



Sandwell Academy

SIXTH FORM



PROSPECTUS 2023/24



- 04 • Welcome - Headteacher
- 05 • Welcome - Director of Sixth Form
- 09 • Why Sandwell Academy?
- 10 • Our Sixth Form Provision
- 10 • What We Offer
- 10 • Personal Development
- 13 • What Our Students Say
- 15 • Choosing Your Subjects
- 16 • Your Application Timeline
- 19 • Our Student Destinations
- 20 • Academy Life
- 25 • Course Information

Academic Programme

- 30 • GCE Art & Design
- 31 • GCE Biology
- 32 • GCE Business
- 33 • GCE Computer Science
- 34 • GCE Chemistry
- 35 • Applied Criminology
- 36 • GCE Economics
- 37 • GCE English Language
- 38 • GCE English Literature
- 39 • GCE Geography
- 40 • GCE History
- 41 • GCE Mathematics
- 42 • GCE Further Mathematics
- 43 • GCE Media Studies
- 44 • GCE PE
- 45 • GCE Physics
- 46 • GCE Product Design
- 47 • GCE Psychology
- 48 • GCE Religious Education
- 49 • GCE Sociology
- 50 • GCE Spanish

Vocational Programme

- 53 • BTEC Applied Science
- 54 • BTEC Business
- 55 • BTEC Health and Social Care
- 56 • BTEC ICT
- 57 • BTEC Performing Arts
- 58 • BTEC Sport
- 59 • T Level Health (Nursing)

- 61 • Preparing for Life After Sixth Form



Sandwell Academy
SIXTH FORM

WELCOME • HEADTEACHER

Sandwell Academy Sixth Form is a thriving and forward-thinking destination for aspirational students in the Sandwell borough and beyond. Our students come from many different parts of the West Midlands, and they share the common goal of maximising their chances of succeeding in their lives.

Your experiences at Sixth Form will shape your future, directing you towards the opportunities that life has in store for you. We offer a range of courses and pathways which will help you to take control of your future, and you will benefit from excellent teaching and enrichment opportunities, which will give you a rounded experience at this pivotal time in your life.

It is vital that you receive the best guidance as you make big decisions around your future education and career options, and you will receive unrivalled support to do this at Sandwell Academy from our outstanding Careers department. Whether you are interested in attending university, obtaining an apprenticeship, or entering the jobs market directly, your two years in Sixth Form will help you to develop the independence, resilience and desire to succeed, and Sandwell Academy will unlock in you the potential to thrive on your chosen path.

I am proud that Sandwell Academy is a progressive provider, and we are always looking for innovative opportunities to make the student experience even better. I sincerely hope that you apply to the Academy and look forward to taking the next steps on your journey with you.

With my best wishes,

Mr J Saunders
Headteacher

WELCOME • DIRECTOR OF SIXTH FORM

A very warm welcome to our prospectus. It has been designed to offer you an insight into the experience of being a Sixth Form student at Sandwell Academy. So, whether you are a prospective student seeking more information on the courses we offer, or a parent asking how your child will be cared for, the following pages have been designed to answer some of those questions.

I am proud of the opportunities that we have to offer here in our Sixth Form, and our range of academic and vocational subjects being delivered by our experienced staff offering excellent support. We have strong links with a variety of employers, to help with our students' journeys through the subjects we offer. Students are encouraged to develop their study skills to fulfil their potential and prepare for a place at university or an apprenticeship. We encourage independent study with dedicated and supported sessions during the week. During our extended sessions, students are timetabled with a programme of academic support to work with staff. Here students may choose to go over homework or areas they need to develop. Alongside this we have a range of clubs and societies to help students develop their interest and interpersonal skills.

Time after time our students and families inform us that the main reason they choose our Sixth Form is for the incredible learning opportunities. This is coupled with our passion for providing the best possible experiences for our students, to challenge and encourage them to take the initiative in shaping their future. We do this by developing the areas that students find challenging but within a supportive environment, so they not just succeed but excel. This 'family feel' resonates through everything we do in the Sixth Form, whether it is the tutors who offer support on a daily basis, or our regular interaction with parents, all resulting in students feeling valued and that they are treated as young adults.

We work hard to provide an outstanding education at Sixth Form, and we do not shy away from hard work; regular academic monitoring ensures students stay on track to success. We have a proven track record of helping students make a successful transition to their chosen destinations.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Sixth Form soon. With my best wishes,

Mrs S Gill
Director of Sixth Form





“Teachers have high expectations and skilfully question students to check their understanding and adapt tasks and activities to challenge the most able while ensuring that others get the support and help that they need so that all make outstanding progress.”

(Ofsted 2014)



WHY SANDWELL ACADEMY?

Sandwell Academy provides a curriculum which offers considerable breadth and depth for students through a range of Vocational and Academic Level 3 courses. We are an excellent choice for students wishing to study a combination of academic and vocational courses leading directly to the opportunity to study at university. Other courses will be offered if there proves to be a sufficient demand and courses may be offered via a range of ICT applications. Students without a grade 4 in GCSE English or Maths will have to retake these subjects until a grade 4 is achieved.

Our most able students will receive additional preparation for applications to Russell Group and / or Oxbridge universities.

We expect students to demonstrate a high Level of motivation and have the capacity for hard work. Sixth Form work is demanding, and students are encouraged to take increased responsibility for their own progress through Independent Learning.

All Sixth Form students will have the opportunity to develop leadership skills as they become actively involved with our younger students and assist with the day-to-day organisation of the school.

Our Sixth Form Provision

- 92% progression to employment, university, further study or training
- Approximately 400+ employers support our work experience programme
- 78% of all students progress to university
- 36 university destinations
- Young Professionals, Springpod, Speakers for Schools, Medical Mavericks, ICAEW and Ask. All provide our students with additional opportunities
- Students access a range of Level 2 to Level 4 apprenticeships including; Tax Analyst Deloitte, Gas / Plumbing, Childcare, Accountancy, Business Administration, Carpentry and Associate Nurse
- Students attend from 35 local schools
- 25 subjects available for study at Level 3
- Enrichment programme
- High quality gym and sports facilities
- ILC and PC access

What We Offer

We seek to meet the needs of all students providing a rich, diverse and inclusive curriculum experience. Preparing students for the next life stage. Our Sixth Form offer aims to maximise academic outcomes while providing the best experience possible.

Personal Development

- Aspirational academic pathway
- Enrichment
- Cultural Visits to London and Liverpool
- Residential Duke of Edinburgh
- School Performance
- Ride London
- Visiting Artists
- Sports Leaders
- BTEC Sport Residential
- The Voyage
- Business Enterprise



“Extra-curricular activities are diverse and plentiful, and very much appreciated by the students. The academy’s emphasis on positive relationships, the rich experience gained through the curriculum, and the support students gain through their personal tutorials promote students’ social, moral, cultural and spiritual development very well.”

(Ofsted 2014)

What our students have to say

“Sandwell Academy has provided me with great academic support with the teachers pushing me to excel in my A Levels. The Sixth Form has encouraged me to achieve the highest possible grades, whilst also allowing me to have many opportunities to socialise and take part in many extracurricular activities such as the ‘Comprehensive Oxford Mathematics and Physics Online School’. This broadened my mathematical understanding beyond the A-Level, preparing me to pursue a Mathematics degree at The University of Warwick or University College London.”

Deep Multani (Head Boy)



“The one-to-one approach with teachers aids all students to forge a healthy and amicable relationship. All opinions are greatly considered and this was a priority of mine as my previous role as Head Girl - one of my greatest achievements that Sandwell Academy gave me the opportunity to encompass. Additionally, the Academy hold various achievement ceremonies in which I was presented with an accolade for English Language and ‘Star Student’. Following my studies at the Academy, on looking I sought to study Linguistics and the Hispanic studies and culture at The University of Birmingham or The University of Bristol further, whilst eventually contributing towards the field.”

Teesha Chavda (Internal Student)

“As an external student, Sandwell Academy could not have been any more welcoming. I was supported and guided greatly by my staff and peers, pushing me to channel my abilities in much more profound ways whilst also directing me to the best suited university course that fit in with my passion for literature and writing. Being voted head girl as an external and an introvert uplifted me immensely as I realised that Sandwell Academy embraces these proclivities with inclusiveness and diversity, connecting all students in relatability and generating a unifying confidence between everyone.”

Mahjabeen Islam (Head Girl)



Choosing Your Subjects

As an inclusive provider we seek to accommodate all students within our offer. The information provided below is intended as a guideline. If a student does not fulfil the prescribed entry requirements a student interview will be held to ensure the offer is accessible and aspirational.

Entry requirements

5 x grade 5 or above at GCSE including English and Maths. Individual A Level subject requirements may vary, please refer to the entry requirements.

Duration

2 years

Study opportunities

19 A Level and 5 BTEC Level 3 subjects. Students can choose a combination of three qualifications through an academic, vocational or mixed programme of study.

Progression route

Higher education including university, apprenticeships, employment, gap year or voluntary work.



Your Application Timeline

• November 2022 onwards

Completion of the digital application form. This can be accessed via the QR code at the back of this prospectus or through the Sixth Form application link on the Academy website. The information that you provide on your application form will help us in the development of a flexible curriculum model

• January 2023 onwards

Attend a consultation appointment. We aim to ensure you are well supported with your applications. As part of this, we invite you and your family to attend a consultation appointment to discuss your subject choices and offer advice and guidance.

A conditional offer letter will be issued following the consultation appointment.

• January & February 2023

Sixth Form Open Mornings. Subject taster sessions are available and the opportunity to meet with other students and subject teachers.

• May to June 2023

GCSE exam season

• June 2023

Sixth Form induction programme.

• 24 August 2023

GCSE results day. We can now confirm subject choices. The Academy will offer a comprehensive advice service for students in August 2023. Once GCSE results are known, students will be required to finalise course choices.


For some, it can be an anxious time if help is not available. Senior staff will be on hand during this time to answer queries and discuss possible courses with students

• September 2023

Enrolment programme including Y12 passport.

If you would like support with your application or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with our Admissions Team via email sixthformadmissions@sandwellacademy.com or on **0121 525 1700**

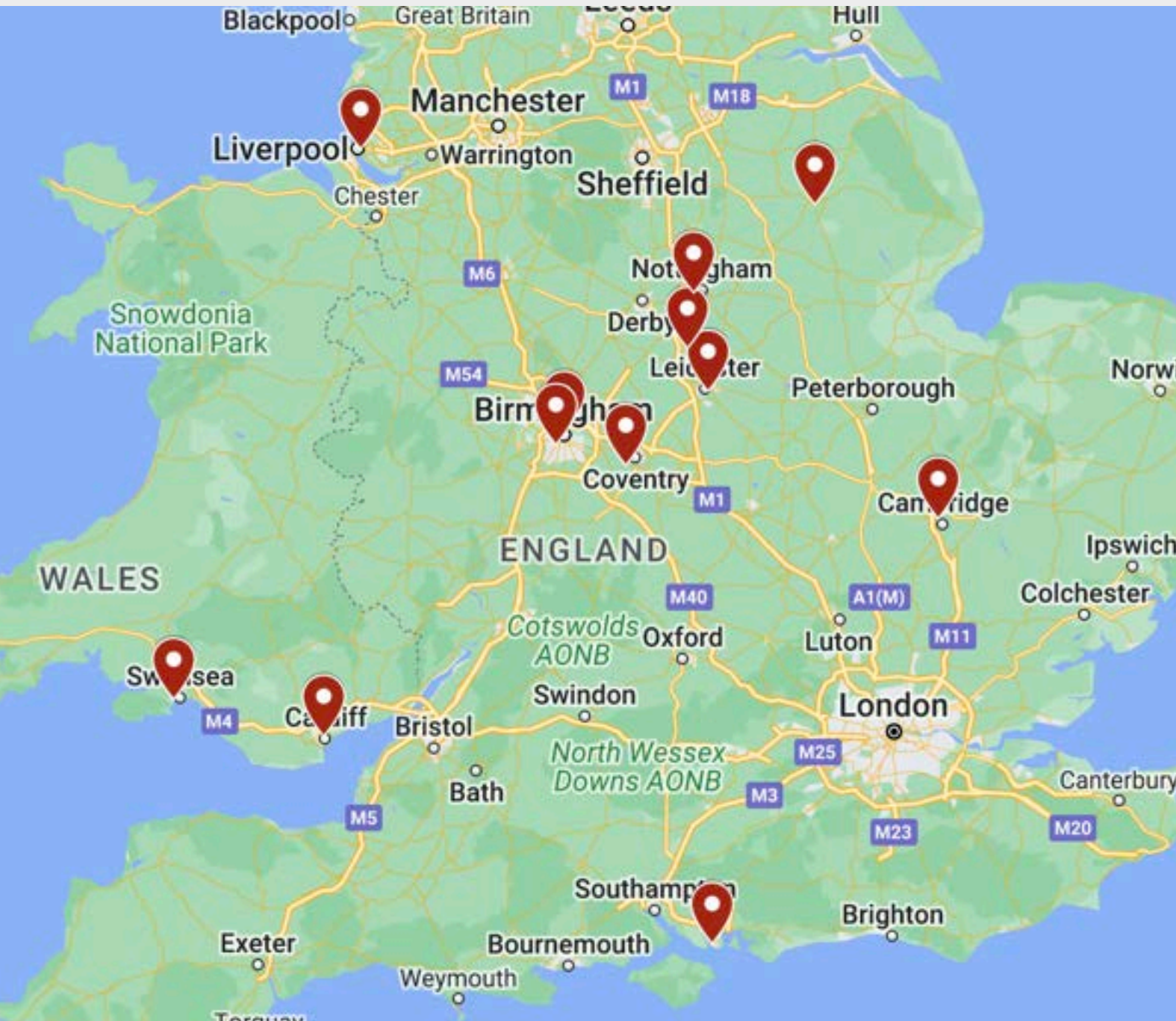


A photograph of a computer lab with several students. In the foreground, a student is writing in a notebook. Other students are visible in the background, some looking at computer monitors. The image has a blue tint.

“There is a happy and harmonious atmosphere around the academy. Students are polite and considerate towards adults and towards one another. Sixth Form students are excellent role models through their positive attitudes and focus on study, and their mentoring of younger students.”

(Ofsted 2014)

Our Student Destinations



Academy Life

Dress and Code of Conduct

We aim to create the environment of a large city office. Our practices mirror those found in the world of industry and commerce. Many students will be working alongside employers both in school and out on work placements. Smart office wear should be worn to conform to the highest standards found in the modern workplace.

The expectation is simple: Expect to be interviewed for a job at any time and dress appropriately: suit with shirt and tie for boys and either trousers or skirt suit for girls. Financial support is available for students who qualify.

A no-smoking policy operates throughout the Academy buildings and grounds. This applies to everybody.

Excellent Working Conditions

The Sixth Form has specially equipped areas for studying the various courses on offer. There is easy access to the Library, Careers and Independent Learning Centres.

A self-service restaurant is open for breakfast and lunch.

The Academy opens from 7.30am until approximately 5.15pm Monday to Thursday. The Academy closes at 3.30pm on Fridays.

Work Placement Opportunities

All students are given the opportunity to experience a work placement. Our close links with the business world mean that the Academy is kept fully informed of all the latest developments in industry. With employers actively involved in the full life of the Academy, students can work alongside industrialists on site and in the workplace.

Courses are designed to be flexible; some students may even be able to go out to work on a weekly basis whilst pursuing a course of study.



Leisure and Sport

An important feature of life at Sandwell Academy is the Sixth Form options programme. Everyone needs time to relax and develop new hobbies, try new leisure activities or pursue different sports. Students are positively encouraged to 'have a go' at something new or challenging. The options, which provide a wide spectrum of choice, are all offered on a Wednesday afternoon during Session 2.

Here is a flavour of the choices that may be available in 2023:

- Duke of Edinburgh
- Self Defence
- First Aid
- Golf
- Martial Arts
- Football
- Hockey
- Basketball
- Badminton
- Fitness Training
- Indoor Rock Climbing
- Sports Leadership Awards
- Choir
- Dance
- Independent Study at School



Social, Cultural and Spiritual Education

This is seen as an important aspect in the development of students in the Sixth Form. The Academy is committed to the social, cultural and spiritual education of all members of the Sixth Form. The Academy uses a variety of opportunities for delivery combining a broad based curriculum with charity and community liaison. Spiritual education is reinforced through Academy broadcasts and assemblies.

Library and Learning Centres

For a proportion of the week students have the opportunity to work independently on carefully planned work as part of their course in the Library and Learning Centres. This method of learning is part of our strategy to prepare our students to be able to cope successfully in Higher Education and adult life.

Student Lunches

The Headteacher and Deputy Heads meet with 14 students each year for a working lunch. This provides an opportunity for us to listen to the students' views about life and work in the Academy. The Headteacher also provides opportunities for students to make recommendations on how the Academy may be improved. These issues are then discussed at Senior Management Team meetings and, where necessary, changes/ amendments introduced.

Charter for Students and Parents

There is a Students' Charter and a Parents' Charter which spell out the entitlements, responsibilities and expectations for Sixth Form students and their parents. Students are also expected to sign an Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy.



“Progress is checked regularly for disabled students, those who have special educational needs, those for whom the academy receives additional funding and those for whom English is an additional language. This ensures that timely additional support is given when it is needed.”

(Ofsted 2014)

Course Information

Subject	Course	GCSE Maths	GCSE English	Other requirements
Applied Science	BTEC Extended Certificate	4	4	Grade 5,5 overall for GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) or two grade 5 in Separate Science)
Art and Design	A Level	5	5	Grade 6 or above in a GCSE Art subject or a distinction at BTEC Level 2
Biology	A Level	5	5	Grade 6,6 overall for GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) or a grade 6 for GCSE Biology (Separate Science)
Business	A Level	6	6	Grade 6 in GCSE Business if studied at GCSE
Business	BTEC Diploma	4	4	
Business	BTEC Extended Certificate	4	4	
Chemistry	A Level	5	5	Grade 6,6 overall for GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) or a grade 6 for GCSE Chemistry (Separate Science)
Computer Science	A Level	7	6	Preferably some knowledge in text based programming languages such as Python, C, C+, C# and Java
Applied Criminology	Level 3 Diploma	4	4	Grade 4 in a Humanities subject
Economics	A Level	7	6	Grade 6 in GCSE Business if studied at GCSE
English Language	A Level	6	6	
English Literature	A Level	6	6	
Geography	A Level	6	5	Grade 6 in Geography
Health (Nursing)	T Level	4	4	Grade 4,4 in Combined Science or grade 4 in Separate Science subjects (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) A Level 2 qualification in Health and Social care may be beneficial.
Health and Social Care	BTEC Diploma	4	4	
Health and Social Care	BTEC Extended Certificate	4	4	
History	A Level	6	5	Grade 6 in History
ICT	BTEC Extended Certificate	4	4	

Subject	Course	GCSE Maths	GCSE English	Other requirements
Mathematics	A Level	7	6	
Further Mathematics	A Level	8	8	Must be selecting A Level Mathematics, cannot be selected as a stand-alone subject
Media Studies	A Level	5	5	
Music	BTEC Extended Certificate	4	4	
Performing Arts	BTEC Diploma	4	4	Satisfactory Level in Performing Arts or a Performing Arts discipline (Dance, Drama or Music).
Performing Arts	BTEC Extended Certificate	4	4	Satisfactory Level in Performing Arts or a Performing Arts discipline (Dance, Drama or Music).
Physical Education (PE)	A Level	6	6	Must be playing a sport regularly (training and competing) at distinction Level
Physics	A Level	7	6	Grade 6, 6 overall for GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) or a grade 6 for GCSE Biology (Separate Science). Must be selecting Physics alongside either Chemistry or Mathematics. Physics cannot be selected as a stand-alone subject.
Product Design	A Level	5	5	Grade 6 or above in a GCSE Design and Technology subject
Psychology	A Level	6	6	Grade 6,6 overall for GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) or a grade 6 for GCSE Physics (Separate Science)
Religious Education	A Level	6	6	Grade 6 in a Humanities subject
Sociology	A Level	6	6	Grade 6 in a Humanities subject
Spanish	A Level	6	6	Grade 7 in Spanish
Sport	BTEC Diploma	4	4	Minimum grade 6 at GCSE PE on the theory paper for Extended Certificate in Sport. Minimum of A Level 2 Merit for Extended Certificate and Diploma BTEC Sport Courses. There is an expectation that there will be a commitment to Wednesday afternoon sports teams at the Academy.
Sport	BTEC Extended Certificate	4	4	



ACADEMIC. PROGRAMME



GCE Art & Design

The General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Level is more commonly known as an A Level. We deliver a total of nineteen different A-Level courses at the academy.

The academic programme is arranged to ensure students can access popular subject combinations, facilitating their future university applications. Once the applications have been received, we design our curriculum based upon the needs of our applicants. Therefore, there are no pre-determined option blocks.

Studying Art and Design at A Level will provide many opportunities that can be transferred into the workplace or onto a higher- Level course such as a degree in Art and Design or a related subject. It is particularly important to study Art and Design for those who wish to pursue a career in the Arts. This is a two-year programme of study.

This course will provide opportunity to go into the following fields of work:

- Ceramics
- Textiles and Fashion
- Product Design
- Teaching
- Interior Design Curating
- Theatre Design
- Sculpture and Painting
- Television
- Graphic Design
- Printmaking Illustration
- Advertising
- Architecture
- Publishing
- Photography
- Game Design
- Galleries and Museums
- Buying
- Set Design
- Make-up Artist
- Painting Conservation
- Fine Art

The Art and Design course at Sandwell Academy allows students to gain a range of skills such as independent thinking, an interest and enthusiasm for the Arts and a wide range of experiences of working with a range of media including sculpture, ceramics, textiles, photography, digital art, painting and drawing. In addition, students develop their skills and knowledge further by working with visiting artists, going on visits and following a thought-provoking and enriching programme of study. Students will have the opportunity to undertake two full days in a specialist Art and Design workshop with a still life artist.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 6 or above in a GCSE Art subject
- A Distinction at BTEC Level
(Or an interview with a portfolio of work)



GCE Biology

The opportunities for students of Science, on completion of full-time education, are enormous. There are many possible careers within the scientific world and qualifications in Science subjects are acceptable as an entry into many other careers.

Science students at Sandwell Academy will be prepared to move into Higher Education courses and careers in a wide variety of different fields including:

- Physiotherapy
- Forensic Science
- Veterinary Science
- Medicine Research
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Pharmacy
- Nursing
- Aeronautics
- Sports Science
- Biological Sciences

The Science courses offered at Sandwell Academy are designed to provide academic and vocational experiences. They will prepare students for their choice of career in both the world of work and Higher Education.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 6, 6 overall for GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) or a Grade 6 for GCSE Biology (Separate Science)
- Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics



GCE Business

The opportunities for students of Business, on completion of full-time education, are enormous. There are many possible careers within the Business world and qualifications in Business subjects are acceptable as an entry into many other careers.

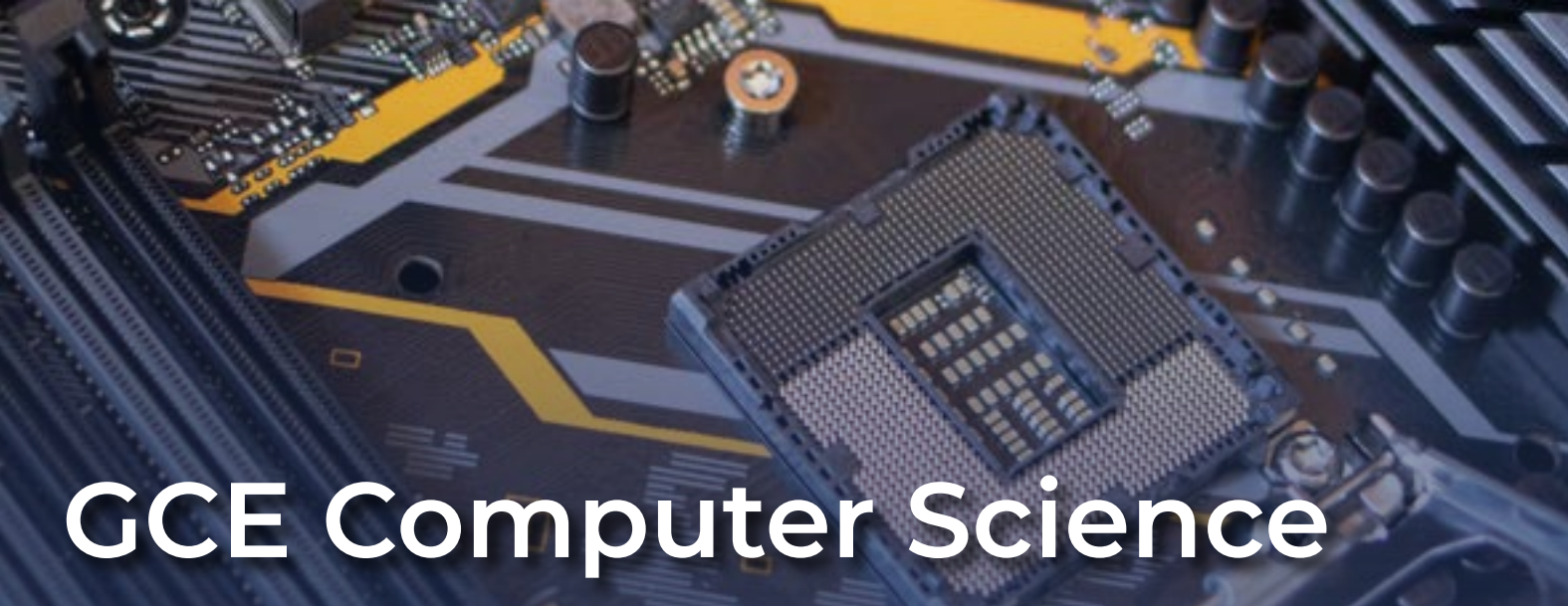
Business students can move on to Higher Education courses and careers in the following areas:

- Accountancy
- Business
- Administration
- Education
- Human Resourcing
- Public Relations
- IT/Computing
- Law Management
- Marketing

The Business course offered is an exciting insight into relevant business theory and concepts supported by vocational examples. It provides an excellent foundation for a broad range of careers and further study in this field.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE Business if studied at GCSE
- Grade 6 in GCSE English and Maths



GCE Computer Science

Students who choose to study Computer Science have the ability to move into many different studies at university and careers in a wide range, due to the range of skills that will be learnt.

Students can move on to Higher Education courses and careers in the following areas:

- Computer Forensics
- Engineering
- Electronics
- Cryptology
- IT/Computing
- Networking
- Education
- Science
- System Developers

Our Computer Science specification is relevant to the modern and changing world of computing. The new specification will:

- Focus on programming, building on our GCSE Computing and emphasise the importance of computational thinking as a discipline.
- Have an expanded Maths focus, much of which will be embedded within the course.
- Put computational thinking at its core, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence.
- Allow students to apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems in an exciting and engaging manner.
- Give students a clear progression into higher education, as the course was designed after consultation with members of BCS, CAS and top universities.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science if studied at GCSE, if not:
- Grade 7 in GCSE Maths and Grade 6 in GCSE English Language
- Preferably some knowledge in text based programming languages such as Python, C, C+, C# and Java



GCE Chemistry

The opportunities for students of Science, on completion of full-time education, are enormous. There are many possible careers within the scientific world and qualifications in Science subjects are acceptable as an entry into many other careers.

Science students at Sandwell Academy will be prepared to move into Higher Education courses and careers in a wide variety of different fields including:

- Medicine
- Education
- Forensic Science
- Pharmacy
- Veterinary
- Nursing
- Dentistry
- Finance
- Consultancy, Sales and Marketing Research
- Chemistry
- Electronic Engineering
- Aeronautics
- Computing Biological Sciences
- Chemical Engineering
- Food Science

The Science courses offered at Sandwell Academy are designed to provide academic and vocational experiences. They will prepare students for their choice of career in both the world of work and Higher Education.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 6, 6 overall GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) or Grade 6 for GCSE Chemistry (Separate Science)
- Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics



Applied Criminology

WJEC Level 3 Diploma

This is an exciting course which will allow you to gain a wealth of knowledge linked to criminal justice and is a qualification that combines elements of psychology, law and sociology.

A stimulating grounding in the study of criminology can be achieved. You will have the opportunity to acquire both practical and academic skills through applied learning, and the focus of some assignments provide opportunities to learn from practitioners in the criminal justice sector.

The flexibility of the course will enable you to specialise in your individual area of interest. An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology.

It offers exciting and interesting experiences that focus learning through applied methods, i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in relation to authentic case studies. Units include the Changing Awareness of Crime, Criminological Theories, Crime Scene to Courtroom and Crime and Punishment.

Criminology students can move on to Higher Education courses and careers in the following areas:

- Police officer
- Probation officer
- Prison officer
- Degree courses in Criminology with Psychology, or Sociology or Law
- Social worker
- Social research
- Politics

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 4 in GCSE English
- Grade 4 in a Humanities subject



GCE Economics

Economics is the study of scarcity and choice. This subject provides students with a detailed understanding of how the world they live in works, from the purpose of interest rates to the determination of prices. How markets are shaped by competitive actions to the distribution of income and wealth and how Governments can impact our day-to-day lives with their actions.

Economics is the right subject if you enjoy:

- Debating economic issues such as inequality, globalisation and the Global Financial Crisis.
- Exploring and presenting alternative courses of action.
- Keeping up to date with national and international trends.
- Learning about the economic environment and business through research and investigation.

This course provides students with an excellent complement to those who would be interested in History, Mathematics, Finance, Banking, Human Geography and Law.

Economics students at Sandwell Academy will be prepared to move into Higher Education courses and careers in a wide variety of different fields including:

- Actuarial Analyst
- Chartered accountant
- Economist
- Financial risk analyst
- Forensic accountant
- Statistician
- Stockbroker
- Data scientist
- Management Consultant

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE Business if studied at GCSE
- Grade 6 in GCSE English and Maths



GCE English Language

The opportunities for students of English Language are wide ranging. GCE Courses in English Language complement a number of other Sixth Form courses and are designed to encourage the ability to communicate, read widely, and develop advanced, detailed research skills within a wide field of language studies.

Qualifications in English Language allow entry in to a large and varied range of careers. These may include:

- Business Administration
- Marketing
- Journalism/Media Law
- Education
- Performing Arts
- Health and Social Care
- Leisure
- Tourism

All courses offered at Sandwell Academy are designed to provide academic and vocational experiences. They will prepare students for their choice of career in both the world of work and Higher Education.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE English.
(Preferably a Grade 6 in both English Language and English Literature).



GCE English Literature

The opportunities for students of English Literature are wide ranging. GCE courses in English Literature complement a number of other Sixth Form courses and are designed to encourage the ability to communicate, read widely, and develop advanced, detailed research skills within a wide field of literary studies.

Qualifications in English Literature are classic, and are acceptable as an entry to many different careers. These may include:

- Business Administration
- Marketing
- Journalism/Media Law
- Education
- Performing Arts
- Health and Social Care
- Leisure
- Tourism

All courses offered at Sandwell Academy are designed to provide academic and vocational experiences. They will prepare students for their choice of career in both the world of work and Higher Education.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE English.
(Preferably a Grade 6 in both English Language and English Literature).



GCE Geography

You will benefit from having an interest in the world around you, be it curiosity about how a landscape has formed, or an interest in how a community might be affected by trans-national corporations. You need to be prepared to leave the classroom and see for yourself what is going on! The world we live in is changing. Geography allows you to see why and how it is changing. Geography will challenge your perceptions and stimulate your investigative and analytical skills. It can enhance communication skills, literacy and numeracy, team working, problem solving and environmental awareness.

The GCE in Geography will appeal to you if you:

- Are curious about the world’s places, peoples and environments
- Like asking questions and finding answers
- Are interested in local, regional and global issues
- Have the ability to think independently
- Wish to explore human, physical and environmental geographical relationships.

Geographers develop enquiry, decision making, fieldwork and research skills, which will prepare them well for Higher Education courses or a wide range of career choices.

They also learn to appreciate the significance of human values in decision making and to think critically on a range of issues.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE Geography
- Grade 5 in GCSE English



GCE History

It is difficult to avoid the impact of History in our modern world. We are living with the consequences of past events every day. A good historical education is essential to understand your world! Employers and Universities know students of History have developed a number of skills that can be applied to any situation. They know that:

- You are able to gather information from a range of sources
- You understand different points of view and can detect bias and propaganda
- You can reach a balanced judgement based on reliable evidence

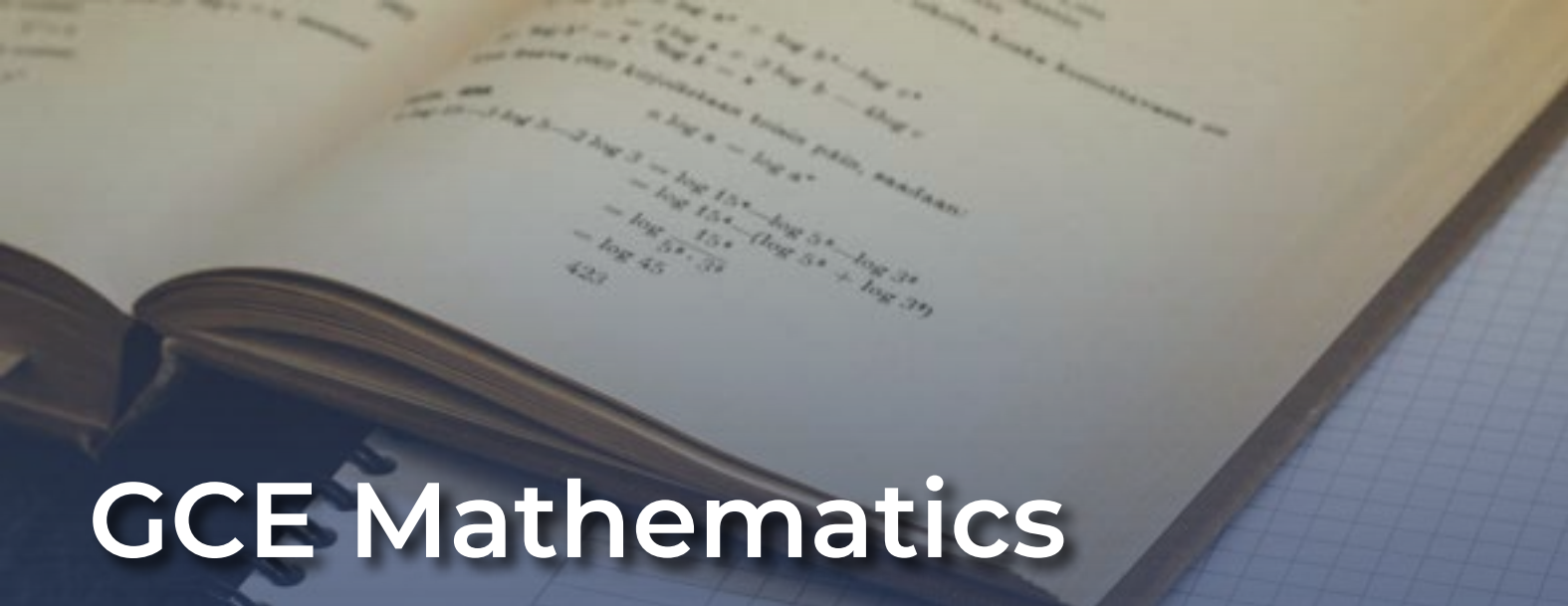
The research, analytical and presentational skills you learn in History are precisely the skills you need to operate in the world of work.

“Not to know what took place before you were born is to remain forever a child” Cicero, Roman Politician. “Those who forget History are condemned to repeat it” George Santanya, Historian.

“History is vitally important. If we are going to lead Britain safely into the 21st Century it is essential that we understand our country’s historical roots” Tony Blair, 1996.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE History
- Grade 5 in GCSE English



GCE Mathematics

Mathematics is essential to the society we live in. It provides a language for the sciences and underpins our economy. It is impossible to operate the financial markets, the construction industry and the world of ICT without it. The opportunities for students of Mathematics, on completion of full-time education, are enormous. It complements and supports other courses, for example, Physics, Chemistry, Design Technology, Psychology and Business Studies. Qualifications in Mathematics are acceptable as an entry to many different careers.

Mathematics students at Sandwell Academy will be preparing to move into Higher Education courses and careers in the following fields:

- Electronic Engineering
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Pharmacy
- Medicine
- Mechanical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Actuarial Work
- Economics
- Psychology
- Forensic Science
- Business Administration
- Aeronautics
- Accountancy
- Trading Standards

The Mathematics GCE course offered at Sandwell Academy is designed to provide academic and vocational experiences. It will prepare students for their choice in both the world of work and Higher Education.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics



GCE Further Mathematics

Further Mathematics A Level challenges students beyond the level of Mathematics A Level, providing students the opportunity to study the subject to a higher level. Students aspiring to study Mathematics at degree level should be seriously considering Further Mathematics as an option as the course incorporates a significant portion of the degree content. Furthermore, students who enjoy Mathematics in its purest and most abstract forms gain a much greater sense of satisfaction from the course than Mathematics A Level.

Further Mathematics students at Sandwell Academy will be preparing to move into Higher Education courses and careers in the same fields as students studying Mathematics and will also significantly enhance their chance of being accepted to:

- Mathematical courses at Oxbridge institutions
- Medicine and Dentistry courses at Oxbridge institutions

The Further Mathematics AGCE course offered at Sandwell Academy is designed to provide academic and vocational experiences. It will prepare students for their choice in both the world of work and Higher Education. Furthermore, it acts as a facilitating subject which considerably enhances a student's application for courses at the highest ranked universities.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics
- Must have picked to study A Level Mathematics



GCE Media Studies

The opportunities for students of Media Studies are wide ranging. A GCE Course in Media Studies complements other Sixth Form Courses. It is designed to heighten the awareness and sensitivity of students to the way the Media functions.

Qualifications in Media Studies are acceptable as an entry to many different careers. They can be a springboard to a specific career working within the media itself but are equally useful and accepted across a wide range of vocations and career pathways. These may include:

- Marketing
- Journalism/Media Law
- Education
- Performing Arts
- Health & Social Care
- Leisure
- Tourism

All courses offered at Sandwell Academy are designed to provide academic and vocational experiences. They will prepare students for their choice of career in both the world of work and Higher Education.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 5 in GCSE English
- (Preferably a Grade 5 in both English Language and English Literature)



GCE PE

There are a growing number of opportunities for students of GCE Physical Education.

Physical Education is an ideal qualification for students interested in studying amongst other things, Sports Science, Physical Education, Physiotherapy or Leisure at University.

GCE Physical Education develops transferable skills and key skills for which employers look for, so students can use their qualifications to go straight into employment.

Finally, it offers a greater opportunity to stay actively involved in sport.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE English or Maths
- If studied, a minimum Grade 6 at GCSE PE on the theory paper
- A knowledge of the Human Body is desirable
 - Must be playing a sport regularly (training and competing) at district Level

There is an expectation that there will be a commitment to Wednesday afternoon sports teams at the Academy.



GCE Physics

The opportunities for students of physics, on completion of full-time education, are enormous. There are many possible careers within the scientific world and qualifications in science subjects are acceptable as an entry into many other careers. Science students at Sandwell Academy will be prepared to move into Higher Education courses and careers in a wide variety of different fields including:

- Engineering
- Forensic Science
- Pharmacy
- Medical Sciences
- ICT
- Physics
- Science research
- Finance and Banking
- Aeronautics
- Education

The Science courses offered at Sandwell Academy are designed to provide academic and vocational experiences. They will prepare students for their choice in both the world of work and Higher Education.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 6, 6 overall for GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy)
Or Grade 6 for GCSE Physics (Separate Science)
- Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
- Must be selecting Physics alongside either Chemistry or Mathematics.
- Physics cannot be selected as a stand-alone subject.



GCE Product Design

'Design and Technology is about making things that people want and that work well. Creating things is hugely exciting: it is an inventive, fun activity.' James Dyson

This subject will provide you with opportunities to develop your practical skills, knowledge and understanding of the way products are designed, made and manufactured. The subject requires initiative, creativity, determination but most importantly the desire to develop even better solutions to meet the needs of clients. The course will also relate to and require understanding of core Mathematics and Science principles.

The skills which Product Design will equip you with are highly sought after in the world of work and university. The course will prepare you for opportunities in:

- Engineering
- Product Design
- Architecture
- Management
- Education
- Manufacturing
- Ergonomics
- Urban and Regional Planning

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 5 in GCSE English or Maths
- Grade 6 or above in a GCSE Design and Technology subject



GCE Psychology

Psychology is the study of mind and behaviour. Due to psychological investigations many behaviours have been explained allowing us to apply theories in many practical contexts, including areas such as eye-witness testimony and children services. The units are designed to give students a broad understanding of psychology, with the chance of choosing more specialised options as the course progresses.

Psychology is a fully recognised university subject and this course provides students with the foundations needed for a career focusing on understanding human behaviour and the influences behind it.

The course prepares students for a range of careers in contexts such as:

- Forensic Psychology
- Clinical Psychology
- Personnel
- Social Work
- Police
- Education

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE English
- Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 6, 6 overall for GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy)
Or a Grade 6 overall GCSE Biology (Separate Science)

If GCSE Psychology taken, must have achieved a minimum of a grade 6 (B).



GCE Religious Education

It is impossible to avoid religion and ethics in our ever-changing world. Religion impacts on everyday life and ethics affect our everyday decisions. Both universities and employers are aware that students of Religious Education have developed and are able to utilise skills that can be applied to different situations. They know that you are:

- Able to formulate an opinion and present it accurately and fully
- Able to discuss and debate ideas on ethical and moral issues
- Aware and can understand different religious viewpoints and form balanced judgements on religious issues

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 6 or above in GCSE English and a Grade 6 in a Humanities subject
- No prior knowledge of Religious Studies is required

However, the opportunity is provided for candidates who have studied Religious Studies at GCSE (either as a Full or Short Course) to build on knowledge, understanding and skills gained at that Level.



GCE Sociology

“The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden.”
Pierre Bourdieu

We live in a world where change is possible and is happening all around us every day. Sociology asks the big questions and examines connections within society. A society in which you live. Sociology highlights the importance of understanding this society and understanding past trends of social behaviour and even predicting future ones. Nobody can deny that big changes occur in our world on an almost daily basis and a detailed study of Sociology gives us the opportunity to unpick ideas as to why societies are constantly changing and what implications this has on the rest of the world.

To study sociology would prepare you for a love of learning, it would enhance your writing and study skills and give you the opportunity to explore and appreciate diversity, human behaviour, culture and social organisation. Sociology is rewarding, stimulating and gives a deeper understanding of humankind. The study of Sociology provides the nurture of a broad skill set which can be used and applied in any future career.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 6 or above in GCSE English and Grade 6 or above in a Humanities subject



GCE Spanish

With more and more students now taking up University places, the competition on the job market is reaching its peak, making it even more challenging for Graduates to find suitable employment. You therefore need to offer a potential employer an added extra to other candidates. This is where language learning can maximise your potential, as, students who possess the ability to speak a fluent Level of Spanish, possess an extremely marketable and sought-after skill.

With increased industry and trade links with Europe, the relevance and value of a foreign language have never been more obvious. Spanish is the world’s 2nd most spoken language. Its importance in the economic field is growing faster than any other language as Spanish is the key to control business relationships with South America.

As well as studying a language for teaching, translation or interpreting, many students are now studying foreign languages alongside a number of other subjects in order to widen future job prospects in professions such as:


- Accounting and Banking
- Hospitality and catering
- Business administration
- Law
- Science and Engineering
- Medicine

GCE Spanish aims to provide students with a thorough knowledge of the language and an ability to speak confidently with a high degree of fluency and accuracy and will include elements of all the following: Spoken Spanish, listening skills, reading skills, written Spanish, interpreting, translation, grammar, social culture, history, literature and film.

Throughout the two-year course, students will be given plenty of opportunity to put their language skills into practice. They will be encouraged to listen to Spanish radio and watch as much Spanish TV as they can, in addition to reading current newspapers and magazines. Students will also be encouraged to spend as much time in Spain as they can, with the possibility of taking part in a school exchange.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 7 in GCSE Spanish
- Grade 6 in GCSE English

A group of diverse young people, including a young man in a red hoodie and a young woman in a plaid jacket, are standing in a school hallway. Some are holding blue ribbons. The background is a dark blue wall. On the right side, there is a large, vertical, white text overlay that reads "VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME".

At the Academy we deliver Level 3 BTEC courses, these can be studied in combination with A Level courses. However, in addition to the extended certificate which replaces one A Level of a student's allocation of three, in some subjects we also deliver a diploma and extended diploma.

These require additional guided learning hours and require the same time as two A Levels (Diploma) and three A Levels (Extended Diploma) respectively. Students studying either the Diploma or Extended Diploma will reduce the number of subjects they can study.



BTEC Applied Science Extended Certificate

The opportunities for students of Science, on completion of full-time education, are enormous. There are many possible careers within the scientific world and qualifications in Science subjects are acceptable as an entry into many other careers. Applied Science students can move on to Higher Education courses and careers in the following areas:

- Veterinary Science
- Forensic Science
- Pharmacology
- Mechanical Engineering
- Lab Technician
- Nursing
- Environmental Studies
- Biochemical Science
- Food Science

The Science courses offered at Sandwell Academy are designed to provide academic and vocational experiences. They will prepare students for their choice of career in both the world of work and Higher Education.

Specific entry requirements

- Two Grade 5s in Science
- Grade 4 in Mathematics or English



BTEC Business Diploma or Extended Certificate

The BTEC Business course has been developed to provide a broad educational basis for further training, further education or for moving into appropriate employment within the business sector. It is delivered in a work-related context to allow learners to develop an understanding of the business sector.

Business students can move on to Higher Education courses and careers in the following areas:

- Accountancy
- Business Administration
- Education
- Retail
- Marketing
- IT / Computing
- Law Management
- Public Relations
- Human Resources

The BTEC Business course is designed to provide both academic and vocational experiences. These will prepare students for their choice of career in either the world of work or Higher Education.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 4 in Mathematics or English



BTEC Health & Social Care Diploma or Extended Certificate

The Health and Social Care course provides students with a sound foundation for a career in the allied caring services or as a springboard into higher education. The modules of work are designed to develop employment related skills. The course aims to give students foundation knowledge on legislation, policies and procedures within the health and social sector. It covers a diverse selection of topics such as sociology, psychology and biology to incorporate all aspects of health and development. The course prepares students for a range of careers in Health and Social Care contexts such as:

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Education
- Community Work
- Social Work
- Welfare Work
- Housing Services
- Public Health
- Health Services

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 4 in Mathematics or English



BTEC ICT Extended Certificate

This qualification is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction into the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT. A course in ICT will open doors in both an academic and career-based pathway. All areas of employment demand ever-increasing ICT skills to be held by its members and a qualification that is both skill and theory based can offer the foundation for further study at University or careers in public and private sector organisations in areas such as:

- E-Commerce
- Business Administration
- Network Management
- Finance Software
- Engineering Systems
- Analysis Marketing
- Web Development
- Web Administration
- Programming
- Knowledge Management
- Telecommunications

The BTEC ICT course is designed to provide both academic and vocational experiences. These will prepare students for their choice of career in either the world of work or Higher Education.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 4 in Mathematics or English



BTEC Performing Arts Diploma or Extended Certificate

The opportunities for students of Musical Theatre have continued to develop over the last decade, perhaps nowhere more so than in the Midlands. As Birmingham continues to be promoted as the nation's "Second City" and attracts major Arts organisations to the area, so the West Midlands is becoming recognised as a centre for Culture and the Arts.

The job opportunities for students leaving full time education will continue to grow over the coming decade. The Musical Theatre course offered at Sandwell Academy provides a range of vocational experiences. They will prepare students for their choice of career in both the world of work and Higher Education. Most of our students go onto to study for a degree related to Performing Arts or teaching.

Single Qualification: BTEC National Extended Certificate: Equivalent in size to one A Levels

Double Qualification: BTEC National Diploma: Equivalent in size to two A Levels.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 4 in Mathematics or English
- Satisfactory Level in Performing Arts or a Performing Arts discipline (Dance, Drama or Music).

Experience in performance work in at least one area either at GCSE Level, or through outside agencies, such as dancing schools or amateur theatre is desirable. The emphasis of this course is to develop skills in all areas of musical theatre and to develop you as an all-round performer.

You will be expected to have a flexible approach to all areas of the Performing Arts, regularly participate in a range of workshops with visiting practitioners and attend a variety of live Performances.



BTEC Sport Extended Diploma, Diploma or Extended Certificate

The course is an active and enjoyable way to study sport and gain an understanding of the Sport Industry. The BTEC qualifications are coursework and examination based, they aim to provide students with opportunities to learn and apply theory to practice. Students will have the opportunity to develop appropriate knowledge and skills to enable progression to both Higher Education and employment.

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 4 in Mathematics or English.
- A knowledge of the Human Body is desirable.
- Minimum Grade 6 at GCSE PE on the theory paper for Extended Certificate in Sport.
- Minimum of A Level 2 Merit for Extended Certificate and Diploma BTEC Sport Courses
- There is an expectation that there will be a commitment to Wednesday afternoon sports teams at the Academy

T Level Health Nursing

T Levels are new, two-year, technical study programmes, designed with employers to give young people the skills that industry needs. They are equivalent to 3 A Levels and will carry the equivalent number of UCAS points.

T Level study programmes will include the following mandatory elements:

- A 'core' set of underpinning knowledge, concepts and skills, tailored for their chosen industry and occupation: 'core content'
- Specialist training covering occupational or industry-specific skills: 'occupational specialist content'
- An industry placement with an employer, which will last for a minimum of 45 working days

This course is suitable for anyone wanting a career in health and healthcare. Career options might include working in a nursing team.

Students who achieve this qualification could progress to the following:

- Employment
- Higher education
- Apprenticeship

Specific entry requirements

- Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language
- Grade 4, 4 in Combined Science or grade 4 in Separate Science subjects (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- A Level 2 qualification in Health and Social Care may be beneficial but is not a requirement

Industry Placement Experience

As part of the T Level qualification students are required to complete a minimum of 45 days/315 hours of industry placement. The industry placements are intended to provide students with the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required for skilled employment in their chosen occupation and which are less easily attainable by completing a qualification alone.

Students will be supported by the Academy's careers department in securing their industry placements.

Assessment

To be awarded an overall T Level grade, a student must successfully pass both components of their technical qualification and an industry placement.

COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT METHOD	GRADE
Core	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% externally assessed, set and marked by the NCFE • 2 written examinations • Employer-set project (ESP) 	<p>A* to E and U</p> <p>Each core component's marks will be combined to form the overall grade for the core component.</p>
Occupational specialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A case study assessment • 2 practical activities assessments: one for the core: Supporting Healthcare, and one for the occupational specialism • A professional discussion 	<p>Distinction/Merit/Pass and Ungraded</p> <p>The marks from the occupational specialism assignment will form the occupational specialism grade.</p>

Preparing for Life After Sixth Form

Careers Guidance

The Director of Careers and Industry Links, through his team of experts, in collaboration with our Independent Careers Advisor, provides careers guidance to all students. Every student will receive an individual appointment and will be given expert advice in preparing a Curriculum Vitae (CV).

University Applications

Students aspiring to apply to university to complete a degree course are given expert guidance. The Academy provides opportunities to visit universities and will prepare a detailed reference to support every applicant. Sandwell Academy actively encourages students from both vocational and academic routes to consider university applications. This year 80% of students took up places at university.

Apprenticeships and Employment

We have created a network of contacts within the business community to enable us to access the full range of apprenticeship and employment opportunities available to our students. The Academy encourages employers to contact us directly to ask us to recommend students for employment.

We believe that it is the responsibility of every Sixth Form student to develop the Academy's reputation in the business community. This year, all students who did not pursue university courses, obtained either full time employment or an apprenticeship – including degree Level apprenticeships with BMW and BT.



Sandwell Academy

Halfords Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 4LG

If you would like support with your application or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with our Admissions Team via email

sixthformadmissions@sandwellacademy.com or call **0121 525 1700**



Scan the QR code

Complete your application form today



skumar