrasting pieces	Pupils will take part in a live performance in front of an audience that will be video recorded and submitted to the exam board.	**35%**
Composing • 2 original compositions with a combined duration of at least 4½ minutes	Composition recordings will be accompanied by a score and submitted as part of coursework completed during the course.	**25%**
Listening and Appraising • Analysing and evaluating music • Unfamiliar and familiar pieces are presented • Questions based on aural extracts	Written exam lasting 2 hours and 30 minutes, including listening extracts. There will be a mixture of questions testing aural recognition, contextual understanding and extended writing skills.	**40%**

The "Areas of Study" that guide preparation for the Listening and Appraising examination are:

1. *Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910*
2. *Pop Music*
3. *Music for theatre*
4. *Jazz*

All pupils focus on Area of Study 1, and then 2 of the remaining 3 topics. Course content can, and will, be tailored to suit pupils' interests and skills.

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Grade 5 (or higher) in GCSE music. If GCSE music has not been studied, consideration may be given to student achievement within the UK music grading system on their chosen instrument.
A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is required in English.

Philosophy and Ethics

Exam Board	OCR	Qualification	A Level

Course Overview

Philosophy and Ethics is one of the UK's fastest growing A Level subject among the arts, humanities, and social sciences.

Universities and employers are increasingly recognising the importance of religious literacy in a progressively plural society and global economy. This prestigious A Level opens doors of opportunity to a wide range of university courses including media, journalism, law, maths, politics, the health service, teaching and many more. Philosophy and Ethics gives students an opportunity to critically assess the philosophical and ethical foundations that have shaped much of the Western world. This course equips students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in modern Britain.

Overview of Course Content

Philosophy of religion
- Ancient philosophical influences
- The nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments from observation and reason
- Religious experience
- The logical and evidential problem of evil

Religion and ethics
- Normative ethical theories
- Euthanasia
- Business ethics
- Conscience
- Sexual ethics

Developments in religious thought
- Human nature
- Death and the afterlife
- The person of Jesus
- Christian moral principles and action
- Gender, theology and society
- Secularism
- Liberation theology and Marx

Assessment Model

Paper 1: Philosophy of religion	120 marks 2 hour written paper	33.3%
Paper 2: Religion and ethics	120 marks 2 hour written paper	33.3%
Paper 3: Developments in religious thought	120 marks 2 hour written paper	33.3%

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Grade 5 or higher in GCSE religious studies, GCSE history, or GCSE geography. If a humanities subject has not been studied at GCSE, consideration may be given to student achievement in English language and literature. A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is required in English.

Photography

Exam Board	AQA	Qualification	A Level

Course Overview

Students will produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas of study, for example, portraiture, landscape photography, still life photography, documentary photography, experimental imagery or multimedia**.** Through the experience of working with a broad range of media, students will develop a Personal Investigation which is a practical portfolio that consists of a sustained project, theme or course of study. It will demonstrate the experience of working with a broad range of media, showing that students can develop a high level of knowledge and skills that include critical, contextual and analytical understanding, giving them the skills and knowledge to access either higher education or the workplace.

Overview of Course Content

Component 1 - Personal Investigation
A portfolio of work showing a personal response to a theme. A related contextual study of continuous prose, minimum 1000 words - **60% of total A Level**

Component 2 - Externally Set Task
Exam paper released on 1 February, providing a number of starting points. Several weeks preparation time to develop ideas and then a controlled test (15 hours) - **40% of total A Level**

Assessment Model

Students are assessed against the Assessment Objectives and their ability to **Develop, Experiment, Record and Present.**

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Grade 5 or higher in GCSE photography or GCSE art. If neither subject has been studied at GCSE, consideration may be given to student achievement in another creative subject at GCSE pending a review of their portfolio.
A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is required in English.

Physics

Exam Board	OCR	Qualification	A Level

Course Overview

The course specification has the development of Advanced Level subject knowledge at its core with a clear focus on the applications of Physics and fundamental laboratory techniques in Physics.
Students will be regularly assessed using examination materials to track their progress across the two years and will be provided with timely feedback to facilitate their ongoing development as a Physicist.
An A Level in Physics is a prerequisite for applications to University in the following areas: Engineering, Physics, Astrophysics and Robotics (to name a few). An A Level in Physics is desirable in supporting an application to numerous other University courses.

Overview of Course Content

The OCR A Level in Physics is divided into distinctly separate units that cover the key principles of Physics. During students first year the syllabus ensures the study of both breadth and depth in Physics, these concepts are consolidated and built upon within the second year.

Year 12

- Module 1: Development of practical skills
- Module 2: Foundations of Physics
- Module 3: Forces and motion
- Module 4: Electrons, waves, and photons

Year 13

- Module 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics
- Module 6: Particles and medical physics

Assessment Model

The OCR A Level in Physics is assessed by three formal examination papers. Examinations will be sat at the end of the two-year qualification (during May/June):

Paper	Title	Length	Weighting
1	Modelling Physics	2hrs 15min	37%
2	Exploring Physics	2hrs 15min	37%
3	Unified Physics	1hr 30min	26%

Practical skills in Physics will be assessed across the two-year A Level course. Student competency will be evaluated within practical lessons by their classroom teacher and will be reported alongside their A Level as a 'practical endorsement' (reported as a pass/fail grade).

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Grade 6 (or higher) in separate science GCSE physics, or grade 67 (or higher) in GCSE combined science.
A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is required in both maths and English.
Students wishing to study more than one science/maths subject will need to exceed these course specific entry requirements.

Psychology

Exam Board	AQA	Qualification	A Level

Course Overview

Psychology is a fascinating subject; it focuses on understanding human behaviour. It covers a range of topics and key questions such as, 'Why do people follow orders?' 'How do we deal with offending behaviour?' 'Is nature or nurture more important?' The subject contains a broad mix of maths, science, and English skills, so would suit students who have done well in all 3 at GCSE. As Psychology covers a wide range of topics it is a good basis for many further education choices and careers. Careers in psychology range from clinical psychologists and mental health workers to careers in human resources and teaching.

Overview of Course Content

The A Level consists of 11 units taught over the two years. The initial topics are the foundation of the subject, with more challenging and complex units studied in Year 13.

Year 12

- Memory
- Attachment
- Social Influence
- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health
- Approaches
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

Year 13

- Issues and Debates in Psychology
- Forensic Psychology
- Gender
- Schizophrenia

Assessment Model

The AQA A Level in Psychology is assessed by three formal examination papers. Examinations will be sat at the end of the two-year qualification (May and June):

Paper	Topics	Time	Weighting
1 - Introductory Topics in Psychology	Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Clinical Psychology and Mental Health	2 hours	33.3%
2 - Psychology in Context	Approaches, Biopsychology, Research Methods	2 hours	33.3%
3 - Issues and options in Psychology	Issues and Debates in Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Gender, Schizophrenia	2 hours	33.3%

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Grade 6 (or higher) in GCSE English Literature and English Language.
A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is required in both maths and science.

Sociology

Exam Board	AQA	Qualification	A Level

Course Overview

Sociology is one of the most popular A Level subjects in England. It is extremely topical and will suit those who take an interest in the world around them. It is a course that fosters the development of critical and reflective thinking with a respect for social diversity. Students are encouraged to develop their own sociological awareness through active engagement with the contemporary social world.
Students may progress into a range of occupations such as medicine, policing, teaching, market research and social work.

Overview of Course Content

Year 12

- Education
- Research Methods
- Families and Households

Year 13

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

Within each topic area sociological theories, perspectives and methods will be studied.
Key themes including socialisation, culture, identity and globalisation.

Assessment Model

The AQA A Level in Sociology is assessed by three formal examination papers. Examinations will be sat at the end of the two-year qualification (during May/June):

Paper	Title	Length	Marks
1	Education with Theory and Methods	2hrs	80
2	Topics in Sociology	2hrs	80
3	Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods	2hrs	80

Students will be regularly assessed using examination materials to track their progress across the two years, and will be provided with timely feedback to facilitate their ongoing development as a Sociologist.

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Grade 5 or higher in GCSE religious studies, GCSE history, or GCSE geography. If a humanities subject has not been studied at GCSE, consideration may be given to student achievement in English language and literature. A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is required in English.

Cambridge Advanced National AAQ Level 3 Health and Social Care

Exam Board	OCR	Qualification	Cambridge Advanced National AAQ Level 3

Course Overview

Students will cover a wide range of topics related to the care industry.
This course is suited to individuals wishing to pursue a career in the care industry: health care, social care or child care. Typical professions include: midwifery, nursing, doctors, therapists, psychologists, social workers, care assistants, nannies, childminders, nursery workers, and teachers.

This Cambridge Advanced National is a new structure compiled for students to gain knowledge and understanding of all Health and Social aspects that will secure them the required skills for careers within the sector.

Overview of Course Content

Year 12

Mandatory units

F090 - Principles of Health & Social Care	Exam (1hr 30)
F092 - Person-centred approach to care	Internal coursework
F093 - Supporting people with mental health conditions	Internal coursework
F091 - Anatomy and physiology for Health & Social Care	Exam in Year 13

Year 13

Mandatory unit

F091 - Anatomy and physiology for Health & Social Care	Exam (2 hrs)

Optional units

F094 - Supporting people with physiological conditions	Internal coursework
F095 - Investigating public health strategies	Internal coursework

Assessment Model

Internal coursework (4 units) external exams (2 units)

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Level 2 pass (or higher, or equivalent) in health and social care. If health and social care has not been studied at Level 2, consideration may be given to student achievement in another vocational or coursework-based qualification.
A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is required in English.

BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts

Exam Board	Edexcel	Qualification	BTEC

Course Overview

BTEC Level 3 National Certificates in Performing Arts embody a fundamentally learner-centred approach to the curriculum, with a flexible, unit-based structure and knowledge applied in project-based assessments. They focus on the development of the practical, interpersonal and thinking skills required to be able to succeed in employment and higher education.

Employers are looking for recruits with a thorough grounding in the latest industry requirements and work-ready skills such as teamwork, resilience and adaptability. Higher education needs students who have experience of independent research, extended writing and meeting deadlines.

The course will suit any student who enjoys a practical, vocational and collaborative way of working; a student who is willing to commit significant time and effort to various coursework assignments; and students who wish to work creatively and assertively whilst developing their knowledge of the Performing Arts.

Overview of Course Content / Assessment Model

Mandatory Units

- **Unit 1: Investigating Practitioners Work**
  Practical exploration and extensive independent research, externally assessed by a three-hour exam (on a computer) where notes can be used to support responses.
- **Unit 2: Developing Skill & Techniques for Live Performance**
  Practical exploration internally assessed by both live performance, 15-min presentation and reflective log-based coursework.
- **Unit 3: Group Performance Workshop**
  Practical exploration externally assessed through devised performance and written exam in the form of 4 separate “rehearsal milestones”.

Other Units

(decided by teacher)

- **Unit 19: Acting Styles**
  Three acting styles and associated practitioners are explored and then internally assessed by practical performance of a text related to one of the acting styles and written coursework).

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Level 2 pass (or higher, or equivalent) in drama or performing arts. If drama/performing arts has not been studied at Level 2, consideration may be given to student achievement in another vocational or coursework-based qualification, alongside student participation in extracurricular performing arts activities, pending a review.

A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is required in English.

BTEC Level 3 Sport

Exam Board	Edexcel	Qualification	BTEC

Course Overview

Post -16 students who want to go on to further study and who have an academic interest in Sport and/or those wanting a career in the sports industry. The course is a 360 guided learning hour qualification.

This course will be suitable for you if you have an interest in Anatomy and Physiology, Sports Performance, Fitness Training and Health and Professional Development in the sports industry.

BTEC Level 3 Sport is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.
This course is the equivalent to one A Level.

Overview of Course Content

Unit	Unit Name	Assessment method	GLH
1	Anatomy and Physiology	External	120
2	Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing	External	120
3	Professional Development in the Sports Industry	Internal	60
4	Sports Leadership	Internal	60

Assessment Model

The course is a Level 3 qualification, and the grades range from Pass, Merit, and Distinction.
The course is made up of two units which have internal written assignments and two units which have externally assessed exams.

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Course Specific Entry Requirements

Level 2 pass (or higher, or equivalent) in sport/physical education. If sport/physical education has not been studied at Level 2, consideration may be given to student achievement in another vocational or coursework-based qualification, alongside student participation in extracurricular sports activities, pending a review.
A GCSE pass grade (4 or higher) is required in English.

The Ilfracombe Church of England Academy

The Ilfracombe Academy has maintained high standards at both GCSE and A level. Progression routes are strong for students of all abilities and interests, and the Sixth Form retains a strong record for assisting students in securing places at Oxford and Cambridge and a range of other top universities.



www.ilfracombeacademy.uk