



## **A-Level Options Booklet**

**2024 Entry**

Ratified: January 2024

# WELCOME TO MARIA FIDELIS

Maria Fidelis Catholic School offers a growing, friendly Sixth Form located in the heart of London. Easily accessible by rail, underground and bus, it is the perfect location for many of our students.



Our focus is strongly academic and we offer largely traditional subjects. However, we are excited to be introducing a T level in Laboratory Science which will further broaden our diverse curriculum.

We expect students to commit to twenty hours per week of additional study outside of their lessons, and we have a dedicated Library and Study Centre in order for you to be able to do this.

Sixth Formers at Maria Fidelis are expected to get involved with the school and local community, both to have a positive impact on others and to develop their own skills. The Sixth Form team organises opportunities for students to be teaching assistants and mentors to the younger students, organise charity events, co-ordinate interhouse competitions, and volunteer with local charities. As a school, we aim to educate the whole person.

We also offer a range of extracurricular activities, both in-house and through our partnerships with external providers, universities and charities. These include Deloitte, Urban Partners and Eurostar, to name but a few.

We are also extremely proud to offer students a comprehensive work experience scheme and careers advice service with dedicated staff. This is designed to allow students to be as prepared as possible for their progression post A-level.



Our Sixth Form team is extensive and dedicated to helping you get the best out of your studies. Academic and pastoral support mentors allow students to be supported in every facet of their study with us.

There is also a bursary scheme to help students suffering from financial hardship to access school life as fully as possible.

Eligibility criteria are broadly based on the family situation.

We hope this booklet is informative and helps you to make your decision. The pages that follow give you more information about the subjects we offer. Please do not hesitate to approach a member of the Sixth Form team should you have any further questions.



## STUDYING AT MARIA FIDELIS SIXTH FORM

In addition to these courses all students follow a programme of core studies which include Core Religious Education (one lesson per week), preparation for Higher Education, and community and work related activities. All students undergo a period of work placement at the end of Year 12.

### SIXTH FORM TEAM

Miss C. Sowden

Acting Head of Sixth Form

Mr C. Coombes

Assistant Headteacher i/c Sixth Form

Mrs C. Lusher

Pastoral Support for Sixth Form

## MAKING THE CHOICE

We understand that choosing your subjects is one of the most important decisions you will ever make, because it feeds into your university choices, and ultimately, your career path. As such, it is extremely important that you make careful, considered decisions regarding the subjects you choose, and this booklet aims to give you some of the key information you need to make your decisions. You are of course always welcome to discuss your options with our subject specialist staff.

### SELECTING YOUR OPTIONS

- Read the information in the booklet to understand what you will learn as part of each course.
- Consider whether A levels, vocational courses, a mixture of the two, or a T level is the most appropriate route for you.
- Check what the entry requirements for each subject are, as well as which skills are required.
- Consider what you could be doing to prepare now for success at GCSE.
- Work out whether you are prepared to take on at least five hours' independent study per subject, per week. Is a strongly academic path right for you?
- Think about what subjects you enjoy.
- Speak to your teachers and see if they think you are suited to that subject.
- Keep an open mind: there are several subjects you will not have studied before, but which you might be really good at.
- Try to think about what you might like to do at university or even as a career. If you know this, look up their subject entry requirements so that you have an idea of which subjects you will need.
- If you are unsure of this, choose subjects you enjoy and that you are good at.
- Choose subjects that complement each other and give you flexibility if you change your mind about your career choices later.
- Make sure that the options you choose include units that are of interest to you and that you will be happy studying for two years.
- Do not pick options based on your friends' choices or your current teacher; the subjects you choose have to be right for you.
- Apply using the Internal or External Application form!

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# Art and Design

## Edexcel (9ADO)

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- Art is relevant to a range of careers, some of which are detailed below.
- It will provide a valuable skill in our highly visual, multimedia world.
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - ... you enjoy making Art and have a desire to communicate with an audience through your practice.
  - ...if you have a real commitment to research and development.
  - ...if you enjoy visiting galleries, using primary sources and communicating through your artwork.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE passes at G4 or higher.
- G5 or above in GCSE Art & Design.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- Personal Portfolio in the first year: art work covering four assessment objectives.
- Personal statement in the second year: essay on an artist, art movement, or theme in art.
- Practical art work responding to essay.
- Exam in second year, with preparation time.
  - Paper given out end of January
  - Artwork completed in May.

### HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- In mixed ability groups and in one-to-one tutorials to develop and explore a range of projects to address your assessment objectives.
- As the course progresses, personal work is developed through negotiation and a discussion with teachers.
- There are several visits to museums and galleries, and opportunities to study at Central Saint Martins, The Courtauld Institute of Art and Camden Arts Centre.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- The UK's creative industries are worth a record £84.1 billion to the UK economy, and rising every year.
- Employment in the creative industries is increasing at more than twice the rate of the wider UK economy, in July 2015 providing 1.8 million jobs.
- Studying Art and Design can lead to a wide range of careers in the creative industries such as Architecture, Advertising, Fashion and Textiles, Graphic Communications, Digital Media, Animation and Design.

# Biology

## Edexcel (9BN0)

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- There are thousands of careers and Higher Education options available to a student with A-level Biology.
- After the obvious ones like Medicine and Dentistry, there are hundreds more, some of which are detailed below.
- The course focuses on the biology that is relevant to YOUR life and looks at contemporary issues such as inherited disease, genetic screening, cancer, conservation, stem cell research and gene therapy.
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - ...you have an enquiring mind and are keen to ask and answer questions
  - ...you see lessons as an active part of learning and don't just want to sit and soak up information like a sponge!
  - ...you are self-motivated, independent, proactive and able to meet deadlines.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE passes at G4 or higher.
- G6 or above in GCSE English and Maths.
- G6 or above in GCSE Science (Trilogy) OR G6 or above in GCSE Biology (Separate Sciences).
- Baseline entry test, taken in the Sixth Form Induction Week in September.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Paper 1** – The Natural Environment and Species Survival
- **Paper 2** – Energy, Exercise and Coordination
- **Paper 3** – General and Practical Applications in Biology
- 10% of the marks for this specification will involve mathematical skills at level 2 or above.

### HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- Biology is a practical subject. As well as 18 core practical investigations, which are an integral part of the course, there will be debates, discussions, teacher input and written activities. There is also a field trip to Norfolk in Year 13.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- After the obvious ones like Medicine and Dentistry, there are the biomedical sciences, forensic science, marine science and Ecology, science journalism, nursing, nutrition, physiotherapy, radiography, cell biology, immunology, environmental science, food technology, law, education, business... the list is endless!
- It should also be noted that taking an A-level in a science subject does not limit you to following science courses later on.



# Business

## Edexcel (9BSO)

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- A-level Business is structured into four themes and consists of three externally examined papers taken at the end of year 2.
- Themes 1 and 2 will build your knowledge of core business concepts and apply this to business contexts.
- Themes 3 and 4 require you to take a more thoughtful and strategic view of business opportunities, issues and assumptions.
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - ...you would like to understand how businesses operate and the approaches used to make informed decisions to minimise risk.
  - ...you want to demonstrate a critical and thoughtful approach to business and learn that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives.
  - ...you have an interest in current affairs and want to learn how economic principles support business decisions.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE passes at G4 or higher.
- G5 or above in GCSE English and Maths.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Theme 1** – Marketing and people
- **Theme 2** – Managing business activities
- **Theme 3** – Business decisions and strategy
- **Theme 4** – Global business

### HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- A variety of methods including note-taking, worksheets, research, data response questions, case studies, business report writing, group discussion and visits to, and by, industry partners.
- Extra-curricular activities include regularly keeping up to date with newspapers, business magazines, journals, television documentaries and radio broadcasts.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Some students who decided to go on to University to study Business could specialise in a range of areas such as: Business with a Language, Management, International Business, Accounting & Taxation, Marketing, Human Resource Management and Hospitality & Tourism or any economics-related subject.
- Many universities offer four-year courses where students work for one year in a business, during their third year of the course. This subject will therefore benefit any career as the concepts studied are relevant to all workplaces.

# Chemistry

## Edexcel (9CH0)

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- Chemistry is a component part of many careers.
- It is essential for Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacology, Forensic Science and Food Science and it occupies a central part of a wide range of other courses.
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - ...you have an interest in, and enjoyment of Chemistry.
  - ...you enjoy carrying out investigation by the application of imaginative, logical and critical thinking.
  - ...you want to use Chemistry to support other qualifications or progress onto further studies.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE passes at G4 or higher.
- G6 or above in GCSE English and Maths.
- G6 or above in GCSE Science (Trilogy) OR G6 or above in GCSE Chemistry (Separate Sciences).

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Paper 1** – Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry
- **Paper 2** – Advanced Organic and Physical Chemistry
- **Paper 3** – General and Practical Principles in Chemistry
- 20% of the marks for this specification will involve mathematical skills at level 2 or above.

### HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- The course is made up of 19 topics.
- Essential concepts of each topic are introduced by the teacher in class, using ICT presentations and practical activities.
- You will study the background Chemistry independently and test your knowledge through homework assignments.
- The work is then applied to past paper problems, through practical investigations, research and group discussions.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Chemistry occupies a central part of a wide range of courses including Archaeology, Engineering, Nursing, Environmental Science and Cosmetic Science. It is increasingly relevant to people working in areas such as journalism, law, catering and government establishments.
- It should also be noted that taking an A-level in a science subject does not limit you to following science courses later on.

# Classical Civilisation

## OCR (H408)

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- Students will study the history, mythology, literature and culture of the Ancient Roman and Greek civilisations.
- Students will have the opportunity to study stories from thousands of years ago in translation and learn how to analyse ancient artefacts.
- It is a great subject to enhance your general knowledge and analytical skills, and will open interests in all fields of study from psychology to philosophy, art to geography.
- It complements all subjects.
- **You'll enjoy this course if...**
  - ...you enjoy analysing literature.
  - ...you enjoy learning about different cultures.
  - ...you enjoy world history.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 
- 5 GCSE passes at G4 or higher. □
- G5 or above in GCSE English Literature and English Language.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **World of the Hero** (40%) – Study of Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*
- **Greek Religion** (30%) – Study of belief in the Greek gods and religious practices
- **Greek Theatre** (30%) – Study of the origins of drama and the invention of Tragedy and Comedy

### HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- Small classes mean tailored, individualised teaching for all students in the group.
- You will be expected to prepare texts at home for class discussions and seminars.
- There is a strong emphasis on independent learning and research.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Classics is one of the broadest and oldest disciplines and, as such, is viewed very favourably by universities and employers.
- Students who have studied Classical Civilisation go on to a range of careers including politics, law, medicine, teaching, publishing, journalism, marketing, and many more.
- Notable people who have studied Classics at university level include J K Rowling, Mark Zuckerberg, Boris Johnson and Chris Martin from Coldplay.

# Computer Science

OCR (H446)

## WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- This course, emphasis is on abstract thinking; general problem solving; algorithmic and mathematical reasoning; and engineering-based thinking,
- A good foundation for understanding future challenges in this fast-moving technological world.
- It is an intensively creative subject which combines invention and excitement and can look at the natural world through a digital prism.

### You'll enjoy this course if....

- You have good ability to analyse, critically evaluate and make decisions; developing these skills to solve problems, design-systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Grade 5 in Computer Science or a Grade 5 in Mathematics.

## ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- Throughout the year you will be assessed on every completed Unit. There will also be a variety of assessment to check understanding of the course taught so far.
- At the end of the course there will be 2 papers and a piece of coursework.
  1. Paper 1 is worth 40% of the final grade
  2. Paper 2 is worth 40% of the final grade
  3. The coursework is worth 20% of the final grade and the task is to program anything you want as long as it is complex enough for A Level study: e.g. has path finding, AI, game development, etc.

## HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- The course is split over 12 Units, (1. Components of a Computer, Systems Software, Software Development, Exchanging Data (Databases), Networks and Web Technology, Data Types (Binary), Data Structures, Boolean Algebra, Legal, Moral, Environmental and Cultural Issues, Computational Thinking, Programming Techniques, Algorithms)
- There will be a range of trips that are specification focused, which includes events at the National Computing Museum, in Bletchley.

## FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Computer Science can help you towards any job, but a main focus of Computer Science can lead to: ☐ Applications developer ☐ Cyber security analyst ☐ Database administrator ☐ Games developer ☐ Web developer ☐ And many more...

# **Criminology – Level 3 Applied Diploma**

## **WJEC (601/6248/X)**

### **WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU**

- Criminology is the study of the reasons why individuals commit crime. This course will enable you to use theories of criminality to analyse criminal situations and suggest ways of reducing crime.
- You will develop your writing skills, description skills, application of knowledge skills, evaluation skills, independent study skills, organisation skills and time management.
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - ...you are interested in criminal law, policy and human behaviour.
  - ...you want to understand why people commit a crime, and whether we can control crime or rehabilitate criminals.

### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

- 5 GCSE passes at G4 or higher, including English and Maths.

### **ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES**

- Unit 1 covers different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported.
- Unit 2 examines various theories about why people commit crime, drawing on what they have learned in Unit 1.
- Unit 3 provides an understanding of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified to the verdict. You will examine information in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases.
- In Unit 4, you will evaluate the effectiveness of social control to deliver criminal justice policy.

### **HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?**

- Each unit is worth 25% of the overall grade
- **Unit 1** – Changing Awareness of Crime (Controlled Assessment)
- **Unit 2** – Criminological Theories (Examination)
- **Unit 3** – Crime Scene to Courtroom (Controlled Assessment)
- **Unit 4** – Crime & Punishment (Examination)
- You will develop the knowledge and skills to research policy in practice, assess campaigns for changes in awareness and examine information to review verdicts in criminal cases.

### **FUTURE PATHWAYS**

- The course is designed to prepare students for undergraduate study
- Possible future careers include journalism, criminal justice services, police officer, prison officer, security services, court services, politics, probation officer, social worker, youth worker.

# English Literature

## OCR (H072) (H472)

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- English Literature is a very flexible and adaptable subject so the possibilities are endless.
- You will learn to analyse the structure and use of language and literary devices in a text, comment on a range of critical views on a text, identify and analyse the features of a specific genre, and construct an argument. You will also learn about the social, historical and cultural context of the set texts.
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - ...you enjoy reading novels, poetry and plays and have a lively interest in culture and creativity.
  - ...you have an enquiring mind and can work independently.
  - ...you want to develop your understanding of the social, cultural and historical context in which literary texts are created.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE passes at G4 or higher.
- G6 or above in GCSE English Literature and English Language.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Paper 1** – Shakespeare/ Drama and Poetry Pre 1900
- **Paper 2** – Close Reading and Comparative Study
- **Paper 3** – Close Reading Comparative Essay (Non Examined Unit)

### HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- Your study mainly involves preparation of the text for detailed discussion in class.
- There are also group presentations on aspects of the texts such as theme or structure.
- You will do research on the social and individual discussions with the teacher on coursework topics and essay practice for the written papers.
- There will be theatre visits to see the plays studied.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Careers may include management, research, consultancy, publishing, public services, media, education and advertising.

# Economics

## OCR (H060) (H460)

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

Economics is a traditional subject which is relevant to the world you live in and your future. It is a fascinating subject because it includes the study of how people and businesses behave and interact with each other. In the macro course students learn about important government decisions, as well as foreign policy, international trade and financial sectors around the world. The dynamic relationship between consumers, manufacturers and governments makes Economics a vibrant and current subject. By studying Economics, you will develop skills in research, analysis, evaluation, communication and working with others to solve problems.

➤ **You'll enjoy this course if....**

- ...you enjoy keeping up to date on the latest economical and political news both nationally and globally e.g. Brexit.
- ...you have an interest in the functions of a business or government policy.
- ...you enjoy learning about a wide range of concepts e.g. profits, equality, unemployment which can be applied in a variety of contexts.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE passes at G4 or higher.
- G6 or above in Mathematics and English

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Paper 1** – Microeconomics (01) 80 marks. 2 hour written paper
- **Paper 2** – Macroeconomics (02) 80 marks. 2 hour written paper
- **Paper 3** – Themes in economics (03) 80 marks. 2 hour written paper

### HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- Small classes mean tailored, individualised teaching for all students in the group.
- Lessons are taught using a variety of techniques in order to keep the student engaged and focused. Student-teacher email is used to receive quick and helpful feedback on essays.
- Sufficient time is provided in lessons for exam question practice, individual guidance and feedback from the teacher and class discussions/debates around topical issues.
- The lessons are designed to capture and inspire the learner's interest in making links to modern life and the world around them while also covering the specification in a structured way so students can monitor their progress.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Careers may include banking and finance, media, law, marketing, governmental careers, foreign policy, environmental work, journalism and teaching.

# Extended Project Qualification (Level 3)

## Edexcel (P301)

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- The EPQ is an amazing opportunity to learn and experience the level of independence required at university, regardless of the course.
- Whilst the majority of EPQs are written on either arts or humanities-based questions, there is a sizable minority who write on issues relating to science subjects.
- The course is entirely focused on you and what you wish to study – your topic is entirely your choice, with guidance to make it appropriate to the EPQ format, and the taught element is based on student need and want.
- **You'll enjoy this course if...**
  - ...you have an enquiring mind and are keen to study independently.
  - ...you are self-motivated, proactive and able to meet deadlines.
  - ...you have a passion you would like to explore further academically.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 
- 5 GCSE passes at G5 or higher.
- G6 or above in GCSE English Literature and English Language.
- G5 in another essay-based subject at GCSE.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Dissertation:** The only module of EPQ offered at Maria Fidelis is the dissertation. This is a 5000 – 8000-word essay (approx.) on a topic of your choice.
- **Presentation:** At the end of the course, you will be required to deliver a 10-minute presentation on the dissertation.

### HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- The EPQ is mainly an independent subject. Lessons are used to provide study skills and give direction to your ideas, the latter done either on a 1-to-1 basis or as group discussions.
- Tutorials on project topics and extra assistance are provided outside of lesson times.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- 
- The EPQ will assist your ability to study in all subjects at university.
- Whilst it is not subject-specific, studying the EPQ will show an enhanced ability to study independently, as well as a greater interest in whichever area you study.
- As the equivalent of half an A-level, the EPQ is highly regarded by many higher education institutions, including Russell Group universities.



# French / Spanish

## AQA (7652) / (7692)

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- Speaking and understanding another language is an invaluable skill which can be useful in many ways throughout life. Additionally, the employability rate for a student with an A-level language (or degree level) is 42% higher than a monolingual student.
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - ...you have a passion for the language and want to learn more.
  - ...you are motivated to spend time watching films, reading newspapers and learning more about other cultures and societies.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE passes at G4 or higher.
- G6 or above in GCSE French / Spanish

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Paper 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing (50%)**
  - Reading, listening, and translation both ways – based on themes
- **Paper 2 – Writing (20%)**
  - Two essay questions in French or Spanish on set texts and film
- **Paper 3 – Speaking (30%)**
  - 25 minutes based on (i) an individual research project. and (ii) discussion of a sub-theme

#### **Themes:**

- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Grammar
- Literary texts and films

### HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- As well as topic-based lessons with your teacher you will have time to perfect your listening skills, and you will have weekly grammar lessons.
- Your teacher will set you individual and personal targets to help you to improve and to make sure that you reach your full potential.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Languages open doors to new cultures, friendships, travel, and jobs.
- There are many careers that are linked to studying languages such as teaching, journalism, translation, sales & marketing, travel & tourism, working for the Foreign Office, interpreting, and banking.

# Further Mathematics

Edexcel (9FMO)

## WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- It is a challenging qualification, which both extends and deepens your knowledge and understanding beyond the standard A-level Mathematics.
- This course extends topics covered in A-level Mathematics such as Calculus, Numerical Methods and Vectors, it also broadens your mathematical horizons by introducing topics such as Complex Numbers, Matrices, Hyperbolics and Proof.
- As well as learning new areas of pure mathematics, you will study further applications of mathematics in mechanics, statistics and decision mathematics.
- It makes the transition from Sixth Form to university courses that are mathematically rich that much easier, as more of the first year course content will be familiar.
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - ...you love mathematics.
  - ...you like solving problems and can think logically.
  - ...you enjoy a challenge.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE passes at G4 or higher.
- G7 or above in GCSE Maths.
- Over 60% in the Mathematics & Further Mathematics baseline entry tests, taken in the Sixth Form Induction Week in September.

## ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Paper 1** – Pure Further Mathematics 1 – 1.5 hour paper – 25%
- **Paper 2** – Pure Further Mathematics 2 – 1.5 hour paper – 25%
- **Paper 3** – Further Mathematics Option 1 – 1.5 hour paper – 25%
- **Paper 4** – Further Mathematics Option 2 – 1.5 hour paper – 25%
- **Options:** Further Pure Mathematics, Further Statistics, Further Mechanics and Decision Mathematics
- This Further Mathematics course is a 2-year linear course.

## HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- Teacher led lessons, to provide essential knowledge and to develop the Mathematical skills needed.
- Independent learning.
- Working with other like-minded students.

## FUTURE PATHWAYS

- It opens a multitude of options to you afterwards.
- People with Mathematics degrees and other qualifications can go into: accounting, medicine, engineering, forensic pathology, finance, business, consultancy, teaching, IT, games development, scientific research, programming, civil service, design, construction and astrophysics to name a few...

# Geography

## Edexcel (8GEO) (9GEO)

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- You should study Geography at A-level if you have an interest in the world you live in. At this level, it is based on understanding the physical and human environments found on Earth and exploring the way in which people have an impact on, and are affected by, processes operating on our planet.
- This specification covers a range of topics from tectonic processes and hazards to governance and sovereignty.
- You will be able to discuss and come to conclusions about various questions such as:
  - Are we living in a more hazardous world?
  - Why are some locations more at risk than others?
  - Why are coastal landscapes different and how does this impact people?
  - What is globalisation and why is it accelerating?
  - How do individuals and governments respond to the challenges of development?
  - Why are there so many variations of development in the UK?
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - You are interested in the Earth's physical processes
  - You want to understand why there are differences and there is inequality across the world

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- G5 or above in GCSE Geography.
- 5 GCSE passes at G5 or higher.
- G5 or above in GCSE English and Maths, as there is a high level of literacy and numeracy on the course.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Paper 1 & 2** – each 2 hours and 15 minutes- each 30% of the qualification.
- **Paper 3** – 2 hours 15minutes- 20% of the qualification.
- **Paper 4** – Independent Investigation- 20% of the qualification.
- **Internally assessed report** (coursework).

### HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- You will be taught through a combination of teacher-led lessons and independent study.
- There are opportunities for you to develop your report writing, decision making/problem solving and presentation skills.
- 

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Geography is useful in many careers such as working with development or aid agencies, environmental work, using Geographical Information Systems, tourism, surveying and town planning.
- Geographers are considered by employers to be the most employable of graduates.

## Cambridge Technicals Health and Social Care (Level 3) OCR (5831 The Extended Certificate)

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- Health and Social Care provides students with an interest in any of the caring professions with an invaluable and thoughtful perspective on contemporary issues in health and social care, education and the criminal justice sectors.
- The Cambridge Technicals in Health and Social Care uses direct experience to help students develop the underpinning knowledge as well as practical and personal skills required to work in this sector. They learn how to deliver person-centred care and support to meet the needs of a variety of service-users.
- Vocational education is not just about results, it's about educating people in the knowledge and skills required for employment and for the community as a whole. It's also about developing the behaviours and attributes needed to progress and succeed in education and in work
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - ... you would like to develop professional and personal skills through interaction with people who either work in the sector or require care or support, as well as theoretical knowledge and understanding to underpin their skills.
  - ...you want to gain the right combination of knowledge, understanding and skills required for the 21st century.
  - ...you can think outside of the box.
  - ...you can work in pairs or small groups.
  - ... you like studying a subject that affects your everyday life.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE passes at G5 or higher.
- G5 or above in GCSE English
- G5 or above in GCSE Biology or other combined sciences.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Building positive relationships for health and social care | M |
| • Equality, diversity and rights for health and social care  | M |
| • Health, safety and security for health and social care     | M |
| • Anatomy and physiology for health and social care          | M |
| • Nutrition for health                                       | O |
| • Supporting people with mental health conditions            | O |

### HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- *The course is equivalent to one A Level; approx. 60% exam, 40% coursework)*
- Over the two years you will study 4 mandatory units and 2 optional units
- You are expected to be an independent and self-motivated learner.
- You will be provided with clear guidance in lessons on what you need to learn and how you can learn more efficiently.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- You will learn a broad skill set that prepares you for higher education and a wide range of potential careers.
- This challenging unit (Anatomy and Physiology) is specifically designed to prepare aspiring nurses and other clinicians for the demands of degree level health courses.
- Cambridge Technicals provide a strong base for progression to university, apprenticeships or work and are recognised for UCAS tariff points
- It complements other A-level choices such as Biology, English, Psychology and Sociology.

# History

OCR (H105) (H505)

## WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- *"History cannot give us a programme for the future, but it can give us a fuller understanding of ourselves, and of our common humanity, so that we can better face the future."* - Robert Penn Warren (poet, novelist, and literary critic 1905-1989).
- The History course is intended to develop powers of reasoning, analysis and expression and to promote a thorough understanding of modern societies.
- It is a subject which will help you to understand people and their attitudes, beliefs and behaviour.
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - You love mysteries
  - You love to challenge injustice

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE passes at G4 or higher.
- G5 or above in English Literature.
- G5 or above in GCSE History.

## ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Unit 1** – Russia 1890 - 1939
- **Unit 2** – Tudor England
- **Unit 3** - Civil Rights 1865-1992
- **Unit 4** – Coursework, your own independent study

## HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- You learn how to research topics and how to write essays.

## FUTURE PATHWAYS

- If you want to study History at university or, in some cases, African or American Studies at university, you will need to take it at A-level.
- It is not mandatory for other specific courses, but the Russell Group recommends History as an excellent subject for keeping your options open when choosing a degree. In fact, History is one of the most prestigious degrees you can have!
- With your excellent analytical, writing, debate and detective skills, you will be primed for a huge range of careers in law, politics, public sector, business, marketing, journalism, economics, academia, insurance, social research, archaeology and curating (museums, galleries, archives and libraries).

### Famous History students:

- Louis Theroux, Prince Charles, Jonathan Ross, Sacha Baron Cohen

# Mathematics

## Edexcel (9MA0)

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- Mathematics is one of the best subjects to develop your analytical, research and problem-solving skills.
- Not only will studying Mathematics help give you the knowledge to tackle scientific, mechanical, coding and abstract problems, it will also help you develop logic to tackle everyday issues like planning projects, managing budgets and even debating effectively.
- You get to meet the tools that are used in real-world applications along with some of those applications. It will enable you to understand the statistics used in the news, and it will allow you to make sense of the economy, medicine and even law.
- This course will allow you to develop an understanding of Mathematics and mathematical processes, develop the ability to reason logically and construct mathematical proofs: understand the coherence and progression in Mathematics; and learn how different areas of Mathematics can be utilised.
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - ...you enjoy a challenge.
  - ...you like solving problems and can think logically.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE passes at G4 or higher.
- G6 or above in GCSE Maths.
- Over 60% in the Mathematics baseline entry test, taken in the Sixth Form Induction Week in September.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Paper 1** – Pure Mathematics 1 – 2 hour paper – 33%
- **Paper 2** – Pure Mathematics 2 – 2 hour paper – 33%
- **Paper 3** – Statistics and Mechanics – 2 hour paper – 33%
- This Mathematics course is a 2-year linear course.

### HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- Teacher-led lessons, to provide essential knowledge and to develop the Mathematical skills needed.
- Problem-solving lessons, where a variety of different problems are tackled.
- Using past exam questions to provide essential practice and to develop exam technique.
- There is a strong emphasis on independent learning: at least 7.5 hours is per week.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Mathematics is an essential discipline for many subjects at University level and many careers. If you intend to read Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Computer Science, Medicine, Economics or Finance, it is essential that you do A-level Mathematics.

# Physics

Edexcel (XPH11) – (YPH11)

## WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- There are thousands of careers and Higher Education options available to a student with A-level Physics.
- A Level Physics will give you incredibly strong analytical and research skills. You will be able to look at problems and solve them in a methodical and logical way.
- You will be able to investigate theories, devise tests and explore new ideas. Such strong problem-solving skills are highly sought after.
- Qualifications in Physics and Maths are two of the most desirable qualifications for employers.
- **You'll enjoy this course if...**
  - ...you like to understand how things work, the rules which govern the universe, have an enquiring mind and are keen to ask and answer questions
  - ...you enjoy learning through experimentation, see lessons as an active part of learning and don't just want to sit and soak up information like a sponge!
  - ...you are self-motivated, independent, proactive and able to meet deadlines.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE passes at G4 or higher.
- G6 or above in GCSE English and Maths.
- G6 or above in GCSE Science (Trilogy) OR G6 or above in GCSE Physics (Separate Sciences).
- Baseline entry test, taken in the Sixth Form Induction Week in September.

## ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Paper 1** – Advanced Physics 1 : Electric and Magnetic Fields, Mechanics, Particles
- **Paper 2** – Advanced Physics 2 : Materials, Waves, Space, Thermodynamics
- **Paper 3** – General and Practical Principles in Physics
- 40% of the marks for this specification will involve mathematical skills at level 2 or above.

## HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- Physics is a practical subject. As well as 16 core practical investigations, which are an integral part of the course, there will be debates, discussions, teacher input and written activities.

## FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Architecture, engineering, aeronautical engineering, astronomy, astrophysics, nanotechnology, teaching, medical physics, data analysis, meteorology, nuclear engineering, geophysics, and more ....

It should also be noted that taking an A-level in a science subject does not limit you to following science courses later on; instead, it opens many more doors!

# Politics

Edexcel (9PL0)

## WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- Studying Government and Politics in Britain today is probably more exciting than it's ever been. As Politics touches on literally every aspect of society, this course has universal appeal. In Politics we ask questions such as: 'Has the Prime Minister got too much power?' 'What role does the media play?' 'Is there any real difference between the Labour Party and the Conservative Party?' 'Are judges becoming too powerful?' 'Can anarchism work?' 'what will life in Britain be like after Brexit?'
- During the course you will have the opportunity to have a tour of the Houses of Parliament. You may also have had the opportunity to meet with a member of the House of Lords and have a Q&A session with their local MP.
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - ...you enjoy discussing and debating current affairs and politics generally.
  - ...you have a keen appreciation of the need to participate in the decision-making process.
  - ...you like studying a subject that affects your everyday life.
  - ...you want to understand who has power and authority within the UK political system.
  - ...you are keen to learn about the rights, freedoms and political participation.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE passes at G5 or higher.
- G6 or above in GCSE English
- G6 or above in a combination of written subjects e.g. History, Geography etc.

## ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Paper 1** – UK Politics
- **Paper 2** – UK Government
- **Paper 3** – Comparative Politics

## HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- You will be taught through a combination of teacher-led lessons and independent study.
- Other activities include debate, group work and presentations, and seminar-style discussions.

## FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Politics equips students with a political career in mind with the basis of knowledge they need to understand the UK political system. Careers in Law, Media and television is where some ex-politics students have found themselves after University where their ability to understand wider viewpoints as well as challenge them have helped them to thrive.



# Psychology

## AQA (7181) (7182)

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- Psychology is the scientific study of brain and behaviour – and is a Science subject.
- The majority of what we cover is research-based, so you will need to have an enquiring and analytical mind to do well.
- This course covers a lot of the history of Psychology, from very early theories right up to the latest in neuroscientific research.
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - ...you are a “jack of all trades” – there are a lot of different skills required for success on this course, including the ability to understand and apply statistics, the ability to understand and apply scientific principles and methods, and the ability to write articulate and detailed written answers.
  - ...you can think outside of the box.
  - ...you can work in pairs or small groups.
  - ...you can draw, present and conduct experiments.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE passes at G5 or higher.
- G6 or above in GCSE English and Mathematics.
- G6 or above in GCSE Biology or other combined sciences.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Paper 1** – Introductory topics in Psychology
- **Paper 2** – Psychology in context
- **Paper 3** – Issues and options in Psychology

### HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- You are expected to be an independent and self-motivated learner.
- You will be provided with clear guidance in lessons on what you need to learn and how you can learn more efficiently.
- You will take a weekly test to show your understanding of previous work and also to practise for the exams.
- All students will be pushed to achieve as much as possible through the embedded use of assessment for learning strategies.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- You will learn a broad skill set that prepares you for higher education and a wide range of potential careers.
- Psychology has huge value if you are interested in any of the caring professions (from doctors and nurses through to social workers and teachers).
- It complements other A-level choices such as Biology, Chemistry, Maths, English, and Sociology. Many students go on to study Psychology at university.

# Religious Studies

## OCR (H573)

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- You will develop thinking skills, and the ability to analyse and evaluate scholarly articles and evidence.
- You will learn to apply theories to practical, moral and ethical dilemmas such as abortion.
- You will learn how to grapple with complex issues and questions such as the existence of God and sexual ethics.
- You will deepen your theological knowledge and begin to create links between religious belief and the philosophies that shape the world.
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - ...you question why?
  - ...you seek answers to the unanswerable.
  - ...you struggle to reconcile the problem of evil with an omnibenevolent God.
  - ...you recognise that decisions are not straight forward and apply logic to solve problems.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 8 GCSE passes at G4 or higher.
- G6 or above in English Language and English Literature.
- G6 or above in GCSE Religious Studies.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- Philosophy of Religion
- Ethics & the social application of ethics
- Developments in Religious Thought (Christianity)

### HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- Through a wide range of written resources and ICT, using a range of methods:
  - research
  - group work and role play
  - presentations.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Students go on to study a range of subjects combined with Philosophy (Psychology, Mathematics, Business, History, etc.), Theology, Law, Medicine, and Social Sciences.
- There are also careers in law, business, teaching, medicine and social work. No door is closed.

# Sociology

## AQA (7192)

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- Sociology is a lively and enjoyable subject. It is the study of society and how the social world shapes our ideas, our social behaviour and our individual identities.
- Sociology touches on literally every aspect of society; this course has universal appeal.
- No prior knowledge of sociology is needed.
- **You'll enjoy this course if....**
  - ...you enjoy discussing and debating current affairs generally.
  - ...you have a keen appreciation of social injustice and inequality including racism, gender inequality and class inequality
  - ...you like studying a subject that affects your everyday life.
  - ...you want to understand why people commit crime and the nature of crime and deviance in society.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE passes at G5 or higher.
- G5 or above in GCSE English and Literature
- G5 or above in a combination of GCSE Sociology, History or Geography.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Paper 1** – Compulsory unit on Education with Theory and Research methods
- **Paper 2** – Two optional units from: Culture and Identity, The Family, Beliefs, the Media and Globalisation.
- **Paper 3** – Compulsory unit on Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

### HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- This is a two-year linear course – it is 100% exam.
- You will be taught through a combination of teacher-led lessons and independent study.
- Other activities include debate, group work and presentations, and seminar-style discussions.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Sociology is a highly-respected A-level and degree and as such, universities will recognise that you have gained valuable experience and academic skills.
- Our students often go on to study a range of degrees at university including sociology, law, criminology, psychology, anthropology, international relations, and combined degrees with other subjects such as politics, social policy, international relations, psychology.
- A background in Sociology will also prepare you for a career in criminology, Policing and probation services, law, nursing and medicine, media and journalism, social work, education and teaching, youth work, and local government.

# Sport Science

*BTEC Level 3 Extended certificate in sport*

## WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- Studying this qualification will enable you to develop your knowledge & understanding of principles within Sport. As well as engaging within key topics which will enhance your cognitive skills and development of theoretical understanding of Sport.
- This qualification also offers the opportunity to use practical elements and implement into a theoretical setting.
- The qualification will also offer transferable skills onto higher education, such as communication, research, referencing, problem solving and independent reflection.

### **You'll enjoy this course if...**

- You are interested in developing your knowledge & understanding within Sport
- You enjoy learning & researching a variety of topics within sport.
- You want to engage in a variety of practical & theoretical studies.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- ☐ 5 GCSE passes at G4 or higher
- ☐ G5 or above in English, Maths & Science
- ☐ G6 or above in GCSE Physical Education or equivalent

## ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- ☐ Unit 1 – Anatomy & Physiology – 5 Topics learnt throughout – 1 hour 30-minute exam
- ☐ Unit 2 - Fitness training & Programming for Health Sport & well-Being Part A- research about a scenario based on an individual who requires guidance on training, lifestyle & fitness/ Part B - Exam which contains 6 questions from Part A.
- ☐ Unit 3- Professional Development in the Sport industry – A variety of detailed written reports demonstrating analytical skills/ Evidence of extensive research/ Completed action plans & reviews/ Evidence of participation in interviews
- ☐ Unit 7 – Practical Sports Performance – Assignment & completing a practical assessment of your ability to apply the skills, techniques & tactics in conditioned & competitive situations in both individual & team sports

## HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

- ☐ Essential concepts of each topic are introduced by the teacher in class, using ICT presentations and visual & practical activities.
- ☐ Students will engage with writing notes, self-assessment techniques to tailor revision
- ☐ There is a strong emphasis on independent learning and research.
- ☐ Using practical elements to transfer knowledge & understanding to cognitive aspects.
- ☐ Engaging with qualitative & quantitative research to develop research towards assignments.
- ☐ Using interventions to improve upon student's knowledge & understanding & quality of work.

## FUTURE PATHWAYS

You can go to study and become a sports scientist, physiotherapist, sports psychologist, sports nutritionist, personal trainer or be involved in creating sports policies as part governing bodies.



## Laboratory Science

### What is a T Level?

A T Level is an entire post 16 qualification and is equivalent to 3 A Levels so it takes 2 years to complete.

Maria Fidelis is offering the Health and Science T level with an occupational specialism in Laboratory Science. Our T level has been developed in collaboration with the Francis Crick Institute to prepare students for entry into skilled employment, a higher apprenticeship or related technical study through higher education (university).

### T Level is split into three main sections:

1. **Technical qualification** is the main, classroom-based element where students study a detailed curriculum covering all aspects of laboratory sciences.
2. **Industry placement** runs for a minimum of 315 hours overall and will give students practical insights into their sector and an opportunity to embed the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. This will take place in Year 2 and will be at The Francis Crick Institute.
3. **English, Maths and digital** provision are also built into the classroom-based element of the T Level, meaning students will be given a solid foundation of transferable skills.

As well as 15 hours of lessons per week, students will be expected to complete an additional 15 hours of self-directed study including...

- Homework, Lab reports, Reading and research, Coursework, Revision and exam preparation.

### Topics covered in Year 1:

Cells, Tissues and Biological Molecules, Genetics, Microbiology and Immunology, Chemical Analysis, Materials and Chemical Properties, Chemical Reactions, Electricity and Magnetism and Waves and Radiation

### Entry Requirements

There are a **maximum of 10 places available**, and so to be considered for the T level course students will need:

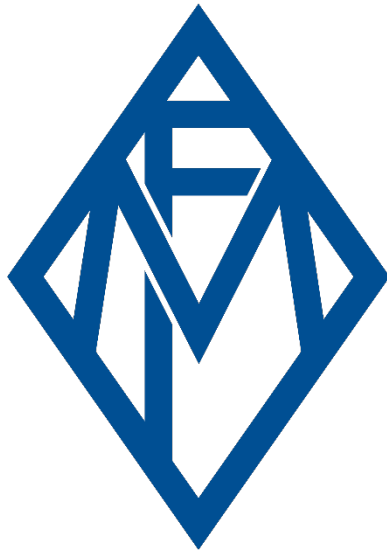
- five GCSEs at grades G9-G5 (to include English and Maths at G5+ and Science at G5-5 or higher)
- a good attendance record
- a recommendation from their Year 11 Science teacher(s)
- an interview with staff from Maria Fidelis and the Francis Crick Institute

### Progression opportunities

Skilled employment, higher apprenticeship or an undergraduate degree

### Employment opportunities

Laboratory technician, Laboratory analyst, Microbiologist, Research scientist



**Maria Fidelis**  
Sixth Form

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