Welcome from the Executive Headteacher & Head of School

Values & Expectations

Facilities

ASPIRE

EEP - Employability, Enrichment & Pastoral

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Support & Careers guidance

Thinking about University?

University Destinations

Student Voice & Parent Voice

Entry Requirements

Pathway One: A Levels

Pathway Two: BTEC / Vocational

Next Steps

Frequently Asked Questions

Additional Courses Under Consideration

Application Form
Welcome

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to The Isle of Wight Education Federation and I hope that you enjoy reading our prospectus for The Island VI Form.

I am honoured to work as Executive Headteacher for our Federation, which is an extensive learning community spread right across Newport, at the heart of the Isle of Wight. We are increasingly proud of the close collaborative working relationship that has developed between all three establishments, where we are able to share a wealth of educational expertise for the benefit of over 2,000 students.

A large number of students choose to join us from all over the Isle of Wight and that simple fact should tell you something about what a great experience it is to be part of our family of colleges.

Choosing a college is an important decision and this prospectus is only part of that process. To get a real feel for our VI Form, talk to our students and talk to our staff.

Most importantly, decide whether this learning community feels right for your child, whether they will make progress here and if they will be happy here.

The Island VI Form welcomes students from all schools and academies across the Island. Our learning facilities are of a standard to rival any National learning institution and the best way to appreciate the Campus is to visit us and see the VI Form in action. Tours can be arranged at times convenient to both students and parents.

Students have access to a wide range of A level and Level 3 Vocational programmes, alongside extra curricular activities. Being the largest VI Form provider of A Levels enables us to have the ability to offer minority subjects; nevertheless, a minimum of six to ten students (depending on the subject) will be required to ensure a course will run. The Island VI Form is an ideal bridge between school and higher education, or employment and gives students more freedom and responsibility. Students are encouraged to manage their own time and develop the study and work skills needed for university, or the world of work.

We are committed to ensuring teaching and learning is of the highest quality. We have in place a rigorous programme of monitoring to ensure that not only are our students well taught, but that they are supported, through a range of classroom activities, to become active, inquisitive and independent learners. High levels of attendance are also required; over 95 per cent, if students are to maximise their learning opportunities.

There are excellent opportunities for students to participate in a wide range of extra curricular provision including the renowned Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, Young Enterprise, a pre-driver training course, sporting activities, dramatic shows and musical productions.

Our VI Form is continuing to grow and we hope that you will join us to share in our success. I look forward to meeting you and do hope you will take the opportunity to see what we have to offer. We wish you every success in your forthcoming GCSEs and post 16 experiences.

“A large number of students choose to join us from all over the Isle of Wight and that simple fact should tell you something about what a great experience it is to be part of our family of colleges.”

David Mumford
Head of School - The Island VI Form

We are confident that your decision will be an easy one and we look forward to welcoming you very soon.

Matthew Parr-Burman
Executive Headteacher & Head of School - Carisbrooke College

“I am honoured to work as Executive Headteacher for our Federation, which is an extensive learning community spread right across Newport, at the heart of the Isle of Wight. We are increasingly proud of the close collaborative working relationship that has developed between all three establishments, where we are able to share a wealth of educational expertise for the benefit of over 2,000 students.”
Values and Expectations

Each member of The Island VI Form has unique needs and we aim to unlock each student’s potential. Our aim, through an experienced and successful team of teachers and support staff, is to make all our students increasingly self-reliant in their learning whilst giving them every possible encouragement and support.

We are committed to the following:

* Providing a challenging and innovative learning culture, engendering a love of learning.
* A culture of commitment and hard work that will enable the achievement of potential.
* Securing mutual respect and a positive attitude to learning.
* Creating an inclusive, supportive community where students value one another.

Students will be treated with respect and given the freedom to manage their own time and study. They will attend all of the following:

* Timetabled lessons.
* Study periods.
* Assemblies.
* Student mentoring sessions.
* Employability, Enrichment & Pastoral (EEP)
* A range of extra-curricular activities.

All courses require students to spend a minimum of four hours per week outside of the classroom on independent study. Students are encouraged to use their study periods to undertake this work.

Facilities

Science

The Island VI Form has four fully equipped, university quality, science laboratories with integrated ICT suites.

IT & LRC

IT facilities are excellent with six dedicated IT suites and three Apple Mac computer suites. One is fitted with specialist Music and Music Technology equipment, that is complementary to the on-site recording studio. One suite is located within the Library Resource Centre and is a silent work area. Full WiFi coverage ensures access to IT for all students.

Gym

A bright and well equipped Gym enables students to keep fit and healthy at zero cost! Students must complete an induction session and health questionnaire before individual access is granted via their lanyard.

Art

The dedicated Art block includes specialised teaching areas, 2 IT and Apple Mac suites and a photography dark room.

Design Technology

Design technology has a fully equipped studio for fashion and textile work; and an extensive workshop with state of the art laser cutting machinery and CAD computer suite.

Communal Space

There are three large common rooms, one for quiet working, and our Cafe, “Mumford & Yums” that is open throughout the day. The Cafe is located next to the Main Hall, which has a pool table, table tennis tables and TVs.

Disabled Access

A building lift and stairlifts give improved access for disabled students to a wide range of curriculum provision.

Performance Arts

The excellent expressive arts facilities at Medina are used for the teaching of specific subjects.
ASPIRE
At The Island VI Form, our ethos is underpinned by these core values. We are a learning community which embraces opportunities for all our members by securing high quality learning and teaching. We aim for all our students to achieve their full potential both as learners at the VI Form and as considerate global citizens of the future. We always aim to be the best we can be, nothing less will do.

AMBITION
* We will insist that all of our staff demand the best of all of our students all of the time. Each and every student will be ambitious for themselves and their future. Our families will always support our efforts to secure appropriate and worthwhile employment and training for their children.

SUCCESS
* We will provide a curriculum and continuous professional development framework through which all of our students and staff can achieve excellence. Celebration of academic and other achievements will be regular, systematic and genuine. We expect our parents to join in with and support our culture of high expectation and reward.

PROGRESS
* We will demand that all of our students, regardless of age, ability, gender or background make good and outstanding progress in all of their subjects. We expect that all of our students will demand this of themselves and that our families will show a genuine interest in their child’s learning journey.

INNOVATION
* We will let creativity flourish so that independent thinking becomes the norm for all within our learning community. We will seek new ways to do things, embracing developments in technology and learning so that our young people are ready to take their place in the rapidly evolving world of work.

RESPECT
* We will insist, at all times, upon good manners, politeness, appropriate language and behaviour from all within our learning community. We will be tolerant of the views of others and we will consistently challenge all forms of prejudice, discrimination and harassment.

ENGAGEMENT
* We will insist that all those within our learning community engage fully with all of the policies and procedures within the organisation. We expect our teachers to deliver well-planned and interesting lessons so that our students and their families commit to the experiences on offer. We expect excellent attendance from all stakeholders and we look forward to engaging in frequent dialogue with our families at numerous school events and meetings.
THE ISLAND VI FORM 2020

EEP
Employability, Enrichment & Pastoral

School life is much more than just lessons and we know that the most memorable event in a student’s life is often the performance, the match, the trip abroad or the work experience placement. VI Form students are encouraged to take part in a wide variety of activities which enable them to develop additional skills and develop their expertise and interests in other areas.

We believe that if we are to help students become fully rounded individuals and responsible members of the community we must offer them a range of activities and challenges beyond the normal classroom. Enrichment is an opportunity to try something new. It can be just for fun or a way to gain another qualification to support your university entry or to boost your CV. All students are expected to participate in some form of enrichment, some of the things on offer are listed below:

- Opportunities within the performing arts including performances at the Isle of Wight Festival, Christmas Music and Carol Concerts, and the College’s annual drama productions.
- Learning a language
- Young Enterprise
- Global Rock
- Pre-driving instruction and practical lessons
- First Aid qualification
- Visits to London art galleries and theatres
- Foreign travel
- Debating society
- Mock Law Trial Activities
- Work experience
- Visits to higher education colleges
- Community service ranging from supporting students with special needs in PE to environmental projects and work in local hospitals, playgroups or retirement homes
- Charity fund raising events such as Macmillan Coffee Morning, Red nose day and IOW Radio Christmas Toy appeal.
- Participation in groups which take community responsibility such as IOW Youth Council and other Island groups

A life-changing experience. A fun time with friends. An opportunity to discover new interests and talents. A tool to develop essential skills for life and work. A recognised mark of achievement; respected by employers. The DofE is many things to many people, supporting generations to successfully navigate adult life.

We encourage our students to participate in the DofE programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, leads to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award. Any young person can do their DofE – regardless of ability, gender, background or location. Achieving an Award isn’t a competition or about being first. It’s all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.

There are four sections to complete at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition and, for Gold only, working with a team on a residential activity.

Achieving an Award will give you skills, confidence and an edge over others when you apply for university or a job. Beyond your academic achievements, universities want to see evidence of so called ‘soft skills’ that you have developed through extra-curricular activities, such as communication, commitment, leadership and teamwork. Your DofE Award is a fantastic way to demonstrate and evidence these skills in practice.

We have a very active participation at the Campus and have over 100 students engaged in the Award scheme each year. Many continue the Award that they started in their previous schools, whilst others carry on the Award after leaving us and going on to University or employment.

Our young people volunteer their time with many of the charitable organisations across the Island. They have developed many new and exciting skills such as medieval sword fighting, Beekeeping, Warhammer, Mandarin conversation and origami as well as the more traditional ones like First Aid, learning to drive or becoming a sports coach.

Groups plan and complete their own expeditions under the guidance of our qualified staff. The Gold groups mainly operate in the Brecon Beacons, whilst Silver and Bronze generally use the New Forest and South Downs to journey through.

We have an excellent expedition store with high quality rucksacks, tents and stoves for the students to use; including seven hybrid bikes with trailers. These have been as far as France and Wales in recent times.

“If you want to get off the sofa and take up a challenge we look forward to meeting you.”
Support & Careers Guidance

In the relatively short time you are at The Island VI Form, you will be making decisions which will have a huge impact on your career and your future. We aim to maximise your range of choices and provide the guidance and support to help you make the best decisions.

What makes a good VI Form Student?

L.O.R.I.C

- Leadership
- Organisation
- Resilience
- Initiative
- Communication

We will always take that extra step to help you achieve your potential. We have a dedicated Information, Advice and Guidance team based at the Campus, who provide a wide range of opportunities such as:

- Further and Higher Education events
- Careers Fairs (in-house and external)
- Mock Interviews
- One-to-one careers advice sessions
- University presentations and trips
- Gap Year information sessions
- Vast variety of UCAS events
- Voluntary work
- National Citizen Service
- Specific Medical/Medicine events
- Access to Southampton Scheme
- Business start up
- Work Experience
- Dedicated Careers and Finance Day

Mentors provide support for students throughout their post-16 studies. Meeting with students in small groups and individually on a regular basis, enables staff to know each student and identify their needs. Whether considering University, applying for apprenticeships or employment, Mentors will guide and advise every step of the way.

All students can benefit from a Work Experience placement and this plays a vital role, giving students the opportunity to develop valuable skills. Students can access relevant placements using this opportunity to gain essential knowledge and experience.

The IAG department (based within Student Services) has a wide range of resources for students; we have careers guides, apprenticeship publications, online resources as well as a wealth of University prospectuses.

Students considering Oxbridge or Medicine/Dentistry will receive a tailored programme of events to ensure they are best equipped for the application and interview process. We are proud of the high success rate of our students who secure these sought after interviews and then go on to take their places at some of the most prestigious universities across the country.

With over 300 course providers and around 100,000 courses across the UK, we’re here to help you follow your path to higher education.

Our experienced team will help you every step of the way through the UCAS process. We will support you to ensure that your Personal Statement is going to get you noticed and secure the interviews you want at university.

A dedicated professional, Student Services team offer encouragement, support and guidance. You will be able to regularly review your academic and individual progress with the Support Officers and they will help you with your plans for higher education, training or employment in the future.

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Thinking about University?

Some university courses require specific subjects to have been studied at A level. Other courses prefer certain subjects or subject combinations. Below is a list of requirements for some university courses. This is for guidance only and not an exhaustive list. Please check UCAS for specific universities requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIVERSITY COURSE</th>
<th>A LEVEL REQUIREMENTS PREFERENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accountancy/Accting</td>
<td>Mathematics preferred at some universities. Business Studies accepted for some courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Sciences</td>
<td>Biology. Chemistry required or preferred.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology</td>
<td>History. Geography. English or a science subject may be preferred for some courses and two science subjects for Archaeological Science courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>Mathematics and/or Physics required on some courses. Art is sometimes a requirement and a portfolio of work is often required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art &amp; Design</td>
<td>See prospectuses. Most courses require an Art and Design Foundation Course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astronomy/Astronysics</td>
<td>Mathematics and Physics usually required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>Chemistry required and Biology preferred; one or two mathematics/science subjects required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>Chemistry required plus one or two other mathematics/science subjects, biology preferred.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Biology and Chemistry important, other science subjects may be accepted. Two/three mathematics/science subjects required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business/Management</td>
<td>Mathematics required for some courses. A modern language may be required for international/business courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Chemistry and another science subject required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classics</td>
<td>Latin, Greek, Classical Civilisation, English Literature and a modern language may be required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Mathematics and a science subject required for some courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentistry</td>
<td>Chemistry plus biology or a science subject required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama, Dance and Performance Arts</td>
<td>English, Theatre Studies, Drama may be required or preferred.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Mathematics, Economics or Business Studies may be required or preferred.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>One A Level is usually required in the main subject choice plus two other subjects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Mathematics and Physics usually essential (except for foundation courses). Check prospectus for specific engineering courses, e.g. civil, chemical, mechanical, sound etc. Design Technology may be accepted in some cases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>English with specific grades usually stipulated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Science/Studies</td>
<td>One or two science subjects are stipulated; mathematics may be required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Studies</td>
<td>A modern language usually required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Radio, Videos and TV Studies</td>
<td>English may be stipulated for some courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Mathematics may be required or preferred.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Geography is required for most courses. Mathematics/science subjects required for BSc courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>History usually required at a specified grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>History is preferred for some courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>No specified subjects. History may be required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages</td>
<td>A Level in chosen language usually required at a specified grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences plus languages for courses combined with a foreign language. Applicants offering Art and Music A Levels should check whether these subjects are acceptable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics for all courses and AS Further Mathematics may be required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>In almost all cases, three A Level grades are expected including A* grades, with Chemistry at A Level, plus one or two other science subjects. If only two science subjects are offered, then a third ‘rigorous’ academic subject should be included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Music plus an instrumental grade usually required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
<td>Science subjects required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing and Midwifery</td>
<td>Two or three subjects required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacology/Pharmacy</td>
<td>Chemistry and/or biology required for most courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Mathematics and Physics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>One or two science subjects required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>No specific subjects, history useful but an arts or social science subject an advantage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>A science subject is usually required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
<td>Religious Studies may be preferred.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Science/Studies</td>
<td>A science subject may be required and PE for some courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Science/Medicine</td>
<td>Three subjects in Mathematics/science subjects, Chemistry is essential.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

University courses studied 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creative Courses</th>
<th>41%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Related Subjects</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

University destinations of our students 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creative Courses</th>
<th>27.5%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Related Subjects</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"I feel that I am making good progress towards achieving the A Level grades that I want and my attitude to learning has improved since starting at The Island VI Form. We are trusted to manage our own independent learning and teachers encourage us to take responsibility for our outcomes."

VI FORM STUDENT
Student Voice

At The Island VI Form we are continually seeking to improve the service we offer to students, their parents and the community. As part of our development strategy, we listen to the voices of our students and give them the opportunity to have their say in the running of the VI Form. The Student Voice enables students to communicate their ideas and opinions to each other, their parents and the wider community. It is a way of ensuring that each voice is heard and has the ability to make a difference.

The Student Voice is made up of selected student representatives from Years 12 and 13. The student body can contact their Student Voice representatives with suggestions for areas of improvement or concern. Student Voice then meets with the Head of School on a weekly basis to discuss matters brought to their attention. Once thoroughly discussed, improvements may be made around the Campus.

The impact of Student Voice is continually being felt on the Campus. Examples include: feedback surveys to improve the teaching and learning experience of all students; improved decor and facilities; a silent walk in support of Remembrance Day; Campus Open Days; Christmas and other seasonal parties and various fundraising activities.

Student surveys are carried out each term, to gather feedback on Campus life.

Parent Voice

What is Parent Voice?
Parent Voice is run by the parents of The Island VI Form students for the parents, with direct links to leadership and staff; and the Isle of Wight Education Federation Governors. It provides a forum for parents to keep up to date with events and changes at the VI Form. We firmly believe that students achieve more when their parents/carers are involved in their education and have a constructive relationship with their place of study.

Am I automatically a member?
Any adult who is a carer or parent of a student at The Island VI Form is automatically a member.

When and where does it meet?
Parent Voice meets once every half term. The date is included in the VI Form Campus calendar. Currently we combine our meetings with Medina College Parent Voice and meet at Medina College.

We invite the Heads of School to our meetings, so they can ask for our feedback on what’s being planned, and answer our questions. We also invite a governor to attend. A member of the senior leadership team acts as our link for any questions that come up between meetings.

How do I keep in touch with VI Form Campus Parent Voice?
Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/IslandInnovationVIFormParentVoice/
Email:
iiiviformparentvoice@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you!

student.voice@iwef.org.uk
Facebook:
Student Voice at II VI Form Campus
Twitter:
@iiistudentvoice

iiviformparentvoice@gmail.com
Entry Requirements

Entry requirements into The Island VI Form are a minimum of five 9 to 5 Grades (or equivalent A*- C Grades) at GCSE for A levels/Level 3 courses.

Most subjects have specific entry requirements, which can be found in the table opposite. If you do not meet these requirements, an interview will be necessary with the subject leader and parents or carers to determine your suitability for the course and a trial period may be agreed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>SPECIFIC GCSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>SPECIFIC GCSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art and Design</td>
<td>6 - Art &amp; Design/Fine Art 5 - English</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>6 - History 6 - English 5 - Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>6 - Biology (triple) 6 - Double Science 6 - Mathematics 6 - English</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>5 grades 9 - 5 (at least 2 at Grade 6) including English Language and Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>5 - English 5 - Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>7 - Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>6 - Chemistry (triple) 6 - Double Science 6 - Mathematics 6 - English</td>
<td>Further Mathematics (must also select Mathematics)</td>
<td>7 - Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classical Civilisation</td>
<td>6 - English</td>
<td>Media Studies</td>
<td>5 - English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>5 - English 6 - Mathematics</td>
<td>MFL: French Spanish</td>
<td>6 - MFL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Technology</td>
<td>6 - Design Technology/Art or L2 Merit - BTEC Engineering 6 - English 5 - Mathematics</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>5 - Music or Merit at BTEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama and Theatre Studies</td>
<td>6 - English</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>5 - English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language</td>
<td>5 - either English Language, English Literature or English</td>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>6 - Art and Design 5 - English High quality digital camera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>6 - Fashion, Textiles or Art (if none of these subjects have been studied, a portfolio of work will be required) 5 - English</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>6 - Physical education or Level 2 Merit in Sports studies 6 - Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fashion and Textiles</td>
<td>5 - Mathematics</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>6 - Physics (triple) 6 - Double Science 6 - Mathematics 6 - English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Studies</td>
<td>5 - English</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>6 - English 6 - Mathematics 6 - Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>6 - Geography 5 - Mathematics 5 - English</td>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
<td>5 - English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>6 - Chemistry &amp; Physics(triple) 6 - Double Science 6 - Mathematics 6 - English</td>
<td>Science: Applied</td>
<td>5 - Double science or Merit at Level 2 diploma in Science 5 - English 5 - Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government and Politics</td>
<td>6 - English</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>6 - English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphics</td>
<td>6 - Graphics or Art 5 - English</td>
<td>Sport BTEC</td>
<td>5 - Physical education or Level 2 Pass in Sports studies 5 - Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Social Care BTEC</td>
<td>6 - English 5 - Mathematics</td>
<td>Travel and Tourism BTEC</td>
<td>5 in English Merit - BTEC First Diploma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pathway One: A Levels

The A Level Pathway is a natural choice for you if you have enjoyed and been successful on your GCSE courses. A Levels offer you the chance to focus your attention on a smaller number of subjects, building your knowledge and understanding in the areas in which you have proven strengths and strong interest.

You will choose 3 subjects from a range of available courses to study over two years. A wide range of courses are available and our advisors will help you choose the ideal combination.

To succeed on an A Level programme you will need to achieve 9 - 5 (or equivalent A*- C) grades in at least 5 subjects at GCSE. Most A level students have several grade 6s or higher, especially in the subjects they want to study at A Level.

Some students may take the opportunity to select 4 subjects if their academic profile supports this choice (8 or 9 grades at GCSE).

Some A Levels involve a combination of examinations and coursework and all exams will be held during the summer term at The Island VI Form.

BTEC / Vocational

BTEC / Vocational courses are a natural choice for you if you have done well at GCSE but now wish to move on to a course related to your career plans.

Some Advanced Vocational courses, for instance BTEC level 3 Diplomas, can be combined with A level courses. Vocational courses are usually assessed through assignment work and exams.

These courses will really suit you if your coursework grades are always better than your examination marks. You will have an idea of your grades as you work through the course and may have an opportunity to resubmit any work that may require improvement.

Subjects such as Fashion and Textiles or Health and Social Care allow you to choose an Extended Diploma - which is the equivalent of a full time course (3 options).

“The two years spent at sixth form are tough, but hard work will pay off. Embrace everything and enjoy yourselves!”

CAITLIN SMITH
VI FORM STUDENT

Now reading History at University of Oxford
Next Steps

Many A Level students will be heading for university courses all over the country. However, many employers are keen to recruit successful A Level and Level 3 students at the age of 18. Our teachers have enormous experience of both A Level and vocational courses and in depth knowledge of the requirements of examination boards. They are always delighted to offer help and advice to prospective students, so don’t be afraid to ask.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the entry criteria for the VI Form?**
   All students will be expected to have at least 5 9-5 passes or equivalent A*-C grades at GCSE to be eligible to join the VI Form. Specific criteria for individual subjects can be found on the course entry requirements overview page. If a student does not meet these requirements, an interview will be necessary with the subject leader and parents or carers to determine suitability for the courses selected. All students will receive an invitation to attend an informal interview with the Head of School as part of the standard application process. You will be able to discuss courses, student life at the Campus and enrichment activities.

2. **Is parking available for students?**
   Yes, Year 13 students have their own dedicated car park and can apply for a parking permit at main reception. Students are asked to show the MOT certificate and insurance documentation for their vehicle.

3. **Are specialist subjects staying at specific college bases?**
   The excellent expressive arts facilities at Medina and sports facilities at Carisbrooke will continue to be used and transport between the sites is provided.

4. **What is the dress code?**
   While VI Form students are not expected to wear a uniform, we ask that students ensure that their dress is smart and appropriate to our educational environment. Health and safety, cultural awareness and decency will be the guidance used in making decisions on what is not appropriate. Students and Staff must wear identification lanyards while on Campus to comply with our safeguarding policy. We are very keen for students to be involved in determining what is fit for purpose, what is important and our key focus is students achieving their best.

5. **Will my child be able to leave the Campus during lunchtime?**
   At lunchtime, students are free to leave the Campus. ‘Mumford & Yums’ Cafe is open all day and offers coffee and a range of hot and cold meals and snacks.

6. **Will there be after school activities and sports team opportunities available?**
   Yes, there are number of activities for students to be involved in, including: Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme, Pre-Driver Training Course and numerous sporting activities including an active Rugby club who attend mainland fixtures.

7. **Can I use the VI Form Gym?**
   Yes; students must complete a Health questionnaire and attend an induction before their Student Lanyard is enabled so that they can gain access to the Gym. Students are expected to use the equipment safely at all times and clean the machines after using them. Access to the Gym is free but students must observe the rules when using it.

8. **Will my child be able to leave the VI Form during study periods?**
   Students are encouraged to stay at the Campus and make full use of this time for independent study. Facilities are available to support this.
**Art and Design**

**Are you creative? Do you love the buzz you get when you have a new idea? Are you visually aware and notice beauty in everything around you? Do you have opinions? Are you articulate and passionate? Can you solve problems? Do you consider new ways of doing things that may be better? Do you have good technical ability when drawing/painting or even better both? And are you ready to challenge yourself and your teachers?**

**COURSE CONTENT**

Art and Design is a flexible and adaptable A Level for anyone with a real interest in the visual Arts. We will support you to develop into an independent and resourceful student whilst supporting you to learn new skills and attitudes. Your work can be realised through the full range of conventional and digital skills; all we ask is that you work with commitment, energy, initiative, growing independence and that you meet deadlines.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Qualifications in Art and Design will support further study at Foundation or Degree level specialising in: fashion, textiles, graphics, illustration, animation, media and advertising, film making, 3D design and more. Our students leave us to study degree level courses in Film-Production, Photography, Graphics, Illustration, Animation, Marine Photography and Textiles to name a few.

If Art has not been studied to GCSE level, an interview with a portfolio is required. This needs to show your ability to draw from observation.

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**Biology**

This course has increased emphasis on understanding and application, in addition to recall, and this is evident from the comprehensive list of practicals included. These practicals will give you the skills and confidence to investigate the way living things behave and work. The course will build on knowledge gained from GCSE to give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you.

**COURSE CONTENT**

This is a two year course and units include topics on: Biological molecules, Cells, exchange and transport, Genetic information, Variation and relationships between organisms, Energy transfers in and between organisms, Organisms’ responses to their environments, Populations genetics, Evolutions and ecosystems, Gene expression and Gene technologies.

There is no coursework requirement, however, your performance during practicals will be assessed by your teacher and through exams. There are three A2 exams all of which are two hours long.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Biology will open the door to a multitude of career options including medicine, nursing, pharmacy, pharmaceuticals, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, oceanography, forestry ecology, forensic science and environmental science. The analytic and problem solving skills learnt whilst studying Biology will also be valuable in further education and employment.

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**Business**

Business A level is designed to give a broad and balanced introduction to business as a basis for further training and study. Allowing students to develop general skills, knowledge and understanding that underpins all occupations and professions. This programme will enable you to investigate areas within business, the economy and industry and provide skills for future employment and academic business courses. You are encouraged to foster imaginative and creative thinking as well as developing an understanding of the world of business and recognise its value to the local, national and international community.

**COURSE CONTENT**

- Marketing and people
- Managing business activities
- Business decisions and strategy
- Global business

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Business programmes lead to employment, university degrees and professional courses, careers in retailing, finance, management and marketing.
Chemistry

This course has increased emphasis on understanding and application, rather than recall, and this is evident from the comprehensive list of practicals included. This course will build on knowledge gained from GCSE and has a natural progression. It will develop you into an able chemist, setting up the opportunity of taking the next step to undergraduate studies with confidence.

COURSE CONTENT

Units include topics on physical chemistry such as rate, equilibrium and energy, as well as organic chemistry ranging from simple hydrocarbon reactions to more complicated reactions based on benzene.

In addition, this course will include current chemistry topics such as those relating to the environment and possible alternative energy provision.

Year 2 builds on year 1, and will be assessed at the end of the course.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Chemistry will open the door to a multitude of career options including medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy and forensic science to name a few. It also offers the opportunity to continue studying Chemistry at degree level. The analytical and problem solving skills learned whilst studying Chemistry are also valuable for both further education and employment.

Classical Civilisation

This is an increasingly popular A-level which offers students to explore aspects of Ancient Greek and Roman culture in depth. The new specification is an academically rigorous course that centres on the study of ancient literature, history, politics and archaeology.

COURSE CONTENT

The first year of the course introduces students to the fascinating world of Ancient Greece and looks closely at the important role of religion in society. Students will explore the nature of the gods and their relationships to mortals as well as famous temple complexes, religious ritual and the part religion played in forming ancient Greek identity. Alongside this students study Homer’s Iliad, an epic poem on the famous Trojan War that the Greeks themselves considered the foundation of their culture. Students investigate the concepts and values of the mythical heroic world and the lasting legacy of Homer as well as the cultural context and the literary techniques used in creating epic poetry.

The second year focuses on Ancient Rome and how the first emperor Augustus persuaded the Roman people to accept him as an imperial monarch. The idea of a politician ‘spinning’ their public image is still relevant today and students will examine his presentation in art and literature and assess how effective his public image was. Alongside, students will look at another epic poem, Virgil’s Aeneid, the story of the foundation of Rome, inspired by the epics of Homer. The poem explores what it was to be a hero in the Roman world and illuminates the cultural and political context of the time – the newly-formed regime of the first Roman emperor.

Assessment is by three separate exams taken at the end of year 13. There is no coursework component.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many Classical courses available at universities, or the qualification could support study in history, literature, politics, law, sociology or philosophy. The skills gained from studying this A-level will be highly regarded in all areas of higher education and also attractive to prospective employers.
**Computer Science**

This course is aimed at students who are keen on practical computer work and especially solving mathematical type problems. You will gain a wide knowledge of computer systems and programming skills. The course covers a wide range of computing applications, for example: control systems, artificial intelligence, networking and many others. There is also thorough theoretical coverage. Programming is mainly taught using Visual BASIC. LMC will also be used to teach about assembly language, and there will be opportunities to use HTML, CSS and JavaScript to create web pages.

**COURSE CONTENT**

- Problem solving, programming, algorithms, data representation, computer components, the stored program concept, software development, networking and the internet.
- Students will also choose a practical project which will showcase their programming skills.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Most students carry on to study computer science at university and it is possible to follow courses such as computer science, artificial intelligence, games design, games programming, software engineering etc. Other courses link business management with computing or IT.

**Design Technology**

**PRODUCT DESIGN**

This innovative, creative and thought-provoking A Level course will continue to grow and develop your practical hands-on skills while deepening your theoretical knowledge alongside looking at the historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology.

The course is equally assessed as 50% on a creative, practical Non-Examination Assessment and 50% split across two exam papers (one looking at technical principals and one on design principals).

The theoretical knowledge will be taught through practical tasks, where you can continue investigating current design and pushing your creativity to design, model, trial and make new exciting and innovative products showing your practical skills.

Within Design Technology you will be using and developing your scientific and mathematical skills to help you solve problems when designing and creating your products. You will be creating designs and products using new technologies within CAD and CAM.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Our students go on to take further studies in creative, technical and research-based aspects of the design process, this includes studying for degrees and apprenticeships in industrial/product design, architecture and landscape design, exhibition design, engineering, advertising and marketing, purchasing and sales.

**Drama and Theatre Studies**

This course is a mix of practical drama and dramatic theory. You will be introduced to texts from a wide range of genres, styles and historical contexts. Workshops will also introduce a range of theatre practitioners to develop theatrical knowledge and skills.

The course will consist of practical workshops and theory-based lessons linked to these to ensure an in-depth understanding. You will be given the opportunity to work in different styles of theatre so that by the end of the course you will have an extensive skills base and an understanding of the theory behind it.

**COURSE CONTENT**

- Unit 1: Theatre Workshop
- Unit 2: Text in Action
- Unit 3: Text in Performance

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

You can progress to study aspects of Drama and Theatre Studies at university or to work in a related field of employment using the knowledge you have gained from this A Level.

**English Language**

When you stop and think about it, using the English language is one of the most complex things you will ever master, and yet you probably got to grips with it before you even set foot inside a school.

So why study it further?

Well, language is integral to practically every aspect of human life. You might explore the dramatic historical events that led to the modern English you use today, or relive the process of child language acquisition. You could engage with the politically-charged problems of racism and sexism, or tune in to and map out the rich variety of regional dialects around you. Or, you could plot the ever-changing path of current and future language use as English finds its place in the 21st century. Whatever route you take, studying English Language at an advanced level will reward you with a deeper awareness of yourself and your place within the world.

Taking A Level English Language will also provide you with a technical understanding of linguistics: the way words, sounds, meanings and structure are interwoven to make the texts you see and hear each day. You will develop your analytical and discursive essay writing, enhance your ability to write originally and to appreciate the craft of the writer, and learn how to engage meaningfully with academic research and debate.

English Language is highly regarded by universities for a variety of undergraduate courses across the Humanities, including Modern Foreign Languages, as well as Business and Law, and Social and Human Science degrees.
Fashion & Textiles

This course aims to develop individuals who aspire to become part of an exciting and innovative industry. Skilled teachers with industry expertise and links to the fashion industry make this subject one of the best performing in the VI Form. We have excellent links with universities and our students go on to study a wide variety of BA courses in the area of Fashion and Textiles. The skills learnt on this course offer an insight into a diverse and exciting industry in the UK. Students will complete a variety of live design briefs linking with industry, as well as taking part in exciting workshops. Typical projects include Fashion Illustration, Textile and Surface pattern Design, Fashion Marketing, Fashion Design and Garment Construction.

The course is 100% coursework and aims to build a portfolio. Students will access work experience opportunities with local and national fashion companies, as well as research trips to London and Paris.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Cambridge Technical Diploma is equivalent to A-levels, and ultimately enables students to progress to Foundation or degree courses in Fashion and Textiles.

Learners go on to study:
Fashion and Textile Design, Illustration, Fashion Promotion, Buying and Marketing. This can lead to successful and fulfilling jobs working for high street and designer fashion brands.

Hence, you will look at a Shakespearean play, a modern drama, a novel and a collection of poetry through the lens of the dramatic genre of tragedy. Alongside this, you will also explore elements of crime writing through the evaluation, again, of a range of texts, including a post-2000 novel, none of which are typically associated with the crime genre, but all of which feature a crime of a sort.

In addition to the texts you look at alongside your fellow students in class, you also have the opportunity to develop your own independent reading and literary interests in prose and poetry through the Non-Examination Assessment in which you required to devise your own coursework tasks in the context of different areas of literary criticism – feminism, Marxism, eco-criticism, and post-colonialism to cite just a few.

If you enjoy reading and discussing literature, then this is the A Level for you!

Geography

There has never been a better or more important time to study geography. Climatic Change, the issues and challenges of International migration, environmental degradation and the challenge of living in a more hazardous world, shows that geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study.

Whatever your passion for the world, whether it be fascination with landscapes or concerns about social inequality, geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and academically.

COURSE CONTENT

You will develop and apply your understanding of geographical concepts, interpreting our changing world, develop your awareness of the complexity of interactions within and between societies, economies, cultures and environments at scales from local to global; be able to recognise the challenges of sustainability and the implications for your own and others’ lives; develop critical and reflective thinking and appreciate the importance of attitudes and values in decision-making; become confident in the use and application of skills and new technologies through your geographical studies both in and outside the classroom.

Core physical themes are water/carbon cycles and landscape systems. The Core human themes are global systems/ global governance and changing place/ changing places.

There will be a minimum of two fieldwork days in year 12. and four days overall for A Level. Teacher-assessed independent investigation at A Level will count for 20%.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

You can go on to study Geography or a Geography related degree. Geographers often go on to work in careers associated with tourism, town or rural planning, the environment, hydrology, meteorology, coastal geomorphology, geology, forestry or agriculture. Geographers also develop skills (ICT, decision making etc.) that are sought after in most areas of employment.

Geography is a subject that incorporates Arts, Sciences and Social Sciences, so students could combine it in various ways: Science combinations like Physics, Biology, Maths and Geography; Arts combinations like English, History, Art and Geography; other combinations like Business, French, Drama and Geography.
Geology

This course gives students the opportunity to study geological processes that operate at and below the Earth's surface, the evidence of past life and the uses made of geological materials. The course looks at the processes and products that form our planet and its rocks; the uses of geological resources; addressing environmental, technological, safety and economic issues in addition to geological concepts; the history of life on Earth and introduces palaeontology, petrology and engineering geology. Major vertebrate and invertebrate fossil groups are studied, and the interaction between life and the physical environment are explored.

COURSE CONTENT

Year 1 Units include: Global tectonics, rocks, processes and products and practical skills in geology.
Year 2 Units include: Environmental geology, evolution of life, Earth and climate and economic and engineering geology.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Many careers, including oceanography, environmental science, marine geologist, meteorologists are open to students with Geology A level. This course complements other A Levels in Science and Humanities subjects.

Government and Politics

Studying Politics helps you acquire a range of skills such as written and verbal communication, presenting and defending an argument and working with information in order to reach a judgement about differing points of view. You will also keep very up-to-date with current affairs, making Politics a dynamic subject which is always relevant to what is going on in our country and the wider world.

COURSE CONTENT

A Level Government and Politics is a varied course which covers a range of subject matter and aims to provide an engaging and diverse learning experience.

This course will be taught in a variety of ways, from the knowledge of experienced teachers, group discussion, student presentation, individual research, online learning and the study of political documents.

Units include: Government & Politics of the UK, Government & Politics of the USA, Theoretical approaches to the study of comparative politics and Political Ideas.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Government and Politics offers a broad range of skills that can be applied to almost any university course or career paths. You will learn to examine evidence, to argue logically and explicitly. You will have the opportunity to present your opinions through a variety of mediums. Politics will work very well with any of the other humanities on offer and is looked at favourably by admissions tutors at universities.

Health and Social Care: BTEC

This is a two-year course assessed through a mixture of coursework and exams, which is designed for students wishing to gain employment in the health and social care sectors or progress to further study at a higher level. The course is suitable for those who wish to follow a career in the caring industry, social work, nursing, speech therapy, podiatry, youth and community work or radiology.

COURSE CONTENT

OPTION 1 – Single Award.
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (equivalent to 1 GCE A Level). This course is 50% exam and 50% coursework based and includes 4 units over 2 years which may include:
• Human Lifespan Development (Exam)
• Working in Health and Social Care (Exam)
• Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
• Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs

OPTION 2 – Double Award.
BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health and Social Care (equivalent to 2 GCE A Levels). This course is 40% exam and 60% coursework based and includes 8 units over 2 years which includes those in the Extended Certificate, plus:
• Working in Health and Social Care (Additional Exam)
• Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care (Moderated Task)
• Promoting Public Health
• Nutritional Health

In addition to our standard entry requirements, entry to these courses will also be considered with:
Health and Social Care Level 2 with achievement of at least a merit and tutor recommendation or NVQ Level 2 (in relevant subject area) with tutor recommendation.

Graphics

Graphic Communication conveys information and ideas through visual means within a set of constraints. The increase in the use of information technology has led to changes in working practices and new ways of both communicating and presenting information. You will develop knowledge and understanding of design briefs, clients and audience; understand formal elements, techniques and their application to selected media; demonstrate understanding through the application of a combination of knowledge and skills working within the constraints of a design brief.

COURSE CONTENT

You will be taught techniques and skills that are relevant to industry and apply them to briefs set by artists and designers who have national and international experience. Previous project briefs have ranged from editorial and fashion illustration to character design and corporate identity. You will learn publishing programmes including Photoshop, InDesign and Illustrator Creative Cloud.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

You can progress to degree courses at university such as animation, illustration, graphic design and new media.
History

A popular and successful option for those with a genuine interest in history. History is a widely respected academic A Level that equips you with the essential analytical and evaluative skills and the ability to carry out independent research and study. The study of History at A Level is looked upon favourably by both universities and employers.

**COURSE CONTENT**

This is a two-year course covering a breadth of both World and British History. You will need to know an in-depth study and also a period of History covering two hundred years. There will be a combination of both exams and coursework. The coursework element is an extended piece of writing of approximately 4000 words.

Students will study three elements: The Monarchy in Crisis 1603-1702, The Cold War 1945-91 and a coursework question on the Holocaust.

Law

Law helps people achieve their goals. It provides rules for setting up businesses, for getting married, and for owning a house. It provides protection for those who have a job, or make investments or who want to drive on the road. And it supplies a framework for today’s challenges such as internet copyright theft, environmental damage or the possibilities of genetic engineering. In short, law is what makes our society possible.

A level law offers students an opportunity to develop an understanding of law today using scenario-based problem-solving and discussions of current issues with a legal dimension. No previous knowledge of law is required.

**COURSE CONTENT**

The A level law course covers five themes:

- **Criminal law:** murder, manslaughter, non-fatal offences such as GBH and ABH, theft, robbery;
- **Contract law:** making and breaking a contract, misrepresentations, consumer rights in respect of faulty goods and services;
- **Tort law:** negligence leading to physical, psychiatric and economic loss, nuisances interfering with a person’s ability to use their land;
- **Law and society:** the real world links between law, fault, justice and morality;
- **The English legal system:** sources of law, criminal and civil court cases, judges, juries and magistrates.

**UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE**

A level law is an obvious choice for those thinking of reading law at university, not least because it is a chance to find out about the subject before committing to a degree programme. Law is also useful for a range of other degrees which include a legal component such as business, accounting, human resources, journalism and criminology.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

History offers a platform to a wide variety of careers: Law, journalism, broadcasting, mass media, teaching and the civil service to name a few. More than this, it offers a broad range of skills that can be applied to almost any university course or career path. You will learn to examine evidence, to argue logically and explicitly. You will be offered the chance to present your opinions through a variety of mediums whether written or verbal. As more people choose joint or combined honour degrees at university, History becomes a viable option for anyone to study beyond traditional school life. The literary skills required are transferable in virtually every other subject and the possibility of periods to study is endless.

The study of mathematics enables us to provide courses that will: enable you to acquire knowledge and skills with confidence, satisfaction and enjoyment; give you experience of mathematical activity and develop resourcefulness in solving problems; enable you to apply mathematics and recognise its significance to other disciplines; develop your understanding of mathematical reasoning; provide students with a foundation for further study of mathematics.

**COURSE CONTENT**

Pure Mathematics forms the core for A Level Mathematics.

You will continue to develop your understanding of algebra, trigonometry and numerical methods as well as vectors, kinematics, distributions and hypothesis testing.

These are not isolated topics but have many links to each other and to areas of study in a range of other subjects.

The Media plays a central role in contemporary culture, society and politics. It shapes our perceptions of the world and how we interact with the world through representations, ideas and the points of view they offer. The media have a real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, with forms of cultural expression and the ability to participate in key aspects of society. The economic importance of media industries is unquestionable with millions of people employed worldwide. The globalised nature of the contemporary media, ongoing technological developments and more opportunities to interact with the media suggest that it’s importance in contemporary life can only increase.

**COURSE CONTENT**

The two-year a level course offers students the opportunity to develop a thorough and in-depth understanding of these key issues, using a variety of advanced theoretical approaches to support critical exploration and reflection, analysis and debate. The study of a wide range of rich and stimulating media products is central to the specification. Students will work from the product outwards to debate and analyse key critical questions related to all aspects of the media.

The subject content is wide-ranging and includes studies of music and video games, advertising and film marketing, newspapers and radio programmes, media language, representations, audiences and media industries and blogs and websites.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Media industries are one of the biggest employers, whether your interest lies in production or in front of an audience. Most universities offer a range of media related courses including advertising, film, TV, radio and music production as well as more academic studies such as journalism.
**Music**

To study Music at A level you need to be able to read notation to a good standard, be able to play an instrument to at least grade 5 standard and be a competent composer. During the course you will be required to develop your aural skills, analyse music of various genres spanning works by such composers as Mozart, Vivaldi, and Stravinsky, through to Kate Bush and the Beatles, and film soundtracks such as Batman and Psycho. You will also be required to record a solo recital and to at least grade 5 standard and be a competent composer. During the course you will learn to use the same level software. You will also use the same level technological skills appropriate for further education or employment in the music industry. This could include sound artists/composers, sound engineers/producers in community music and education settings. They will also be appropriate for a variety of other settings, including the interactive media sector, where project management as well as creativity and discipline are important.

**COURSE CONTENT**

The course structure requires performance, composition and a written exam.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Music A level is a requirement for applications to the six UK Music conservatoires and for most Music degree courses. Music A level expands on the acquired skills and knowledge introduced at GCSE level and provides a firm grounding in the skills required to study Music at University level. A Music degree can assist you to pursue a career in performance as a member of an ensemble such as an orchestra or session work, composing for film and television, or teaching.

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**Philosophy**

Philosophy stems from a sense of wonder at the world and a willingness to face questions about things that puzzle you. Big questions, important questions: How do we know what exists? Why does anything exist at all? Does time and space go on forever? Does life have a purpose? Is there a God? Where does the idea of God come from? Can we trust our senses? Will science eventually explain everything? What is the difference between the mind and machine? How do we know what the right thing to do is?

People have asked fundamental questions about reality for thousands of years. Recently interest has been rising again particularly amongst young people, perhaps prompted by artificial reality or by thought-provoking films like ‘The Matrix’ and ‘Inception’.

Philosophy gives you the opportunity to think for yourself, to think clearly, critically and logically and to develop sound arguments both in discussion and in writing.

**COURSE CONTENT**

Philosophy of Mind and The Philosophy of Religion. There will be two exams at the end of year 13. There is no coursework.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Many universities offer degree courses in Philosophy either as a single subject or else combined with other arts, humanities or science subjects. An example is PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics). Skills developed in A Level Philosophy can lead to a wide range of careers. Law and politics are obvious examples but any career requiring highly skilled thinking and clear, rational communication will benefit from the rigorous academic discipline of Philosophy. Many employers place a high value on such transferable skills. Whatever you go on to do, Philosophy can offer you an important, stimulating lifelong interest and contribute significantly to the way you understand the world.

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**Modern Foreign Languages:**

French and Spanish

You will also learn how music technology has developed and impacted the music industry from the early 20th century to the modern era.

**COURSE CONTENT**

Studying a language at this level extends naturally from the skills developed at GCSE. Approximately equal stress is placed on each of the linguistic skills, together with the acquisition of knowledge about the contemporary culture and society of France or Spain and countries or communities where French or Spanish is spoken. You will be well prepared to use the language for practical communication and to continue your studies in higher education.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

With qualifications in A Level languages, you could go on to study at university or work in commerce, the diplomatic service, leisure or tourism, the armed forces, teaching, the airline industry, the media or be a translator or interpreter.
Photography

In this course you will study a range of themes working from still life to the natural world and experimental imagery. You will combine practical creation of your own images with critical studies of the work of photographers from past to present. You will develop and improve your knowledge and ability to take and enhance imagery digitally and, in some cases, using conventional wet photography. The majority of the course is taught on Apple iMac computers incorporating the use of Photoshop CC, although all will get the opportunity to work in the darkroom.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
A portfolio of A Level Photography can give you the opportunity to pursue degree level courses in photography and/or lens based media. It can support other creative subjects and develops the ability to be able to approach problems in more inventive and non-linear ways. It can lead into advertising, marketing, it is used in medical illustration and forensic science.

If Photography, Graphics or Art have not been studied to GCSE level, an interview with portfolio may be required.

Posession of a high-quality digital camera is expected.

Physical Education

The theoretical aspect covers a range of topics including: Applied anatomy and physiology, Skill acquisition, Sport and society, Biomechanical movement, Sport psychology, Sport and society and the role of technology in physical activity and sport. The course requires a greater level of academic ability due to the nature of the assessments.

COURSE CONTENT
A Level PE includes:
35% Exam Paper 1: Applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, and sport and society.
35% Exam Paper 2: Exercise physiology and biomechanics, sport psychology, and sport and society and technology in sport.
30% Practical: Students are assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity in addition to a written/verbal analysis of their performance.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
There is a vast range of career opportunities within the sports industry. Many PE students go on to university and specialise in PE teaching; exercise physiology, sports physiology, biomechanics, sports nutrition, strength and conditioning; GP referral schemes, physical activity development, performance analysis, sports psychology or sport and exercise science. Previous students have attended universities such as Loughborough, Bath and Oxford as well as numerous other institutes around the country. Whilst studying these courses some students have managed to find work through professional sports teams such as Hampshire cricket Club and London Irish Rugby Club. Previous students have also gone on to partly study abroad through link projects with their universities and the sports faculty.

Physics

Physicists use ingenious methods to unlock the amazing secrets of our universe, by observing natural phenomena, gathering data and attempting to predict what might happen in new and unknown situations. They test their ideas and come to conclusions that are often hard to believe. Physics gives us the fundamental knowledge from which almost all scientific research and study is based. It is an exciting and wide-ranging subject which has an impact in almost every aspect of society and will give you skills and knowledge useful in many industries and degree courses.

COURSE CONTENT
AQA Physics first year A level introduces the amazing world of sub atomic physics. Following this we study electricity, where you will develop your experimental skills far beyond GCSE. It also covers the mechanics of forces, why materials behave the way they do and how properties such interference and diffraction affect light and other electromagnetic waves. In the second year A level these ideas are developed to a higher level in Further Mechanics and Nuclear and Thermal physics. Whilst our optional topic of Medical Physics will allow students to develop their knowledge of physics in a specific application. For a full description of the A level content please visit the AQA web site.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Physics will provide knowledge and skills such as, decision-making, teamwork, data-handling and computing along with ability to work methodically and accurately. These are desirable for many degree level courses, particularly in the fields of science and engineering. Advanced Level Physics is also regarded as a valuable qualification in a range of industries including, materials and composites fast food, Collins power sustainable development and the Armed Forces.

Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour and gaining a qualification in Psychology can open the door to a number of career paths that require interaction or an understanding of human behaviour and development.

COURSE CONTENT
The 2 year course covers four compulsory units:
- Approaches in Psychology: you will learn about the five psychological approaches: biological, psychodynamic, behaviourist, cognitive and positive. Each approach explains human behaviour in a slightly different way.
- Research in Psychology: you will learn more about how psychologists design and conduct research.
- Contemporary debates: you will learn about the ethical issues and debates surrounding modern day Psychology including cultural bias, ethical costs of conducting research, non-human animals, scientific status and sexism.
- Practical Research: you will get the opportunity to undertake two of your own research projects.

In year two you will also study three behaviours:
- Autistic Spectrum behaviours
- Criminal behaviours
- and Stress
**Religious Studies**

This fascinating course gives you the opportunity to explore in depth the philosophical and ethical impact religion has had on the world, both classic and contemporary.

This course provides a challenging and open-minded approach to the study of religion and will engage you in an interdisciplinary exploration from historical, ethical and philosophical perspectives.

Studying religious studies will help you develop personally as an individual; show empathy and understanding towards sensitive issues and an awareness of cultures and traditions that living on the Isle of Wight may not always offer you.

The course will be assessed with three exams, with a choice of questions that will evaluate your understanding and application of the ideas studied as well as your ability to analyse and critique theories and beliefs.

**COURSE CONTENT**

This exploration is broken down into three components:

A study of religion: Buddhism: more of a philosophy than a faith; Buddha was not God, but his teachings have defined a school of thought. You will learn how a spoilt prince became enlightened and blazed a ground-breaking trail of freedom from suffering and liberation from ignorance.

Philosophy of Religion: the study of classic and modern philosophical and theological arguments that argue for and against the existence of God, challenges to the existence of God such as the problem of evil. The problem is, can we even talk meaningfully about God? What language should we use when talking about such an abstract concept?

Religion and Ethics: a comprehensive study of fundamental ethical ideas: How do we know what the right thing to do is? Have ethical ideas changed over time?

What has made them change? How free are we to make moral choices?

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

With qualifications in religious studies you can go on to study philosophy, history, classics, archaeology, psychology, sociology and anthropology. Jobs in which this subject is useful are nursing, the police force, child-care, teaching, social work, counselling, journalism and the military.

**Science: Applied**

The vocational learning style is completely different from more traditional routes. Learners may research topics and present results in a wide variety of ways other than as written text; often applying their research, skills and knowledge to specific work-related contexts and case studies with many real-life examples. This is a more hands-on vocational approach to learning and assessment. An award in this course is gained through 50% Exam and 50% Coursework.

**COURSE CONTENT**

Units include: Fundamentals of science; Working in the science industry; Scientific practical techniques; Scientific investigations; Perceptions of science; Using mathematical tools in science.

Optional units include: A choice of units from topics such as Microbiological techniques, Electrical circuits and the applications, Using science in the workplace, Biochemistry and Biochemical techniques.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are vital to meet the needs of employers across a variety of job roles. The demand for STEM skills is expected to grow dramatically in the next ten years.

Already, six out of ten employers are having difficulty recruiting enough STEM skilled individuals to meet their needs. Students gaining good STEM qualifications are more likely to secure employment and a career that is rewarded at a level higher than average.

This A level in Applied Science is designed to inspire and develop STEM skills. Students gain an extremely marketable qualification, whether they wish to continue into higher education or go into the workplace. The majority of universities include Applied science as a possible entry requirement to many of their courses.

**Sociology**

In Sociology you must be able to examine your own views of the world and accept other peoples’ point of view. You will be expected to form your own opinions and be able to back these up in a rational way. As with many subjects, you will be expected to keep up to date with current events, be prepared to read extensively and participate in discussions.

**COURSE CONTENT**

You will study:

- Families and Households
- Education
- Research Methods
- Crime and Deviancy
- Beliefs in Society

In these units you will be introduced to basic theories and perspectives in sociology that relate to these important institutions. The Research Methods unit will introduce you to the main ways sociologists carry out their investigative studies.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Sociology will open the door to many career options including social worker, teacher, social researcher and employment within the social services sector. Sociology can lead to higher education in one or more of the social sciences such as Sociology, Criminology, Development Studies, Anthropology or more general higher education courses.

The study of Sociology will help you develop the skills, understanding and knowledge that is valued by employers across many different sectors.
Sport: BTEC

**BTEC (Level 3) National Extended Certificate (Single award = Equivalent to 1 A Level)**

The course covers a wide range of theoretical and practical topics in sport, giving a more in depth level of study to Level 2 courses. Each unit covers 25% of the whole course, with a lesser percentage of the overall grade coming from the exam. Students still need a good work ethic and a background in sport and science in order to be successful. Students should play sport outside of school and should be looking at going forward into a career in sport or other physically active pathways (E.g. Armed Forces, Emergency Services etc).

**COURSE CONTENT**

4 units over the 2 years, including:

- Anatomy and Physiology - assessed by a written exam (25%).
- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well Being – assessed by synoptic assessment (25%).
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry – Assessed by coursework (25%).
- Sports Coaching – Assessed by practical assessment and coursework (25%).
- Subsidised Bronze Duke of Edinburgh’s Award

**BTEC (Level 3) National Diploma (Double award = Equivalent to 2 A Levels)**

The Level 3 Diploma in Sport is taken alongside one other subject and covers a wider range of sporting topics than the single award.

It will cover 9 units within the 2 years and targets students who have their mind set on careers in sport.

Students must play or be involved in a sport outside of school and should have a good work ethic to meet deadlines. A good qualification in both PE/BTEC Level 2 Sport and in GCSE Science is required in order to be successful.

**COURSE CONTENT**

In addition to the units studied in Option 1:

- Investigating Business in the Sports and Active Leisure Industry
- Skill Acquisition in Sport
- Sport Psychology
- Practical Sports Performance
- Sports Performance Analysis

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**Travel and Tourism: BTEC**

**(SUBSIDIARY DIPLOMA - EQUIVALENT TO 1 GCE A LEVEL)**

**COURSE CONTENT**

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism is designed to support learners who are interested in learning about the travel and tourism industry as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels. It is the equivalent in size to one A Level and works well in combination with Sport, ICT, Business, Sociology and Geography.

The travel and tourism industry is one of the fastest-growing industries in the UK. The value of tourism to the UK economy is approximately £126 billion, and the sector employs around 3.1 million people.

This qualification includes three mandatory units covering the following content areas:

- Marketing – Students will study marketing, a mix of creativity, customer service and enticing customers into making a purchase. Students will be able to look at organisation’s customer service and marketing strategies before developing their own marketing plan for use by travel and tourism organisations.
- The travel and tourism industry is one of the fastest-growing industries in the UK. The value of tourism to the UK economy is approximately £126 billion, and the sector employs around 3.1 million people.
- Different types of destinations and their importance – you will investigate the features and appeal of global destinations.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Students who have completed this qualification will develop transferable and higher-order skills, which are highly regarded by higher education providers and employers. For example, when studying the World of Travel and Tourism unit, students will analyse information and data from the travel and tourism industry, identifying trends and the potential impact of different factors on the industry and its customers, which supports some of the skills students need to progress into higher education, employment, self-employment or training.

Students completing BTEC travel and tourism courses have progressed onto undergraduate courses, such as International Tourism Management and employment in travel and tourism and business fields.
You can apply to join us from November 2019 and we would like as many applications as possible returned to us by the end of March 2020. We will still accept applications after this date, but your choice of subjects may depend on availability. 

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**Application Form**

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**Personal Details** Please print clearly, using capital letters and complete all information.

- **Surname**
- **First name(s)**
- **Date of Birth** Age on 31/8/2020
- **Gender** (please tick)
  - [ ] Male
  - [ ] Female
- **Nationality**
- **Country of Birth**
- **Address**
- **Postcode**
- **Home Tel**
- **Student Mobile**
- **Student Email**
- **Student Signature**

We will keep you informed of important information for prospective students via text and/or email.

**Your Choice of Courses**

Please select 4 course options you wish to study (numbered in order of preference). If you are uncertain about your choices, don’t worry, you will have several chances to discuss your options with our staff.

Please number your 4 subject choices in order of preference:

- [ ] Art and Design
- [ ] Biology
- [ ] Business
- [ ] Chemistry
- [ ] Classical Civilisation
- [ ] Design Technology
- [ ] Computer Science
- [ ] Drama and Theatre Studies
- [ ] English Language
- [ ] English Literature
- [ ] Fashion & Textiles: Single Award
- [ ] Fashion & Textiles: Double Award
- [ ] Film Studies
- [ ] Geography
- [ ] Geology
- [ ] Government and Politics
- [ ] Graphics
- [ ] Health and Social Care BTEC: Single Award
- [ ] Health and Social Care BTEC: Double Award
- [ ] History
- [ ] Law
- [ ] Mathematics
- [ ] Further Mathematics (must also select Mathematics)
- [ ] Media Studies
- [ ] MFL: French
- [ ] MFL: Spanish
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Music Technology
- [ ] Philosophy
- [ ] Photography
- [ ] Physical Education
- [ ] Physics
- [ ] Psychology
- [ ] Religious Studies
- [ ] Science: Applied
- [ ] Sociology
- [ ] Sport BTEC: Single Award
- [ ] Sport BTEC: Double Award
- [ ] Travel and Tourism BTEC

Please give details of any additional courses that you would like us to consider:

**Additional Courses Under Consideration**

Due to the large size of our VI Form cohort we are able to meet the needs of the local community and offer additional courses subject to demand.

The following are examples of courses that we could offer subject to demand. If students are expressing an interest in one of these options they must choose at least 4 subjects from the application form (including a choice from this list).

- [ ] Childcare BTEC
- [ ] Criminology BTEC
- [ ] Economics
- [ ] Food science and nutrition
- [ ] ICT BTEC
- [ ] Latin

Students wishing to express an interest in these areas must apply by the end of March 2020, so that decisions about course viability can be made quickly and students and staff can be given plenty of notice to plan and prepare. All students can then consider alternative courses should they wish.

“We are also open to student led requests based on their needs and the requirements of the local labour market.”
### Subjects Studied

Please list below details of subjects and qualifications you will have completed by June 2020.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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### Support available to you

(Any information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence)

**Do you have a disability and/or learning support need?**

If you have ticked ‘yes’ please tick the boxes that apply to you in the following questions.

- Learning need (e.g. dyslexia, dyscalculia)?
- A health condition (e.g. epilepsy, diabetes, or other serious condition)?
- Physical or sensory (visual, hearing or mobility impairment)?

If you have further information about your disability or learning support need please specify below:

**Have you previously had exam access arrangements?**

We use this information to enable students to integrate well and fulfil their potential. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss in advance how we can help those requiring support.

Please contact David Mumford, Head of School - VI Form on 01983 522886 / viform@iowef.org.uk

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**What happens next?**

Thank you for submitting this application form. You will receive an invitation to attend an informal interview with the Head of School when you will be able to discuss courses, student life at The Island VI Form and enrichment activities.

- Parent or Carer name
- Parent or Carer email
- Parent or Carer mobile
- Parent or Carer signature

**Date**

When you have completed this application form please hand into reception at either Carisbrooke College, Medina College or return to The Island VI Form.

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"There’s no two ways about it, A-Levels are a lot harder than GCSEs, but please don’t let that put you off! They are difficult because they are more in-depth, and that depth allows you to really engage with subjects that you are passionate about. The teachers are all incredibly experienced and knowledgable about their subjects, so you can be sure you’ll get all of the support that you need. If you’re willing to put in the work, you will have a great time here!"

JOE DAVIES
VI FORM STUDENT & FORMER IOW YOUTH MP - Now reading History & Politics at University of Oxford