



YEAR 11 OPTIONS BOOKLET



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The Sixth Form Experience

When a student moves into the Sixth Form, the expectations upon them change. The courses that they study are more rigorous and demanding and they need to manage their time effectively, approaching their studies in a mature and organised manner. This 'step up' is not always easy, but in a caring and nurturing environment such as Bromsgrove, we are confident that each and every student can achieve their full potential and move on to suitable Higher Education courses. During Sixth Form, students have careful guidance about their futures from their Form Tutors and Head of Sixth Form who oversees all University applications.

It is our hope that each student who completes their Sixth Form education at Bromsgrove will leave with happy memories, deep subject knowledge, strong grades and the self-confidence needed for future success. This is achieved through careful academic and pastoral support, as well as an emphasis on the 'whole' student. We offer a broad extra curricular programme that has been designed to allow the senior students in the school to develop their leadership skills. The Bromsgrove Learner Profile Attributes remain an important part of the Sixth Form culture and ethos, and we encourage our students to become more actively engaged in a range of service events and initiatives throughout the year.

Sixth Form students are granted a number of privileges which include: the use of our wonderful, purpose-built Sixth Form Common Room, the opportunity to wear business attire rather than a uniform, and study periods which allow them to manage their own time and learning. The Sixth Form Common Room is an exciting space which offers students the opportunity to work independently or in small groups; there is a real 'buzz' in there throughout the day as students use the space effectively. In addition, there are a number of leadership roles which our senior students can apply for. These positions of responsibility allow the senior students the chance to communicate with the whole school community regarding improvement and innovation.



Sixth Form Entry

As Sixth Form expectations are far greater than in lower year groups, there is a minimum entry requirement. This requirement exists as it is not in the best interests of individual students to embark on the next level of study without the necessary building blocks. However, we are committed to supporting every student to reach their educational goals, and so we look to create individualised pathways for all our returning students.

For entry into the Sixth Form, we require a minimum of five IGCSE passes at grade C or above. To begin an AS subject a student needs a pass of at least a B (6) grade and, in some subjects, an A (7) is recommended. The entry requirements for the BTEC Extended Diploma are more specific, and we request that individuals interested in the programme liaise with the school for a bespoke offer.

Each student's case will be considered on its merits; advice will be given to individuals to ensure that their best interests are well served. Wherever possible, we will tailor options to individual needs but ultimately we reserve the right to not allow students to begin courses that, in our professional judgement, are not suitable for them.



The Sixth Form Curriculum

Students can take a maximum of four subjects in Year 12, from a selection of AS Levels and Diploma subjects. AS Levels and Diplomas can be combined to form a Year 12 pathway. In addition to their core curriculum, all students take PE and BEAM lessons so that they can continue to develop healthy lifestyles and build an appreciation for their roles as Global Citizens. Students are given the opportunity to carry out the extended project qualification on a subject of their choice. The qualification is worth the equivalent of half an A Level and is held in very high regard by universities and employers alike.

Students also have study periods within their timetable with the number dependent on the number of subjects studied. During this time, students are expected to work independently. They have the option of working in the Library or in the Common Room. This choice is one of the privileges bestowed on senior students, however, we do carefully monitor how they use their time, and offer advice and support to those who find this difficult. If a student is not fulfilling their academic potential, we may ask them to use specific study areas so that guidance can be offered.

Subjects Offered A Level

- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Chinese Language and Literature
- Computer Science
- Digital Media and Design
- Drama
- Economics
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Music
- Physics

Bromsgrove Diploma

- Business
- Sport



A Level Subjects



Art & Design

What does the study of Art & Design involve?

A Level Art and Design considers expression and communication. Learners gain an understanding of visual perception and aesthetic experience, and the ways in which art and design creates a language of its own. Most of the work for this syllabus is practical or studio based, so that learners can develop their abilities of observation and analysis of the visual world, sensitivity, skill, personal expression and imagination. They also learn how to relate their skills to an enhanced knowledge of their own cultures, past and present, as well as an appreciation of practical design problems.

At AS Level, learners complete a coursework project (25%) and an exam project (25%). At A Level, learners complete a personal investigation project (50%), which involves practical work and a written analysis of up to 1500 words.

What makes a successful student of Art & Design?

Successful Art & Design learners should be creative, passionate, extremely self-motivated and have a good grasp on the formal elements of Art. They should be willing to experiment and master a range of 2D, 3D, photography and printing media as well as a range of other techniques. A Level Art & Design learners should show an active interest in the local art scene. There will be trips and workshops for them to take part in during school time, but it is an expectation that they should also visit galleries and museums in their own time to help develop their own ideas. They must be able to research, analyse and critically appraise the work of others, showing evidence of awareness of other cultural influences in their work. A grade 4 / C or above in (I)GCSE Art is essential for the study of this course.



Biology

What does the study of Biology involve?

The A Level Biology course covers a broad range of topics essential for understanding biological principles and processes. The curriculum is designed to deepen students' knowledge in areas such as cellular biology, genetics, ecology, and physiology. Key concepts include the structure and function of cells, genetic inheritance, evolutionary processes, ecosystems, and homeostasis. Students develop skills in experimental design, data analysis, and scientific inquiry, enhancing their ability to critically evaluate biological phenomena.

During AS Biology students will complete three modular exams. Two of these being 80 marks and worth 40% of the AS total. The final unit is a paper based on practical skills worth 20% of the final AS grade and has 50 marks. The AS grade will make up 50% of the final A2 grade. For A2 Biology there will be a further three papers. Two unit papers will be 90 marks each and worth 40% of A2 or 20% of the total A Level each. The final paper is again a practical skill based paper which is worth 20% of the A2 or 10% of the overall A Level grade.

What makes a successful student of Biology?

A good biologist would be someone who enjoys visualising and solving problems in the living world. Investigative students who are independent thinkers and are both curious and insightful will be successful. A keen interest in both human biology and plant biology is essential, as is the ability to voice pros and cons of any ethical consideration. A strong willingness to discuss and evaluate their practice is a key feature to ensuring positive results. To help support you in this Biology course, you are required to achieve a minimum of a B in both Chemistry and Biology in Triple Science or a BB in Co-ordinated Science.



Chemistry

What does the study of Chemistry involve?

The Edexcel International A-Level Chemistry specification for AS covers fundamental topics in chemistry, providing students with a strong foundation in the subject. It includes modules on atomic structure, bonding, energetics, kinetics, and organic chemistry. Students will explore the principles and concepts behind these topics, developing a deep understanding of key chemical processes. The specification emphasises the application of knowledge through practical experiments, ensuring students gain hands-on experience and develop essential laboratory skills. This includes planning, implementing, analysing, and evaluating experiments, as well as developing their understanding of laboratory safety. The development of practical skills is an integral part of the AS Level, with students required to demonstrate competence in a range of practical techniques and procedures.

Assessment for the AS Level includes three modular exams. Two of these exams are 80 marks each and account for 40% of the AS total. The final unit is a written paper based on practical skills, worth 50 marks and 20% of the final AS grade. Successful completion of the AS Level provides students with a solid understanding of foundational chemistry principles, preparing them for more advanced study at the A2 Level.

What makes a successful student of Chemistry?

A Chemistry student should enjoy the practical aspects of science, working with laboratory apparatus and being able to explain processes from the theoretical side. The role of a chemist requires someone who enjoys visualising and solving problems. They tend to analyse situations before making decisions. Investigative people are independent thinkers that are both curious and insightful. Understanding and learning the rules and laws that govern the physical world are key to developing as a chemist. Students that can use their knowledge to explain the world around them do well in the course. To help support you in this Chemistry course, you are required to achieve a minimum of a B in both Chemistry and Biology in Triple Science or a BB in Co-ordinated Science.



Chinese

What does the study of Chinese involve?

This course is only offered as an additional option for students who speak Chinese as a first language. It provides an opportunity to explore a deeper understanding of the Chinese language and explore classic literary works

The study of Chinese is not simply learning the language; it involves the study of the culture, and traditions of China too. At the heart of Chinese civilisation is its rich heritage of novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and, more recently, film. The topics focus on knowledge and understanding of the culture of China while we explore the literature for analysis.

Students of Chinese will gain an understanding of how to use the language in a variety of situations, understanding how to read texts and other source materials, and how to extract information, and respond to questions in writing. Through studying Chinese, students can expect to achieve greater fluency, accuracy and confidence in the language.

What makes a successful student of Chinese?

To be able to be a successful A Level Chinese student, students should have an insight into the culture and contemporary society of the different countries where the language is spoken. The skills developed within this subject can be used in other areas of learning, such as analysis and memory skills. More importantly, they should aim to be a lifelong learner who keeps seeking out new knowledge.



Computer Science

What does the study of Computer Science involve?

Both the AS and A Level are split into two papers, the first being theoretical computing principles and the second based on programming, algorithms and pseudocode. Theoretical computing principles include the understanding of logic gates, assembly language programming, boolean algebra, computer architecture and system software. You will be using the Python programming language to solve computing problems and learning about algorithm design, computational thinking and problem solving as well as object-oriented programming.

What makes a successful student of Computer Science?

GCSE in Computer Science is preferred but not essential, although you are likely to have developed an interest in programming outside school. A tenacious approach to problem solving is an excellent quality to possess for this subject, as well as the motivation to self-study, as developing the knowledge and skills to embark on advanced programming techniques will require time and effort. The course is a strong foundation for university level study in any computing subject. Students should have achieved a passing grade in GCSE Computer Science to take the subject.



Digital Media & Design

What does the study of Digital Media & Design involve?

This course is for learners who want to explore a range of processes and techniques in digital media. The subject content is grouped into three broad areas of study; digital photography, moving image through film and animation, and mobile and multimedia applications including games design. A Level Digital Media & Design helps learners develop the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for further study and to work in a collaborative industry. They will develop an awareness of the world of digital media and design and the factors and contexts that influence it.

At AS Level, learners complete a coursework project (25%) and an exam project (25%). At A Level, learners complete a personal investigation project (50%), which involves practical work and a written analysis of up to 1500 words.

What makes a successful student of Digital Media & Design?

Successful Digital Media learners should be creative, passionate, extremely self-motivated and have a keen interest in the media industries, as well as a passion for the hands-on side of media and IT. They should be willing to experiment and master a range of media techniques. They must be able to research, analyse and critically appraise the work of others, showing evidence of awareness of other cultural influences in their work.



Drama

What does the study of Drama involve?

A Level Drama encourages learners to develop their skills in performing, devising and researching a wide range of theatrical styles and genres. They learn to communicate with an audience through creative practical work on performance texts and their own devised material, both as individuals and in groups. Underpinned by theoretical and practical study, they learn to research, understand, analyse, and interpret the contribution of actors, designers and directors in a production. As well as expand their knowledge and understanding of practitioners, performance texts, styles and genres, and increase their appreciation of the social, cultural and historical dimensions of drama and theatre. Through the A Level Drama course, learners will become skilled, well-informed and reflective theatrical practitioners.

What makes a successful student of Drama?

A successful student of Drama is one who is passionate about all practical and theoretical aspects of the subject. Students need to have the confidence to perform onstage, both on their own and as part of a group, staging imaginative interpretations of existing repertoire and devising a creative practical work of their own. A successful student will also have an analytical and creative mind to ensure that they can achieve success in the written paper. The theory side of this course is essay based, so learners need to have the confidence to express their ideas in written form. A grade 4 / C or above in (I)GCSE Drama is essential for the study of this course.



Economics

What does the study of Economics involve?

Whether you want to one day start your own business, work for a major international company or a government, become a teacher or a doctor, or run a charity, the study of economics will provide you with the knowledge, understanding, critical thinking, and skills you will need to succeed.

The newspapers often describe complicated economic problems such as inflation, unemployment, balance of trade deficits, anti-competitive behaviour, speculative bubbles in stock market prices and supply shortages. It is sometimes difficult to understand these and what impact they could have on our daily lives without an understanding of economics.

Knowledge of economics also helps us understand what determines the prices of different products, why people earn different amounts in different jobs and why these change over time, why some countries are poor and others are rich and how and why governments influence the behaviours of different groups of consumers and producers. But above all, the study of economics makes us realise that we are all dependent upon one another and that decisions we make will affect others.

What makes a successful student of Economics?

Students who study economics are good at problem solving because they learn to identify problems, to suggest alternative solutions, to determine what information is relevant, and to weigh up different costs and benefits in decision making.



English Literature

What does the study of English Literature involve?

The study of English Literature is a lot more than “reading books”. Although there is coverage of a number of exciting texts in the subject, English Literature will complement many other subjects offered at Bromsgrove through the development of analysis, critical thinking, and inferential and creative skills, as well as extended written practice in preparation for university applications and further study. Indeed, top universities in the UK stress the success of applicants who have a range of subjects at A Level, especially essay-based subjects complementing more Science and Mathematics-based subjects, as it acts as a facilitating subject.

In English Literature you will approach the reading and study of literature through the lens of genre and theory. This then encourages the independent study of a range of texts within a shared context, giving logic and meaning to the way that texts are grouped for study. You will be studying one of Shakespeare's classic tragedies, a later modern dramatic tragedy, an engaging modern novel and a poetry collection in your first year for the AS Level. In your second year, you will study two texts, ranging from modern drama, poetry to classic prose from the Victorian era to compare to modern drama like Margaret Atwood, as well as the study of another Shakespearean tragedy and a collection of poetry. This is a very exciting and interesting syllabus, allowing you to read a wider range of texts as well as focused class learning, reading and discussion.

What makes a successful student of English Literature?

A successful student of English Literature should be passionate and self-motivated to read outside of lessons. They should place value on the communication of meaning and inference through language and recognise the importance of English Literature and Language when accessing other subjects. They should be able to make links between social, historical and cultural contexts and the texts they read and should be able to research independently. They should be opinionated and be able to develop their own critical evaluation of texts and author's message. They should therefore be keen to discuss and debate interpretations by scholars, others in the class and themselves.

Students are required to have a minimum of a 7 in IGCSE English as a First Language and/ or IGCSE Literature in order to take this qualification.



Geography

What does the study of Geography involve?

Geography is inherently a multidisciplinary subject, covering a wide variety of sciences. Geography is unique in that it is a link between the social sciences and the hard sciences. As well as subject knowledge, A Level Geography teaches students a wide range of skills which both universities and employers look for, from data collection, analysis and evaluation to decision-making and debating local, national and global issues. Students will be able to analyse and interpret a wide range of data from graphs and diagrams to a variety of maps, photographic evidence and written sources, and be aware of different peoples' perspectives and views on a wide range of international issues. The course covers a range of Physical and Human Geography topics in Year 12 including; hydrology and fluvial geomorphology, atmosphere and weather, rocks and weathering, population, migration and settlement dynamics. In Year 13 there are a variety of advanced options including tropical environments, environmental management and global interdependence.

What makes a successful student of Geography?

Geography students need to have a genuine curiosity about the world and the current issues facing the planet and its people. A successful geographer is able to make links between the physical and human world. They will enjoy discussing the issues and be able to contribute their own ideas to the debate. Careers using Geography and geographical skills would include accountancy, cartography, engineering, law, town and government planning, conservation, architecture, geology, geophysics, foreign correspondence, volcanology, oceanography, teaching and many more. Ideally to undertake AS Level Geography, students should have already studied the subject at IGCSE level to a grade B or above.



History

What does the study of History involve?

By taking History at A Level, you will develop the sophisticated critical analysis, interpretation and evaluation skills that modern Universities and employers are looking for. Over the two years of your study, you will develop deeper thinking skills that will support your broader development and enhance your abilities in other A Level subjects. The course is centred on Modern History with topics ranging from the Origins of World War One up to the impact of the Cold War on modern society. The course is designed to enable students to gain a broader understanding of World History with topics such as the search for international peace and security, 1919–45. While also developing the skills to look in depth at particular nations exploring political, economic and social factors when we examine topics such as the History of the USA, 1945–1990. By delving into History, we will develop a deep understanding of the motivations and events that shaped the world we live in today.

By investigating the last 200 years of international history, you will develop a mature and insightful style of writing all while extending your understanding of the world around you. A good grasp of modern history is essential to becoming a true global citizen and the capabilities you develop will provide a firm foundation for your future career.

What makes a successful student of History?

To be a successful Historian, you will have a keen interest in the people and events that have moulded our modern world. You will enjoy reading, have a genuine curiosity about the causes of change and the tenacity to root out the truth from multiple conflicting sources of information.

You will be able to build strong arguments and will enjoy debating why things happened as they did; both in your written work and through class debate. You will want to develop effective research skills and have the ability to effectively apply that research in your work.

Because the study of problems in the past is important to understanding the issues of the present, the study of history opens you up to a very broad range of careers and is particularly useful for students keen to explore a path involving Business, Law, Politics, Marketing, Media, Teaching or Research.



Mathematics and Further Mathematics

What does the study of Mathematics involve?

Both the Mathematics and Further Mathematics AS and A2 courses are made up of modular units, including pure, applied, statistics and mechanics. The units have been designed to develop a student's understanding and increase their breadth of Mathematical expertise. This would include understanding of mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment, developing abilities to reason logically, constructing mathematical proofs, extending student's range of mathematical skills and techniques to use them in unstructured problems, helping the students to develop an understanding of coherence and progression in Mathematics and of how different areas of Mathematics can be connected together to solve problems and scenarios in 'real life' situations.

What makes a successful student of Mathematics?

Good Mathematicians should have an adventurous spirit, be able to focus on detail, have a natural tendency towards acquiring language and communicating well with others, as well as be Mathematically curious to readily investigate ideas that previously they had not even considered, to be humble and most importantly, have a strong work ethic. AS Level Mathematics students should have already studied the subject at IGCSE level to a grade A or above. To study Further Maths, students should have followed the Further Maths course at IGCSE level.



Music

What does the study of Music involve?

A Level Music encourages learners to develop their musical skills in a variety of music styles and traditions and build on their musical interests. Learners are encouraged to listen, compose and perform with understanding, analysis and confident communication. They learn to become independent and critical thinkers.

At AS Level, learners focus on listening, composing and performing. For listening, they study set works, developing their listening skills and understanding of music, including compositional techniques and performance practice. Students also learn to develop their own range of compositions and a performance programme. At A Level, learners choose two areas of interest from composing, performing and investigating music. Learners have the opportunity to develop their musical knowledge, skills and understanding and to communicate these through musical projects and academic writing of more depth.

What makes a successful student of Music?

A Level Music learners need to have a genuine interest in music and existing skills as a performer and composer. They also need to be independent learners, demonstrating the ability to organise their time and meet assignment deadlines. A grade 4 / C or above in (1)GCSE Music is essential for the study of this course. A Level Music students should already be having instrumental lessons, and should be undertaking practice and performance opportunities outside of lesson time.



Physics

What does the study of Physics involve?

The study of Physics involves looking at many aspects of how things interact in the world. Students will channel their skills and learn to draw conclusions from practical investigations. The study of Physics at A Level will teach students to be independent across a series of topics and build their confidence, delivering their findings to other group members. Major topics in Physics will explore the way that forces, fields, matter and energy interact.

Year 12 students sit three examinations in the summer: a 75 minute MCQ paper, a 75 minute longer written answer paper and a two hour practical exam. Year 13 students sit two examinations in the summer: a two hour theory paper covering content from years 12 and 13 and a 75 minute 'planning, analysis and evaluation' paper. AS grades contribute to the final grade at year 13.

What makes a successful student of Physics?

A good physicist is skilled in the application of logical concepts to deal with higher order levels of real world problems, applying the rules of the physical world in order to develop an understanding of the outcomes of given situations, within the construct of specific variables. Students need to be keen investigators who are independent thinkers and be both curious and insightful. A keen interest in using mathematics to predict processes in the real world is essential. A strong willingness to discuss and evaluate data is a key feature to ensuring positive results. To help support students in this Physics course, a minimum of a B in both Physics and Maths at IGCSE is a requirement (or a BB in Co-ordinated Science).



Bromsgrove BTEC Subjects



Business

What does the study of Business involve?

A Diploma is an alternative to the A Level because it has the same academic value but no exam - it's all coursework. The curriculum enables students to explore current business issues on a variety of topics. It's modular in structure, with four units to complete over the two years. It requires a student to be able to work independently, carry out extensive research, write regularly in referenced academic style, and deliver professional presentations - all within tight deadlines. The overall assessment of work is awarded as either Pass, Merit or Distinction. Distinction being the equivalent of an A at A Level, Merit as C and Pass as E. Topics explored in the course include; team working, financial and human resources, marketing practice, business communication and you even get to think about running your own event.

What makes a successful student of Business?

This alternative advanced level qualification usually appeals to a student who doesn't always do well in final exams and is much more suited to continuous assessment. Therefore, to be successful on a Diploma course, students need to be able to meet regular deadlines comfortably, communicate effectively in writing and have a genuine interest when it comes to finding things out for themselves. They most definitely need to be able to work independently and have a genuine interest in the business world. One of the many benefits of studying a Diploma is that you will emerge university ready, having acquired the transferable research technique, academic writing style, Harvard referencing and most importantly learnt to manage your time.



Sport

What does the study of Sport involve?

The Sport Diploma course involves examining all aspects of the world of sport. The theoretical aspects of the course range from analysing the anatomy and physiology of the human body and how it is affected by individual lifestyle choices, to evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of individuals following health monitoring and fitness tests. The practical areas of the course give students a little more freedom to select sports and activities where they excel with the end goal being a detailed performance analysis of themselves, their peers and elite performers.

What makes a successful student of Sport?

To study Sport, you must have a genuine interest in Sport and PE. Whilst a strong physical sporting ability will be beneficial for some aspects of the course, more importantly, you must show commitment and a genuine interest in keeping up-to-date with the ever-changing world of modern day sport. You must be able to keep to deadlines for all work, especially your assignments, which begin after one month of study on the course. You must be well-organised and remember to bring your PE kit for practical lessons, as well as demonstrating the necessary communication and leadership skills that are required in a number of group assignments. Perhaps most importantly, you must be independent; most of the assignments you will complete in the Sport Diploma will be done independently, so you must be able to demonstrate that you are resourceful in order to complete tasks, whether that is by researching specific topics, referring back to your own notes in order to complete tasks, or seeking advice if you are unsure. It is desirable for students wishing to take BTEC Sport, to have achieved a C or above in IGCSE PE.



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