

# A LEVELS



BRIDGWATER  
& TAUNTON  
COLLEGE

BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST [www.btc.ac.uk](http://www.btc.ac.uk)    



# Welcome

Embarking on your educational journey is a pivotal moment, and here at BTC we believe that making an informed choice is very important in your future education and career pathways.

Our A Level guide will inform you why studying A Levels at BTC is the right choice. It will discuss the support systems we have in place to nurture your academic growth, the extracurricular activities available to support your passions and highlight the added perks, such as receiving a free iPad, our focus is on empowering you to excel. It is BTC's mantra to Bring Out Your Best, our goal is to help shape your future.

Come and see for yourself. I encourage you to come along to one of our open events and experience for yourself the opportunities and support networks in place to help you succeed. BTC staff will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have and support your education moving forward.

I look forward to welcoming you!

**Sam Reilly**  
Assistant Principal for A Levels

# Contents

My BTC Advantage	2	English Language	17
Reasons to study A Levels	4	English Literature	17
A Levels	6	Fashion and Textiles	18
Entry requirements	8	French	18
How to choose your A Level subjects	9	Further Maths	19
		Geography	20
		History – Early Modern	20
		History – Modern	21
<b>A LEVEL COURSES</b>		Law	22
Art & Design	10	Maths	22
Biology	10	Media	23
Business	11	Photography	24
Chemistry	12	Physics	24
Computer Science	12	Politics	25
Criminology (Level 3 Applied Diploma)	13	Psychology	26
Design Technology	14	Sociology	26
Drama and Theatre	14	Spanish	27
Economics	15	College Life	28
English Language and Literature	16		





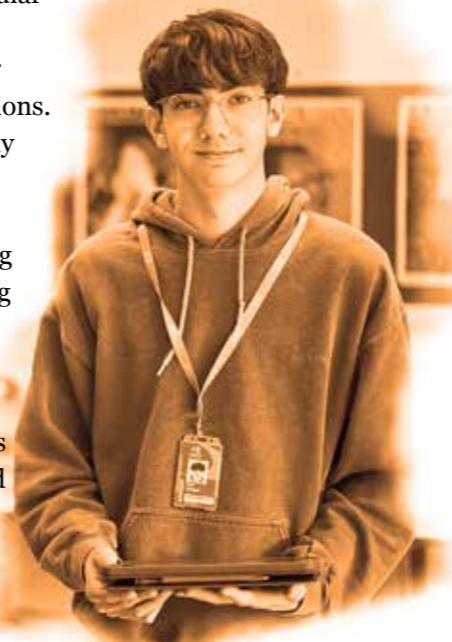
# My **BTC** Advantage

Flourishing is not just a buzzword at BTC; it's our core mission. We want to see you thrive, not just academically but also personally. That's why we've created the BTC Advantage – a unique programme designed to help you develop the essential skills and knowledge you need to succeed in life.

## SAFER, HEALTHIER AND HAPPIER

“BTC offers fantastic extra-curricular activities, including my role as a student ambassador and regular participation in badminton sessions. Serving as an ambassador greatly aided my Oxbridge application, showcasing my dedication and impressing admissions. Assisting at open evenings is both fulfilling and advantageous for my future goals. The College provided substantial support throughout my Oxbridge application process offering invaluable guidance and assistance.”

**Tom Chidgey** | A Levels (Maths, Further Maths, Physics)  
*Bridgwater College Academy*



## EFFECTIVE LEARNER

“The staff are extremely supportive and are willing to go the extra mile, if it's ever needed. My tutor has been crucial when thinking about my next steps and taking action to reach them. BTC's atmosphere encourages independence, meaning revision and work don't feel like a chore. This allows me to be focused while enjoying my time at College, and has helped me prepare for the more self-oriented nature of university.”

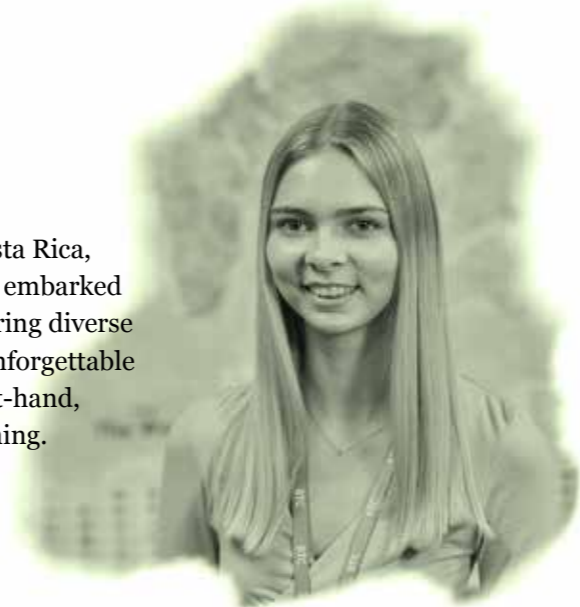
**Toby Epps** | A Levels (Maths, Physics, Psychology)  
*Bridgwater College Academy*



## COMMUNITY MINDED

“As part of my course I've been fortunate to visit Costa Rica, where we spent a week with host families and then embarked on a remarkable journey across the country. Exploring diverse areas, cultures, cities, coasts, and jungles was an unforgettable experience. Witnessing their education system first-hand, which differed greatly from our own, was enlightening. It was fulfilling to contribute and assist in local communities during our time there.”

**Emily Hounsell** | A Levels (Geography, Geology, Dance)  
*Huish Episcopi Academy*



## HIGHER ASPIRATIONS

“BTC has opened numerous opportunities that have sparked my imagination. Participating in Exeter University and the Sutton Trust's Pathways to Law programme was eye-opening, introducing me to barristers and solicitors. This 15-month journey led to work experience at a prestigious law firm, broadening my horizons despite my science inclination. The glimpse into my future was invaluable.”

**Chloe Whitehead** | A Levels (Biology, Chemistry, Law)  
*Haygrove*



## MORE CONFIDENT

“The staff really help boost your confidence through excellent, efficient and very quick feedback. This has allowed me to focus on areas to improve. I actually find myself looking forward to exams because I know I'm very well prepared as a result of BTC staff providing me with excellent resources and because I've made the best use of College facilities.”

**Oscar Margetts** | A Levels (Religious Studies, Spanish, English Literature)  
*Huish Episcopi Academy*



## BETTER COMMUNICATOR

“Discussions in class have enabled me to improve my communication skills and convey ideas more effectively, which has improved my confidence. I've been able to develop my own opinions and identity through expressing myself. All these skills have enabled me to gain my independence. I feel happy making my own choices and meeting new people, which is an integral part of going off to university and growing up.”

**Courtney Chick** | A Levels (English Literature, Psychology and Sociology)  
*Kings of Wessex Academy*



## KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

“I have gained countless skills from my A Level courses. Not only knowledge in my specific subject areas, but also time management to help maintain a work-life balance, independence through having to research things for myself, public speaking through giving presentations, team work through group projects and practical work, and many other indispensable skills.”

**Immy Kennard** | A Levels (Biology, Geology, Geography)  
*Crispin School*



SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO





# Reasons to study A Levels

## ALL A Level students receive a FREE iPad

As part of BTC's digital transformation project, every A Level student receives an iPad to use for their studies. The tech makes it easier for you to complete research and wider reading, access multimedia resources and communication tools, and collaborate with your classmates on shared projects and revision materials.

**Student Mackenzie Mangar, said,** "I think the iPads are great, especially for those who are unable to financially support their learning as well as others. The iPads promote equality and it means nobody is at a disadvantage. It makes everyone equal."



## A Level students aim for Oxbridge

If you aspire to gain a place at a top university, BTC's Honours Academy can help you work towards your goal. The Honours Academy prepares you for the competitive applications process, providing everything from master classes to mock interviews, visiting experts to alumni Q&As. If you dream of Oxford or Cambridge, or a medical career, there are specific pathways and support available.

## A Level enrichment gives you the edge

Alongside your A Levels you have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities. You may want to join the Debating Team and engage in spirited debates, conquer the Duke of Edinburgh Award, be the Student Union President, undertake an EPQ, join the Fashion, Media or Performing Arts Academy or compete competitively for Team BTC. There is an option for everyone.

Bertie Kelly, former pupil of Haygrove School, won two gold medals in table tennis at the Associations of Colleges (AoC) National Championships, while acting as South West captain and flag bearer, and representing Team BTC all while studying A Levels.

## Jamie Laird, Team BTC Manager said,

"Bertie has a great talent and we are proud to have been able to support him compete in a sport he loves while continuing to study his A Levels. Bertie also secured a BTC Sports Scholarship which provides additional financial support to talented and dedicated athletes. We are extremely proud of Bertie and his dedication to his studies."



## A Level students get one-to-one support

You will have weekly sessions with a personal tutor and be part of a tutor group. Your tutor will help you set personal development targets and support you throughout your time at College. Our Wellbeing team also offer a safe space to talk and be listened to as part of our suite of support services.

## A Level students go on trips

You may have the opportunity to go on field trips to get first-hand experience of the topic you're learning about. For example, Sociology students have visited HMP Bristol, Law students the Houses of Parliament, and students learning languages have been to France, Italy and the Czech Republic and a departmental trip to Costa Rica!

## Lucy Watson, Deputy Head for A Levels said,

"Watching the students immerse themselves into the Costa Rican culture was a privilege. We visited the Poas and Arenal volcanoes, bathed in hot springs, trekked (and zip wired) through the rainforest, planted trees to offset our carbon footprint and contributed to an afforestation programme to rebuild habitat for the scarlet macaw."

"I couldn't be prouder of the opportunities we have given to our students. Seeing them forge links with families, read to young children, paint the school grounds and leave a lasting impact filled me with pride."

## A Level students get great results

Year on year, our students consistently achieve results that they can be proud of. Each year marks another successful year of academic and personal accomplishments with students celebrating fantastic results across the board.

Joseph Pittard studied A Level Politics, Psychology, Sociology, Geography and achieved A\*AAA before moving onto the University of Bath to study Politics and International Relations. Joseph was awarded the highly esteemed John Biffen award.

## Karen Crowley, Course Leader for A Levels said,

"During his time, Joe was involved in an Erasmus programme, the Wells Cathedral Sixth Form conference and participated in the Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz' series. I am extremely proud of his achievements and so honoured to be part of his learning journey."

## Bill King, Old Morganians' Representative said,

"It is incredible to see how BTC students can excel in these subjects. Looking at Joe's achievements, it amazes me how he found the time to fulfil so many academic accomplishments alongside his studies, this is thanks the A Level programme he studied."



## A Levels are widely recognised by universities and employers

They are established and well-respected qualifications, recognised and valued by universities and employers as a sign of academic ability and intellectual achievement. BTC has extensive links with top universities to support progression.

## A Levels lead to Higher Education

A Levels are a traditional route to Higher Education and previous BTC students have gained places at Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College London, Bristol, Birmingham, Exeter, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, and many other Russell Group universities.

Students at BTC continue to secure places at some of the country's best universities, this year the majority were accepted onto their first-choice course.

Destinations include:

- Oxford University to study Psychology with Linguistics
- University of Bristol to study Engineering Mathematics
- York University to study History
- Cardiff University to study Psychology with professional placement
- Cardiff University to study Law
- University of Plymouth to study

Mathematics

- University of Nottingham to study Sociology
- University of Indianapolis to study Sports Management
- University of Southampton to study Aeronautics and Astronautics

## A Levels subjects are exciting and varied

At BTC, there are 27 different A Level subjects to choose from. Some of these will be familiar – such as Art & Design, Computer Science, Biology, French, Geography and Physics – but college may be the first opportunity you've had to explore subjects like Criminology, Psychology, Law, Politics, Sociology or Fashion & Textiles! You should choose subjects that fit well together and are accepted for your preferred university course, but our team can help you decide what works best for you and your career goals. Please read on to find out more detail about each of the A Level subjects we offer.





# A Levels

Progression to A Level study is, for many students, the natural next step in their post-16 education following successful completion of GCSEs. BTC offers an exciting A Level programme involving a wide variety of subjects, including some you may not have had the chance to study before, for example: Economics, Law, Politics and Psychology.

SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO



A Levels

SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO



A Levels Enrichment

“I’ve taken part in Team BTC’s football team and chose to complete an Extended Project Qualification alongside the Honours Academy’s Pathway to Medicine. I recommend getting involved with the sports teams and trying new activities regardless of your ability level. An EPQ is a great way to show universities that you’re actively engaged with a specific field and that you have a good level of commitment and effort. It’s also worth UCAS points.”

Todd Watts | A Levels (Maths, Biology, Chemistry)  
Haygrove

MY BTC ADVANTAGE **EFFECTIVE LEARNER**

BRIDGWATER  
CAMPUS

Many subjects use a range of guest speakers, visits and residentials to enrich your learning. In the last few years these trips have included Sociology students visiting HM Prison Bristol, Law students going to Parliament, students studying languages going to Paris, and trips to Prague, Italy, Costa Rica and many more.

## Teaching

During your two years of study you will receive four and a half hours of lessons per subject per week. You are expected to complete a significant amount of study out of the classroom, which will be a combination of homework and self-directed study. To complete this independent study, you have access to a study room available just to A Level students, and a dedicated space in the LRC.

## Tutorials

Alongside your A Levels, you also have two hours each week with your personal tutor and tutor group. This time is set aside for you to complete group activities and have 1:1s with your personal tutor who sets and monitors your personal targets. The personal tutorial programme also includes guest speakers, progression events and the UCAS exhibition.

## Enrichment

In addition to your A Level subjects and tutorials, enrichment forms the fourth part of your A Level programme. The A Level department offers a wide range of interesting and engaging enrichment activities to enhance and support your academic experience.

## Extended Project Qualification

One enrichment option is to take an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ); this is equivalent to half an A Level and is in addition to your three chosen A Level subjects.

Students are required to choose a topic they find particularly interesting and conduct a research project culminating in a report or piece of art, model or film installation. The project will enrich

your academic portfolio and develop your initiative, as well as improving your research, organisation, reflection and evaluation skills. This enrichment is particularly recommended for those students intending to apply to university.

## Honours Academy:

This Academy is for A Level students who are ambitious, driven and keen to access a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities. The Academy will help stretch and challenge you to progress to leading universities and sought-after employment by offering additional tuition and skills development. The Academy has links with a wide range of higher education institutions, including Oxbridge, undertakes a range of project work and has access to many guest speakers from different walks of life as well as academia.

## Academic Scholarship

If you are ambitious and predicted to achieve highly in your GCSEs, then you can apply for the A Level Academic Scholarship. This offers students specialist, additional tutoring and support. Please see website to apply.

## Pathways to Medicine

Pathways to Medicine is an extension of the Honours Academy programme and designed to support students applying for medicine-based courses at university, whether this be a medical degree or a qualification in nursing, children’s nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy etc. those enrolled on the programme have access to a range of guest speakers, undertake an independent research project and receive 1:1 support with their university applications.



The guidance and support provided by my teachers have played a pivotal role in my education. They have been instrumental in assisting me with my application for the Sutton Trust, which grants an opportunity to study in the USA. My teachers have provided references, continuous support and helped me explore scholarship options. Studying abroad is an extraordinary challenge, as it is not a common opportunity, but I am thrilled and eager to embark on this journey.

Aaron Greenwood | Geography,  
Maths, Spanish  
Chilton Trinity

MY BTC ADVANTAGE  
HIGHER ASPIRATIONS



## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The standard entry requirement for A Levels is a minimum of five GCSE in the 9 to 5 range, including maths and English.

You do not necessarily have to have studied your chosen subjects at GCSE level to take it at A Level, but some subjects have specific entry requirements.



SUBJECT	SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Art & Design	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Art, Textiles or Graphics. Grade 5 or above in English and you may require a second interview.
Computer Science	Five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range, including maths and English. You may find this subject challenging if you achieve lower than a 6 in maths.
Drama & Theatre	Grade 5 or above in English and relevant experience is recommended. You may require a second interview.
Fashion & Textiles	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Art, Textiles or Graphics. Grade 5 or above in English and you may require a second interview. A previous qualification in Textiles is not essential, but you will need to demonstrate a keen interest and dedication to developing your skills.
Physical Education (BTEC Extended Certificate)	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Sport or PE. A BTEC or equivalent in Sport will be considered.
Biology Chemistry Physics	Grade 6 in the science you wish to study or two 6s in Double Science, and grade 5 or above in English. You may find these subjects challenging if you achieve lower than a 6 in maths.
French Spanish	Five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including French and/or Spanish.
Business Economics Psychology	Five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range, including maths and English. You may find these subjects challenging if you achieve lower than a 6 in maths.
Criminology Applied Diploma Design Technology English Language English Language & Literature English Literature Geography History - Early Modern History - Modern Law Media Photography Politics Sociology	Five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English.
Further Maths	Grade 7 or above in maths is essential, and four GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English.
Maths	Grade 6 or above in GCSE maths and four GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English.

## HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR A LEVEL SUBJECTS

This is not as simple as it may seem. It's a process that requires you to think about multiple factors and consider the advice you're given, and it's ok to change your mind.

Our priority is to ensure you choose the right subjects for you, so we've designed our application process to give you as much support as possible in making this decision.

This flow-chart outlines the stages in your decision-making process to help make it easier.

1

### Consider the subjects you study at school

Write a list of the subjects you really enjoy studying at school.

**Would you like to continue studying some GCSE subjects at A Level?**

2

### Read the subject overviews in the prospectus

One of the fantastic things about our A Level programme is that you can study new subjects.

**Add topics of interest to your list.**

3

### Visit our website ([www.btc.ac.uk](http://www.btc.ac.uk))

Each A Level subject page on our website includes more detail and activities designed to help give you an idea of what it's like to study that subject. They include contact details, so feel free to ask subject-specific questions.

**Complete the online taster activities.**

4

### What do you want to study at university or which career interests you?

Firstly, it's fine if you have no idea, but if you do know, you should find out if certain subjects are needed at A Level. For example, if you wish to study medicine, it's usually compulsory to have studied Biology and Chemistry.

**Visit [www.informedchoices.ac.uk](http://www.informedchoices.ac.uk) and [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)**

5

### Apply to BTC

If you have decided on your three subjects, pop these on your application form, but if not, submit an application for 'A Levels'.

**Apply online or use the form at the back of the prospectus.**

7

### A Level subject tasters

If you accept your offer and secure your place at BTC, you'll be invited to take part in subject tasters. These are another chance to discover what it's like to study a subject. If you attend and want to change your subject choice, just send us an email.

**Take part in subject tasters.**

6

### Interview

You'll be invited to an interview with one of our experienced A Level tutors then sent a conditional offer.

**Ask questions and discuss your subject choices.**

8

### Enrolment review

After you have been with us for a couple of weeks, there's still time to change subjects. You'll meet your tutor to complete an enrolment review where we double check you are happy with your choices and make changes if necessary.





**My greatest achievement at BTC was my successful application to the Students' Union. I feel it's so important for student voices to be acknowledged. I am the Inclusion and Mental Health Officer. As part of my role, I run an LGBTQ+ club every Tuesday lunchtime, which provides members of the community with a safe and also social space. It's something I'm very proud of and passionate about.**

Grace Smith | A Levels (Psychology, Sociology, Fine Art)  
Heathfield Community School

**MORE COMMUNITY  
MINDED**



## Art & Design

Whether you dream of long days in the studio, an academic career in art history, your artwork used in advertising for your favourite products or a creative outlet which complements your academic studies, an A Level in art and design will support your future in creative media and the expressive arts.

You will be fully supported by professional, exhibiting teaching staff, and given the opportunity to develop your creative ability while broadening your contextual understanding.

Negotiating briefs, creative problem solving and working to deadlines are all skills which separate creative arts students in a competitive marketplace. Alongside an academic study programme, art and design provides a creative outlet, adding variety to the week; a place where critical thinking and self-reflection drives ambitious, expressive solutions.

Topics include:

- Printmaking
- Graphic design
- Painting
- Sculpture
- Drawing
- Installation.

### Entry Requirements

You need grade 5 or above in GCSE Art, Textiles or Graphics, plus grade 5 or above in English and you will require a second interview.

### Assessment Methods

Your final A Level submission will be made up of two projects. Each is documented through a sketchbook – paper or digital. The Personal Investigation is the larger of the two and is guided by your own creative ideas. It runs from September to January and your original ideas will be fully supported by dedicated lecturers who encourage development through practice. A fully supported, extended writing piece accompanies this and allows academic

writing to help inform your practical work. The second project is based on a paper of themes set by the examining board. It runs from February to May. You will have three months to research and experiment prior to your final exam – a week of practical work culminating in your final piece.

### Additional Costs

A materials fee is collected when you enrol and there are additional costs if you take part in residential trips. These can be purchased/paid for via the College online store when you enrol.

### Progression Options:

Many progress to a Foundation Diploma in Art & Design or BA Fine Art at University Centre Somerset to refine their portfolio before embarking on a university qualification in subjects such as interior design, illustration, fine art, education, applied arts or art history.

## Biology

During Biology A Level you will gain an understanding of organism's structure, function, genetics, evolution, ecology, distribution and classification. You will study biochemistry and physiology by looking at the fundamental chemistry of life, cell physiology, and examination of the physical and chemical functions of tissues, organs and organ systems. These are studied through a hands-on approach, with experiments including genetic engineering technologies, enzyme investigations, factors affecting photosynthesis and respiration, the spread of disease and production of slides, including plant chromosomes.

The practical work ranges from microscopic examination of specimens to biochemical and physiological investigations and it supports the theory covered in each module. Emphasis is made of the social, ethical and applied aspects of biology in relation to the theoretical background, in both national and international contexts.

Topics include:

- Biological processes
- Diversity and unified concepts
- Molecules
- Cells and transport
- Evolution
- Genetics
- Ecology
- Biochemistry.

### Entry Requirements

You need grade 6 in Biology, or two 6s in combined science, and grade 5 or above in English and Maths.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up of two/three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

### Progression Options

Most students who study biology progress to biological or biomedical courses. In the past students leaving this course have, for example, taken degrees in medicine and health care, veterinary science, marine biology, biotechnology and biochemistry, often at Russell Group universities. After graduation, many have also moved into research and higher degree qualifications.

### Additional Costs

To comply with our safety policy, all students are expected to buy a lab coat which can be purchased via the College online store when you enrol. We also suggest you buy an appropriate textbook and revision guide.

## Business

The Business A Level provides you with opportunities to develop important skills and relevant tools such as critical thinking, analysis and evaluation of businesses in their dynamic environments. Guest speakers are invited to the College and business trips are in place to identify, enhance and contextualise the learning.

Students study business in a variety of contexts, consider and discuss different types of businesses in various industries, nationally as well as internationally. Furthermore, correlations and relationships of business activities and functions will be analysed throughout both years.

Competitiveness and its impact on markets is an essential topic of this A Level subject. When analysing the business environment, we will review and evaluate social, ethical and environmental issues. The various factors that influence decision-making daily (short vs. long-run) will be considered by researching and discussing business and industry examples. Overall, by reviewing data (quantitative and qualitative), external and internal influences, you will get to know how a business is run, how and why decisions are made.

Topics include:

- What is business?
- Managers, leadership and decision making
- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing the strategic direction
- Strategic methods
- Managing strategic change.

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English and Maths.

### Assessment Methods:

You will be assessed through written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up of three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

### Progression Options

Students who have gained this qualification have gone onwards to many of the top universities such as, Oxford/Cambridge, Exeter, Manchester, Cardiff, Bristol and London School of Economics. Many are studying law, finance and various specialised business subjects such as logistics, marketing and PR.



**I am thrilled to have secured a Golf scholarship at the University of Indianapolis, as it perfectly aligns with my passion for the sport. The prospect of pursuing Sports Management during my studies excites me, particularly the business aspect that I have become more familiar with through my A Level Business Studies course and participation in the College's sports team. My tutor's support throughout the application process has been invaluable.**

Jess Haines | A Levels (Psychology, Geography, Geology, Business)  
Kings of Wessex Academy

**MY BTC ADVANTAGE  
EFFECTIVE LEARNER**





**My favourite moment was getting my first university offer. It really reminded me how far I've come in these two years and how much I've developed as a person. I had a huge amount of help choosing which university is best for me, as well as support writing my personal statement and fine-tuning it, all so I can achieve my full potential.**

**Joseph Pittard** | A Levels (Politics, Psychology, Sociology)  
Bridgwater College Academy

**EFFECTIVE LEARNER**



## Chemistry

A Level Chemistry gives you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of chemistry. It covers the key concepts of chemistry with practical skills integrated throughout the course. This combination of academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A Level Chemistry highly appealing.

You will learn about chemistry in a range of contexts, investigate and solve problems and build practical skills through a range of experiments and investigations. You will develop a sound grasp of theories, concepts, and chemicals, many of which you meet in everyday life; what are polymers and how are they made, how do they 'design' pharmaceuticals, what exactly are catalysts and which chemical elements and compounds do we rely upon day after day? Chemistry and the work of the chemist is all around us and understanding that in a very practical way makes the subject exciting.

Topics include:

- Foundations in chemistry
- The periodic table and energy
- Core organic chemistry
- Physical chemistry and the transition elements
- Organic chemistry and analysis.

### Entry Requirements

You need grade 6 in Chemistry or two 6s in double science, and grade 5 or above in English and Maths.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. The written exams assess your knowledge of both theory and practical skills. Your final A Level exam will be made up of three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

### Progression Options

A Level Chemistry is an excellent base for a university degree in healthcare such as medicine, pharmacy, and dentistry as well as the biological sciences, physics, mathematics, pharmacology, analytical chemistry, and law. There is a growing number of students starting Higher Apprenticeships after their A Levels and some find employment in the technical and analytical world of work.

### Additional Costs

To comply with our safety policy, you are expected to buy a lab coat which can be purchased via the College online store when you enrol. You will also need a calculator and we suggest you buy an appropriate textbook.

## Computer Science

University courses in many other disciplines now require an understanding of computational theory, and undergraduate students in many subjects often find themselves programming their own bespoke systems for analysing final year projects and dissertations.

A Level Computer Science is also for students who have a passion for technology and want to pursue a career in this exciting and rapidly developing global industry. The subject will appeal to you if you would like to become a games developer, programmer, web developer, or technical support assistant. The skills developed on this course are transferable to future employment in various roles. Computer science sits well alongside all other A Level subjects but is often chosen to complement mathematics and science subjects.

Topics include:

- Fundamentals of programming, data structures and algorithms
- Theory of computation
- Fundamentals of data representation and computer systems
- Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture

- Consequences of uses of computing
- Fundamentals of communication, networking and databases
- Big data
- Fundamentals of functional programming
- Systematic approach to problem solving.

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range, including maths and English, and you may find this subject challenging if you achieve lower than a 6 in maths.

### Assessment Methods

Formal summative assessments are in the form of one practical programming exam and one written exam at the end of the second year. There is a NEA (non-examined assessment) – coursework (20%) which you start working towards in your first year.

Formative assessments will be carried out throughout the year in a variety of ways including coursework and homework. You will be required to learn to program in both first and second year (currently our language of choice is C#) and your non-exam assessment coursework will involve an extensive investigation and programmed solution.

### Progression Options

Most students progress to a higher education course at a UK university or remain at the College to study a degree at University Somerset Centre. Students who study computer science at university often have a year in industry during their third year then return to university for the final fourth year. Some students wish to progress to a Degree Apprenticeship, which is an equally wise option.

## Criminology (Level 3 Applied Diploma)

If you choose to study criminology, you will achieve a Diploma qualification taken in place of an A Level subject and therefore should be taken alongside two other subjects – it works particularly well with the humanities subjects.

Criminology is the perfect qualification if you are interested in all things criminal and are considering a career within the criminal justice system. The qualification involves the study of criminal behaviour and its effects, patterns of crime, criminal statistics and various processes within the criminal justice system. The subject draws together criminal aspects of psychology, law and sociology in seeking answers to academic and societal questions, such as what causes criminal behaviour, what is the effect of crime on society and how crime has changed in the last 100 years.

The Diploma involves study of four mandatory units.

### • Changing Awareness of Crime

In the first unit will you will study the different types of crimes, learning the difference between individual offences, white collar crimes and technological crimes. You will also consider which types of crimes are the most unreported, and the reasons for this, specifically consider the role of the media in this context.

### • Criminological Theories

In the second unit you draw upon your understanding of what crime is gained in Unit 1 and consider why individuals commit crime, drawing up psychological and sociological theories. You will also consider how these theories and social change affect policy development in crime.

### • Crime Scene to Courtroom

The third unit will provide you with an understanding of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified, to the verdict.

In this law-focused unit you will learn the techniques used to gather evidence in criminal cases along with the procedures to effectively investigate a crime. You will also develop an understanding of the criminal trial process with an outline of the role of the different types of legal personnel and lay people within this process.



### • Crime and Punishment

In the final mandatory unit, you will apply your understanding of the awareness of criminality, criminological theories and the process of bringing an accused to court in order to evaluate the effectiveness of social control to deliver criminal justice policy. In this unit you will further consider the processes of the criminal justice system alongside the processes of law-making, you will also study theories of social control with the aims and types of punishment available.

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English.

### Assessment Methods

The assessment is 50% external examination and 50% controlled assessment.

### Additional Costs

You are expected to buy a course textbook which is around £25 and can be purchased via the College online store when you enrol.

### Progression Options

This course is designed for any student who is considering a career within the criminal justice system or criminology as a topic for further study. It is important to note that this qualification is not recognised by all universities, particularly the most elite, so this course may not be suitable for all students undertaking an A Level programme.



## Design Technology

Product design (3D design) helps you take a broad view of design and technology, develop the capacity to appreciate engineering design, production of goods and appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing. You will gain a good understanding of design theory, movements and develop an insight into well-known designers, and develop an appreciation of the design process from concept ideas, research and development through model making, freehand and CAD drawings to the realisation and making of the final product.

You will learn how design prototypes can be manufactured into the products we use in our everyday lives. This will include the study of materials and their properties, production processes and modern manufacturing systems. There is a big practical element of the course where you will be working in the design workshop.

Topics include:

- Materials, components and application
- Design theory
- Designers, styles and movements
- CAD and design drawing
- Learning through designing and making
- Design and manufacture
- Design and making practice.



## Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English.

## Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through written examinations, practical projects and coursework. With regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up of two/three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

## Progression Options

An A Level in DesignTechnology is an excellent route to university-level engineering qualifications. You could study an HND, degree or advanced engineering or design & technology related Apprenticeship, or find employment. Alternatively, it can also lead to a degree and career in product design.

## Additional Costs

All students are expected to purchase safety shoes, overalls, safety glasses and sketchbook, which will be used throughout both years. These can be purchased via the College online store when you enrol.

## Drama and Theatre

This exciting and inspiring subject will prepare you for further study at degree level or career and apprenticeships in the industry. You will have the opportunity to perform with your peers in a variety of genres and show your participation in the creation, development and performance of three pieces of theatre for your final assessment.

Throughout the programme, you will study a variety of theatre practitioners and performance techniques, develop a range of theatre making skills and develop an understanding and appreciation of how social, cultural and historical context of performance texts have influenced the development of drama and theatre.

You will perform both devised and scripted works, as well as study separate play-texts as part of your final written examination. You also have access to The McMillan Theatre, which is the College's state-of-the-art 350-seat theatre and performing arts centre.

This subject promotes and encourages a variety of skills that can be used across any discipline, including presentation skills, communicating effectively with confidence, working with others and creative thinking/problem solving. It contributes to prospects in any creative role due to its inclusion of how to appreciate artistic interpretation. Trips to live theatre events are integral to this subject as it is essential for you to analyse live theatre as part of your exam.

Topics include:

- Theatre Workshop, the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text
- Text in Action, the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus
- Text in Performance, an analytical study of three play texts studied during the two years.

## Entry Requirements

You need grade 5 or above in English and Maths. A second practical interview is required, and previous experience is recommended.

## Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through performance and written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up of two/three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of your second year. The practical pieces will be supported by coursework to record and evaluate both process and performance.

## Additional Costs

A compulsory trip fee is collected when you enrol and there are additional costs if you take part in residential trips. These can be purchased/paid for via the College online store when you enrol.

## Progression Options

Many students go on to study acting and theatre at university or drama school. Previously students have gone on to study at East 15, Drama Centre, LIPA, Italia Conti and many of the UK's top universities.



## Economics

A Level Economics is ideal for anyone who wishes to develop an understanding of the dynamics between consumers, firms and the government in a real-world environment. Key economic principles and the links between microeconomics and macroeconomics will be discovered alongside government policy and national as well as international economic performance. Develop your skills in lateral thinking, analysis, and problem-solving skills. Economics can be studied alone or alongside a range of other subjects at university, including finance, politics, business and international studies.

The course is split between micro and macroeconomics and will be of interest to anyone who wants to understand human behaviour and (ir)rational thinking of individuals and firms in the context of the economy. Micro build models of firm and individual behaviour and investigate how economies work and why governments intervene in markets. This informs macroeconomics and gives you an overview of the world around you and the impact governments and firms make to everyday life.



Topics include:

- The economic problem and economic methodology
- Price determination in a competitive market
- Production, costs and revenue
- The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
- Market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets
- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- How the macroeconomy works
- Economic performance
- Financial markets and monetary policy.

## Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English and maths. You may find these subjects challenging if you achieve lower than a 5 in maths.

## Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up of three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

## Progression Options

Economics is a highly regarded A Level, and sits well alongside other humanities and science based subjects. In recent times students gained entry into some of the top UK universities such as, Oxford/Cambridge, Manchester, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter. Many students have gained unconditional offers when presenting this subject and their UCAS forms. Students studied a range of undergraduate qualifications including finance, banking, law, economics and a wide range of business led subjects.





**On campus, I feel happy and safe, thanks to the implementation of lanyards. This simple solution enhances safeguarding by easily identifying individuals. My confidence has grown personally and academically, largely due to the BTC's role in identifying my dyslexia. Through a diagnosis assessment here, I gained valuable insights, and since then, my work has improved significantly.**

Jack Cridland | A Levels  
(English Lang, Sociology, Drama)  
Bridgwater College Academy

**MY BTC ADVANTAGE  
SAFER, HEALTHIER,  
HAPPIER**

## English Language and Literature

English Language and Literature A Level will introduce you to a wide variety of texts to examine from both a literary and linguistic viewpoint. A selection of poetry, novels, and dramatic texts, such as Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, are studied in conjunction with a multitude of non-literary material, such as media-based writings. There is also a creative writing strand to the course, in which students study a novel together and are tasked with re-writing an extract.

The subject is assessed through exams and independent coursework, for which students choose their own texts and topics to investigate. This course is ideal for anyone wanting to study English at a higher level or wanting a career in any communications-led field, such as journalism, publishing, marketing or education.

Topics include:

- Remembered places
- Imagined worlds
- Poetic voices
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities
- Writing about society
- Critical commentary
- Dramatic encounters.

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up of two/three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

### Additional Costs

All students are expected to purchase a range of English language and literature textbooks which will be used throughout both years. These can be purchased via the College online store when you enrol.

### Progression Options

Students who have gained this qualification have gone on to many of the top universities such as, Oxbridge, Exeter, Kings College, Exeter, Manchester, Warwick, Durham and Edinburgh. Many are studying literature, history, teaching degrees, journalism, politics, psychology, cultural studies, drama and American studies.



## English Language

A Level English Language is a fascinating subject which will develop your knowledge of how we use language far beyond what you learnt at GCSE. It is ideal for anyone preparing for a future career in journalism, publishing, marketing, public relations, and all fields in which written and spoken methods of communication are important.

You will study a range of linguistic concepts, analyse your own idiolect (the words and phrases you use), along with a wide variety of spoken and written texts ranging from Shakespeare to social media.

Studying the development of children's spoken language from birth to seven years of age is a highlight for most students, as well as investigating how and why the English language has changed between the 17th and 21st centuries. You will also have the opportunity to craft your own writing for a variety of purposes and audiences and conduct your own independent language investigation for coursework.

Topics include:

- Language today
- Context
- Language diversity and children's language
- English language, investigation and presentation.

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up of two/three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

### Additional Costs

All students are expected to purchase a range of English language textbooks which will be used throughout both years. These can be purchased via the College online store when you enrol.

### Progression Options

Students who have gained this qualification have gone to study in many of the top universities such as Bristol, Kings College London, Manchester, Leeds, Exeter, Nottingham and Edinburgh. Many are studying journalism, primary teaching, media, linguistics, speech therapy, cultural studies and international relations.

## English Literature

During your English Literature A Level, you will study a broad and engaging selection of poetry, novels, and dramatic texts from across the literary periods, by writers such as William Shakespeare, Emily Brontë and

Carol Ann Duffy. In addition to learning to unpick intricate layers of meaning, you will explore the cultural and historical influences on writers and learn to apply literary criticism.

English Literature A Level will provide you with acutely developed analytical skills much valued in higher education and by employers. It is also useful for the study of other A Level subjects. The course is assessed through exams and independent coursework, for which students choose their own focus to pursue.

Topics include:

- Poetry
- Drama
- Texts in time
- Period and genre study.

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up of two/three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

### Additional Costs

All students are expected to purchase a range of English literature textbooks which will be used throughout both years. These can be purchased via the College online store when you enrol.

### Progression Options

Students who have gained this qualification are now studying at many of the top universities such as Oxbridge, Exeter, Kings College, Exeter, Manchester, Warwick, Durham and Edinburgh. Many are studying literature, history, teaching degrees, journalism, politics, psychology, cultural studies, drama and American studies.





**The Pathways to Oxbridge group, part of the Honours Academy, has helped me carve out the best post-college future I could have envisaged for myself. I was given support and feedback on my personal statement to ensure my university application could be as successful as possible. My greatest achievement was receiving the grades to secure a place at Oxford University.**

Bradley Croucher | A Levels (Maths, Psychology and Further Maths)  
Haygrove School

### HIGHER ASPIRATIONS



## Fashion and Textiles

Fashion and Textiles A Level is a highly creative subject that will give you an insight into the diverse application of materials, techniques and processes relevant to the fashion and textiles specialism. You will bring a conceptual approach to the subject through exploring the work of others, taking part in technical workshops, experimenting independently and developing your own ideas around topics of interest to you. You will work with both set and self-negotiated briefs to develop skills of problem solving, creative thinking, practical application of knowledge and understanding linked to academic research.

All aspects of garment construction and textile design are taught, to enable creative outcomes that are sure to challenge future designers. There is a strong link to the Fashion Academy and employers beyond the College which result in opportunities to build further transferable skills including communication, teamwork, event organisation and presentation through innovative, professional projects.

Topics include:

- Fashion design and illustration
- Pattern cutting and garment construction
- Surface pattern
- Knitting, weaving and felt making
- Contextual understanding
- Professional presentation methods.

### Entry Requirements

You need grade 5 or above in GCSE Art, Textiles or Graphics, plus grade 5 or above in English and you will require a second interview. A previous qualification in Textiles is not essential, but you will need to demonstrate a keen interest and dedication to developing your skills.

### Assessment Methods

Your work will be assessed through a range of methods including projects, coursework, essays, presentations and practical application of skills. Your A Level exam will be made up of a practical exam at the end of year two. A final exhibition is assessed by an external examiner.

### Additional Costs

A materials and studio fee is collected when you enrol. There are additional costs for specific materials and if you take part in residential trips. These can be purchased/paid for via the College online store when you enrol.

### Progression Options

This A Level subject allows you to enrol in degrees in fashion design, textile/surface design, fashion business, marketing, costume or fashion journalism.

You could also start a Foundation Diploma in Art & Design or Apprenticeship/Higher Apprenticeship in a related area eg. sewn products, leather goods. Alternatively, you could find employment in related area or set-up your own fashion or textiles brand or creative business.

## French

A Level French provides an engaging and exciting opportunity for students to build on their previous study of French at GCSE. Through social, intellectual, historical and political cultural themes, students will be able to develop their linguistic knowledge and cultural understanding of the countries and communities where the language is spoken. A strong focus is placed on building students' confidence and fluency in spoken French using relevant and topical themes.

The course begins with revision, building on prior grammatical knowledge with personal grammar booklets, online exercises and small group sessions for support. Themes include what life is like for young French-speaking people today. In your first year, you watch and study a French film, while in your second year you will explore literature in the target language as well as choosing an area of personal interest to research and present during your speaking exam. This could relate to the country or communities where French is spoken and offers you the opportunity to deepen your cultural awareness.

Topics include:

- Being a young person in a French-speaking society
- Changes in family, marriage and divorce
- Use of technology in France amongst young people
- Education systems, travel and work opportunities
- Regional culture and heritage in France
- Media, art, film and music in the French-speaking world
- Immigration and integration – problems and benefits
- Cultural enrichment and celebrating difference
- Life in Occupied France, the Resistance, political and cultural consequences.

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including French.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through listening, reading, writing and speaking examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up two exam papers and one speaking test covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

### Progression Options

The large majority of our students go on to university with many studying French combined with another subject. Many students also take advantage of the international programmes on offer at university, which offers you the chance to spend a year working or studying abroad. You might even decide to work and live in France or a French-speaking country to practise and improve your language skills.

## Further Maths

Further Maths will really excite and challenge you, giving you the opportunity to develop your thinking skills, mathematical modelling ability and appreciation of the subject in a new and enjoyable way. This subject is challenging and academically demanding but will provide you with a wealth of opportunities.

The first year covers all A Level Maths topics which build upon your GCSE knowledge and provide the building blocks for all the other modules and branches of mathematics. You also study some of the applications of maths. In mechanics you will look at topics such as kinematics, forces and Newton's laws, while in statistics you learn about statistical distributions and hypothesis testing.

During your second year you will study the Further Maths topics covering core and pure mathematics, further statistics and further mechanics.

Topics include:

- Complex numbers
- Matrices
- Further calculus
- Hyperbolic functions

- Differential equations
- Vector equation of a plane.

### Entry Requirements

Grade 7 or above in Maths is essential, plus four GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English.

### Assessment Methods

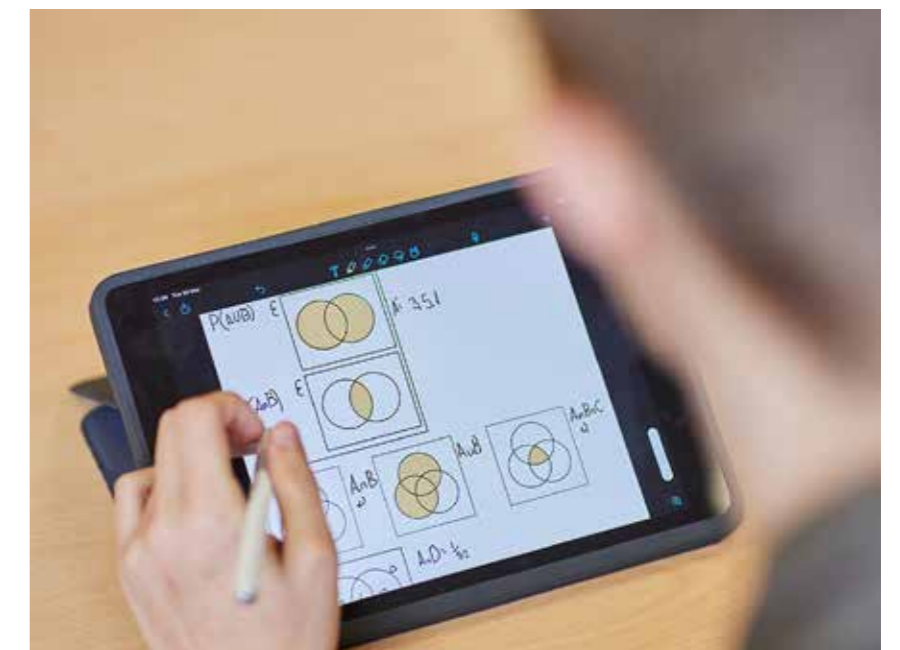
You will be assessed through written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exams will consist of three A Level maths papers and four further maths papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

### Additional Costs

All students must have a scientific calculator, (we use Casio models) these can be purchased via the College online store when you enrol.

### Progression Options

A Level Further Maths is highly valued by employers in a wide range of industries as evidence of your ability to solve problems and learn new skills. Many of our students go on to study courses with a high mathematical content at university, such as engineering, finance, mathematics, computing etc. Some students have also applied for Apprenticeships.





## Geography

A Level Geography is a subject that blends well with both science and social science A Levels because of the broad range of topics studied. The subject covers both human and physical geography which include topics such as piracy, human trafficking, climate change, plate tectonics, biodiversity and many things in between. You do not need to have studied geography at GCSE level, but this would be an advantage along with an interest in contemporary world issues.

Fieldwork is a vital part of this course and you will be spending at least four days in the field over the two-year course. We visit the Somerset Coast, Bristol Harbourside Redevelopment, Steart Salt Marshes and the Quantock Hills. These field trips help you develop skills such as data collection, presentation and analysis, drawing conclusions and evaluating your work. These skills are necessary to complete the coursework element of the course where you will conduct your own investigation into a topic of your choice. They are also very valuable skills for university and employment. In conjunction with other similar subjects, we run international residential visits which have previously included trips to Italy and Iceland.

Topics include:

- Changing coastal landscapes
- Changing places
- Tectonic hazards
- Ecosystems
- Water and carbon cycles
- Global governance: change and challenges
- China.

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English.



### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through an independent fieldwork investigation of 3,000 to 4,000 words and written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exams will be made up of three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

### Additional Costs

Over the two-year course, students will be spending at least four days in the field which will have a small transport and/or entrance fee. All students and parents/carers will be made aware of the trips in advance for payments to be made via the College online store.

### Progression Options

Geography is highly valued by universities as an A Level choice. It has been classed by the Russell Group of universities as one of eight facilitating subjects. These are the subjects most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses. Choosing geography will keep more options open to you at university. A Level geographers are also preferred by many employers because of the wide range of transferable skills that are acquired throughout the course.

## History – Early Modern

History gives you an insight into how historians investigate and interpret the past and provides the tools to examine historical and contemporary sources to determine their reliability and utility. This subject allows you to develop the skills of a working historian by understanding the historical key concepts of change, continuity, causation, consequence, significance and perspectives.

Our early modern history route examines revolutions in early modern and modern Europe, with a focus upon the English civil wars and the French Revolution. During the second year, you will study political agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, as well as completing a coursework module. This will provide you with an opportunity to produce an independent research project investigating why historians disagree about an issue of your choosing. In addition, students will have the opportunity to involve themselves in community projects, as well as a residential abroad.

Topics include:

- Britain 1625-1701: conflict, revolution and settlement, 1625-1701
- France in revolution, 1774-99
- Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780-1928

- Changing influences in parliament, 1780-1928
- Radical reformers, 1790-1819
- Contagious Diseases Act and the campaign for their repeal, 1862-86
- The Women's Social and Political Union, 1903-14
- Trade union militancy, 1917-27.

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through three written examinations at the end of your second year. You are also required to submit a 4,000 word coursework essay.

### Progression Options

A good grade in A Level History is highly valued by all universities. It is suitable for those intending to study a wide range of subjects at undergraduate level but may be of particular value to those intending to study history, archaeology, politics, law or English. Several alumni have successfully gained places to read history at Oxbridge or Russell Group universities. A handful of alumni now hold doctorates in the field.

## History – Modern

History gives you an insight into how historians investigate and interpret the past and provides the tools to examine historical and contemporary sources to determine their reliability and utility. This subject allows you to develop the skills of a working historian by understanding the historical key concepts of change, continuity, causation, consequence, significance and perspectives.

Our modern history route examines the issue of rights and freedoms in the modern world, with a focus upon 20th century American history, as well as India's struggle for independence from British rule. During the second year, you will study political agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, as well as completing a coursework

module. This will provide you with an opportunity to produce an independent research project investigating why historians disagree about an issue of your choosing. In addition, students will have the opportunity to involve themselves in community projects, as well as residential trips.

Topics include:

- Search of the American dream: the USA, 1917-96
- The changing political environment and the quest for civil rights, 1917-80
- India, 1914-48: The road to independence
- The first world war and its impact on British India, 1914-20
- Changing political relationships, 1920-30
- Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, 1780-1928
- Changing influences in parliament, 1780-1928
- Radical reformers, 1790-1819
- Contagious diseases act and the campaign for their repeal, 1862-86

- The women's social and political union, 1903-14
- Trade union militancy, 1917-27.

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through three written examinations at the end of your second year. You are also required to submit a 4,000 word coursework essay.

### Progression Options

A good grade in A Level history is highly valued by all universities. It is suitable for those intending to study a wide range of subjects at undergraduate level but may be of particular value to those intending to study history, archaeology, politics, law or English. Several alumni have successfully gained places to read History at Oxbridge or Russell Group universities. A handful of alumni now hold doctorates in the field.





## Law

Law provides the perfect introduction to the subject for any student who wishes to study it at degree level or work in the legal sector. Alternatively, it is a good A Level choice for any student simply interested in finding out more about the society we live in. You will learn how laws are made, what decisions the courts make and the difference between the various types of legal personnel eg. barristers, solicitors and legal executives. Most of your study will be focussed on three substantive areas of law, namely, criminal law, tort law and contract law. Students will study these topics through the analysis of real-life case studies and the analysis of statute law.

Law complements many other A Level subjects, particularly those of English, politics, history, psychology, sociology and business. Law allows students to develop academic skills including analysis and evaluation, and to make an informed decision about future careers. Students interested in becoming solicitors, barristers or legal executives would be aptly suited to the study of law; but so too would those interested in careers in academia, criminology, business, politics, government, business and/or economics.

Topics include:

- The legal system
- Law making
- Criminal law
- Law of tort
- Nature of law
- Law of contract.

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up of three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

### Progression Options

Many students go on to study law or law-related degrees at university, as well as degrees in other subjects. A Level Law is well respected as a qualification by employers. Some students go on to become legal apprentices straight after A Levels and it is a good basis, along with other A Levels, for finding employment in a wide range of careers.

## Maths

Maths underpins science, technology, medicine, economics and government and much, much more. Topics studied include algebra, calculus, trigonometry, logarithms, statistics and mechanics. It is a subject that is exciting, challenging but rewarding and really adds to your understanding of other subjects.

The first year covers pure maths topics which build upon your GCSE knowledge and provides the building blocks for all the other modules and branches of mathematics. You also study some of the applications of maths. In mechanics you will look at topics such as kinematics, forces and Newton's laws, while in statistics you learn about statistical

distributions and hypothesis testing.

During your second year you continue studying pure maths topics which build upon the first year, covering higher level trigonometry and calculus. You will also continue to extend your understanding of the applications of maths within the fields of mechanics and statistics.

Topics include:

- Polynomials and functions
- The binomial expansion
- Trigonometry including radians
- Differentiation and integration
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Vectors in 2 and 3 dimensions.

### Entry Requirements

You need a grade 6 or above in GCSE maths, and four GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will consist of three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

### Progression Options

A Level Maths is highly valued by employers in a wide range of industries as evidence of your ability to solve problems and learn new skills. Many of our students go on to study courses with a high mathematical content at university, such as engineering, finance, mathematics, computing and so on. Some students choose to apply for apprenticeships.

### Additional Costs

All students must have a scientific calculator, (we use Casio models) these can be purchased via the College online store when you enrol.

## Media

This course involves a good mixture of critical analysis and practical production, allowing you to explore creative industries, experiment with modern technologies and develop your analytical and cultural awareness, setting you up as a multi-skilled and savvy future media expert. You will develop a coherent understanding of media forms. You study in excellent facilities at a professional standard using the full Creative Suite on Apple Mac computers. There are residential trips available and the opportunity to work on live briefs within the Media Academy.

With extensive progression routes into the industry, this creative course will enable you to progress to the next step of your education or employment in the creative industries.

Topics include:

- Magazine
- Television drama
- Video games (Minecraft)
- News

- Film
- Advertising and marketing
- Radio.

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range, including English.

### Assessment Methods

Assessment is split between two exams at the end of the second year which are very formulaic, as well as a practical piece of coursework.

### Additional Costs

A materials and studio fee is collected when you enrol and there are additional costs if you take part in residential trips. These can be purchased/paid for via the College online store when you enrol.

### Progression Options

The wide use media and it's transferability makes progression accessible. You will be able to pursue higher education opportunities in media across a range of sectors. You can also remain at the College and study our FdA Media Production at University Centre Somerset.



**I found being at BTC so much fun. It's a completely new lifestyle. I loved the step up from GCSEs, the feeling of collaboration with lecturers, and the encouragement to be yourself and express who you are. I love that I got to learn my chosen subjects, your passions should always form your education. It's the best way to flourish and stay motivated.**

**Poppy Armstrong | A Levels**  
(French, Media, Psychology, English Literature and Language)  
Haygrove School

**MORE EFFECTIVE  
LEARNER**





## Photography

You will have a keen interest in all aspects of photography from film photography to digital and social media photography. Students taking this subject have access to a professionally equipped studio and the use of bookable industry standard equipment and a dark room to fully realise their creative potential.

The course involves a variety of practical, theoretical and historical perspectives relating to photography as art, communication and illustration. Both analogue and digital photography are taught on this course. We cover many types of photography from documentary, portraiture, studio and pinhole whilst experimenting with lighting and location shooting.

You can also join a range of creative academies to further enhance your skillset. These include media, music, design, fashion and photography.

Topics include:

- Lense-less photography
- Skills in exposure theory
- Studio lighting



- Medium/large format techniques
- Composition
- Processing and printing in the darkroom
- Scanning and manipulating images in photoshop on Apple Mac computers
- Presentation techniques

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range, including English.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through coursework and project work that is evidenced through sketchbooks and a portfolio of images, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up of a 15 hour practical exam at the end of the year. You will create exam preparatory work from February up to the exam date.

### Additional Costs

A materials and studio fee is collected when you enrol and there are additional costs if you take part in residential trips. The materials/studio fee covers part of the extensive consumables we use on the course, from sketchbooks to darkroom chemicals.

## Progression Options

You will be able to pursue a range of higher education opportunities, career paths or apprenticeships in the creative sector as well as across a range of other sectors. You can also remain at the College and study our FdA Media Production through the University Centre Somerset.

## Physics

This subject is often described as the study of matter and energy but we will show you that it is so much more than that by looking at concepts such as quantum physics, astrophysics, electromagnetic induction, medical imaging, circular motion and forces in action. The theory is underpinned by hands-on practical work.

In the first year of the course, you build on knowledge gained from GCSE physics starting with topics such as motion and forces. These topics, whilst being more tangible and appearing more basic, will be greatly expanded upon and contain added mathematical context. This will then be followed by energy and materials, which is essential for the understanding of later topics due to the synoptic nature of the course. For example, the electrons, waves and photons module looks firstly at how current moves in circuits and what drives and resists it, then investigates wave behaviour and especially interference. The final section considers the mysterious effects of quantum physics.

Topics include:

- Foundations of physics
- Forces and motion
- Electrons, waves and photons
- Newtonian world and astrophysics
- Particles and medical physics.

## Entry Requirements

You need grade 6 in Physics or two 6s in Double Science, plus grade 5 or above in English and Maths.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up of two/three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

### Additional Costs

You will need a calculator to help with the numerical aspects of this course. A standard scientific calculator will suffice. We recommend Casio FX-83GT Plus scientific calculator.

### Progression Options

A Levels are still the most traditional route to university and each year several students continue their studies through a physics or engineering degree courses. Physics is a high currency A Level qualification. This course is prized by universities and industry alike for its ability to develop logical and lateral thinking numerate individuals who are adept at problem solving.

## Politics

Politics offers the theoretical framework behind the actions of government and promotes a deeper appreciation about what we read and watch in the media. It examines the political systems in both the UK and USA. The key political thinkers



that helped shape these political systems and the way the public engage with and participate in political action.

Politics explores the structure of key institutions such as legislative bodies, executives and judiciary and the power balance and relationships between them. It explores key debates around the democracies in the UK and USA and analyses the extent current systems uphold key western values.

Previously, students have had the opportunity to visit London and the Houses of Parliament, touring the history of the building and each chamber. Politics has close ties with the law A Level law, which gives an opportunity for a residential trip to London to tour several political and legislative sites and explore the city. In addition, students have been involved with Bridgwater Town Council Youth Forum to represent the college and give ideas and opinions on town development.

Topics include:

- UK politics
- Core political ideas
- UK government
- Non-core political ideas
- Government and politics of the USA.

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up of three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

### Progression Options

Politics complements many higher education programmes and develops transferable skills such as debating, interpretation and source analysis. These complement any university degrees, but particularly politics, international relations, history, law and any other humanity-style subject. Politics A Level is also a complementary subject for those considering jobs in the military or working abroad.



## Psychology

Whilst studying the fascinating world of human behaviour, you will encounter many sensitive subjects including mental illness, extreme childhood neglect and animal research. You will study everything from electrocuting rats to Nazi death camps, improving your memory and curing your friends of phobias.

By the end of the course, you will understand why we cannot fully trust eyewitness testimony and why your first relationship with your primary caregiver is so important. You will also discover why children sometimes say the funniest things and how the ideas of Sigmund Freud are still influential today.

You will be assessed through short answer questions, such as labelling parts of the brain and completing mathematical calculations as well as writing essays.

Topics include:

- Approaches
- Attachments
- Memory
- Psychopathology
- Social influence
- Aggression
- Cognitive development
- Schizophrenia
- Biopsychology
- Research methods.

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English and maths. You may find these subjects challenging if you achieve lower than a 5 in maths.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up of three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

### Progression Options

Each year, most A Level graduates progress to university with some choosing to pursue an interest in psychology. Many use the psychology A Level to prove to admission tutors that they have a wide range of skills. A Level psychology is especially useful as it straddles the boundary between science and the humanities, thus indicating the possession of skills in both areas.

## Sociology

You will study a wide of range of topics, looking at theories and explanations for social behaviour and the methods used in social research. Lessons involve discussion, analysis and debate, all of which offer you a real opportunity to get to grips with the material, as well as the chance to prepare yourself for the demands of the exam.

A Level Sociology gives you a strong foundation for further study at degree level. It will provide the learner with the knowledge that can be applied to all aspects of society as it encourages the use of a variety of academic skills, especially thinking critically about the world. Topics include the cause of crime, education inequalities and the role of religion in contemporary society. As well as a varied classroom experience, this subject gives you the opportunity to explore sociological issues by participating in several trips. These include HMP Bristol, Wells Cathedral, Poland/Prague and a Pagan temple.

Topics include:

- Education
- Families and households
- Research methods
- Crime and deviance
- Beliefs in society
- Sociological theory

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including English.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through written examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up of two/three exam papers covering the entire programme at the end of year two.

### Progression Options

As a subject, sociology has universal currency and is expanding in further and higher education. There are many universities which recognise sociology as a valid subject and accept it as an entrance A Level. The majority of universities also offer three year degree courses allowing students to gain a BSc or BA (Hons) in Sociology, often allowing it to be combined with criminology, psychology or other related topics.

Sociology also has importance for a variety

of careers and is viewed as an important part of professional training for a variety of occupations including nursing, personnel, social work, police, probation and teaching.

## Spanish

A Level Spanish provides an engaging and exciting opportunity for you to build on your previous study of Spanish at GCSE level. Through social, intellectual, historical and political cultural themes, you will be able to develop your linguistic knowledge and cultural understanding of the countries and communities where the language is spoken. A strong focus is placed on building your confidence and fluency in spoken Spanish using relevant and topical themes.

In the first year, you watch and study a Spanish film, while in the second year you explore literature in the target language as well as choosing an area of personal interest to research and present during your speaking exam. This could relate to the country or communities where Spanish is spoken and offers you the opportunity to deepen your cultural awareness.

Topics include:

- Being a young person in a Spanish-speaking society
- Changes in family, marriage and divorce
- Education systems, travel and work opportunities

- Understanding the Spanish-speaking world
- Regional culture and heritage in Spain
- Media, art, film and music in the Spanish-speaking world
- Discrimination, diversity and difference
- The two Spain's: 1936 onwards
- El franquismo
- Post-civil war in Spain.

### Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs in the 9 to 5 range including Spanish, Maths and English.

### Assessment Methods

You will be assessed through listening, reading, writing and speaking examinations, with regular internal assessment taking place as the course

unfolds. Your final A Level exam will be made up of two written exam papers and one speaking exam.

### Progression Options

The large majority of our students go on to university with many studying Spanish combined with another subject. Many students also take advantage of the international programmes on offer at university, which offers you the chance to spend a year working or studying abroad. You might even decide to work and live in Spain or Latin America to practice and improve your language skills.





# College Life

SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO



**Indulging in your passions is more than just a possibility at BTC, it is an essential part of personal growth and development. That's why we offer a dazzling array of clubs, societies, and sports activities that cater to a wide range of interests.**

Whether you're an avid reader or a sports enthusiast, our programme is guaranteed to leave you feeling empowered and confident. Our sports sessions will get your heart racing and test your physical limits, while our College book club allows you to delve into the captivating world of literature.

But that's not all; we also have a wide range of clubs and societies that cater to various interests, including the LGBTQ+ community, chess enthusiasts, and role-playing gamers who swear by Dungeons and Dragons. And for those who wish to give back to society, our students regularly organise one-off events to raise funds and awareness for various causes, such as Mental Health Awareness Day and World Aids Day.

Through our annual Raise and Give (RAG) events, we've already raised thousands

of pounds for charities such as Mind in Somerset, Somerset & Wessex Eating Disorders Association and Combat Stress. By joining our vibrant community, you might just discover a new passion that you never knew existed.

So come join us today and be part of a community that is passionate about making a difference in the world!

### Tutorials

At BTC, your academic progress and personal development are our top priorities. Our personal tutor system is tailored to your individual needs and aspirations, with 1:1 sessions, group tutorials, guest speakers, and targeted online resources that complement our coveted BTC Advantage scheme. Our tutorials are more than academic support; they offer valuable guidance on life skills and personal growth.

Our experienced and passionate tutors empower you with the skills and confidence you need to succeed, whether it's further education or employment. Let us guide you towards your goals and help you achieve your full potential.

### BTC Lifestyle

At BTC, we believe that a healthy mind and body are essential to academic success and personal growth. That's why we offer a unique BTC Lifestyle programme that is designed to cater to your diverse needs and interests, helping you achieve optimal physical and mental wellbeing.

Our programme is based on the five ways to wellbeing, scientifically proven to promote a positive outlook on life. We encourage you to be active, keep learning, connect with others, give back to society, and take notice of the world around you. From active sessions to volunteering opportunities and mindfulness, our programme offers something for everyone.

A healthy mind and body are essential to academic success and personal growth. That's why we're committed to supporting your wellbeing.

### Students' Union

The Bridgwater & Taunton College's Students' Union is a community of students dedicated to making your college experience unforgettable. Our focus is on promoting the wellbeing of all students and enhancing their overall college experience.

Joining BTC automatically makes you part of the Students' Union, but to take full advantage of everything we have to offer, we recommend getting a TOTUM card. This gives you access to discounts at shops, restaurants, and online retailers.

The Students' Union also organises social events, such as RAG Day and themed parties, bringing the community together. We work to improve the College and our suggestions are taken seriously, we strive to make everyone feel part of the community.

If you're looking to make a difference, the Students' Union provides ample opportunities to volunteer and make a positive impact.





### BTC Learner Voice

At BTC, we firmly believe that our students are the backbone of our community. That's why we have a dedicated programme called 'Learner Voice' that places your opinions and ideas at the forefront. We understand that your feedback is vital to improving our college experience, which is why we encourage you to get involved and make your voice heard.

As a member of our community, you have the opportunity to become a Class Representative or even a member of the Student Executive. As a Class Rep, you will have the chance to liaise between students and staff to shape your experience, ensuring that your views are taken into account. It's an excellent opportunity to develop your leadership and communication skills, while also making a positive impact on your college community.

### Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)

This scheme involves a mix of adventure, self-development and community service, and it's recognised the world over. Participants in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award develop many skills, including:

- Working with others
- Working independently
- Problem-solving
- Communication skills
- Self-motivation
- Determination
- Commitment.

Not only is it an experience that will last a lifetime, it's a fantastic addition to your CV and will really help you stand out from the crowd. Places on the DofE Award are limited, so it's worth enrolling soon after you start College if you don't want to miss out.



### Freshers' Fair

BTC's Freshers' Fair is the perfect opportunity for you to get a feel of the types of activities available to you as a student. Our Freshers' Fair is not just about signing up for your favourite activities; it's also a great way to meet new people and make lifelong friends. With a range of clubs, societies, and sports activities to choose from, you're sure to find something that suits your interests.

But that's not all, our Freshers' Fair is also an opportunity to discover new passions and try new things. Who knows, you might just find a new hobby that you never knew existed!

### Multi faith

At BTC we value diversity and inclusivity, which is why we have a dedicated College Chaplain on each of our campuses. They provide support and a multi-faith space for all our students. Our Chaplains lead important calendar events such as Remembrance Day and work tirelessly to create a welcoming and inclusive community. Our multi-faith spaces are places where you can find peace, connect with others, and explore your spirituality. At BTC, we understand that spirituality is essential to wellbeing, and our Chaplains are committed to providing the support and resources you need to thrive. We offer a community that values diversity and inclusivity.



### Wellbeing support

At BTC, we understand that seeking help can sometimes be challenging, which is why our Wellbeing Team is committed to providing a safe and non-judgemental environment for you to open up and share your concerns. We believe that taking care of your mental and emotional wellbeing is essential to academic success and personal growth.

We have a dedicated Wellbeing Team that is committed to providing a friendly and safe space for all students to talk, be listened to, and be supported.

Our Wellbeing Officers are a team who are passionate and committed about promoting wellbeing. They are here to support you through any challenges you may face, whether it's related to college life or personal issues. Our officers can signpost you to other College teams such as BTC Lifestyle, the College Counselling Service, financial advice, Academic Coaches, and careers advice, as well as external services that can support your mental health and wellbeing.

### Counselling

Our Counselling Service is staffed by a team of qualified counsellors as well as those in their final year of training. All counsellors are members of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy and follow the ethical framework. The Counselling team are committed to providing support to students facing emotional or psychological difficulties. Counsellors are available on each campus, and sessions can be conducted in person or online within College times, making it convenient and accessible for everyone.



We understand that academic commitments can sometimes clash with counselling sessions, which is why we work with your timetable to ensure that you can attend sessions without affecting your studies. Our Counselling Service offers up to six sessions, which are tailored to your needs, ensuring that you get the most out of each session.

We strongly believe that emotional and psychological wellbeing is an essential component of academic success and personal growth. That's why we're committed to providing a supportive and confidential environment for all students to discuss their problems and explore their thoughts and feelings.

### College Academies

Are you ready to unleash your full potential and explore your passions? Then look no further than our exciting Academies! Our Academies are not just an opportunity for development; they're also a chance to have fun, make new friends, and pave the way for substantial achievements in the future. Scan the QR code on the back cover to see the range of opportunities on offer.

### Trips and visits

We believe that learning extends far beyond the classroom, and that's why we organise exciting and interesting trips to help our students undertake new experiences and develop knowledge.

Imagine working alongside the South Western Ambulance Service and Avon and Somerset Police while reconstructing a two-car road traffic collision, or partaking in a workshop delivered by a West End performer. Perhaps you'd like to tour porcelain museums or visit an agricultural show. Our students have been to motor shows, fashion events, paintballing

sessions, red carpet events and music concerts, to name just a few.

But that's not all; we also offer opportunities for trips within your curriculum area. For example, our Creative Arts department visited New York, while Sports students coached children in South African townships and our International Baccalaureate and A Level students worked with local communities and undertook beach clean-ups in Costa Rica! These trips are not just about gaining knowledge; they're also a chance to develop your skills, make new friends, and have fun!

At BTC, we believe that these trips are an essential component of holistic learning and personal growth. They allow you to gain new perspectives, challenge yourself, and expand your horizons.

### Equality, diversity and inclusion

At BTC, we believe that diversity and inclusion are not just buzzwords; they're fundamental values that underpin everything we do. We're committed to creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where everyone, regardless of their background, feels valued and respected.

We have a zero-tolerance policy towards discrimination, harassment, and race crimes, and we take these issues extremely seriously. We believe that everyone, students and staff alike, is equal and deserving of respect, and we're committed to ensuring that everyone feels safe and supported.





## For more information about BTC scan the QR codes below

Apply 

 College Academies

Sports for Everyone 

 Supporting your learning

Fantastic Facilities Bridgwater 

 BTC News

School Leavers Prospectus 2024/25 

### GET IN TOUCH

**Bridgwater Campus**  
Bath Road, Bridgwater  
Somerset TA6 4PZ

**Taunton Campus**  
Wellington Road, Taunton  
Somerset TA1 5AX

**Cannington Campus**  
Rodway Farm, Cannington  
Somerset TA5 2LS

01278 441234  
info@btc.ac.uk





# EVENTS

## OPEN EVENTS

---

### Bridgwater campus

Tuesday 10 October 2023

6pm-8pm

Wednesday 17 January 2024

6pm-8pm

Thursday 20 June 2024

6pm-8pm

### Taunton campus

Wednesday 11 October 2023

6pm-8pm

Thursday 18 January 2024

6pm-8pm

Wednesday 19 June 2024

6pm-8pm

### Cannington campus

Saturday 11 November 2023

10am-1pm

Saturday 27 January 2024

10am-1pm

Wednesday 24 April 2024

6pm-8pm

## TASTER EVENTS

---

### Taunton Campus (Year 11)

Wednesday 14 February 2024

9.30am-12.30pm

### Bridgwater & Cannington Campus (Year 11)

Thursday 15 February 2024

9.30am-12.30pm

## SPORT DEVELOPMENT DAYS

---

These are held throughout the year, usually during the school holidays.

Please keep an eye on our website to find out when these will be taking place.

Registration is essential!

Please visit [www.btc.ac.uk](http://www.btc.ac.uk)



SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO.

