FAIRFAX
SINCERITAS LABORIS



SIXTH FORM
PROSPECTUS
2026/2027

PART OF THE FAIRFAX MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

FAIRFAX
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Contents

Welcome from the CEO ,,,



Mr Simon Jones | CEO

Welcome from the CEO

We are delighted that you are considering sending your child to Fairfax Academy. Fairfax is one of a family of four academies that form the Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust (FMAT).

Established in 2014, FMAT is an educational charity, which encourages its academies to celebrate their own uniqueness, whilst sharing one mission, vision and set of values.

Our mission is "Enriching Lives; Transforming Futures". We achieve this by ensuring all of our students access a broad and wide-ranging curriculum, while being supported in a structured, kind and caring environment.

Our family is a values-led organisation. The following five values underpin all of the work we do:

OUR VALUES

Excellence - We strive for the highest quality to ensure excellent outcomes and personal achievements.

Dedication - We believe there is dignity in hard work and effort.

Ambition - We aim to be the best that we can be, in all that we do.

Integrity - We believe in openness, honesty and have a real sense of moral purpose.

Tradition - We believe in good manners, kindness and respect.

OUR VISION

Our vision is that every child within the Trust, regardless of their background, will attend an Academy that offers a high-quality education.

What do we mean by 'high-quality of education'?

Every child is recognised as an individual and has access to first-class pastoral care because we want your child to be happy;

Every child benefits from a wide range of enriching opportunities because we place great emphasis on your child's personal development;

Every child benefits from dedicated leaders, teachers and staff who are relentless in their ambition to improve the quality of teaching in our academies because we know excellent teaching is key to transforming the futures of our students.

ENRICHING **LIVES;** TRANSFORMING **FUTURES**

About Fairfax

Fairfax is a friendly learning community set in well maintained, extensive grounds on the edge of Sutton Coldfield. We actively encourage our students to fulfil their potential both academically and socially in order to maximize their opportunities in their adult lives.

All of our students have access to a broad Level 3 curriculum, which is delivered by experienced specialist teaching staff and is part of our Personal Learning and Development Programme. The curriculum at Fairfax is designed to provide opportunities for all students and equip them for the next stages of their career, education or training.

Fairfax prides itself on its fantastic House system which was established upon its opening in 1959. This house system is at the heart of the Academy and the traditional values provide students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills, loyalty, responsibility as well as healthy competition in many aspects of Fairfax life.

All students are offered the opportunity to take part in many different sporting and extra-curricular activities which also helps to promote House spirit amongst the Fairfax community.

Facilities

Fairfax is steeped in 60 years of history and we enjoy well maintained, pleasant facilities. Our facilities include;

- Purpose built Technology suites
- Specialist teaching rooms
- Performing Arts suite
- Modern Library
- Outdoor Multi-Sporting Centre
- Dining facilities
- Dedicated Sixth Form Learning Centre
- Outdoor social area for Sixth Form



Introduction

A warm welcome to Fairfax. Thank you for expressing an interest in our Academy. As Principal at Fairfax, I am incredibly proud of our students' achievements and the pride they take in every aspect of school life. I am confident that the high standards we have in behaviour, uniform, respect for one another and work ethic at Fairfax will equip your child for a bright and positive future.

Through a traditional, rigorous curriculum, we prepare students effectively for the next stages in their education, employment or training, and through our established House System, we develop students' creativity, resilience, comradeship and determination.

Our aim is to ensure that students have a rewarding experience at Fairfax whatever their strengths and learn to display the habits of ambition, respect, kindness and safety in all that they do. We pursue excellence in every aspect of school life and the Academy's motto 'Sinceritas Laboris' is fundamental to our success

MR SEAN CASTLE

Principal



Director of Sixth Form

As you embark on this exciting new chapter in your academic journey, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome on behalf of Fairfax Sixth Form. Our Sixth Form is a vibrant and supportive environment where students are encouraged to reach their full potential.

As the Head of Sixth Form, I aim to challenge and support our students to achieve the very best academic success and to ensure they receive the opportunities and skills required to thrive in life beyond school, becoming confident, well-rounded individuals who can contribute positively to society.

We offer a wide range of A-level and BTEC courses and a personal learning and development programme, designed to equip you with the knowledge, skills, and qualifications you need to succeed in higher education, employment or training opportunities of your choosing.

Our dedicated team of teachers are passionate about their subjects and committed to providing you with a high-quality learning experience. In addition to this our dedicated sixth form team provide you with the specialist support you need to become independent and confident young learners ready for your next key step.

The transition to Level 3 study is complex and the demand of study required cannot be underestimated. Students are required to think deeply, connect abstract ideas, read widely and independently. Meeting such challenges requires support and each student is assigned a Tutor Group and a House at the beginning of the year. Many teachers offer additional teaching and revision sessions to students outside the school timetable and all students are assigned supervised study sessions.

In addition to our academic programs, we also place a strong emphasis on personal development and extracurricular activities. Whether you're interested in sports, the arts, or volunteering, there's something for everyone at our Sixth Form. We believe that these opportunities help to develop well-rounded individuals who are confident, resilient, and ready to make a positive impact on the world.

I encourage you to explore our prospectus to learn more about our Sixth Form and what we have to offer. We look forward to welcoming you to our community and supporting you on your journey to success.

MISS A BLAKE

Director of Sixth Form



> “If you are a hard-working and mature young person with a zest for life and the drive to succeed, I know Fairfax Sixth Form is the place for you.
>
> **Director of Sixth Form**

Choices, choices, choices

We recognise that the choices that you make at this level will influence and shape your future, so we aim to prepare you as well as possible. We hold our annual Sixth Form open evening in the Autumn term of the year and, once your application form has been received, you will receive a conditional offer letter from us.

We ask all students applying to us to consider the following questions when trying to decide on the right course for you:

- Which subjects have you enjoyed and been successful in at Key Stage 4?
- What subjects are you interested in?
- If you have plans for a university education, what are the entrance requirements?

Use the internet or the information in the Sixth Form centre to research entrance requirements for degree programmes you may wish to study.

- Which subjects will prepare and support you for your long term career plans?
- How do you prefer to learn? Do you enjoy learning more traditionally in the more academic subjects or are you a more practical learner?
- How do you prefer to be assessed? Do you prefer completing coursework or taking examinations?
- What advice have your teachers given to you?

It is important to remember that you will have considerable support throughout the whole process, and it is absolutely fine to be unsure or indeed to change your mind!



Personal Learning and Development Programme

In addition to the three chosen subjects, Fairfax students will also undertake the Personal Learning and Development Programme throughout their two-year course. We want students to leave Fairfax with the skills, virtues and experiences that will help to give them the confidence and ability to pursue their goals. We deliver this character education through our ARKS (Ambition, Kindness, Respect and Safety) value, alongside a wealth of opportunities that gives 'something for everyone'. We also wish to prepare them with the experiences that employers and higher education institutions seek. We believe that active participation in all that the school has to offer will allow each student to achieve this.

What is the Personal Learning and Development Programme?

All students will be part of the programme of support and opportunities that we offer. The programme will consist of a weekly timetabled lesson, registration activities, and in-year opportunities as detailed in this document.

Personal Development

Whilst in sixth form, this will be a timetabled lesson with their Personal Learning and Development Tutor. This will appear on their timetable as 'Personal Development'. It will be compulsory for all students to attend these lessons. The themes covered across the year are as follows:

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

- Dedicated Support Systems: Fairfax provides access to personal tutors, counsellors, and wellbeing coordinators to address students' emotional and mental health needs.
- Workshops and Seminars: Topics like resilience, stress management, and mindfulness are explored to promote a positive mindset.
- Safe Spaces: Fairfax Sixth Form has dedicated areas or time for relaxation, peer support, and community-building activities.

Enrichment and Extracurricular Activities

- **Clubs:** Students can participate in sports, music, arts, debating, or special-interest groups to foster hobbies and leadership skills.
- **Community Engagement:** Volunteering opportunities and charity drives help develop empathy and a sense of social responsibility, all students are involved our House Charity Week .
- **Competitions and Challenges:** Students can complete the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and academic contests encouraging goal-setting and perseverance.

Careers Education and Work Experience

- **Careers Advice:** Qualified Careers advisor provides personalized guidance on university applications, apprenticeships, and employment pathways. Students also receive sessions that provide information on the Labour market and careers.
- **Work Experience:** All Year 12 students gain exposure to real-world environments through internships, placements, or shadowing opportunities during work experience week.
- **Skill Workshops:** Sessions on CV writing, interview techniques, and networking to prepare students for the professional world.

Academic and Life Skills Development

- **Study Skills:** Support in time management, effective note-taking, and exam preparation is offered.
- **Financial Literacy:** Workshops on budgeting, saving, and managing finances are part of the curriculum.
- **Digital Literacy:** Training on online safety, research skills, and technology use ensures students can navigate the modern digital landscape.
- Personal, Social, Health, and Economic (PSHE) Education
- **Personal Growth:** Topics such as self-awareness, goal setting, and emotional intelligence are covered.
- **Social Understanding:** Discussions on relationships, diversity, and inclusion foster a respectful and informed student community.
- **Health Education:** Emphasis on physical and mental health, including sexual health, substance awareness, and nutrition.
- **Economic Understanding:** Insights into consumer rights, ethical decision-making, and financial planning.

Leadership Opportunities

- **Student Leadership Roles:** Positions such as student council members, head students, head of house, deputy head of house or peer mentors cultivate responsibility and confidence.
- **Project Management:** Opportunities to lead initiatives or organise events build teamwork and strategic thinking skills.
- **Public Speaking:** Presentations and debate activities enhance communication and advocacy abilities.

Cultural and Global Awareness

- **Cultural Enrichment:** Students engage in trips, cultural exchanges, and exposure to arts and humanities to broaden perspectives.
- **Global Issues:** Classes and discussions on climate change, geopolitics, and global citizenship encourage critical thinking and activism.

Curriculum

Fairfax offers a range of academic and vocational courses. We recognise the importance of post 16 education, and we pride ourselves on offering a recently reviewed, broad curriculum that is designed to prepare our students for higher education, training and working life. Our curriculum has been adapted to meet the needs of students, employers, and Universities in the 21st Century.

We offer a wide range of Level 3 subjects delivered by specialist teachers that should attract students who want to achieve their academic potential in a traditional and supportive learning environment. Students will have several opportunities to discuss the subjects that they wish to study and will receive honest and professional advice about what is right for them.

Students study three subjects chosen from a range of A Level and Vocational Qualifications. In making choices, students should be guided by the requirements of potential university courses to ensure that they meet the entry profiles of the courses for which they intend to apply.

We also offer vocational subjects in six key areas: Business, ICT, Health and Social Care, Applied Science, Sport and Music Technology. These may be taken alongside A Level subjects.

Students in Year 12 also undertake the Extended Project Qualification which gives them the opportunity to independently research a favoured topic.

Students will also have access to supervised study lessons where they are expected to complete homework, respond to assessment feedback and conduct research and revision for their subjects. Our students also have private study sessions where they can work in a more informal environment in our Sixth Form Refectory.

We offer a full enrichment programme with independent careers advice tailored for the individual's needs.



Entry Requirements

The step up to sixth form from Key Stage 4 provides an exciting challenge. It requires a successful academic record and a genuine interest and motivation in learning. We are proud of our reputation for being an inclusive sixth form with outstanding results. We work very hard with our prospective students to ensure they are enrolled on courses that are entirely appropriate to their abilities and interests.

Access to our sixth form will be available to students who have a minimum of 5 grades 9-4, at GCSE, including English and Mathematics at grade 4. All of our subjects have individual entry requirements which can be found on our website under 'Subject Offer' in the Sixth Form area. All applications are considered on an individual basis.

Fairfax students unlikely to meet these requirements should seek advice from their Head of Year, the school careers adviser or the Director of Sixth Form about possible options available to them.



Accounting A Level

Accounting is the language of business and money makes the world go around!

Even the best business ideas get nowhere without sound financial management. A Level Accounting equips you with the knowledge and skills to be able to prepare, analyse and evaluate financial data so that you can make judgements, decisions and recommendations about how businesses can manage their financial affairs.

If you're focused on a career in accounting, banking or business, this course is a great choice. But even if you plan on becoming a professional musician or technical wizard, it's good to know about accounting so that you can control your own finances. With accounting skills you could end up working in just about any area you choose.

Students who take A Level Accounting often also take A Level Business or A Level Economics, and A Level Mathematics. If you enjoy working with figures, are logical and methodical and take pride in the layout of your work, then you're one step closer to success in A Level Accounting!

TOPICS STUDIED

Financial Accounting:

- The role of the accountant
- The double entry model
- Preparation of financial statements for sole traders, partnerships and limited companies
- Verification of accounting records, e.g. trial balances, bank reconciliation and control accounts
- Accounting concepts, e.g. prudence and consistency
- Accounting with incomplete records

Management Accounting:

- Types of business organisation
- Financial ratios, e.g. gross profit margin and the current ratio
- Budgeting
- Costing methods, e.g. marginal, absorption and activity based costing
- Standard costing
- Capital investment appraisal
- Investor ratios, e.g. dividend yield
- Ethical considerations

Assessment structure:

Two externally assessed examinations



Applied Science

BTEC National Extended Certificate

Who is this qualification for?

BTEC National in Applied Science (Extended Certificate) is an Applied General qualification for post-16 Students who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the applied science sector.

The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level, and at Fairfax it has been designed as a full two-year programme to be studied alongside A Level and/or BTEC qualifications.

What does this qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. Employers and professional bodies have also been involved and consulted to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice for students planning to enter employment directly in the applied science sector.

Students will study four mandatory units:

- Principles and Applications of Biology – Structure and function of cells and tissues, biological molecules, enzymes and their role in organisms
- Principles and Applications of Chemistry – Structure of the Periodic Table and its implications on physical and chemical properties of substances, through analysis of different bonding methods
- Principles and Applications of Physics – Waves and their applications; force principles and their application in transportation and construction of electrical circuits
- Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques – Practical applications across the sciences, including chromatography, colorimetry and electrical circuits.

This course is suitable for students who:

- Have an interest in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Enjoy practical work and applying scientific knowledge
- Can work independently and meet deadlines
- Are considering progression into a science, healthcare or laboratory-related pathway



Art A Level

This is a broad-based course exploring practical, critical and contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and media. Art, craft and design gives you the skills and knowledge to create personal and imaginative work. You will have the opportunity to explore and investigate specialist areas of study using a variety of exciting processes and media to suit your own individual interests. This will prepare you for degree opportunities and careers in the creative industries ranging from fashion to architecture. If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, then this is the subject for you.

TOPICS STUDIED:

Component 1- Personal investigation.

This is a practical investigation supported by written material.

Students are required to conduct an in-depth study, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material,1000-3000 words. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

Component 2- Externally set assignment.

A question paper will be provided by the exam board. Each question paper will consist of a choice of eight questions to be used as starting points. Students are required to select one. Following receipt of the paper students should consider the starting points and select one. Preparatory work should be presented in any suitable format, such as mounted sheets, design sheets, sketchbooks, workbooks, journals, models and marquettes.

Following the preparatory period, students must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time.

Component 1 - Personal investigation 60% of A-Level

Component 2 - Externally set assignment 40% of A- Level

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

This is a linear course which starts in year 12 and will be completed in year 13. Assessment of the students work will be ongoing using the exam boards assessment criteria grid. Written and verbal feedback will be provided on a weekly basis and half term milestones will mark the assessment objective the student is working on.



Biology A Level

If you enjoyed Biology at GCSE, you'll love A-level Biology. Biology A-level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Biology literally means the study life and if that's not important, what is? Being such a broad topic, you're bound to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

Biology, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- using microscopes to see cell division
- dissection of animal or plant systems
- investigating activity within cells
- investigating animal behaviours
- investigating distributions of species in the environment.

These practical activities will give you the skills and confidence needed to investigate the way living things behave and work. It will also ensure that if you choose to study a Biology-based subject at university, you'll have the practical skills needed to carry out successful experiments in your degree.

A-level Biology is a linear course that lasts two years, with exams at the end of the second year.

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practicals will be assessed.

YEAR 12

TOPICS STUDIED:

Biological molecules; Cells; Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

Six required practical activities

YEAR 13

TOPICS STUDIED:

Energy transfers in and between organisms; Organisms respond to changes in their environments; Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems; The control of gene expression

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

3 written exams - 100%, 15% of which will be questions based upon work conducted in practical lessons

Plus with the Y13 assessment structure there are a further 6 required practicals additional to the ones completed in Y12.



Business A Level

A Level Business is suitable for students who are interested in understanding how businesses operate, make decisions and respond to changes in the world around them. Students will explore how businesses are created, managed and developed, as well as the factors that influence their success.

The course requires good literacy and numeracy skills, as students will need to interpret business data, carry out calculations and construct well-reasoned written responses. Successful Business students are able to analyse information, consider different viewpoints and use evidence to make justified recommendations and conclusions.

An interest in current affairs and the business world is particularly valuable, as students will apply business theory to real organisations and contemporary issues. This includes considering how businesses respond to competition, changing consumer behaviour, technology, economic conditions and global markets.

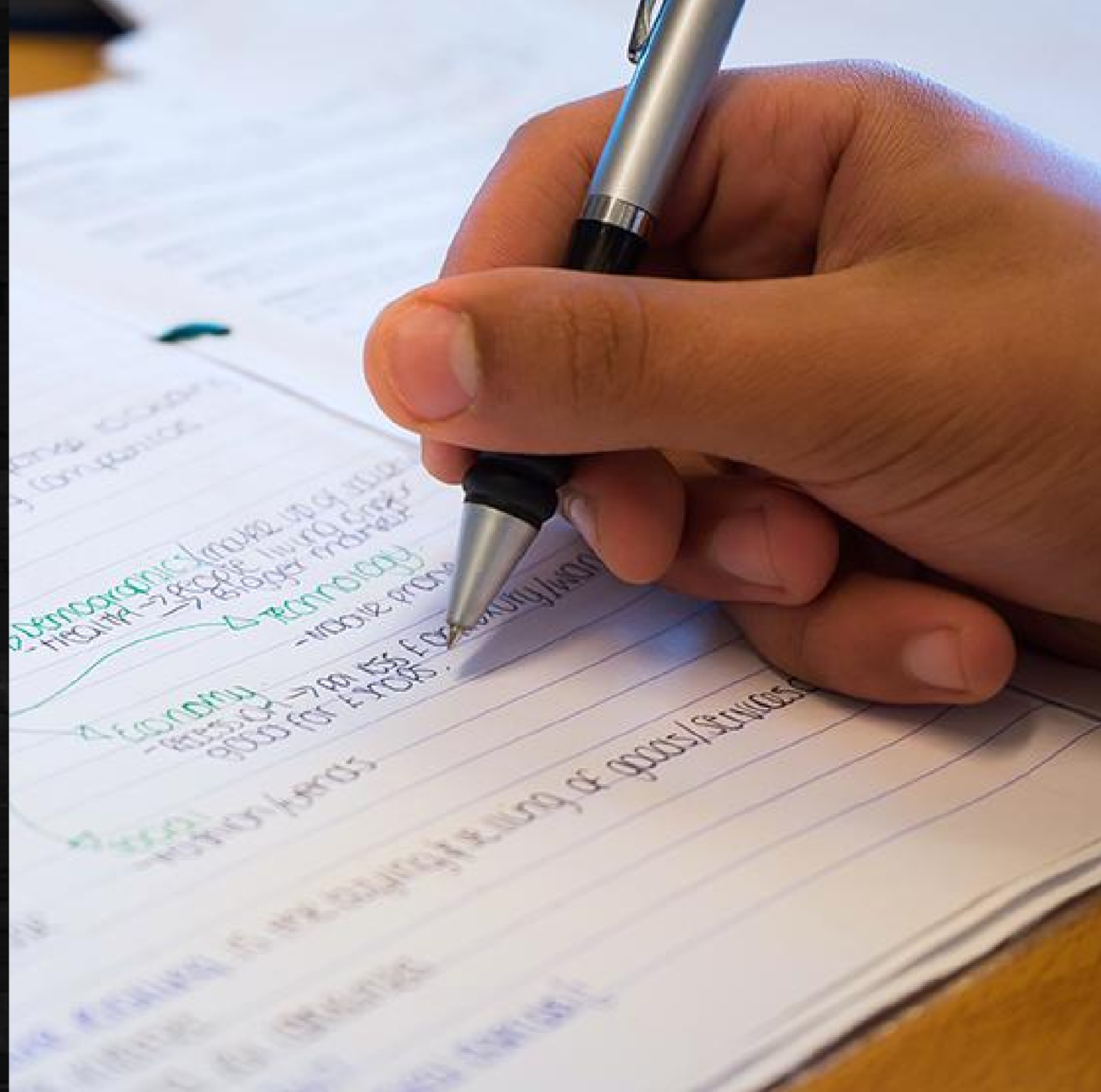
What are the topics studied?

Students will study areas including marketing, finance, human resource management, operations, business objectives and strategy, decision-making, managing change, globalisation and the external influences affecting businesses.

Where could this qualification lead to?

A Level Business provides a strong foundation for university study, apprenticeships and employment. It can support progression into areas such as business management, marketing, finance, accounting, human resources, entrepreneurship, retail management, consultancy and the wider corporate sector.

A Level Business cannot be studied together with The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business or A Level Economics due to content overlap.



Chemistry A Level

Chemistry is sometimes known as the "central science" because it helps to connect physical sciences, like maths and physics, with applied sciences, like biology, medicine and engineering. At A Level, Chemistry helps you to develop research, problem solving and analytical skills. It provides challenging ideas and requires you to work things out through logic and step-by-step reasoning. Chemistry will help you get ahead in most STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) careers and is an important subject for careers in: medicine, environmental science, engineering, toxicology, developing consumer products, metallurgy (studying how metals behave), space exploration, developing perfumes and cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, energy, teaching, science writing, software development and research. Chemistry will help in your study of other sciences and technical subjects including: maths, physics, biology, engineering, IT, psychology, geography and geology. But study it alongside a modern language or an essay subject like history at A-level and you will have even more options for courses and careers.

YEAR 12

TOPICS STUDIED

Physical content

Atomic Structure, Amount of Substance, Bonding, Energetics, Kinetics, Chemical Equilibria and Oxidation, reduction and redox equations

Inorganic content

Periodicity, Group 2 Alkali Earth Metals, Group 7 Halogens

Organic content

Introduction to Organic, Alkanes, Haloalkanes, Alkenes, Alcohols, Organic Analysis

YEAR 13

TOPICS STUDIED:

For Year 13, students develop further the concepts and principles introduced in Year 12 through topics on Physical, Organic and Inorganic chemistry.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

Paper 1: Relevant physical and Inorganic chemistry topics and associated practicals – 35% of the total A-Level marks

Paper 2: Relevant physical and organic chemistry topics and associated practicals – 35% of the total A-Level marks

Paper 3: Any content and any practical skill – a mixture of long, short and multiple choice questions – 30% of the total A-Level marks



Computer Science A Level

The A-Level in Computer Science encourages learners to be inspirers, motivated and challenged by following a broad and practical course of study. This course will provide insight into how computers work and build upon problem solving skills using computers. There is an emphasis on developing algorithms and computer programming.

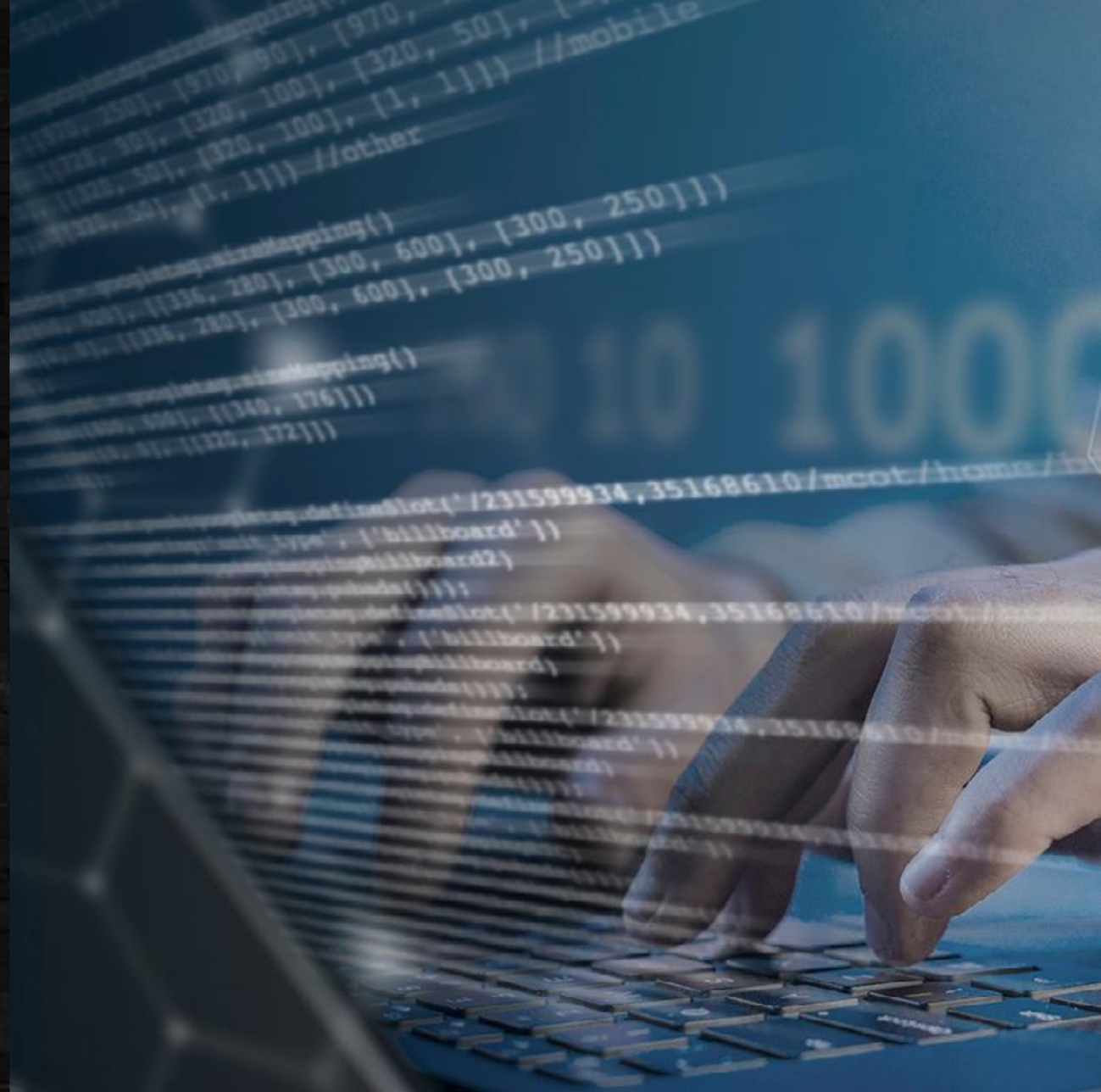
A-Level Computer Science is an excellent preparation if you want to study or work in areas that rely on the skills you'll develop, especially where they're applied to technical problems. These areas include engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

TOPICS STUDIED:

- Computer systems
- Algorithms and programming
- Programming (practical)

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

- Computer systems (written paper) = 40% of total A-Level
- Algorithms and programming (written paper) = 40% of total A-Level
- Programming project (Controlled assessment) = 20% of total A-Level



Drama BTEC

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performance (Acting)

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Performance (Acting) is a vocational qualification by Pearson, equivalent to one A-Level, designed for post-16 learners who want to develop practical acting skills while preparing for higher education or industry careers.

Equivalent in size to one A Level. Five units, of which two are mandatory and one is external. Mandatory content (50%). External assessment (33%)

This qualification offers an engaging programme to support learners who want to pursue a career in acting. It can prepare learners for a range of performance-related areas. When taken alongside further Level 3 qualifications, it supports access to a range of higher education courses in the performing arts sector.

Assessment Structure

- Includes practical workshops, rehearsals, performances, and written reflections.
- You are graded on skills development, creativity, teamwork, and application of acting techniques.
- Involves a timed practical or written task, such as responding to a brief, analysing practitioners' work, or preparing a group performance.
- Designed to test your ability to apply skills under controlled conditions.

All of these areas will open avenues in job sectors such as Media, Arts Entertainment, Therapy, Psychology, Law, Business, Education to name a few. The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Performance (Acting) can lead to higher education in drama schools or universities, direct entry into the performing arts industry (theatre, film, TV, community arts), or careers that value strong communication and teamwork skills.



Economics A Level

A Level Economics is ideal for students who are curious about how the world works and why individuals, businesses and governments make the decisions they do. Students should have a natural ability to recognise patterns and trends in data and be confident analysing and interpreting information presented in graphs, charts and tables.

The course requires strong numeracy and literacy skills, as students will need to work confidently with data while also constructing well-reasoned written arguments. Successful Economics students are able to think logically, consider different viewpoints and use evidence to reach balanced conclusions.

An interest in current affairs, business, politics and global issues is particularly valuable, as students will apply economic theory to real-world issues such as inflation, unemployment, taxation, inequality, economic growth and international trade.

What are the topics studied?

The Basic Economic Problem, Demand and supply, labour markets, globalisation, markets and how they work, productivity, elasticities.

Mandatory units: Theme 1 -Markets, Consumer and Firms , Theme 2 -Wider Economic Environment, Theme 3 -Global Economy , Theme 4- Market and How They Work

Where could this qualification lead to?

Careers in Economics such as journalism, stockbroker, civil service, banking and finance, consultancy.

Business and Economics cannot be studied together at A Level due to content overlap.



Geography A Level

Geography at Fairfax will help you go places: whether that is onto university, into an apprenticeship or into work, geography is one of the most sought-after qualifications. From Climate Scientists to Criminologists, from Bankers to Builders, geography A Level can be a great asset. At Fairfax, our geography department helps students develop a wide range of transferable skills, such as problem-solving, evaluation, debate, statistical analysis and developing extended arguments. To do this we study a range of current local and global issues. Furthermore, as part of your course you will also complete at least four days of fieldwork, including a residential field course in North Wales. There will also be an opportunity to take part in a field trip abroad. Recent students have gone on to prestigious universities (to study geography, law, engineering and medicine, amongst others), military careers and apprenticeships with prominent national companies.

So if you have an interest in the world around you and want a thought-provoking and diverse course that will equip you with skills and qualifications to take you further, then Geography is the subject for you.

YEAR 12

TOPICS STUDIED:

- Changing places
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Water and carbon cycle
- Geography fieldwork investigation

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

Content taught during Year 12 will be externally assessed via two written papers at the end of Year 13 and submission of the non-examined assessment

YEAR 13

TOPICS STUDIED:

- Population and the environment
- Hazards
- Global systems and global governance
- Geography fieldwork investigation

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

Paper 1: Physical geography (2hrs 30 mins 40%),

Paper 2: Human geography (2hrs 30mins 40%)

Non-examined assessment (write up of your fieldwork investigation 20%)





Health and Social Care

AAQ Level 3, Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate

The BTEC National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care is equivalent to 1 A' Level. It is a 2 year course which provides student with opportunities to develop knowledge, understanding & skills which can be applied to many care sectors whose contexts include: health, early-years care and education, social care.

The course encourages students to:

- Develop and sustain an interest in health, early-years care and education, social care and issues affecting the care sector
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of health, early-years care and education and issues affecting the health and social care sector
- Develop skills that will enable them to make an effective contribution to the care sector including skills of research, evaluation and problem-solving in a work related context
- Apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to a range of case-studies prepare for further study or training in teaching, nursing, midwifery, social work, sociology, or psychology.

MANDATORY TOPICS STUDIED:

- Human Lifespan and Development – PIES and factors affecting growth and development, interventions and the different professionals providing care and treatment
- Human Biology and Health – Human body structure and systems, normal physiological functioning and the impact of common disorders
- Health and Social Care Practice – Core principles, values and legislation that underpin and influence health and social care, and the effect of social determinants on an individual health status

Students will also study one optional unit.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

50% of the total qualification GLH is made up of external assessment.

History A Level

It has been said that History is an 'illumination of the soul', History 'answers all questions' and that those 'who fail to understand History are doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past'.

History at Fairfax endeavours to give students a sound understanding of the past and includes exciting and relevant material. The British topic is about the Tudor dynasty: the challenges to Henry VII's reign, the character and relationships of Henry VIII and his successors, including Mary and Elizabeth, and the country's ongoing religious problems. Students will also develop their understanding of Germany's history in a second topic, the Weimar Republic. This brief period of democracy collapsed to make way for the Nazis, and our studies include Hitler's treatment of the Jews and the establishment of a terror state. Students will also work independently to produce an extended piece of writing on African American rights in the USA, from 1865-1968. This develops their skills as historians, as well as allowing them to explore a fascinating and important period of time.

History at Fairfax is an absorbing and exciting course of study, enabling students to develop their transferable skills (including academic writing and analysis of sources), as well as satisfying their curiosity about the past.

YEAR 12 & 13

TOPICS STUDIED:

Democracy and Nazism 1918-1945

The Tudors 1485-1603

African American Civil Rights 1865-1968

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

As per the AQA 7042 Specification, the Tudors and Germany will be examined at the end of year 13 with an exam for each, worth 40% each. The additional 20% is gained from the Non-Examined Assessment.



ICT

BTEC Extended National Certificate Level 3

The National Extended Certificate in Information Technology is equivalent to one A Level. It runs over 2 years and give learners the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in IT systems, systems management and social media in business. This will enable learners to progress to further study in the IT sector or other sectors.

YEAR 12

TOPICS STUDIED:

Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information. Students study the design, creation, testing and evaluation of a relational database system to manage information. Students are set a supervised task, where they are required to design, create, test and evaluate a relational database system.

Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business explores how businesses use social media to promote their products and services. Learners also implement social media activities in a business to meet requirements. It is an internally assessed assignment where students complete a series of tasks set in a work-related scenario, which you can tailor to local industry needs.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

Unit 2 is externally assessed 10 hour supervised exam over a 2 week period. Unit 3 is an internally assessed assignment. These units count as 50% of the A Level and gives students a Level 3 Certificate in IT.

YEAR 13

TOPICS STUDIED:

Unit 1: Information Technology systems, students are required to sit a two hour exam, which is worth 90 marks. The exam will assess students understanding of computer systems and the implications of their use in personal and professional situations.

Optional Units:

Unit 6: Website Development, is where students investigate website development principles. They will design and develop a website using scripting languages.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

Unit 1 is an externally assessed 2 hour exam.
Unit 6 is an internally assessed assignment.



Law A Level

This subject enables students to develop their analytical and critical thinking skills. Studying Law develops students' problem solving skills through the application of legal rules, together with an understanding of legal method and reasoning. These skills provide excellent preparation for those students who wish to progress to degree level study or pursue a wide range of careers.

YEAR 12

TOPICS STUDIED:

- The nature of law and the English Legal System including: judicial precedent, parliamentary law making, statutory interpretation, legal personnel, access to justice and funding
- Criminal law including: elements of law (AR and MR) and non-fatal offences
- The law of tort including: fault, liability and remedy.

YEAR 13

TOPICS STUDIED:

- The nature of law and the English Legal System including; law and morality and law and justice
- Criminal law including; the theory of criminal law, fatal offences against the person, property offences and defences
- The law of tort including; nuisance and the escape of dangerous things, vicarious liability, defences and remedies
- Contract law including; elements needed, contract terms, exclusions and remedies

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

Three externally assessed examinations



Mathematics A Level

The A-Level mathematics course at Fairfax is both challenging and rewarding. A-Level Mathematics encourages you to think logically and evaluate alternative ways to solve problems. Our aim at Fairfax is to develop your understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment. We aim to extend your range of mathematical skills and techniques, enable you to use mathematics as a means of effective communication, and develop your awareness of the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study. This course is especially valuable for those thinking of studying subjects such as Mathematics, Engineering or Physics at University. Career options could include roles in engineering, applied technologies, architecture and design, accountancy, business, finance, statistics and sciences.

The entry requirement will be a grade 7 at GCSE.

It is essential that all students studying mathematics are equipped with a Casio FX991EX calculator.

TOPICS THAT MAY BE STUDIED:

CORE MATH:

Coordinates, points and lines, Surds, Quadratics, Differentiation and it's applications Successive Transformations, Functions, Exponential growth and decay, Extending differentiation and integration. Differentiating trigonometric functions, Integration, Parametric Equations, Vectors, The binomial expansion, Rational functions, Trigonometry, Sequences including, geometric sequences, The Binomial theorem, The Sine and Cosine rules

Applied Maths : Representation of data, Measures of location, Measures of spread, Probability, Velocity and acceleration, Force and motion, Friction and Projectiles.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

Three external examinations at the end of the two year course.

Paper 1: Pure mathematics

Paper 2: Pure mathematics

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics



Modern Foreign Languages

A Level

Languages are a skill not a qualification. A level French and German develops skills for the workplace including problem solving, group and independent work and communication. Languages give you the edge over competitor's adaptability, mobility and people skills.

Good language skills are in short supply and can be used in many different jobs. The travel industry, translating and interpreting obviously require linguists, but so do many other areas of employment - engineering, marketing, journalism and financial services to name but a few. A modern foreign language combines well with any other subject and leads to a wide variety of jobs. Language graduates have one of the lowest rates of unemployment.

Or maybe you just want to use your language skills and understanding of French and German culture to make your holidays more enriching and enjoyable. The course we follow has been designed to cover a wide variety of topics that require you to express and justify your own opinions as well as develop key grammar skills. You will also be able to explore aspects of French and German culture and society. Where possible, extra-curricular language opportunities will be offered.

Turn the page for information on our Modern Foreign Languages courses



French A Level

Students continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of French through the study of extended texts. An increased focus on grammar skills also enables students to become more independent linguists, with the confidence and ability to write extended pieces, to take part in detailed conversations in French and to discuss and defend their opinions on major topical issues by speaking and writing. All students also benefit from regular speaking sessions with a native speaker where possible.

Over the two years, students will study:

- Social Issues and Trends
- Political and Artistic Culture
- Literary Texts and Film
- Grammar

Students will be encouraged to review material covered in lessons and to extend their knowledge of the language by accessing authentic resources such as, newspapers, magazines and video clips. They will also continue to learn and develop their vocabulary.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

(50% of A level) .

Paper 2: One text and one film essay on the cultural topic (20% of A level)

Paper 3: Presentation and discussion of individual research project (30% of A level)

German A Level

Students continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of German through the study of extended texts. An increased focus on grammar skills also enables students to become more independent linguists, with the confidence and ability to write extended pieces, to take part in detailed conversations in German and to discuss and defend their opinions on major topical issues by speaking and writing. All students also benefit from regular speaking sessions with a native speaker where possible.

TOPICS STUDIED:

Over the two years, students will study:

- Aspects of German-speaking society
- Artistic culture in the German-speaking world
- Literary Texts and Film
- Grammar

Students will be encouraged to review material covered in lessons and to extend their knowledge of the language by accessing authentic resources such as, newspapers, magazines and video clips. They will also continue to learn and develop their vocabulary.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

Paper 1: Listening reading and writing (50% of A level) .

Paper 2: One text and one film essay on the cultural topic (20% of A level)

Paper 3: Presentation and discussion of individual research project (30% of A level)

Music Technology

BTEC Extended National Certificate

"Unlock the World of Sound Engineering with Our BTEC Music Technology Course!

Are you passionate about music and technology? Dive into the exciting realm of sound engineering with our BTEC Music Technology Sound Engineer course. Designed for aspiring music enthusiasts and tech-savvy students, this program offers a dynamic blend of creativity and technical expertise.

In this course, you'll explore the art of music production, audio recording, and sound manipulation using equipment and industry-standard software. Learn from experienced instructors who are experts in the field and gain hands-on experience in our recording studios.

Whether you dream of producing chart-topping tracks, working in recording studios, or becoming a live sound engineer for your favourite bands, our BTEC Music Technology Sound Engineer course will equip you with the skills, knowledge, and industry insights to turn your passion into a successful career.

Join us and embark on a musical journey like no other, where you'll shape the sounds of tomorrow and become the sound engineer the music world is waiting for. Your future in music technology starts here!"

What will you learn?

- The principles of sound and audio engineering
- How to use recording software and hardware
- How to record, edit, and mix music
- How to master music for different formats
- How to set up and engineer live sound systems
- The business and legal aspects of the music industry

How will you be assessed?

You will be assessed through a combination of coursework, practical assignments, and external exams.

What are the progression routes?

After completing this course, you can progress to a variety of higher education courses in music technology, sound engineering, and music production. You can also seek employment as a sound engineer in a variety of settings.

Why study BTEC Music Technology Sound Engineer at our school?

Our course is taught by experienced and qualified tutors who have worked in the music industry. We have excellent facilities, including state-of-the-art recording studios and live sound equipment. We also offer a variety of opportunities for students to gain work experience in the music industry.



Physics A Level

Physicists are the greediest scientists around as they've chosen to study the entire universe. No big deal...

Physicists look for all the hidden laws that explain why all matter (that's every physical thing) and energy in the known universe exists, where it comes from and how it behaves the way it does. Physicists use the laws they uncover to develop new materials, machinery, and technology to improve our lives and help us explore the universe further, from computers to telescopes and spacecraft.

Physics will help you to build up your problem solving, research, and analytical skills. With these skills you'll be able to test out new ideas plus question and investigate other people's theories, which is useful for any kind of job that involves research or debate.

Physics is especially helpful for jobs that involve building things and developing new technologies, including: engineering (flight, buildings, space, you name it…), astronomy, robotics, renewable energies, computer science, communications, space exploration, science writing, sports and games technology, research and nanotechnology (that's engineering on a seriously tiny molecular scale).

Due to the changes to the physics course and the large demand for places, this year, we have increased our entry criteria to a grade 7 at GCSE.

YEAR 12

TOPICS STUDIED:

In year 1 physics contains five modules Measurements and their errors, Particles and radiation, Waves, Mechanics and materials and Electricity

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

No External AS examination at the end of year 1

YEAR 13

TOPICS STUDIED:

Further mechanics and thermal physics, Fields and their consequences and Nuclear physics

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

Paper one - Periodic motion. 34% of A level

Paper two - Thermal physics. 34% of A level

Paper three - Data analysis and practical skills. 32% of A level





Psychology A Level

Ever wondered why people behave in certain ways? Ever wanted to understand people better? That's what we do in Psychology! But we are not clairvoyants! Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour. The subject is seen as a 'science' because of the way psychologists study the human mind and human behaviour.

For many years now psychology has been recognised as a science and due to the amount of research involved, most degree courses in psychology are awarded the Bsc (Bachelor of Sciences) status. Studying psychology helps to enhance analytical and evaluation skills and is a subject that allows students to have a better understanding of their own behaviour and that of others.

The skills that students gain at the end of the course compliment many university degrees (you do not have to study the subject at degree level) and are attractive to prospective employers.

YEAR 12

TOPICS STUDIED:

Social Influence, Memory, Attachments, Approaches, Psychopathology, Research Methods

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

Content taught during Year 12 will be externally assessed via three written papers at the end of Year 13.

YEAR 13

TOPICS STUDIED:

Biopsychology, Schizophrenia, Addiction, Gender, Issues and Debates, whilst developing further understanding of the approaches and research methods topics from year 12.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

100% exam, 3 papers each 2 hours long and worth 33.3% each

Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology

Paper 2: Psychology in context

Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology

Religious Studies A Level

Sociology is the study of human society and social groups. It is a subject well suited to students with an enquiring mind who want to learn more about the world around them. Sociology students at Fairfax learn about a diverse array of topics, ranging from crime and the family to the education system and media. They also consider social inequality and how factors such as class, gender, ethnicity and age impact on people's experiences.

Sociology is a social science and has features in common with both science and humanities subjects, meaning it complements a wide range of courses. It is a subject in which you will enhance a wide range of skills - including your verbal and written communication, critical thinking and ability to construct an argument - making it ideal for many future academic courses and career paths.

YEAR 12

TOPICS STUDIED:

Education – examines the role and functions of the education system and its impact on society.

Families and Households – examines the impact of the family on society, its evolution over time and power relationships within the family.

Research methods – examines how to evaluate different types of sociological research.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

Content taught during Year 12 will be externally assessed via three written papers at the end of Year 13.

YEAR 13

TOPICS STUDIED:

Crime and Deviance – examines patterns, causes and solutions to crime and deviance.

Media – examines the role and influence of the media in society.

Sociological theory – examines theoretical perspectives and wider debates within the study of sociology in detail.

All topics studied at AS will also be assessed at A-Level.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE:

100% written exam

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods (2 hours, 33.3% A Level)

Paper 2: Families & Households and Media: (2 hours, 33.3% A Level)

PAPER 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods: (2 hours, 33.3% A Level)



Sociology A Level

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Sport BTEC Extended National Certificate

Who is this qualification for?

The BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport is an Applied General qualification for post-16 Students who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment in the sport sector.

The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level, and at Fairfax it has been designed as a full two-year programme to be studied alongside A Level and/or BTEC qualifications.

What does this qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education.

Employers and professional bodies have also been involved and consulted to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice for Students who may choose to enter employment directly in the sport sector.

Students will study three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology
- Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
- Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry.

Students will also study one optional unit from a range which has been designed to support choices in progression to sport courses in higher education, and to link with relevant occupational areas.

Students will study:

- Unit 6: Sports Psychology.

What could this qualification lead to?

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of study. It combines well with a large number of subjects and supports entry to higher education courses in a very wide range of disciplines (depending on the subjects taken alongside).

House System

At Fairfax, the well-being of each student is a primary focus and our vision is to enable all students to maximise their potential, both academically and socially. The House system generates a sense of identity which helps students to develop leadership skills, loyalty, responsibility and healthy competition.

On admission, students are allocated to one of the four Houses:

- Coventry
- Kenilworth
- Stratford
- Warwick

Each is led by a House Director, who together with their Assistant House Director and tutors, monitor, track and evaluate the whole-school involvement of their students. There are also peer mentors from all year groups, who work closely with students to support and guide them, as well as a team of Learning Mentors, Attendance Officers and Administrators to ensure the school day runs smoothly.

The exceptionally strong support and care of students through the House system, is the foundation to the academic success of students at Fairfax and encourages healthy competition in the following three areas:

Academic - the academy's merit system rewards students for exceptional effort and achievement. At regular points throughout the year, House Directors monitor progress and award points for outstanding progress. At the end of the year, the points are combined and contribute towards the House Achievement Trophy.

Sports Competition - students in each year group are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of sports, with House competitions taking place each half term. Points for these competitions culminate in the House Swimming Gala and Athletics Day. These all contribute towards the House Sports Trophy.

The Arts - the Annual Eisteddfod celebrates creativity across the curriculum. The Eisteddfod is made up of a variety of events such as Art, Photography, Creative Writing and Music Composition. The final events of Dance, Drama, Music and Spoken Word take place over two performance evenings, which are a fantastic highlight of the Fairfax Calendar!



Facilities

Our students benefit from modern and world class facilities that provide a purposeful atmosphere to study and social areas for students to meet and relax. Our students have access to their own ICT facilities, purpose built refectory with an extensive menu that students may access throughout the day.

Our Dance Studio has a fully fitted sprung floor with mirror panelling which provides the perfect setting for dance classes.

The facilities here at Fairfax are constantly being updated and improved, e.g. a newly installed lighting rig and sound system in our Drama Studio, and the recently refurbished floor in our Gym.

Fairfax Sixth Form Learning Centre provides students with excellent facilities for personal study during supervised study sessions before and after school. We have two study rooms which are fully equipped with modern computers and personal laptops.

We also have an outdoor social area for the students with 'café style' seating for break times and a meeting room for the Senior Prefect Team.

Students at Fairfax Academy benefit from our newly developed fitness suite, providing a modern, high-quality environment to support both physical education and wider student wellbeing.

Equipped with a range of contemporary fitness equipment, the suite gives students opportunities to develop their fitness, build healthy habits and enjoy being physically active. The facility further enhances our Sixth Form experience, supporting our commitment to developing confident, healthy and well-rounded young people both inside and beyond the classroom.









Mentoring and Support

Our students benefit from both academic and pastoral support during their studies. Our students have regular meetings with our Learning Mentor where they discuss targets and strategies to help them achieve their target grades.

Students and parents/carers are informed of progress regularly throughout the year with intervention and support put into place wherever it is needed. Students also benefit from specific 'study skills' days during which they receive guidance and coaching on how to become an effective learner, prepare for examinations and achieve the very highest grades.

The overwhelming majority of our students decide to continue their education at university. In 2015 we had students attending many Russell Group Universities including Oxford, Bristol, Bath, Nottingham and Manchester. We have also placed students on prestigious school leaver schemes including Marks and Spencer, KMPG and Deloitte and Touche. We also secure placements for some of our students on extremely competitive Higher Level Apprenticeships including Jaguar / Land Rover, Rolls Royce and British Aerospace.

We provide many opportunities for students to research and experience all of the options available to them. These include:

- University open days;
- UCAS Higher Education Convention;
- University summer schools;
- University master-classes;
- Presentations by apprenticeship providers;
- Our own 'Future Focus' programmes;
- Presentations from employers, students and admission tutors;
- Personal guidance from a range of experts.

Please see our careers section of the website for more details. https://www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/academy-life/sixth-form/enrichment-programme/



Enrichment and Participation

Many opportunities await our students in addition to the curriculum element. Leadership opportunities include peer mentoring, librarian and prefect, in addition student council, PRIDE and equalities groups. Students can benefit from a range of education visits which can include outdoor education, DofE, World Challenge, ski trips, theatre visits, urban studies and language visits to Europe, as well as visiting language theatre groups in school. Participation is recorded and students receive bi-annual reports, showing their participation, house points and achievements such as junior house colours or purple band.

Students in the Sixth Form continue to play a part in the House system. In Year 12, they can become Deputy House Captains and take this to full House Captain in Year 13.

As Sixth Form students, Year 12 apply to be school prefects and undertake lunch patrol duties and attend functions on behalf of the school, including Parent Evenings, Open Evenings, Induction Day for Year 7, and undertake tours of the school.

For Year 13, we offer a Senior Prefect Team that is through application and interview. Students complete an application form detailing what they have achieved within the school and the shortlisted students are invited to interview. From this process we have a team of 10 senior students who have specific areas of focus within the school.

We also have Sixth Form colours that can be achieved through participation in the school community. External students are welcome to take part in achieving their colours and, to assist them, they have a reduced number of points to achieve their half and full colours.

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/academy-life/sixth-form/apply-for-fairfax-sixth-form/



Extra Opportunities

In addition to excellent academic results, our students develop a wide range of transferable skills that make the difference in job or university applications. We develop these skills by providing many opportunities for students away from the classroom:

- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award;

  The school is a member of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and students who have achieved Bronze and Silver continue into sixth form to achieve the Gold. External students are able to bypass onto the Gold Award if they wish.

- The World Challenge scheme

  World Challenge is a biennial event that takes students to many different parts of the world, with the next expedition taking place in 2024.

  2012 - Peru
  2014 - China
  2016 - Borneo
  2018 – Africa
  2024 - Borneo



Child Protection

Fairfax Academy is committed to the highest standards in protecting the children entrusted to our care. We recognise that some children may be the victims of bullying, neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Staff working with the children are well placed to identify such abuse.

What we will do if we have a concern about your child.

If we are concerned that your child may be at risk of abuse or neglect we must follow the procedures in our Child Protection Policy. You can look at the policy in school, or receive a copy to take home.

The procedures have been written to protect all students. They comply with our statutory responsibilities and are designed to support students, families and staff. The procedures are based on the principle that the welfare of the child is the most important consideration.

In almost all circumstances, we will talk to you about our concerns and we will also tell you if we feel we must refer our concerns to Children's Social Care. We will ask your consent to make a referral, but in some circumstances we may need to make the referral against your wishes. We will only do this if we genuinely believe that this is the best way to protect your child, and the fact that you did not consent to the referral will be recorded. If we think that talking to you first might in some way increase the risk to your child, we will report our concerns to Children's Social Care and take advice from them. We will normally tell you that a referral is being made and we will record the reasons why we decided to follow this course of action.

All child protection records are kept separate from your child's general school file. Records are stored in a locked cabinet or drawer, and if stored on computer they are password-protected. The only staff who have access to the records are those who need to know about the concerns in order to protect and support your child. You can ask to see what information is held on your child, and we will normally agree to this, but if we are unsure we will seek advice from the local authority designated officer or Children's Social Care first.

Child protection is a very sensitive issue and it raises many questions and a range of strong emotions. We will do everything we can to support our students and you can be assured that any action we take will be in the best interests of your child.

"We are proud of our reputation for being an inclusive Sixth Form with outstanding results.



ENRICHING **LIVES;** TRANSFORMING **FUTURES**

EXCELLENCE.
DEDICATION.
AMBITION.
INTEGRITY.
TRADITION.