

Braintree Sixth Form

Prospectus 2022-23



“Working Together, Achieving Together”

WE AIM THROUGH OUR
CURRICULUM TO PRODUCE
CONFIDENT, INDEPENDENT,
OUTWARD LOOKING
AND SOCIALLY ENGAGED
YOUNG PEOPLE WHO
WILL BE ABLE TO
FLOURISH AT **UNIVERSITY**, IN **TRAINING**
AND EMPLOYMENT AND THROUGHOUT **THEIR LIVES**

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**HIGH QUALITY
TEACHING**

SUPERB

PASTORAL CARE

**& EXCELLENT
ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT**

Welcome

Welcome to Braintree Sixth Form.

Braintree Sixth Form's aim is to provide an academic curriculum offer for all of the young people of Braintree and the surrounding area at post-16.

Our ambition is for our students to 'be the best they can be'. We encourage students to progress to university or degree level apprenticeships should they wish, in order to maximise their employment and career prospects. We continue to work hard in partnership with universities to realise this ambition and to ensure that, as well as excellent teaching, our students receive the correct guidance and support needed to make successful applications to Higher Education, as well as to foundation courses, apprenticeships, employment or further training. Throughout students' time with us, we provide opportunities for them to develop their aspirations and to realise their ambitions.

Alongside academic study, we have also built in a range of enrichment opportunities, social facilities and privileges so that our students can enjoy life as a sixth form student both inside and outside of the classroom. By providing these opportunities alongside a wide-ranging curriculum, we believe that Braintree Sixth Form is an environment where students can make the most of their talent and potential.

We hope that this prospectus helps provide you with the information that you require to decide whether Braintree Sixth Form is the place where you wish to spend two years studying your chosen subjects. We would be delighted to discuss this further with you should you require any further details about studying here. We look forward to welcoming you, either to our online Open Evening or a tour of the campus when such things can resume. Both of these will give you the opportunity to meet with students, teachers and senior staff.



Ms Catherine Dunton
Head of Sixth Form

Introduction

We are delighted that you are considering Braintree Sixth Form as the next step in your education. One of the aims of this prospectus is to provide you with a detailed overview of the courses we are offering in September 2022 and to help you make a fully informed choice about the subjects that you would like to study.

You may have decided your courses or you may still need some help with making those choices. This prospectus will provide you with the key information you need to support with this decision making process. The combination of subjects that you choose for Year 12 will influence your future pathways so you should carefully consider both your subject choices and your possible career or study plans.

Aspirational and Professional Environment

Our purpose built sixth form centre includes a café, common room, ICT suites, library and specialist teaching facilities, creating a welcoming and productive academic setting.

High Quality Teaching and Excellent Academic Achievement

Since our opening, we have established ourselves as one of the leading post-16 providers in the district.

In the past 3 years, 90% of students secured a place at their first choice of university and all students who wished to

attend were offered university places. The majority of our students choose to progress to Higher and Further Education courses, both locally and further afield. Each year, students secure places on selective Russell Group university courses, including Oxford and Cambridge. Others also secure highly competitive apprenticeship and internship opportunities, and interest in these is steadily increasing. Some others choose to enter directly into employment. Whatever progression route students choose, guidance and support are provided at each stage to help them achieve their goals.

A Learning Community

In choosing Braintree Sixth Form, you will be joining a supportive academic community. Our excellent pastoral support begins immediately, as you are offered individual guidance through the application process and advice on your selection of courses. Once you start in Year 12, personal tutors and pastoral support staff offer you regular individual guidance throughout your time as a student.

Our Aim

We believe that by working together, we can produce confident, independent and open minded young adults who will be able to flourish at university, in employment and in their future lives.

We hope that you find the information provided in this prospectus helpful. Please do contact Braintree Sixth Form if you require any additional details via the enquiries email address, enquiries@notleyhigh.com



A Levels

Study at Braintree Sixth Form involves a number of elements. The core of your studies will be your choices of courses. These will be A levels, vocational courses, or a combination of the two. Alongside these, the pastoral and enrichment programmes foster students' academic and personal development.

A Levels

A levels are subject-based qualifications which are held in high regard by employers and universities, and which have often been described as 'gold standard' qualifications. Academically rigorous, A levels stretch and challenge students. Many students greatly enjoy the demands of A level study and the opportunity to develop their independent learning skills and to carry out additional research to deepen their understanding.

A Level courses are mostly assessed through written examinations. Students who have studied a programme at school which is mostly made up of vocational qualifications, assessed through coursework, are generally recommended to continue with a vocational pathway at post-16. To progress from a vocational course to an A Level subject (e.g., Business Studies, DT, Art) we would normally expect a pass at distinction in the vocational subject.

Changes to A Levels

The specifications for all A Level courses have recently undergone a process of review by the government to ensure that they prepare students effectively for university and employment. All A Level courses are 'linear' courses examined at the end of the two-year course and with no more than a 20% coursework component. The AS examination is still available as a standalone qualification but the marks from these do not contribute to the overall A Level qualification.

Changes have been phased in over several years and all A Levels on our curriculum have been revised to a two-year linear specification.

As a result of the reforms, we no longer offer AS examinations at the end of Year 12. The performance of students in internally assessed end of year examinations is used to determine whether or not students continue with the second year of their courses. Students who are able to progress to Year 13 will continue with some, or all, of their Year 12 subjects, completing the full A Level by the end of their second year of sixth form studies. If a student decides to discontinue a subject at the end of Year 12, they are offered the opportunity to take an AS examination in that subject alongside their full A Levels at the end of Year 13.



Admission Requirements

For admission to a typical programme of three or four courses, students should have a minimum of 5 GCSEs or equivalents at grade 4 or above, including English and Mathematics. Each subject also has its own entry criteria which should be met to be offered a place on the course. Where a student does not achieve at least a grade 4 at GCSE in English and Mathematics they must continue following a timetabled course to allow them to resit the qualification until a minimum of a grade 4 is achieved. In addition to the normal Braintree Sixth Form entry criteria, subject-specific requirements are detailed overleaf and on each subject's page.



A Level Entry Qualifications

A Level Subject	Entry Qualifications
Art (Art, Craft and Design)	A grade 5 in GCSE Art/Textiles or Graphics is normally required. If a relevant GCSE has not been taken, students may be admitted via a portfolio of work that demonstrates an appropriate level of skill and commitment.
Biology	GCSE grades 6/6 in Combined Science or grades 6/6/5 if the Triple Science route was followed at GCSE. A grade 6 in the chosen science subject and a 6 in GCSE Mathematics is required.
Business	No prior knowledge of business is necessary; however, if GCSE Business has been taken, a Grade 4 is required.
Chemistry	GCSE grades 6/6 in Combined Science or grades 6/6/5 if the Triple Science route was followed at GCSE. A 6 grade in the chosen science subject and a 6 in GCSE Mathematics is required.
Computer Science	Students will require a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics. Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Computing, or its equivalent, is also desirable.
Design Technology: Product Design	Students wishing to take this course should have completed a GCSE or equivalent course in a Design Technology subject, achieving at least grade 5 or equivalent.
Drama and Theatre Studies	A grade 5 in GCSE Drama is normally required.
Economics	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.
English Language and Literature	GCSE grade 5 in English or English Literature is required.
English Literature	GCSE grade 6 in English or English Literature is required.
Geography	GCSE grade 5 in Geography or a similar subject e.g. History or Leisure and Tourism are desirable.
Government & Politics	You do not need to have studied Politics at GCSE, as it is more important that you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in current affairs, and a desire to explore new ideas.

A Level Subject	Entry Qualifications
History	If students have studied GCSE History, they should have a grade 5 or higher; if they have not taken GCSE History, a grade 5 in a similar subject such as English or Geography will be acceptable.
Law	No prior experience of Law is required. However, a GCSE grade 5 in English or a Humanities subject e.g. History, Geography or Religious Studies is required.
Mathematics	GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics is required for A Level Mathematics.
Further Mathematics	GCSE grade 8 in Maths is required for Further Mathematics. Note that students opting to take Further Mathematics must also take A Level Mathematics as a separate option.
Media Studies	GCSE grade 5 in English is required. GCSE Media Studies is desirable but not essential.
Modern Foreign Languages (offered in French and Spanish)	GCSE grade 6 in the relevant language is required. However, students will also be considered if they already have some expertise in the language as a result of home circumstances.
Music	GCSE grade 6 in Music is normally required. It is expected that students will have instrumental or vocal achievement at grade 5 or higher.
Physical Education	A grade 6 or above in GCSE Physical Education is normally required. If a GCSE in this subject was not taken, then a grade 6 or above in a Science subject is necessary.
Physics	GCSE grades 6/6 in Combined Science or grades 6/6/5 if the Triple Science route was followed at GCSE. A 6 grade in the chosen science subject and a 6 in GCSE Mathematics is required.
Psychology	Students should have a GCSE 6, or higher, in Maths or Science, and a GCSE 6, or higher, in a Humanities subject or English.
Religious Studies	Students should have a GCSE grade 5 in Religious Studies or a similar subject, e.g. History or English.
Sociology	Students should have a GCSE grade 6 in Sociology, or higher, or a grade 6 in a Humanities subject or English.



“ Art gives you a sense of
freedom to express yourself ”

Millie – Year 12



A Level Art (Art, Craft and Design)

Students following this course will be encouraged and supported in developing their practical art skills which allow them to creatively explore and respond to their personal experience through their artwork. They will be guided in producing practical and critical/contextual work in areas including drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, printmaking and digital media. There will be an integrated approach to practical work and critical investigation with students required to independently research, develop ideas and link their work in a meaningful way to the artists and styles of art that they study. The art department provides many of the basic materials for the course; students are required to purchase sketchbooks, pencils, paints and brushes and other additional materials (canvas, wire) as appropriate. Visits will be organised to museums, galleries and exhibitions. Independent practical work is required and art students have access to the art studio at any time during sixth form opening hours.

Entry Qualifications

A grade 5 in GCSE Art/Textiles or Graphics is normally required. If a relevant GCSE has not been taken, students may be admitted via a portfolio of work that demonstrates an appropriate level of skill and commitment.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-art-craft-design>



“ Studying Biology has inspired me to take Biological Sciences at University. ”

Chloe – Year 13



A Level Biology

Students following this course will build on concepts and skills that will have been developed in their GCSE Science specifications, presenting Biology as an exciting, relevant and challenging subject. There will be a structured and progressive approach to the essential principles, in contexts that students find interesting, stimulating the enthusiasm for Biology. Practical activities are undertaken which will help develop practical skills alongside the understanding of concepts and principles. Students will be prepared with an appropriate and relevant foundation of knowledge and skill to progress into further study of Biology or related areas. The principles of 'How Science Works' permeate the whole course.

Entry Qualifications

GCSE grades 6/6 in Combined Science or grades 6/6/5 if the Triple Science route was followed at GCSE. A grade 6 in Biology and a 6 in GCSE Mathematics is required.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-courses/a-level-biology>



“ Studying Business at A-Level opens many doors for the future as it is a key subject that can be used in many career choices in the future. ”

Kelly – Year 13



A Level Business

The Business A Level Course considers how businesses, local, national or international, operate – and the effect of the external business environment. As well as this, students will have the opportunity to study business functional areas, where tasks are differentiated into specialist areas, such as Human Resources, Finance, Marketing and Operations Management.

In Year 2, the main emphasis will be on business strategy: its nature, development and implementation, plus a critical evaluation in the context of specific organisational and business situations to solve problems and make decisions. This also includes all aspects of the globalisation of business in today's modern world.

Overall, this course will help students to develop their key skills analytical and evaluative skills, which are highly prized by higher education and employers.

Entry Qualifications

No prior knowledge of business is necessary; however, if GCSE Business has been taken, a Grade 4 is required.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-business>



“ I think it was the revelation that at some point in the distant past, certain molecules somehow developed the mechanism to replicate themselves that really captured my imagination. ”

Chloe – Year 13



A Level Chemistry

The AS and A2 Chemistry courses have been designed to be a practical experience for students, with students following this course spending time doing both practical and theory work. The practical activities included will help the students to consolidate their understanding of the main aspects of Chemistry and prepare them with the skills required to study Science at higher levels. Students will study, amongst many things, aspects of Chemistry that are often seen in the media or that affect their lives; including green chemistry, pharmaceuticals and climate change. The course is designed to prepare students effectively for progression into a range of higher education courses or related employment.

Entry Qualifications

GCSE grades 6/6 in Combined Science or grades 6/6/5 if the Triple Science route was followed at GCSE. A 6 grade in Chemistry and a 6 in GCSE Mathematics is required.

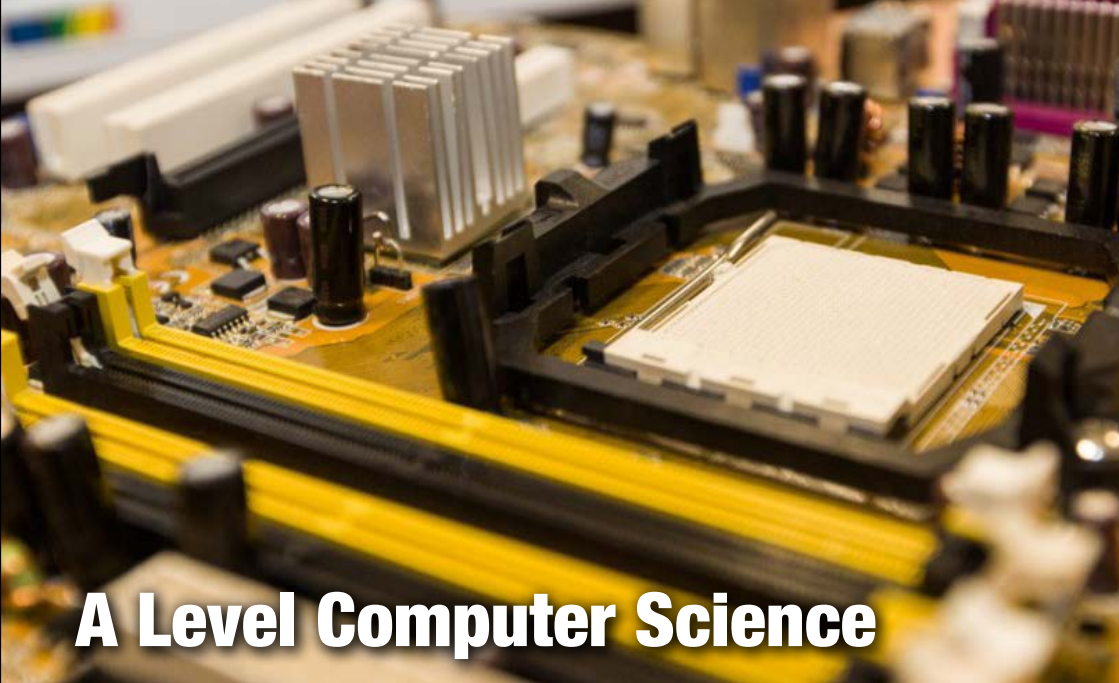
Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-chemistry>



“ The coursework in the second year really helped me learn more about programming and helped me decide to apply for Computer Science at university. ”

Harry – Year 13



A Level Computer Science

Advances in computing are transforming the way we work and this Computer Science qualification from the AQA examination board offers an up-to-date syllabus that focuses on the knowledge, understanding and skills students need to progress to Higher Education or to thrive in the workplace. This linear course replaced older qualifications such as AS/A2 Computing in 2015. In addition to programming (using Python, or one of the other approved languages) and learning the fundamentals of computer systems and architecture, students are taught a systematic approach to problem solving. The course involves a strong mathematical element including the use of Boolean algebra.

Entry Qualifications

Students will require a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics. Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Computing, or its equivalent, is also desirable.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-computer-science>



“You have a lot of freedom in this subject and the chance to link your designs to something you really enjoy.”

Katy – Year 13



A Level Design Technology Product Design

This course is designed to encourage students to take a broad view of design and technology, to develop their capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, manufacture and marketing. Through study and first-hand experience in practical work, students gain an understanding of the physical and mechanical properties of a broad range of materials and components. Coursework projects provide the opportunity for students to learn about the use of computer aided design (CAD) and computer aided manufacture (CAM). Through the study and detailed analysis of a wide range of products, students begin to develop an understanding of broader issues for the designer such as environmental sustainability, ergonomics and consumer safety.

Entry Qualifications

Students wishing to take this course should have completed a GCSE, or equivalent course, in a Design Technology subject achieving at least grade 5 or equivalent.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-design-technology-product-design>



“ The opportunity for developing their creative minds along with the theoretical study of play texts and the world of theatre provides students with a fantastic experience and the confidence needed to take their next steps into the world of work. ”

Miss White - Head of Subject, Drama



A Level Drama and Theatre Studies

Study of this course will offer a deeper insight into how theatre is used as a tool to communicate meaning. This will be explored through the study of play texts from both pre and post 1956, a time of great change in theatrical culture; practical exploration of a range of theatre practices, movements and styles; as well as collaborative work with others in devising their own performances from given stimuli. Students will participate in teacher-led workshops, theoretical study and theatre visits to deepen their understanding of how theatre works and the role it plays in society today, as well as throughout history. The course provides opportunity for students to question a variety of topics, using research to support their understanding and come to their own conclusions. We promote a holistic approach in developing the student to their potential and believe this course provides the relevant skills that will prove to be rewarding and valuable for their future.

Entry Qualifications

A grade 5 in GCSE Drama is normally required.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-drama-and-theatre-studies>



“It’s a great subject to take to learn about theories of money.”

Fraser – Year 13



A Level Economics

This thought-provoking course offers the opportunity to learn about the latest economic theory and practices in the context of different economic issues both nationally and internationally. Few decisions are taken that are not influenced to some degree by economics. The course explores the role of government, producers and consumers and explains many of the issues and debates that feature in today's economic news and society in general. Students will study topics such as the national and global management of the economy, competitive markets and economic efficiency as well as gaining an understanding of financial markets and the global economic crisis of 2008.

Entry Qualifications

Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-economics>



“ English Lang/Lit here is something definitely worth doing! The texts, books and poems we study are interesting and we have the most approachable English teachers to get help from! ”

Kaitlyn – Year 12



A Level English Language and Literature

Students will develop their linguistic and literary knowledge through study of a broad range of texts, from different times, including non-fiction spoken and written texts, novels, drama and poetry. They will acquire and develop the analytical tools needed to explore language choices in detail and to become confident and insightful readers. They will go on to explore how linguistic and literary approaches can relate to each other as disciplines and enable increasingly sophisticated interpretations of texts. Students will also have opportunities to develop skills as producers of language and have opportunities for original writing. The study of A Level Language and Literature will enable learners to become responsible for their own learning, develop confidence in discussing ideas and become more deeply engaged in how language is used by writers and speakers.

Entry Qualifications


GCSE grade 5 in English or English Literature is required.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-english-language-and-literature>



“ The subject is so broad and gives you many opportunities to explore different periods of literature. It's my favourite subject ”

 Amelia – Year 12



A Level English Literature

The A Level Literature course will comprise the study of at least eight texts published or performed across a range of time and across the major literary genres of poetry, prose and drama. Students will be expected to read set texts as well as others that they have selected for themselves thereby engaging critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them. They will develop and effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation whilst exploring the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them.

During the course, students will undertake independent and sustained studies to deepen their appreciation and understanding of English literature, including its changing traditions.

Entry Qualifications

GCSE grade 6 in English or English Literature is required.

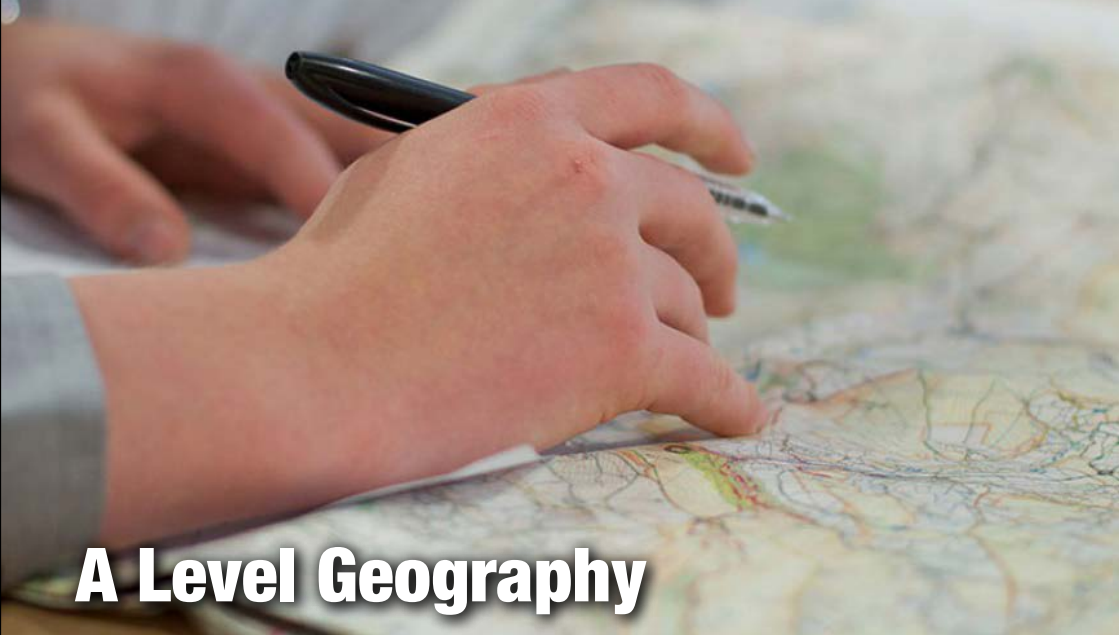
Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-english-literature>



“ Knowledge and understanding from Geography of how the world works opens your eyes to the surroundings in which we live. ”

Keelan – Year 13



A Level Geography

OCR's A Level in Geography aims to encourage learners to develop a range of essential skills for higher Education and the world of work through content which is relevant to any citizen of the planet in the 21st century. Through exciting topics learners will understand the nature of physical and human geography whilst unpicking the debates surrounding contemporary challenges facing the world today.

Geographical and fieldwork skills are fundamental to the study, practice and discipline of geography. They are integrated into all aspects of the subject. Students will need to complete an individual investigation based on field work that is undertaken as a compulsory part of this course.

Entry Qualifications

GCSE grade 5 in Geography or a similar subject e.g. History or Leisure and Tourism are desirable.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-geography>



“ How is the world run? Who runs it? What’s going on with Brexit? Nobody knows! If you think you do, you probably don’t. But, if you study politics, you’ll gain loads of useful information and skills to set you on your way whether you wish to pursue a career in politics. ”

Kieran – Year 13



A Level Government & Politics

You will study the workings of government and political culture in the United Kingdom and the United States. You will also study the political ideologies of liberalism, socialism, conservatism and feminism. The course is particularly interesting as you will study the current events, issues, controversies and scandals of contemporary politics in conjunction with political theory and historical developments. Every day activities in Downing Street and the White House; Parliament and Congress; Fleet Street and Wall Street will raise important issues for debate.

Entry Qualifications

You do not need to have studied Politics at GCSE, as it is more important that you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in current affairs, and a desire to explore new ideas.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-politics>



“ History at Braintree Sixth Form helps to further my potential by giving me transferable skills such as being able to evaluate and analyse. ”

Jonathan – Year 13



A Level History

The course involves studying elements of world and British history as well as topics which, when combined, cover a period of over 200 years. Students gain an understanding of change over time and develop historical perspective and the ability to identify the key features of a period, its particular characteristics and the forces of change, conservatism and consolidation. The course develops students' awareness of cause and consequence, and of continuity, within a broad historical context. In Year 12, students will study world history including USA in the twentieth century and its involvement in international conflict (c.1917–96); and South Africa, (1948–94), an in depth study of South Africa during its transition from white minority rule to the free elections of 1994. In Year 13, students study British History (1790–1918), and the

Entry Qualifications

If students have studied GCSE History, they should have a grade 5 or higher; if they have not taken GCSE History, a grade 5 in a similar subject such as English or Geography will be acceptable.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-history>

experience of war in four major overseas conflicts: the French Wars, the Crimean War, the second Boer War and World War One. In addition, they will write coursework based on a controversy linked to an aspect of their Year 12 studies.



“ Law is a key subject you can apply to everyday scenarios. Highly enjoyable, and well organised. I definitely recommend you pick this fascinating subject ”

Kaitlyn – Year 13



A Level Law

Through this exciting and topical course, students will gain an understanding of the English legal system, incorporating an overview of the law making process, legal institutions, civil and criminal law. Studying Law develops students' problem solving skills through the application of legal rules, together with an understanding of legal method and reasoning. In addition, students will become practised at presenting logically constructed and detailed written work. These skills complement other essay based subjects and provide excellent preparation for those students who wish to progress to degree level study or pursue a wide range of careers.

Entry Qualifications

No prior experience of Law is required. However, a GCSE grade 5 in English or a Humanities subject e.g. History, Geography or Religious Studies is required.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-law>



“ Mathematics is the foundation of all knowledge and, as such, is crucially important in modern day society ”

Jay – Year 13



A Level Mathematics

The linear A Level course from Edexcel covers pure and applied mathematics in the ratio 2:1. Mathematics students will cover pure maths topics such as: algebra, geometry and calculus. Applied topics include compulsory statistics and mechanics. Many topics will require students to apply their knowledge to solving real world problems such as modelling a bridge as a quadratic equation or finding the minimum amount of material needed to create the largest volume container.

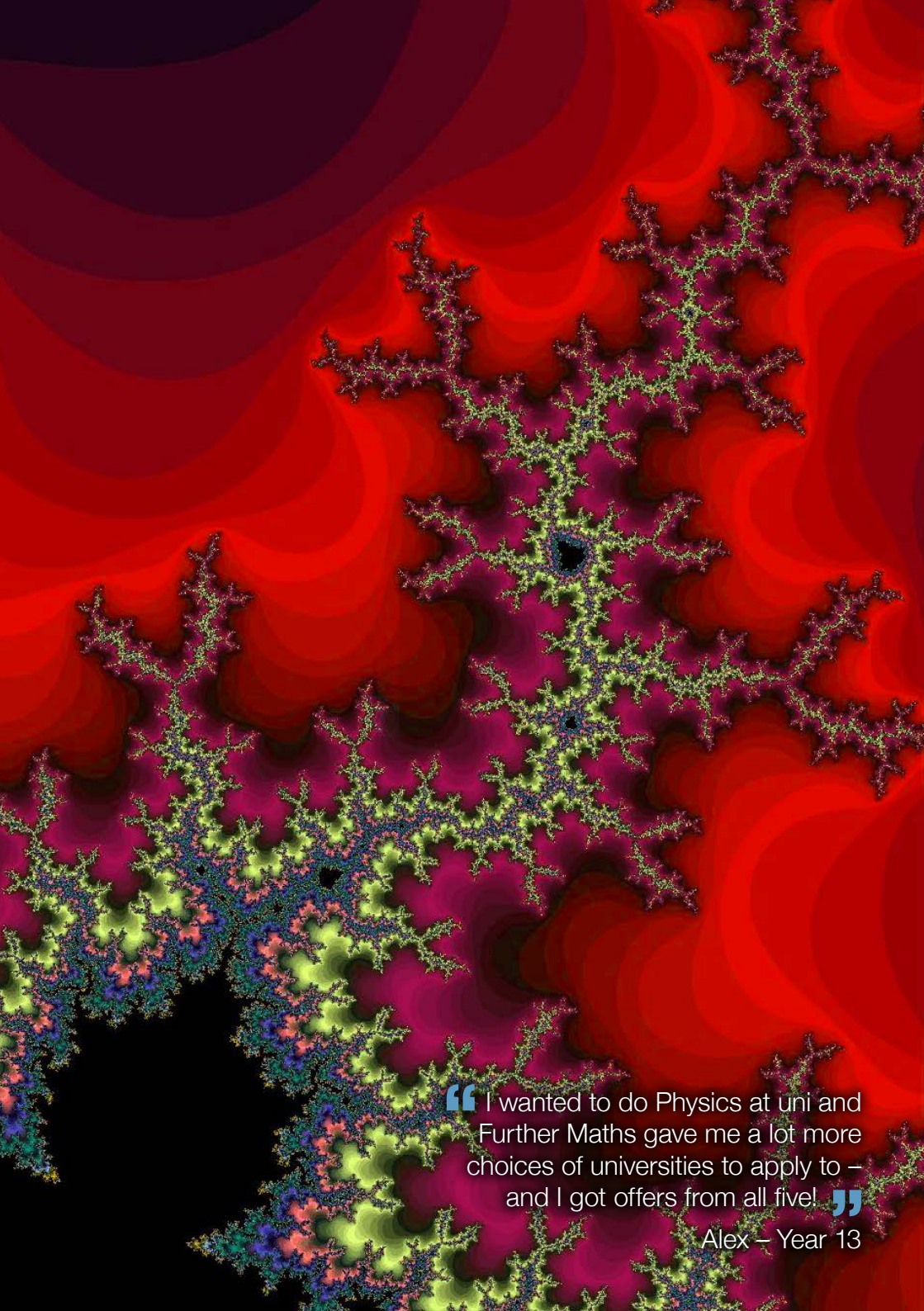
Note that students with a particular interest in maths (especially those who may want to go on to study maths at university) should also seriously consider taking A Level Further Mathematics.

Entry Qualifications

GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics is required for A Level Mathematics.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-mathematics>



“ I wanted to do Physics at uni and Further Maths gave me a lot more choices of universities to apply to – and I got offers from all five! ”

Alex – Year 13



A Level Further Mathematics

Students with a particular interest in mathematics can choose to take a second A Level in Maths called Further Maths, with some choosing this as a fourth A Level. Further Mathematicians, as well as learning additional compulsory topics in pure maths such as complex numbers and proof by induction, get a choice of studying further statistics, mechanics or decision maths. Many topics will require students to apply their knowledge to solving real world problems such as modelling the motion of a diving board as a second order differential equation.

Students who do not need a full A Level in Further Maths but are interested in going beyond A Level Maths can follow the course for the first year in order to obtain an AS qualification in the subject.

Entry Qualifications

GCSE grade 8 in Maths is required for Further Mathematics. Note that students opting to take Further Mathematics must also take A Level Mathematics as a separate option.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-further-mathematics>



“ Media is fun and it can take you in any direction in terms of future careers. ”

Kieran – Year 13



A Level Media Studies

The course aims to give students an understanding of specific media texts, how they are produced, the institutions that produce them and the audiences who interpret them.

Students explore ways in which messages and meanings are constructed in the media and use analytical and critical frameworks as a means of understanding them. Research is undertaken and students develop skills in the production and evaluation of a variety of media texts. Students plan and construct media products using appropriate technical and creative skills in 2D media such as video, print, audio and website.

Entry Qualifications

GCSE grade 5 in English is required. GCSE Media Studies is desirable but not essential.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-media-studies>



“ Languages give you so many skills which you will be able to use in the future. You broaden your knowledge of communication and culture. ”

Abby – Year 12



A Level Modern Foreign Languages

Offered in French and Spanish

The aim of this course is to develop students' ability to communicate effectively; read, understand and translate texts; write extended essays in the foreign language and develop listening comprehension. In addition, students will be learning through film and literary texts. In the first year, students cover current trends and issues and artistic culture and in the second year topics such as multiculturalism and political life, literature and the arts are explored. Assessment is based on both spoken expression and response and on understanding and written response. Students will explore the culture and traditions of some of the different countries and communities where the language is spoken through the topics studied.

Entry Qualifications

GCSE grade 6 in the relevant language is required. However, students will also be considered if they already have some expertise in the language as a result of home circumstances.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-modern-foreign-languages>



“

Music gives you a great opportunity to develop your performing, composing and listening skills to a high level. ”

Mrs Hanna – Head of Subject, Music



A Level Music

This course extends students' GCSE skills of performing, composing and listening. Students are encouraged to study a wide range of music from folk, jazz, popular and classical traditions of Western and non-Western origin and learn how to analyse and discuss its composition and structure. Students continue to develop their own skills as performers and to develop new skills in using relevant music technology. There will be opportunities to attend concerts and workshops throughout the course in order to give further insight, depth of understanding and appreciation of the music studied.

Entry Qualifications

GCSE grade 6 in Music is normally required. It is expected that students will have instrumental or vocal achievement at grade 5 or higher.

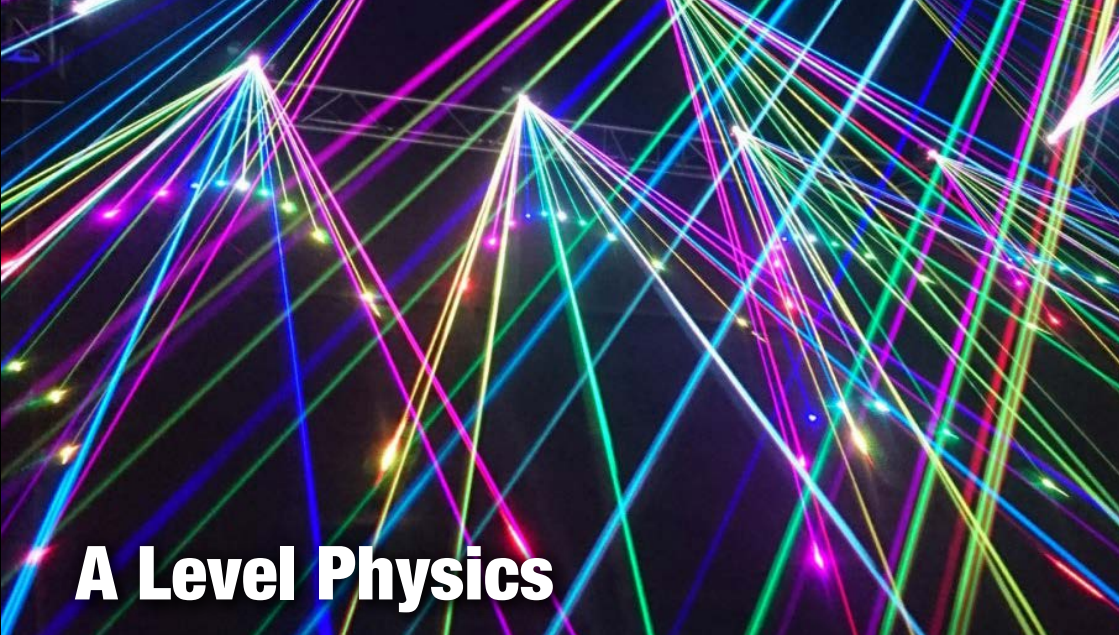
Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-music>



“ A Level Physics has acted as the gateway to my interest in Mechanical Engineering. ”

Nabil – Year 13



A Level Physics

The Physics course offered provides a very good basis for students to progress into Further Education, to follow courses in Physics, Engineering, Architecture or to enter employment in related areas. The course includes the study of electricity, magnetism, forces, fields, motion and the frontiers of Physics. Students are given the opportunity to develop their interest and enthusiasm as they progress through the course where the emphasis is on understanding rather than memory, with time spent doing both practical and theory work.

Entry Qualifications

GCSE grades 6/6 in Combined Science or grades 6/6/5 if the Triple Science route was followed at GCSE. A 6 grade in Physics and a 6 in GCSE Mathematics is required.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-physics>



“ The Social Influence topic helps you to understand events in history, such as why the suffragettes were successful. ”

George – Year 13



A Level Psychology

If you have an enquiring mind, a good sense of humour and enjoy reading and debating then this is the subject for you. The study of Psychology will enable you to gain fascinating insights into human and animal behaviour. Students will study behaviour from a variety of different theoretical perspectives. Psychologists use scientific methods, but their main subject matter is human beings, so Psychology is a subject that links the Humanities and Sciences. Students will design, conduct and report on their own experimental research investigations. A wide range of teaching and learning activities are utilised to study interesting topics such as attraction, eating disorders, child development, aggression and the media.

Entry Qualifications

Students should have a GCSE 6, or higher, in Maths or Science, and a GCSE 6, or higher, in a Humanities subject or English.

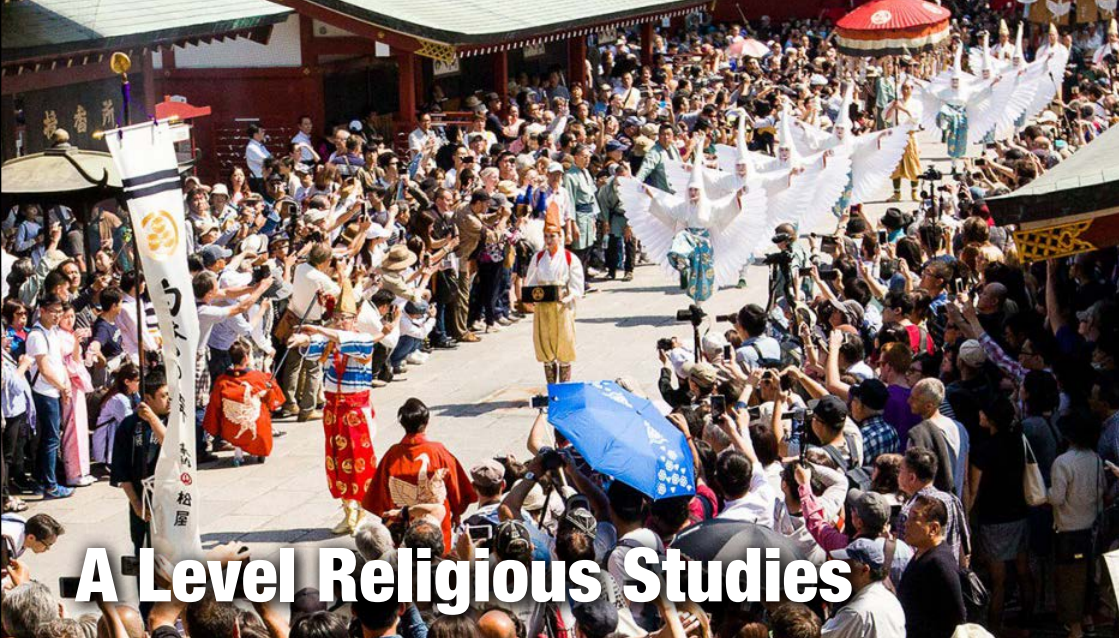
Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-psychology>



“RS makes you consider different perspectives. You leave a lesson questioning the world around you.”

Sophie – Year 12



A Level Religious Studies

The overall aims of this course are to provide an understanding of some key issues in the Theology of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics and thereby develop students' capacity for creating coherent and carefully balanced argument. Students will have the chance to develop transferable skills that will be invaluable, whatever university course or career they may choose in the future. They will be able to think more clearly and logically, spot flaws in arguments and express themselves fairly but firmly in group discussions. They will find themselves having impassioned discussions inside and outside the classroom as they follow in the footsteps of some of the great thinkers.

Entry Qualifications

Students should have a GCSE grade 5 in Religious Studies or a similar subject, e.g. History or English.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-religious-studies>



“ The topic of Education
is so applicable to our
own experiences. ”

Aaliyah – Year 13



A Level Sociology

Sociology is the study of society and individuals. It is suitable for students who have an open, enquiring mind and enjoy debating contemporary issues. A number of theoretical and political perspectives are applied to the study of topics such as education, families and households, religious beliefs and crime and deviance. A wider knowledge and understanding of the society in which we live is essential and students must be keen on keeping up-to-date with the news and current affairs. As members of society, all students should come to the course equipped with some knowledge of the social world, but through the study of Sociology they will develop a deeper understanding and examine issues that directly affect life in Britain and other areas of the world. Students learn how to conduct experimental and non-experimental research, and carry out and report on their own sociological investigations.

Entry Qualifications

Students should have a GCSE grade 6 in Sociology, or higher, or a grade 6 in a Humanities subject or English.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/a-level-sociology>

**FALSE
MEMORIES
ARE THEY REAL?**

**NATURE
VERSUS NURTURE**

**ARE ZOOS
AN ETHICAL FORM
OF CONSERVATION?**

A Level Extended Project Qualification

UCAS tariff equivalent to half an A Level qualification

All students will have the opportunity to undertake the AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). They will begin this project in June of Year 12. The area of study for the project is chosen by the individual student based on their own academic interests and it takes the form of independent research leading to either a 5,000-word essay or the production of an essay, artefact or performance. In both cases, the completion of a reflective logbook, which tracks the process, is a significant part of the project.

This is a Level 3 qualification, which appears on the UCAS tariff table and can be awarded at up to A* grade. The project provides students with the opportunity to develop the kind of independent research skills and organisational abilities required for successful university study and as such, it is highly regarded by admissions officers. Students are supported by an individual project supervisor and additional taught sessions are provided to give guidance on key areas such as referencing. Organisational skills, motivation and commitment are essential, as students are responsible for meeting all deadlines and managing the reading, write up and final presentation of their findings.

EPQ examples:

Will developments in the design of aircraft through engineering ever make them sustainable?

Stalking; What is stalking in intimate relationships and how does it affect those involved?

How effective is the partnership between general practice care services and parkrun at reducing the prevalence of obesity within the adult UK population?

Further Information

For additional information follow the link to the AQA website:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/projects/aqa-certificate/EPQ-9990>

Level 3 Vocational Programmes

Alongside the A level programme, Braintree Sixth Form offers a range of level 3 vocational programmes which are regarded as equivalent to A Level courses by employers, training providers and universities.

Students can choose to study a number of vocational courses or combine their vocational studies with one or more A Levels.

Braintree Sixth Form offers the following vocational qualifications:

- BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificates
- OCR Level 3 Technical Certificates

All vocational programmes are equivalent to A Levels in their rigour and challenge. They are assessed at the same intellectual level as with A Levels. They therefore require the same dedication and commitment as A levels.

Level 3 Vocational Programmes Assessment

The big difference between an A Level and vocational course is in their delivery and assessment.

Vocational programmes are continually assessed over two years through coursework activities, external examinations and externally set tasks.

Examinations and set tasks will be completed in year 12 and 13 and these contribute to your final grade. There may be an opportunity to re-sit external

examinations in some cases. Examinations will form at least 25% of your final grade.

Coursework portfolios are completed in controlled conditions throughout the course and have exact deadlines which must be adhered to. In most cases, re-submissions are not allowed. When completing assessment activities strict rules regarding how much help can be given have to be applied.

Prior to an assessment you will undertake learning and coursework preparation tasks that are designed to develop your understanding of the relevant vocational sector and enable you to apply your knowledge to a vocational scenario.

Throughout any course you will undertake individual research, note taking, group work and presentation activities.

If you prefer a more practical, applied course with continuous assessment a vocational programme could be the right choice for you.

Vocational Programmes Offered

We are pleased to be able to offer the following vocational programmes as part of our key stage 5 curriculum offer:

BTEC Extended Certificates in:

- Applied Science
- Travel and Tourism
- Sports

OCR Level 3 Technical Certificates in:

- Business
- Health and Social Care

Vocational Programmes and UCAS points

All vocational programmes attract UCAS points, on the same scale as A Levels. Although vocational qualifications are accepted by all universities, you are advised to check the exact entry requirement for a specific university, or higher education course.

The UCAS points awarded for vocational programmes is set out in the table:

BTEC Extended Certificate	OCR Technical Certificates	UCAS Points
Distinction*	Distinction*	56
Distinction	Distinction	48
		40
Merit	Merit	32
		24
Pass	Pass	16

Entry Requirements for Vocational Programmes

Vocational Level 3 programmes are challenging, require specific skills, and commitment for their successful completion, as well as an academic ability to tackle them.

A successful vocational student will:

- Have gained 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) grades at 4-9, including Mathematics and English
- Have strong literacy, numeracy and ICT skills
- Have good organisation and planning skills to manage coursework portfolios
- Be able to undertake independent academic research
- Be able to work consistently well and be organised in order to meet coursework deadlines

You are advised to look at the relevant



BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport

This course is aimed at students who have a passion for sport and are looking to follow a career in sports performance, coaching/teaching, officiating, journalism or sports therapy. It is a two year course and is equivalent to one A Level.

The course uses a combination of assessment styles to help students apply their knowledge to succeed in the workplace and develop study skills to continue onto High Education. Students will study each unit in depth to acquire a range of practical and transferrable skills. The range of assessments – both practical and written – help students showcase their learning and achievements to best effect.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/btec-level-3-in-sport>

The course content will include four units; anatomy and physiology; fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being; professional development in the sports industry and practical sports performance. The units will be assessed on a scale of Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass and Unclassified.



BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science

This qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level and is aimed at learners who want to study a range of applied science subjects alongside other Post-16 courses. It can give a context to many other courses, for example, alongside Mathematics or Physics A Level as part of an engineering related progression route, or combined with Psychology and Physical Education A Level leading to further study in sports psychology courses at University. Learners will study three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science
- Unit 2: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques
- Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills.

Units 1 and 3 are assessed by externally marked, written exam papers and a practical investigation carried out under controlled conditions, while Unit 2 and one further optional unit are internally assessed via a

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/btec-level-3-in-applied-science>

series of internally marked assignments throughout the course. It includes a variety of activities including practical experimentation and investigation in the laboratory, research tasks, presentation tasks and written assignments. The aim is to provide learners with transferable skills such as reading and analysing scientific texts, effective scientific writing and investigative methods that are highly valued by both Universities and employers. Level 3 BTEC is an ideal qualification for a self-motivated, organised and independent learner who wants to progress into a career or further study in the applied science sector.



OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Diploma in Business

This qualification will provide students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the world of business and to apply their knowledge and understanding to real businesses. Throughout the course students will learn about business functions, finance, legal aspects of business management, customer service and business communication.

This course differs and is a more flexible qualification than A Level Business due to some assessments being coursework and external examinations sat in both year 12 & 13.

Throughout the course students will also be developing skills such as:

- Enterprise
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Planning & organisation
- Accounting.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/ocr-level-3-cambridge-technical-diploma-in-business>

Successful students will be able to go to university to study a business or related subject, for example, human resources, marketing and finance or go on to employments in a wider range of occupations.



BTEC National Extended Certificate in Travel & Tourism

This qualification will provide students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the one of the most important sectors of the economy – Travel and Tourism.

In the first unit you will research and investigate the range of products and services to many different types of customers. In unit two the focus is on global destinations – where and why tourism take place. In Unit 3 you will see that a successful tourist business must have a strategy for understanding its customers and targeting them with a profitable offer. In the final unit, you will be research real visitor attractions to identify their domestic and overseas visitors and be able to understand that they are a major source of revenue for the travel and tourism industry as well as for the UK and the global economy.

Throughout the course they will be involved in actively investigating and researching the

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/wjec-level-3-applied-diploma-in-tourism>

sector and applying their knowledge to real businesses and tourism destinations.

As well as gaining insights into the industry students will gain valuable key skills such as:

- literacy and numeracy
- digital literacy
- critical thinking and problem solving
- planning and organisation.

This course differs and is a more flexible qualification than A Levels due to some assessments being coursework and external examinations sat in both year 12 & 13.



Health and Social Care OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3

Students will develop professional and personal skills through interaction with people who either work in the sector or require care or support, as well as theoretical knowledge and understanding to underpin their skills. This will allow them to offer specific person-centred care and support and build positive relationships with the people they are working with, so that their needs and requirements are met whilst they maintain control of their own care and support. Students will consider the real impacts to people living with conditions or illnesses such as the social, financial and psychological impacts, not just the signs, symptoms and treatment of faceless conditions or illnesses. Students will also learn about the legislation and guidance supporting health and social care, so that they can ensure the people they are working with are not only able to access all the care and support they are entitled to, but are also able to protect themselves from any harm or abuse whilst at work.

Further Course Information

<https://www.braintreesixthform.com/courses/health-and-social-care-ocr-cambridge-technical-level-3>

The extended certificate comprises of 6 units:

- Unit 1 Building positive relationships in health and social care
- Unit 2 Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care
- Unit 3 Health, safety, security in health and social care
- Unit 4 Anatomy and physiology for health and social care
- Unit 10 Nutrition for health
- Unit 22 Psychology for health and social care



Advanced Foundation

A foundation programme may be offered to students who achieved GCSE grades below the sixth form entry requirements of at least 5 GCSE grades at Level 4 (or equivalent). Advanced Foundation offers students the chance to retake GCSE English and/or Maths where necessary as well as completing BTEC Level 2 qualifications in a subject such as Business/Enterprise or IT. Students will also complete an AS level in one subject, from a specific range of choices.

Students could undertake relevant work experience during the course of the Advanced Foundation year, as well as completing the Higher Project Qualification.

Advanced Foundation may be offered to students who have not met the entry requirements for their chosen courses, and gives students the opportunity to gain further qualifications which enable them to progress to further Level 3 study at the end of the year if they wish to do so.



**WHAT
WILL YOU
CHOOSE?**

Enrichment

All students take part in a structured programme of enrichment. These largely take place on Wednesday afternoons and provide an excellent opportunity to develop leadership, organisational and interpersonal skills, pursue an interest or deepen and stretch students academically.

Enrichment provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate the creativity, organisational skills, professionalism and initiative that admissions officers and employers are looking for.

A wide range of activities is offered, including languages, sports and voluntary work. These activities bring Year 12 and Year 13 students together to improve their interpersonal and academic skills. Other activities on offer include the EPQ, the Model United Nations and a preparation for adult life carousel, which includes practical activities such as cooking on a budget. Some students also choose to support in lessons lower down the school as teaching assistants. With a range of qualifications on offer and also skill-based activities, we aim to aid the future development of our students.

A full list of the opportunities on offer is provided prior to the start of each term. It is expected that students will take part in a number of different activities or projects during their time in the sixth form.

Sports

Braintree Sixth Form offers a range of sports through the Enrichment programme. There is the opportunity to compete as part of the football or netball team in a league against other sixth form teams in the area. Internal matches, such as the popular 5-a side matches, also take place within the sixth form. Other sports on offer include table tennis, basketball, badminton, volleyball, trampolining and more besides, depending on the interest of the students. There are a number of sporting events throughout the year that sixth form students can get involved with, either as a competitor or organiser. These include cross country and athletics competitions. Students also organise or assist with extra-curricular sports clubs for younger students, or work as teaching assistants within PE lessons.



Sixth Form Facilities

Outstanding Learning Environment

Housed in a self-contained centre, purpose built for sixth form use, Braintree Sixth Form provides students with the opportunity to study in an outstanding learning environment. Designed to provide the best possible support for academic success, teaching rooms are well equipped and specialist teaching facilities include two large computer suites, a Music room and three Science laboratories as well as access to Braintree Arts Theatre.

Media and ICT

To facilitate collaborative working, Office 365 accounts are created for all Braintree Sixth Form students. As well as access to cloud storage and the facility for sharing documents, students also have free access to a range of software and make use of Microsoft Teams and SharePoint to access a wide range of learning resources. In addition, both computer rooms have access to the full Adobe CC suite, including Photoshop and InDesign. Free photocopying and printing is provided to support students in presenting their work and accessing materials and resources.

All students also have access to our Mediaserver, which provides online on-demand access to our extensive educational media library.

Library

The airy and spacious sixth form library offers students a wonderful working environment where a wide range of resources is available to support their learning. Students have access to paper based materials, online materials and e-resources, periodicals, journals, DVD and audio materials. The careers section provides information on Further and Higher Education (including international opportunities), employment, occupations, gap year and voluntary work.

The library has networked computers which students are able to use for research, essay writing, project work and access to the library catalogue. The computerised catalogue system holds records of all the resources available in the sixth form library and also in the school library. The catalogue can be accessed from any networked computer in the sixth form and also remotely from home. Staff in the library are available to help and guide students in their studies. Library skills sessions, including information on research techniques and referencing, are also provided. Students can choose to work in the individual desk booths in the library or in the open plan working spaces provided as well as in the other workspaces in the sixth form building.



Cafe6

Sixth form students have their own vibrant café which opens on to a pleasant patio area in warmer weather. Open for breakfast from 8am, the café offers a wide range of food options such as panini and sandwiches, jacket potatoes and pizza. There is a varied lunchtime menu of hot meals and a range of takeaway items. Coffee, snacks, homemade cakes and fruit are available throughout the day.

Student Common Room

The common room has been designed to create a comfortable and informal social space. Student lockers are available in the common room and in the upper corridor.

Sports Facilities

The campus has extensive playing fields, three sports halls, badminton courts and tennis courts.

**Developing life skills
and attributes
for the
21st century**

An Aspirational Community

Leadership Opportunities

Sixth form students develop their leadership skills through the following opportunities:

The Prefect System

Students can apply for one of several Prefect positions which will give them the chance to take on leadership roles both within the sixth form and across the whole school. The team will be headed up by two Head Prefects working with the Head of Sixth Form. Each prefect will have a responsibility for an area such as mentoring, charity and social events, the environment, diversity and sport.

The prefects will act as ambassadors for the sixth form, under a range of responsibilities such as helping at sixth form promotional events and supporting with the provision of advice and guidance to prospective students. This will enable them to develop their interpersonal and leadership skills

Student Council

Students can choose to be a member of the student council, representing the views of fellow students and organising social activities within the sixth form. The council provides a platform for student views, involving them in the sixth form decision making process. The council has responsibility for liaising with the Sixth Form management team and representing students' views with regard to teaching and learning.





Educational Visits

There are opportunities for students to take part in a range of visits, including residentials, where their classroom activities can be extended and enriched. Departments will include trips where appropriate as an integral part of their programmes of study. There are also more general opportunities for students to take part in theatre, music and sports trips.

Some of our most recent trips include an American History trip to New York and Washington DC, Slapton Sands for Geography and Wembley Stadium for Business Studies.



In 2020 **100%**
of our
higher education
applicants secured
university places
and of these **90%**
got their first choice
course at their first choice institution

Beyond Braintree Sixth Form

Excellent progression

Braintree Sixth Form has an excellent progression record. The vast majority of students progress on to Higher or Further Education. Students receive supervision and guidance from a member of staff who leads on student destinations alongside their tutors, who assist with all applications, for university places, apprenticeships and training, or the workplace.

Each year a number of students secure places on the most selective courses. In 2020, these have included places on medicine courses and highly selective degree apprenticeships. Support and guidance is provided to students making competitive applications, such as for Medicine, Dentistry and Oxbridge. The vast majority of students have gained places on their first choice courses at first choice institutions in the last 3 years.

Other progression routes have included apprenticeships in areas such as accounting, business and media, army and navy placements, art foundation courses and study overseas.

UCAS

(Universities Central Admissions Service)

Braintree Sixth Form runs an extensive university applications support programme, which includes information workshops for parents and carers as well as a range of sessions for students provided by local

universities. Further support is provided through the tutorial programme, with students benefitting from both group and individual sessions with their personal tutor.

The sixth form enjoys excellent links with local universities with staff from University of Essex, Anglia Ruskin University and University of Suffolk contributing to the university application support programme. Regular trips to universities take place throughout the year, including university support for EPQ students and we welcome the guidance to students that these universities offer. All students attend the annual UCAS Higher Education Convention.

Students interested in applying to international universities should seek advice at the time of application, as some universities have very specific subject requirements and others require admissions tests.

Additional insight into matters of finance, relationships and the skills required for post-16 studies is provided as part of the tutorial programme as well as external visits.

Sixth form students have access to independent and impartial progression advice from a qualified careers adviser who visits the sixth form to see students by appointment. Students can make appointments via their tutors.

Student Life

In Braintree Sixth Form, students are expected to take responsibility for themselves and their learning; this can be different from their prior experiences of education. The sixth form centre is open before and after the teaching day so that students can arrive early or stay late. As well as timetabled lessons and tutorial sessions, students also have study periods. Students divide their time between working in the library, in the common room or spending time in Café6. Over time, those students who are working well and making good progress will be permitted to study at home when they have a study period.

ICT & Laptops

ICT can be a very effective way to support learning and students are welcome to use laptops or tablets. Subjects use SharePoint and Microsoft Teams to share resources and relevant materials with students so that they can extend their learning independently.

Dress Code

Sixth form students are expected to dress in a professional, modest and appropriate manner (ie not business, no collar/tie). Illustrations in this prospectus of non-practical lessons exemplify the expectations.

Part Time Work

Many sixth form students have part time jobs. These can be valuable experiences for students, providing the opportunity to develop communication, leadership and organisational skills and introducing them to the expectations of the work place. It is imperative that students plan their part time work so that it does not affect their attendance at lessons, participation in extracurricular activities and their completion of independent work. As a guideline, we would suggest that students do not undertake paid work for more than 12 hours per week. Students at Braintree Sixth Form are on full-time courses and any paid work needs to be kept to a part-time level to avoid impact on their progress.

Directions Careers Service

A careers adviser from the Directions advisory service attends the sixth form on a weekly basis to provide additional impartial progression information and support for individual students.

Work Experience

Work experience in the areas that a student is interested in pursuing as a career is very important and we encourage students to organise work experience for themselves during holidays or weekends during Year 12

and the start of Year 13. Students can also arrange work experience which supports their future progression plans during the enrichment session on a Wednesday afternoon. Students will be provided with guidance on this.

A number of university courses, such as Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, have specific work experience requirements, and students are encouraged to pursue these and seek advice where necessary.

**Preparing
students for active
participation in a
rapidly changing
world**



Student Support

Pastoral support

Braintree Sixth Form aims to provide each individual student with appropriate support and guidance so that they get the most from their time in the sixth form and progress successfully on to fulfilling careers or further study. Tutors are kept informed about the performance of their tutees across their subjects as well as being aware of their achievements outside the classroom. Systems of assessment and tracking are used to ensure that students receive regular feedback on their progress in each subject and targets for development. Regular individual tutorial meetings and group tutorials ensure that every student is in regular contact with their tutor with whom progress will be discussed and to whom the tutee can readily turn for help or advice. In addition to the tutor team, the Head and Deputy Head of Sixth Form and Pastoral Manager - KS5 provide additional advice and support on both academic and pastoral issues.

Where students are experiencing particular difficulties, the sixth form can arrange for mentoring or, if appropriate, counselling with our on-site counsellor.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

The sixth form has a SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) and a full range of support for students with special educational needs and disabilities. The sixth form is strongly committed to both inclusion and equal opportunities and will always look at what reasonable adjustments can be made in order to facilitate access for students with special needs. It is recommended that applicants discuss any potential SEND needs with the SENCO at an early stage, so that there is time to plan appropriate strategies and make any necessary arrangements before students start courses. Special examination arrangements can be put in place as necessary.

Additional Information

Post-16 Transport

For information about post-16 transport see:

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Travel-School/Pages/Post-16-Transport.aspx>

Applying to Braintree Sixth Form

The sixth form welcomes applications from students studying in any secondary school in the UK or European Union. Applications can be made from 10 November 2021 via the application form on the sixth form website www.braintreesixthform.com

All offers are conditional and based on the predicted GCSE or equivalent grades which are supplied by the student and confirmed by their school. All applicants will be invited to attend a counselling meeting to discuss their proposed courses.

Application process

10 November

Braintree Sixth Form Open Event

10 November

Online application opens

28 January

First round of applications closes

January - February

Follow up contact with applicants

July

Induction programme

25 August

GCSE results and enrolment



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