



THE MISBOURNE
INSPIRING MINDS • BROADENING OPPORTUNITIES

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

For September 2022 Entry



WELCOME

I am delighted that you are considering The Misbourne for the next stage of your education. Our Sixth Form is a dynamic and thriving community, supporting academic excellence and outstanding personal achievement. Students at The Misbourne enter a vibrant Sixth Form with high expectations, where they are prepared for the next stage of their education, future employment and the demands of an ever-changing world.

Our Sixth Form team supports every aspect of your transition to post-16 education, offering an encouraging environment where you are given the right balance of autonomy and support; we believe in leaving nothing to chance when preparing our students with the skills needed for academic success, adaptability for the future and personal wellbeing.

At The Misbourne, you can select from a broad range of exciting and inspiring courses, and will experience high-quality teaching, smaller class sizes, dedicated facilities and staff who really do go the extra mile to ensure you achieve the best possible outcomes, which open doors for your future.

We are immensely proud of the success our learners achieve in their time with us. However, life in our Sixth Form means so much more than academic achievement alone: your wellbeing, enjoyment and personal growth are vital also. Our motto 'Inspiring Minds – Broadening Opportunities' is at the core of Years 12 and 13. Students play

an active role in the wider school community as Senior Students, mentors and role models and are given opportunities to broaden their experiences and understanding of the wider world through activities such as Duke of Edinburgh, World Challenge, educational and pastoral visits and guest speakers. Also unique to our Sixth Form is our 'LEAP Award', which brings together opportunities for our students to truly develop into the world-class citizens we believe they can be.

Our Sixth Form students have a proven track record of success. We are delighted that the vast majority of university applicants secure their first-choice university place (many go on to some of the most prestigious in the country); and our students are equally successful when moving directly into employment and apprenticeships in a diverse range of fields. Our award-winning Careers Hub will support you with the information, advice, guidance and contacts you need to navigate those important decisions.

Whatever your talents, ambitions or interests, we know that if you choose to join our Sixth Form you will flourish into well-rounded young adults, prepared for the next steps in your journey. We look forward to welcoming you next September.

Rich Peters LL.B (Hons)
Headteacher designate

*"We want to instill in **every student** the **belief** that they can achieve more than they ever thought **possible**."*

Richard Peters, Headteacher designate

WELCOME

from the Sixth Form Leaders



Misbourne Sixth Formers are challenged and supported every step of the way, both in the classroom and beyond. This is vital in ensuring our students are well prepared for their futures and are in the best possible positions to succeed.

From the start of Year 12, our students not only begin their Level 3 qualifications, but also, through their Learning for Life curriculum, are supported in developing positive study habits and healthy, happy lives.

In addition, all our Sixth Formers will achieve our Misbourne LEAP Award. This is a dedicated, certified programme that demonstrates to prospective employers and universities that our students have excellent attributes, gained through their participation in the wide range of enriching activities we offer.

For students, moving up from Year 11 is a great experience as we already know the majority of them very well. Nevertheless, around 10% of our Sixth Form comprises external students who join us from other schools and we have been commended on the supportive and friendly way in which we help them to settle in.

We very much look forward to welcoming you.

Ms Kate Hill
Head of Sixth Form

Ms Clare Bartington
Deputy Head of Sixth Form

STUDENT LIFE

Broad and balanced curriculum

The Sixth Form curriculum at The Misbourne is tailored to the needs of our students. We have a rich course offer, including academic and vocational subjects, and students can select any combination. It is about what suits their interests and talents best, so that they can successfully go on to further study, training or employment of their choice.

We celebrate success in all its forms. Academic achievement is consistently well above the national average of all secondary schools in the country.

As soon as students start in The Misbourne Sixth Form, they begin to study three A Levels or equivalent qualifications, supported by a weekly study skills programme to aid them to make a strong and successful transition into Key Stage 5. Students that need to alter their subject choices in their first weeks are well supported and those undertaking the GCSE English or Maths resit programmes receive teaching in specialist small classes.

All students will also follow our LEAP Award programme to complement their academic qualifications.

Our Sixth Form programme of study includes personal development and life skills learning and opportunities, where students learn about British values, their own rights and responsibilities and how to make the transition to the adult environment. We also have termly curriculum 'Enrichment Days', where a variety of different

activities and experiences are used to strengthen students' knowledge, which, alongside the practical application of skills, combine to provide a deeper learning experience.

The Misbourne is the lead school for careers provision in Buckinghamshire and all our students benefit from a renowned careers advice and information programme.

Communicating with families about their child's progress is vital and an important way in which we work together. During each academic year, families will receive regular updates about students' progress, effort and attitude to learning. We also host an annual 'Making the Grade' evening to help families understand how they can best support their child through their programme of study to maximise their chances of academic success.

Outside these times, we keep families informed every step of the way to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our students, leading to them achieving more than they ever thought possible.

Our superb and highly-qualified teachers care about and believe in every student. They have the highest expectations of all, encouraging them to learn quickly, whilst being sympathetic to all abilities. Everyone at The Misbourne works hard, guided by the belief that through effort, commitment and dedication, wonderful things can happen.

*"The quality of **teaching** is consistently good across the school. In lessons, teachers have **high expectations**, plan tasks that provide high levels of **challenge and encourage** pupils to **participate** well."*

Ofsted

THE LEAP AWARD

We recognise that today's employment marketplace is highly competitive. Additionally, feedback from employers regularly tells us that they look for more than academic qualifications in their new recruits - and would welcome a means of easily understanding an applicant's employability credentials.

It was to meet this need that we introduced our Sixth Form LEAP Award in September 2021.

This accreditation is designed to highlight to prospective employers the many additional activities that all of our Sixth Formers undertake throughout their time here beyond their academic studies.

These accomplishments fall into four categories:

- **L**eading Change
- **E**nriching Others
- **A**dditional Qualification
- **P**reparing for your Future

There are four levels of attainment, which will be certified following a student's CV submission in Year 13.

The levels are:

- **Headteacher's commendation** - all four categories achieved plus extra attainment
- **Gold award** - all four categories achieved
- **Silver award** - three categories achieved
- **Bronze award** - two categories achieved

We are committed to ensuring that our Sixth Form curriculum focuses on meeting the aspirations of our students, allowing them to develop the skills and qualities that will truly broaden their opportunities in the future.

The vast majority of our Sixth Formers continue on to either higher education or degree-level apprenticeships. We successfully support those aspiring to the best universities, including those in the Russell Group and specialist courses, ranging from veterinary science to music conservatoires.

If undertaking the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), students have the opportunity to make an extended project proposal on any topic area of their interest with students year-on-year securing the highest grades.

We give our students the support they need to achieve far beyond their expected levels, whether as a leader, a team player, a sports person or wherever their talents lie.



Leading Change

As part of our Learning for Life programme, and with the new student leadership initiative, everyone will be challenged to make a difference to their community in a Youth Social Action project devised and led by students.



Enriching Others

Contributions to our community include supporting younger students in paired reading, mentoring, running clubs, sports coaching, assisting in main school classrooms and student leadership. Each Sixth Former is challenged to contribute for at least two whole terms.



Additional Qualification

Each Sixth Former is encouraged to stand out from the crowd by completing at least one additional qualification, including Extended Project Qualification, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, National Citizen Service, Young Enterprise, external music, drama or dance grades, sports leadership or officiating awards, and university-level Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).



Preparing For Your Future

As part of actively participating in our award-winning programme of careers activities, each Sixth Former must complete at least one week's meaningful work experience related to their future career interests.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Exploring gifts, talents and interests

The Misbourne prides itself on the number of enrichment and extra-curricular activities we offer to the Sixth Form. Early in Year 12 there is the memorable experience of our annual outward-bound **team building** expedition.

From their first weeks of study, Sixth Form students regularly **work with business people** in a range of assemblies, seminars and workshops so they are fully prepared for their next steps. Their imaginations are stretched further through a series of talks by prestigious **masterclass speakers** from national roles in business, science, politics and the media.

From **school productions** such as *The Addams Family* and *Our House*, **internal competitions**, the **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**, **World Challenge**, **National Citizen Service**, **Mathematics Challenges**, sports **clubs**, lunchtime **concerts**, art and photography **exhibitions**, **ski trips**, numerous excursions within the UK and abroad, our students have a very packed time during their Sixth Form experience.

We have an active **Student Parliament**, where ideas are communicated into an action plan to further enhance the school. A large proportion of students successfully complete the **Student Leadership Accreditation** which forms part of the LEAP Award. Altogether, our Sixth Formers play a vital part in school life as **role models** and **leaders** across all subject areas.



*“Building strong **relationships** between families, students and teachers is **pivotal** to the continued **success** of the school and is a key factor in its **popularity**.”*

Mrs Cato, CL Design Technology, Art and Photography

AWARD-WINNING CAREERS EDUCATION

Broadening opportunities

The Misbourne is a **nationally-recognised leader** of careers education and all students participate in a rich programme of challenging and supportive activities. We are backed by an ever-expanding network of professionals, volunteers and former students who regularly visit the academy to work alongside students and provide high-quality careers experiences.

We believe that **employability and work-readiness are just as important as qualifications** to enable students to grasp their aspirations with both hands. We train students in interview techniques, building CVs and leadership skills and carefully

track and respond to their interests to provide bespoke opportunities. All Sixth Formers undertake at least one week's work experience, and many combine additional work experience with regular volunteering to develop their skills and CV. This also goes towards them fulfilling the highest levels of the LEAP Award.

Our careers provision is driven by local and national market information and we are **one of the few UK schools** to have put in place **all eight 'Gatsby benchmarks'** that meet the government's highest expectations for careers support.

As the lead school for careers provision in Buckinghamshire, all our students benefit from a renowned careers advice and information programme.



“ I went to The Misbourne and now I am a GP who is the resident doctor on BBC Breakfast ”

Dr Nighat Arif

**What will
your future be?**



“ I attended The Misbourne and now I lead Alliance Partnerships across Europe for a Global US technology company ”

Sam Kidd

**What will
your future be?**

TEAMWORK

Promoting wellbeing

We take the pastoral care and personal development of students very seriously and have a dedicated and extremely hard-working team of staff who ensure students are well supported to achieve academically but also to develop and grow as young adults.

Our committed Pastoral Team of Heads of School, the Sixth Form Team and Student Mentors ensure that, by working closely with families, our students are supported at all times. When students enter the Sixth Form, they are placed into one of four 'schools': Attenborough, Franklin, Holmes and Turing. Within these, each student is a member of a Sixth Form Tutor Group and is looked after by a Form Tutor, who takes a keen interest in their progress and welfare and supports their applications to higher education and careers.

There are a variety of ways our Sixth Formers act as ambassadors, leaders and mentors for students in other year groups through our unique 'schools within schools' system.

In order for our students to be supported, we believe that even at Sixth Form level, family involvement is of vital importance. We keep in close touch with families through the SIMS Parent app, our home-school email system, newsletters, our website and reports. We encourage families to keep in touch with us and they are welcome to discuss their child with us at any time. Families are also invited to support the work of the school by joining the very active **parents' association**, the **Friends of The Misbourne**.

Our growing **Alumni network** allows former students to keep in touch with one another and the

academy. We also draw on our Alumni to provide careers advice and networking support to new generations of Misbourne Sixth Formers.

Through hard work and enjoyment of their time at The Misbourne, our students form long-lasting friendships and are well prepared with the skills and attributes to shape the future of our country.



*"The great thing about The Misbourne is how **welcome** you feel as a **student**. The School is excellent in identifying and **nurturing** the **talent** in all of us."*

Harvey, Year 13 graduate

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How do I apply?

Applications are made using an online form on our website.

Applications remain open throughout the remainder of the academic year, however if you wish to receive timely information and guidance, including the offer of a guidance meeting with a senior leader, please apply by the initial deadline of Friday 28 January 2022. This enables us to return your offer of a place by the end of the Spring term and contact you to offer guidance if a course has not had enough uptake or if there is a timetabling clash.

How do I choose my subjects?

Whether you have already chosen your courses for next year or you are struggling to decide, there are plenty of places where you can do some further research.

The qualifications you pick now can impact on what you do later, including which courses you can apply to at university and which universities will consider you. If you don't know what you want to do in the future, you can still make some smart choices that will leave you in a strong position in two years' time.

We recommend [TheUniGuide website](#), which has articles on which A Levels to choose. For students looking at competitive university entrance, such as the Russell Group universities, it is worth consulting their new Informed Choices website (www.informedchoices.ac.uk).

That said, for the vast majority of careers and universities, choosing the three subjects you prefer and have the greatest ability in will be the most successful way forward.

What if I did not pass GCSE English or Mathematics?

All students who have not yet passed GCSE English/Mathematics at Grade 4 join a resit course in Year 12 until they have passed. They can still apply to Sixth Form but must also hold a minimum of four

GCSEs at Grade 4 or above and meet the subject entry requirements for their chosen three subjects.

What kind of students are we looking for?

We are looking for students who are prepared to roll their sleeves up and make the leap, with our support and training, into the more independent learning nature of Sixth Form study. You will also need to develop a quickly-growing awareness that the enrichment and leadership opportunities you seize really help you to stand out from the crowd when it comes to university or career applications, your final school reference and your future opportunities. We are also looking for students who wish to explore their careers and future options on a regular basis alongside their Sixth Form studies.

Is there any financial assistance?

Our 16-19 Bursary Fund can provide substantial financial support and applications should be made in detail and in time for the deadlines that we will share with you during the enrolment process.

A bursary can help you with any education-related costs that may arise during the school year, including essentials. There are two levels of bursary and eligibility depends on personal circumstances and family income. All applications for this limited fund are considered by the school Bursary Fund Committee.

Full details can be found on the school website.

Will I get to visit universities?

Not only does the government advise that all Sixth Formers should visit at least two universities during their time in Sixth Form, we encourage students to take up to three school days per academic year to visit Open Days and University Experience Days.

Many of these days also happen on weekends which enables further visits on top of the permitted school time.

Guide to Courses

ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY COURSES

Art and Design: Art (A Level, AQA exam board)



Why study Art?

The course will equip you with the skills, knowledge and understanding to access a wide range of careers in the creative industries or progress to higher education. It will also develop your analytical skills, organisational ability, and time-management skills; it will allow you to see the world around you from a unique perspective. This course lends itself well to studying higher level Design and Engineering courses such as Architecture and Planning. You do not need to have studied Art at GCSE but will need a portfolio interview if this is the case.

What can it lead to?

A variety of creative fields including: illustration, interior design, graphic design, theatre costume and set design, fashion, architecture and advertising. It

can also lead to other careers like teaching, museum education and art therapy.

What are the areas of study?

Following an introductory programme in Year 12, allowing you to develop skills in a range of media and techniques, you will complete two components. Component 1 is a Portfolio (60% of the A Level); you select your own area of interest to explore and through research, investigation and experimentation you will develop a creative body of work to submit. Component 2 is an externally set assignment (40%), a theme that you are required to develop into an exam piece. You are required to investigate artists and visit exhibitions, showing how these artists have influenced your own work.

Art and Design: Photography (A Level, AQA exam board)

Why study Photography?

You will be equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding for entry to employment in the photographic industry or progression to higher education. You will undertake practical structured learning with the flexibility to specialise in different photographic areas directly relevant to employment within the industry, including digital imaging, darkroom technology, studio photography, photojournalism, documentary photography and art installation.

What can it lead on to?

The flexibility and range of units on this course lead naturally on to the photographic industry, where those seeking employment will produce a comprehensive and varied portfolio covering a breadth of relevant skills. This can lead to a myriad of careers in the industry from photographer to set designer, art director to make-up artist, picture editor to cinematographer and many more. This qualification can also be used for entry for higher education courses and careers, not just in photography but also in media, fashion, journalism, fine art, education and film studies.

Guide to Courses

What are the areas of study?

This qualification focuses on the recognition of achievement through practical photography skills, analytical and planning skills, editing skills and artistic presentation. You will undertake one internally assessed coursework unit which requires you to work to a theme of your own choosing, covering a variety of photographic styles. This will involve exploring four separate and distinct ideas relating to your theme, followed by further developments of your ideas, which will lead to the presentation of a final piece or series. This coursework unit also includes a sustained critical and contextual study of current and historical photography relevant to your theme. In addition, you will take an internally-assessed examination unit, which will further develop your skills and understanding of photography. Both units are externally moderated following internal assessment.

Food Science and Nutrition (WJEC Level 3 Diploma)

Why study Food Science and Nutrition?

“Just as society has evolved over time, our food system has also evolved over centuries into a global system of immense size and complexity. The commitment of food science and technology professionals to advancing the science of food, ensuring a safe and abundant food supply, and contributing to healthier people everywhere is integral to that evolution” (Nelson, 2007 World Food Prize Laureate). You will gain an understanding of food science and nutrition which is relevant to many industries and job roles. Care providers and nutritionists in hospitals use this knowledge, as do sports coaches and fitness instructors. Hotels and restaurants, food manufacturers and government agencies also use this understanding to develop menus, food products and policies that support healthy eating initiatives.

What can it lead on to?

The course is designed for people wanting to feed or inform the nation with careers as diverse as the foods we eat. The subject is designed primarily

to support you progressing to university and by studying this award alongside other relevant qualifications at Level 3 such as Biology, Sociology or Sport, you will gain the required knowledge to use the qualification to support entry to higher education courses such as BSc degrees in Food and Nutrition, Food Production and Agriculture, Food Advertising, Human Nutrition, Public Health Nutrition and Food Science and Technology.

What are the areas of study?

Unit 1 (Meeting Nutritional needs of Specific Groups) is delivered through Year 12 and consists of one controlled assessment (internally assessed) and an externally assessed exam in May / June of the same academic year. Year 13 consists of Unit 2 (Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat) and one other optional Unit; Unit 3 (Experimenting to Solve Food Production Problems) or Unit 4 (Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition planning), both of which are externally assessed tasks.

BUSINESS COURSES

Business (A Level, Edexcel exam board)

Why study Business?

Business helps you to develop an understanding of business organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value. You will consider business behaviour from a variety of perspectives, incorporating interests of all stakeholders. The subject will equip you with the knowledge and skills to function in the world of work.

What can it lead on to?

Business leads to a wide range of opportunities in many careers such as accountancy, law, civil service, commerce, teaching, leisure and tourism management, to name but a few. You could work in a variety of different jobs in the private or public sector, or even start up your own business.

What are the areas of study?

You will study four key areas over the two years:

Guide to Courses

Marketing and people enables you to understand how businesses identify opportunities and to explore how businesses focus on developing a competitive advantage through interacting with customers.

Managing business provides you with the opportunity to look at how businesses raise and manage finance and how they measure business performance.

Business decisions and strategy focuses on the analysis of corporate objectives and strategy against financial and non-financial performance measures and how businesses grow, and develop an understanding of the impact of external influences.

Global business allows for the investigation of businesses that trade on a global scale and explore their reasons for doing so. You will develop an understanding of the globally competitive environment and consider the ethical and moral dimensions of global business activities.

Business CTEC (Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate)

Why study Cambridge Technical Business?

From small, single-owner enterprises to large multinational organisations, the impact of businesses is far reaching. They provide goods and services; create jobs and growth in the economy, as well as creating new opportunities through skills development and innovation. The Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate in Business offers a wide range of units enabling you to focus on specific areas including business functions, the external environment, working in a business and the importance of making decisions in business. You will be required to work in groups; write detailed reports; work with external organisations and business people and deliver presentations. The course is student led with a strong emphasis on independent learning and research.

What can it lead on to?

This qualification will provide you with the skills,

knowledge and understanding to progress into higher education on a business-related programme such as Business, Business Management, Marketing, Business and Finance, Business and Economics, Accounting, and Certificate or Diploma in Human Resource Management. It will also allow you to choose non-business related degree programmes or enter the world of work.

What are the areas of study?

The business environment provides you with the opportunity to develop an understanding of how and why businesses operate in the way they do.

Customers and communication examines the purpose, methods and importance of communication in business and the appropriateness of different forms of communication for different situations.

Principles of project management allows you to study the stages of project management and the type of skills a project manager should have.

Economics (A Level, Edexcel exam board)

Why study Economics?

Economics is the study of the factors that influence income, wealth and wellbeing. You will study a range of economic concepts over the duration of the course, including microeconomics, economic problems and the ways economists think and work. You will go on to consider key measures of economic performance and the main instruments of economic policy primarily in a UK context. Building upon your knowledge, skills and understanding you will then apply them in the context of a business and finally a wider global context.

What can it lead on to?

Economics leads to a wide range of opportunities in many careers such as accountancy, banking, the civil service and other jobs in the financial sector. You could work in a variety of different jobs in the private or public sector, or even start up your own business.

Guide to Courses

What are the areas of study?

Introduction to markets and market failure provides you with the opportunity to consider how markets work, looking at how supply and demand interact to allocate resources in local, national and international markets.

The UK economy – performance and policies introduces the aggregate demand/aggregate supply model so that you can use it to analyse changes in real output and the price level.

Business behaviour and the labour market examines how the number and size of market participants, and the level of contestability, affect the pricing and nature of competition among firms.

A global perspective places the expectation upon you to understand the significance of globalisation, international trade, the balance of payments and exchange rates.

Health and Social Care CTEC (Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate)

Why study Health and Social Care?

Health and social care allows you to develop an understanding of the diverse and complex nature of the health and social care sector. You will gain an understanding of health and social care in the wider contexts of different environments and settings where care takes place, the importance of effective communication in health and social care, the importance of legislation in health and social care and how to deliver a person-centred approach in the care given. You will also develop transferable skills such as communication, research, planning and organisation.

What can it lead on to?

This course supports progression into higher education, training or employment. You have the option to go on to study a range of degrees in the health and social care sector.

What are the areas of study?

Building positive relationships in health and social care aims to introduce you to the many different relationships that you will encounter within the health and social care sector; whether with colleagues, senior members of staff, other professionals within the sector or individuals who require care and support.

Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care will help you understand the implications of diversity on practice and also the effects of discriminatory practice on individuals who require care or support.

Health, safety and security in health and social care introduces you to health, safety and security.

Anatomy and physiology in health and social care aims to introduce you to the basic structure and functions of the body systems involved in everyday activities and maintenance of health, including cardiovascular, respiratory and digestive systems.

Sexual health, reproduction and early years development will look at the development from conception to a one-year-old child.

Tourism (WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma)

Why study Tourism?

The Level 3 Applied Diploma in Tourism is designed to provide you with the knowledge, understanding and skills associated with tourism organisations and activities. The qualification provides a broad basis for further or higher education or for moving into employment. The Applied Diploma in Tourism also enables you to gain essential employability skills that are valued by employers, further and higher education including literacy and numeracy, digital literacy, critical thinking and problem solving, planning and organisation, creativity and innovation and personal effectiveness.

What can it lead on to?

The course gives you a wide choice of progression options into further study, training or relevant employment in the travel and tourism sector. You

Guide to Courses

will be well equipped to move on to a degree, Higher National Diploma or modern apprenticeship.

What are the areas of study?

The United Kingdom tourism product considers the wide range of tourist destinations within the UK and why they are such popular destinations.

Worldwide tourism destinations allows you to gain an understanding of the reasons or motivation for people to travel to different destinations.

Event and itinerary planning provides you with the opportunity to develop the skills of critical thinking by assessing the business elements which are involved in planning and organising a tourism event.

The Dynamic Tourism Industry: tourism is an ever-changing industry which has to adapt quickly to external pressures and changes in society at a national and global scale. Students will study how the global tourism industry has embraced new information and communication technology to revolutionise travel, as well as evaluating how the tourism industry has developed strategies to deal with climate change and how important attractions and destinations are managed.

ENGLISH COURSES

English Language (A Level, Edexcel exam board)

Why study English Language?

It will enable you to develop your interest in and enjoyment of English through learning about its structures and its functions, its developments and its variation. It allows you to develop your ability to express yourself through speech and writing, producing texts for different purposes and in different genres. You will develop the ability to communicate clearly using appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression. Such skills are valued highly by higher education institutions and employers.

What can it lead on to?

English Language can be studied as a single subject

in higher education. Alternatively it can be a foundation for study in any arts-based subject. With English Language A Level you could go straight into employment. There are opportunities for training in careers such as journalism, the media, the law or in teaching.

What are the areas of study?

You will develop methods of exploring and understanding spoken and written language in use, whether it be in articles, adverts, children's story books and, of course, the internet. You will learn to understand the roles of purposes, audiences and contexts and the impact of these pressures upon language production and reception. You will also develop a whole new vocabulary, learning about key linguistic methods in order to analyse and investigate a variety of extracts taken from everyday sources. Key topics include Child Language Development, Language and Change, Language and Gender and Language and Power. You will also complete a non-examined unit (coursework), where you will have to research, propose, and write two different pieces of writing of the same genre but for different audiences.

English Literature (A Level, AQA exam board)

Why study English Literature?

It will enable you to develop your interest in and enjoyment of English literature, through reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries, genre and gender. You will develop the ability to communicate clearly using appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression. Such skills are valued highly by higher education institutions and employers.

What can it lead on to?

English Literature can be studied as a single subject in higher education. Alternatively it can be a foundation for study in any arts-based subject. With English Literature A Level you could go straight into employment. There are opportunities for training in careers such as journalism, the media, the law or even teaching. Studying this subject shows future

Guide to Courses

employers that you are able to read between the lines, think analytically and research around the history and contexts of texts.

What are the areas of study?

You will develop methods of exploring and understanding a range of writers and different genres of literature. You will learn to understand the importance of the historical context of texts. Other texts include the dramatic and tragic Othello, pre-20th century love poetry and the turbulent and thought-provoking A Streetcar Named Desire. All texts will be studied in detail in class but we will also expect you to be an avid reader to develop your knowledge and understanding. You will also complete a non-examined unit (coursework), where you will have to choose two different texts to compare on a theme of your choice.

Media Studies (A Level, OCR exam board)

Why study Media?

In today's world you are saturated with information from the media and it is vital that you learn to deconstruct media texts with the same proficiency that traditionally you have applied to literary texts. It is equally important that you learn to construct your own media texts.

What can it lead on to?

You could study a range of associated courses at universities, from general media and film courses to specific courses concentrating on particular media with either a practical or theoretical bias. There are many careers in media related subjects, some traditional like journalism and broadcasting and others more recent involving special effects and animation. The course covers a range of media texts in order to best inform our students. The course will be a combination of practical and theoretical elements with a strong focus on the analysis of real media products. You will be encouraged to examine and develop your own media literacy throughout the course, delving in to new ways to present information and communicate ideas.

What are the areas of study?

You will study 'news' in a modern context by exploring how institutions such as The Guardian and The Daily Mail use print, online and their social media presence to deliver different social, cultural and political values. You will examine representation within music videos and advertising, analysing how media conveys meaning and messages to its audience. You will compare American and European television dramas, studying the approach of 'Stranger Things' to everything from representation to postmodernism. Another focus is on 'Evolving Media', contrasting modern and traditional approaches to production, distribution and marketing in film and radio as well as audience interaction and the conception of 'prosumers' in the video games industry. You will also complete a non-examined unit (coursework) where you will have to research, film and edit a music video.

HUMANITIES COURSES

Geography (A Level, AQA exam board)

Why study Geography?

For those interested in current issues and their surrounding environment this subject focuses on the inter-relationships between people and their environments. The course provides the opportunity to study questions, issues and problems which arise from these relationships. This course encourages students to think critically on a range of issues, develop possible solutions to current environmental problems and consider moral, cultural and political dimensions to problem solving and decision making.

What can it lead on to?

The skills covered in Geography are much sought-after by employers. During the course you will develop your experience and abilities in the collection and handling of primary data; representation and analysis of data sources including maps, photographs and statistics; analysing global concerns such as pollution and the energy question; presenting reports, essays and field study accounts; the application of statistical methods.

Guide to Courses

What are the areas of study?

The two elements of this course contain a people-environment approach to Geography and an enquiry approach to learning. The syllabus content is divided into a series of chapters, Part 1 (Physical Geography) is worth 40% and covers water and the carbon cycles, coastal systems and landscapes, and hazards. Part 2 (Human Geography) is also worth 40% and covers global systems and global governance, changing places, and population and the environment. The final 20% is a non-examined assessment based on fieldwork undertaken in the second year.

History

(A Level, OCR exam board)

Why study History?

You will be equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding for entry to employment in a wide variety of industries, or progression to higher education. History is a highly respected, academic subject desired by employers and universities alike. History at The Misbourne will give you a fascinating insight into our past and how it has shaped our lives today with a focus on both international history and British history.

What can it lead on to?

The strength of History as an academic discipline opens many doors to those who study it. A confident knowledge of world history and the skills that come with it will be useful in many jobs including; law, politics, education and research, civil service, local government, journalism, archaeology, anthropological study, marketing, editing, archive work and much more. A Level History will teach you important transferable life skills too, such as, analysis, problem solving, evaluation, justification, synthesis and collaboration as well as using evidence to inform opinions – all of which are highly regarded and useful at university level. A Level History can lead to a number of apprenticeship or volunteering opportunities including in areas such as; museums, media and publishing, library

or archive work, stately homes and houses e.g. National Trust or English Heritage.

What are the areas of study?

This qualification focuses on both British and international history; with a variety of units offered. The course will explore the transition from Tsardom to communism in Russia; the development of British history and politics between 1930 and 1997; the American Revolution and subsequent independence from British rule; as well as your own research and personal study related to the Nazi regime. This course is 80% exam and 20% coursework.

Politics

(A Level, Edexcel exam board)

Why study Politics?

A Level Politics is a fascinating subject to study in an ever-changing and modernising world. You will cover a broad range of topical and historically political issues that will enable a deeper understanding of current and previous events. Politics provides students with transferable skills that are highly desired by universities and employers alike; you will learn to be critical and analytical in your approach to new concepts. You will be taught to question what you learn and challenge your understanding of the status quo. You will develop your written and oral communication skills to put forward your opinions, using research and further study to inform ideas.

What can it lead on to?

The strength and quality of politics as an academic discipline opens many doors to those who study it. A confident knowledge of both British and international politics and the skills that come with it will be useful in many employment sectors, including; local or national government, journalism, law, further academic research or higher education, Civil Service fast stream, public relations, market research, charity work, non-governmental organisation, pressure groups, local political party, politician's or MP's assistant.

Guide to Courses

What are the areas of study?

This qualification focuses on both British and international politics; a variety of topics and issues are taught ranging from the British constitution and importance of modern democracy to the European Union and global governance. Political thought and theories such as feminism, liberalism, anarchy and nationalism will also be taught to give you a broad understanding of the foundations of our political system. This course is 100% examined.

Psychology

(A Level, AQA exam board)

Why study Psychology?

Studying A Level Psychology will give you an understanding of the processes of the mind and brain and allows you to gain insights into peoples' motivations, perceptions and behaviour. It will give you a different perspective on why people react in the ways they do and help you to understand people a little better. The insights you gain into thought processes, the influences of groups you interact with and many other aspects of human behaviour will all help you gain a better understanding of yourself. You will develop your communication skills which will help you communicate effectively with others. You will also learn how to structure an argument, to discuss a topic clearly and objectively, and to reference relevant sources.

What can it lead on to?

Through studying Psychology, you will be equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding for entry to employment in a variety of careers or progression to higher education. With strong research and communication skills, and an understanding of why people act the way they do, you are well prepared for careers in law, social services, education, business, and many other. You can progress from A Level Psychology to a wide range of university courses, or to vocational studies such as medical training, nursing or social work. A qualification such as BSc (Hons) Psychology can allow you to pursue further professional training including clinical, educational and occupational psychology.

What are the areas of study?

In Year One you will cover a diverse range of topics including memory, attachments, psychopathology, social influence and biopsychology. You will study research methods and the ability to interpret statistical results which will provide you with important skills that are transferable to the work place. In Year Two you will cover topics including aggression, schizophrenia and gender whilst also studying issues and debates and approaches in psychology. You will learn about applications of Psychology in the real world.

Religious Studies

(A Level, AQA exam board)

Why study Religious Studies?

You will be equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding for entry to employment in a wide variety of industries or progression to higher education. You will partake in structured learning with frequent opportunities to engage in discussion and debates - often due to some of the controversial topics it covers.

What can it lead on to?

The flexibility and range of units on this course lead naturally on to several areas of employment. Knowledge of other cultures and world religions can be useful in many jobs including; law, politics, education, public services, medicine, journalism, religious ministry, counselling, aid worker, social service roles, marketing and tourism. This course will teach you important transferable life skills, such as analysis, problem solving, evaluation, justification, synthesis and collaboration – all of which are highly regarded and useful at university level. In addition, this course is deemed a 'classic' which universities highly regard. This course can also lead to exciting apprentice opportunities including in areas such as: art, media and publishing, eg exhibition guide, visitor services support, leisure, travel and tourism, eg tourist guide, travel adviser, health, public services and care, eg community support worker.

Guide to Courses

What are the areas of study?

This qualification focuses on Philosophy (both modern and ancient), Ethics and Christianity (how can people be Christian in today's society?). It discusses a wide range of issues including abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, life after death, animal rights, religious language, evil and suffering, issues of multiculturalism, religious pluralism and the conscience. All areas of this study are relatable to current affairs and the world that you live in. This is a 100% examined course.

Sociology (A Level, AQA exam board)

Why study Sociology?

If you are the type of person whose mind is open to the possibilities that things are not as they seem, questions traditional values that are deemed acceptable within society and, more importantly, want to know why we hold these values to be true, then Sociology is for you. You will need to be able to analyse statistics, find patterns in seemingly disconnected sub-cultures and develop an understanding of sociological theory. You will also be interested in the world around you, engage in critical debate and regularly read and watch the news.

What can it lead to?

Sociology can help towards a university degree in many of the social sciences including Sociology, Psychology and Anthropology. Sociology careers range from journalism and media research to law, politics, education, business and social work.

What are the areas of study?

You will study what is meant by the term society and sociology's place in helping to determine the human need to be part of a collective conscience. You will complete three units focusing on the sociology of education, sociology of crime and topics in sociology. You will also learn about the role of research methodology in sociology and gain an in-depth understanding of sociological perspectives including the conflict and consensus approaches.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ICT COURSES

Computer Science (A Level, OCR exam board)

Why study Computer Science?

Almost every aspect of modern life is affected by computers, from running our personal and social lives to using the internet, mobile devices and home appliances, to complex programs that help businesses and public services to run smoothly. Vast networked systems of computers control global communication, trade, finance and transportation, and much more besides.

Studying Computer Science will open a window for you to discover how computers work and enable you to design and determine what you do. You will also become experienced in problem solving by being able to analyse and break down problems to find the most efficient and effective solutions.

What can it lead on to?

You can go on to study degree courses in Engineering, Physics, Computer Science, Mathematics, Artificial Intelligence or Computer Games Programming. Computer Science also offers you the opportunity to explore other pathways: music production; digital art; architecture - computer-aided design and modelling; smart fabric design for fashion, healthcare and other industries; communication networks; sports analysis; crime investigation; weather and financial forecasting; 3D printing; virtual reality; audio-visual special effects; and robotics.

What are the areas of study?

Component 1 (Computer Systems, exam worth 40%) covers the characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices; software and software development; exchanging data; data types, data structures and algorithms; legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues.

Guide to Courses

Component 2 (Algorithms and Programming, exam worth 40%) covers elements of computational thinking; problem solving and programming; algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms.

Component 3 (20%) is a programming project in which you choose a computing problem to work through, from analysis to design, developing the solution and evaluation.

Information Technology (OCR Cambridge Technical L3 Diploma in IT)

Why study IT?

This qualification aims to develop your knowledge and understanding of the principles of IT and global information systems. You will gain an insight into the IT sector as they investigate the pace of technological change, IT infrastructure, and the flow of information on a global scale and the importance of legal and security considerations. It will provide you with the opportunity through applied learning to develop the core specialist knowledge, skills and understanding required in the IT sector.

What can it lead on to?

The Cambridge Technicals in IT have been developed to meet the changing needs of the sector, and prepare you for the challenges they'll face in higher education or employment. You can also progress into IT-related apprenticeships.

What are the areas of study?

You will study five units over two years. There are three mandatory units that are externally assessed. These are: the fundamentals of IT, global information and cyber security.

The first two mandatory units provide you with an insight into the IT sector as you investigate the pace of technological change, IT infrastructure, and the flow of information on a global scale and important legal and security considerations.

The third mandatory unit reflects an important

development in the sector around information security and requires you to consider how data should be protected and the response of the IT sector to emerging threats such as cyber terrorism. You then take two optional units that are centre-assessed and moderated by OCR.

The optional units are virtual and augmented reality and social media and digital marketing. Virtual and augmented reality supports the development of skills, knowledge and understanding relevant to a job in the areas of 3D modelling, digital transformation and even the film and games industry. Social media and digital marketing explores the possible impacts that may be generated by the use of social media as a digital marketing tool.

All units assist in the development of transferable skills such as communication and problem solving as well as emphasising the need for good written and verbal communication skills.

MATHEMATICS COURSES

Mathematics (A Level, Edexcel exam board)

Why study Mathematics?

Studying Mathematics will help you develop a wide variety of skills including the ability to think logically, to understand complex situations and to apply a rigorous and flexible approach to solving problems. It is an essential or preferred course for most science-based degrees and many others. Mathematics A-Level is highly regarded by both higher education institutions and employers and is the most popular A-level on offer in the UK. On top of this, people who have mathematics A Level earn 10% more on average than those who do not.

What can it lead on to?

You could go on to university to study for a mathematics related degree or pursue a career in mathematics. Engineering and most areas of physics, most science-based subjects, computing, accountancy, economics, business, banking, air

Guide to Courses

traffic control, retail management, architecture, surveying, cartography, psychology and, of course, teaching, are just some of the possibilities.

What are the areas of study?

The course is two years with internal exams being taken at the end of Year 12. These will be at an AS standard which will aid in the determining of predicted grade.

In Year 12 you will study two key areas:

Core Mathematics - proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, Integration and vectors. This is assessed by a two-hour calculator paper - worth 62.5% of the marks.

Statistics and Mechanics with Statistical Sampling - data presentation and interpretation; probability; statistical distributions; hypothesis testing; quantities and units in mechanics; kinematics; forces and Newton's laws. Seventy-five minute calculator paper - 37.5% of the marks.

In Year 13 you will continue to study in greater depth the two core areas:

Core Mathematics - same as Year 12 Core Mathematics but to a far greater depth, also including numerical methods. This is assessed by 2 two-hour calculator papers – each worth 33.3% of the marks.

Statistics and Mechanics – same as Year 12 Statistics and Mechanics but to greater depth, also including moments and normal distribution. This is assessed by 1 two-hour calculator paper – worth 33.3% of the marks.

Further Mathematics (A Level, Edexcel exam board)

Why study Further Mathematics?

Further Mathematics must be studied alongside Mathematics and will help you further develop a deeper understanding of some of the core mathematical processes that are essential in all mathematical and science-based degrees. It is a preferred course for most science-based degrees and many others and is highly sought after as not many students do it. Further Mathematics A Level is highly regarded by both higher education institutions and employers and is one of the top subjects for helping students achieve university places in the sciences. On top of this several studies have shown that Further Mathematics A Level has the greatest impact on earning potential out of any A Level offered in the UK.

What can it lead on to?

You could go on to university to study for a mathematics related degree or pursue a career in mathematics. In fact, to study mathematics at one of the top UK universities, Further Maths is usually a requirement. Engineering and most areas of physics, most science-based subjects, computing, accountancy, economics, business, banking, air traffic control, retail management, architecture, surveying, cartography, psychology and, of course, teaching, are just some of the possibilities.

What are the areas of study?

The course is two years with internal exams being taken at the end of Year 12. These will be at an AS standard which will aid in the determining of predicted grade.

In Year 12 and 13 you will study three key areas:

Core Pure Mathematics 1 & 2 – complex numbers; argand diagrams; series; roots of polynomials; volumes of revolution; matrices; linear transformations; proof by induction and vectors in year 12 and again in year 13 to a greater depth accompanied by: methods in calculus; polar coordinates; hyperbolic functions; and differential

Guide to Courses

equations. This is assessed by 2x one-hour 30-minute calculator papers – each worth 25% of the marks.

Further Statistics 1 - discrete random variables; poisson distributions; chi-squared tests in year 12 and again in year 13 to a greater depth accompanied by: geometric & negative binomial distributions; central limit theorem; probability generating functions; quality of tests. 1x one-hour 30-minute calculator paper – worth 25% of the marks.

Further Mechanics 1 - momentum and impulse; work, energy and power; elastic collisions in one dimension in year 12 and again in year 13 to a greater depth accompanied by: elastic strings and springs; elastic collisions in two dimensions. 1x one-hour 30-minute calculator paper – worth 25% of the marks.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

French (A Level, AQA exam board)

Why study French?

Whether you dream of living overseas, travelling the world with work and helping people communicate, gaining language skills can help you. There are 27 countries in the world where French is the first language. Most degree courses would appreciate people who take a language. There are many courses around the UK where you can study towards a single honours degree in French. The majority of these courses involve a year studying in France or another French-speaking country. Also, there are many courses where you can take a language in addition to another subject, which could lead to a very exciting year abroad indeed! If you are able to speak a foreign language, it will increase your chances of finding work abroad, whatever job you want to do, so being able to speak a second language could increase your chances of getting hired and moving up within a company.

What can it lead on to?

Languages are an excellent subject choice for a wide variety of careers especially those involving translation or communication with people from non-English speaking countries. This can include careers in tourism, government, politics, media, publishing and journalism. You can also work in education, fashion or law.

What are the areas of study?

This linear qualification focuses on 3 core elements, separated over 4 themes of study: social issues and trends; political and artistic culture; grammar. The course is divided into three different elements of assessment. All exams are linear and take place at the end of year 13.

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing, (Two hour and 30 mins, 100 marks, 50% of A Level).

- **Listening:** Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts. All questions are in French.

Guide to Courses

- **Reading:** Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources. All questions are in French.
- **Writing:** Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words. Translation into French; a passage of minimum 100 words.

Paper 2: Writing on literary works of art (Two hours, 80 marks, 20% of A Level)

Either one question in French on a set text from a choice of two questions and one question in French on a set film from a choice of two questions or two questions in French on set texts from a choice of two questions on each.

Paper 3: Speaking-Independent Research Project (21-25 minutes, including five minutes' preparation time, 60 marks, 30% of A Level).

Individual research project on a topic that interests you the most from the themes of study on the course i.e. aspects of French-speaking society: current issues: artistic culture in the French-speaking world: aspects of political life in the French-speaking world.

Spanish (A Level, AQA exam board)

Why study Spanish?

Whether you dream of living overseas, travelling the world with work and helping people communicate, gaining language skills can help you. There are 21 countries in the world where Spanish is the first language. Most degree courses would appreciate people who take a language. There are many courses around the UK where you can study towards a single honours degree in Spanish. The majority of these courses involve a year studying in Spain or another Spanish-speaking country. Also, there are many courses where you can take a language in addition to another subject, which could lead to a very exciting year abroad indeed! If you are able to speak a foreign language, it will increase your chances of finding work abroad, whatever job

you want to do, so being able to speak a second language could increase your chances of getting hired and moving up within a company.

What can it lead on to?

Languages are an excellent subject choice for a wide variety of careers especially those involving translation or communication with people from non-English speaking countries. This can include careers in tourism, government, politics, media, publishing and journalism. You can also work in education, fashion or law.

What are the areas of study?

This linear qualification focuses on 3 core elements, separated over 4 themes of study: social issues and trends; political and artistic culture; grammar. The course is divided into three different elements of assessment. All exams are linear and take place at the end of year 13.

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing, (Two hour and 30 mins, 100 marks, 50% of A Level).

- **Listening:** Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts. All questions are in Spanish.
- **Reading:** Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources. All questions are in Spanish.
- **Writing:** Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words. Translation into Spanish; a passage of minimum 100 words.

Paper 2: Writing on literary works of art (Two hours, 80 marks, 20% of A Level)

Either one question in Spanish on a set text from a choice of two questions and one question in Spanish on a set film from a choice of two questions or two questions in Spanish on set texts from a choice of two questions on each.

Paper 3 - Speaking- Independent Research Project (21-25 minutes, including five minutes' preparation time, 60 marks, 30% of A Level).

Individual research project on a topic that interests you the most from the themes of study on the

Guide to Courses

course i.e. aspects of Spanish-speaking society:
current issues: artistic culture in the Spanish-speaking world: aspects of political life in the Spanish-speaking world.

PERFORMING ARTS COURSES

Drama (BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts)

Why study Drama?

You will take part in a strongly practical course backed up with theoretical study especially for students with a strong performance ability that are committed to working in the performing arts industry, specialising in acting and drama. You will hone your presentation and performance skills and gain confidence in your performing abilities. You will deepen your knowledge and experience by participating in a range of specialist performance units, with an emphasis on acting. As well as taking part in regular practical classes in, for example, acting, voice, physical theatre and directing, you will participate in a range of professional standard public shows as well as reviewing professional performance work.

What can it lead on to?

The flexibility and range of units on this course lead on to the performing arts industry; theatre, stage management, media, film and TV. This qualification also achieves the same amount of UCAS points equivalent to an A Level qualification and can be used for entry for all kinds of higher education courses and careers.

What are the areas of study?

The course will be delivered through practical workshops based on theatrical theories, practitioners, playwrights and choreographers. This qualification has four units of study, three mandatory units (investigating practitioners' work, developing skills for live performance and group performance workshop) and one optional

unit (ranging from performing classical texts, acting styles, use of voice, improvisation and movement). Two of the units are externally set briefs and assessed by Pearson, the examination board, with the other two internally assessed. All of the units focus on rehearsal, live performance, evaluation and the development of acting skills and characterisation.

Music (RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners)

Why study Music?

You will be equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding for entry to employment in the music industry or progression to higher education. You will undertake practical structured learning with the flexibility to specialise in different disciplines directly relevant to employment within the music industry, including composition, performance, business and technology.

What can it lead on to?

The flexibility and range of units on this course lead naturally on to the music industry, where portfolio careers are the norm and those seeking employment often require knowledge and skills covering a breadth of relevant disciplines. "The UK's music sector is dynamic, innovative and fast-moving, and the range of job roles available follows suit. Many of those working in the sector take on more than one role at a time, or adjust the role to suit the needs of their business." (Creative and Cultural Skills, The Music Blueprint – An Analysis of the skills needs of the music sector in the UK, 2011). This qualification also achieves the same amount of UCAS points as an equivalent BTEC qualification and can be used for entry for all kinds of higher education courses and careers.

What are the areas of study?

This qualification focuses on the recognition of achievement through practical musical skills, production skills and business skills. On the

Guide to Courses

performing pathway, you will undertake one externally assessed core unit ('Rehearsal and Performance') which requires you to work to a brief, set with input from industry practitioners and employers specific to the area of specialism. In addition you will take an internally assessed core unit ('Planning a Career in Music') together with a number of optional units that will develop your skills and understanding of musicianship, repertoire, rehearsal, promotion, and live/recorded performance.



PE COURSES

CTECH Sport (OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Foundation Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity - equivalent to 1.5 A Levels)

Why study CTECH Sport?

You will be equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding for entry to higher education or a range of career paths. You will have the opportunity, through applied learning, to develop the core specialist knowledge, skills and understanding required in the sport and physical activity sector. It is a practical based course, where you have to apply your knowledge to a variety of different scenarios. We follow the fitness instructor pathway, which includes a wide range of units that suit all learners.

What can it lead on to?

This course opens doors to a number of careers and life options including; physiotherapy, teaching, sports science, sports management, sports coaching, personal trainer or dietician.

What are the areas of study?

The qualification consists of three exams (44%), which are multiple choice, short answer and ten mark essay style questions. The exams are split across the two years with an opportunity to retake each one. The remainder of the qualification is coursework (56%) which consists of five units. The units may include sports coaching and leadership, sports injuries, group exercise to music, health and fitness testing and physical activity for specific groups. However, there is an opportunity to select alternative units, depending on the group. The coursework is assessed in a variety of ways, for example presentations, practical coaching sessions, fitness testing, essays and reports.

Guide to Courses

SCIENCE COURSES

Biology

(A Level, OCR exam board)

Why study Biology?

Biology is the most mysterious discipline left on the planet. Scientists estimate that there are between 5 and 40 million species on the earth. At the present time, scientists have identified between one and two million species, meaning that there are still as many as 38 million species to be identified. For those who have a questioning mind, Biology is the perfect fit. Life is still more complicated than anything humans have ever built. Many of our most significant inventions have come from reverse-engineering what we see in biological systems. Flying is a prime example. Therefore, if you want to be an inventor, consider Biology. Lastly, by studying biology, you will in turn help yourself make more informed decisions about your own body and health. You're a living thing and Biology is the study of all living things.

What can it lead on to?

In most cases Biology is an essential subject for medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and some biological sciences. Other students go on to careers in law, computing, accounting or teaching. So, whatever field you will eventually work in, you will find Biology a very rewarding and challenging course which will develop many of the skills essential for a successful career.

What are the areas of study?

You will begin with the basics of Biology, focussing on the two key areas of cell structure and biological molecules, such as enzymes, proteins and DNA. After these basics, the course branches out to cover four more main modules focussed on the exchange and transport of materials in animals and plants; biodiversity, evolution and disease; communication, homeostasis and energy, and lastly genetics, evolution and ecosystems. Throughout the course, practical science is a requirement, and as well as completing a core set of practical tasks, you will also study the scientific method and its role in tackling scientific problems.

Chemistry

(A Level, OCR exam board)

Why study Chemistry?

Firstly, just pick up a can of soft drink and you'll find chemistry everywhere, from the metal can you're holding, to the paint used to cover it and the liquid inside. Just breathe in and out and you're performing a chemical reaction. Studying Chemistry will help you gain a better understanding of the world around you, and is sometimes known as the "central science" because it helps to connect physical sciences, like Maths and Physics, with applied sciences, like Biology, Medicine and Engineering. Chemistry helps you to develop research, problem solving and analytical skills. It helps you to challenge ideas and show how you worked things out through logic and step-by-step reasoning. Lastly, Chemistry often requires teamwork and communication skills too, which is great for whatever career you decide on.

What can it lead on to?

A Chemistry qualification at A Level provides the necessary skills to follow any science-related degree course or profession. In most cases, Chemistry is an essential subject for medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and some biological sciences. It is also accepted for non-science careers such as accountancy and law.

What are the areas of study?

You will begin with the basics of Chemistry, focussing on the two key areas of calculations involving the amounts of substances, and structure and bonding. The course branches out to cover four more main modules focussed on the periodic table and energy; core organic chemistry; physical chemistry and transition elements and chemical analysis. Throughout the course, practical science is a requirement, and as well as completing a core set of practical tasks, you will also study the scientific method and its role in tackling scientific problems.

Guide to Courses

Physics

(A Level, AQA exam board)

Why study Physics?

Although physicists have made huge progress in answering many questions, there is still plenty to discover. Although only a lucky few get the chance to become an astronaut, studying Physics can help you land a job in space. Perhaps more importantly, you will develop skills that can be transferred to just about any other area of work, from setting up a business to saving the planet. Even if you don't go on to become a physicist, learning to think like one will help you get to the root of any problem and draw connections that aren't obvious to others. Physics won't give you all the answers, but it will teach you how to ask the right questions.

What can it lead on to?

A Physics qualification at A Level provides the necessary skills to follow any science-related degree course or profession. In most cases, Physics is an essential subject for engineering, medicine, science and some biological sciences (e.g. Biomechanics). The individual without knowledge of the subject is at a disadvantage. It is also accepted for non-science careers such as banking and law.

What are the areas of study?

You will study the concepts of particles and radiation, waves, mechanics, materials and electricity during Year 12. Year 13 develops further on mechanics, fields, thermal physics and nuclear physics. You will also study an optional unit, with a choice of: astrophysics, medical physics, engineering physics, turning points or electronics. There is an emphasis on developing key practical skills and you will carry out a number of required practicals throughout the two years. Upon successful completion, you will gain a practical skills accreditation which is awarded alongside your grade.



Sixth Form Entry Requirements

Subject	Minimum GCSE Grade Requirements Where English is listed, this can be either English Language or English Literature . BTEC and other equivalent grades can be used. Our vocational courses (BTEC, CTEC, WJEC) are A Level-equivalent Level 3 courses.		
Art and Technology Courses			
Art and Design: Art	Art 5	English 5	Portfolio evidence required
Art and Design: Photography	Art or Photography 5	English 5	Portfolio evidence required
Food Science and Nutrition WJEC	English 4	Food (if taken) 4	Biology / Chemistry 4
Business Courses			
Business	English 5	Mathematics 4	Business (if taken) 4
Business CTEC	English 4	Mathematics 4	
Economics	English 5	Mathematics 5	
Health and Social CTEC	English 4	Mathematics 4	
Tourism WJEC	English 4	Mathematics 4	
English Courses			
English Language	English Language 6		
English Literature	English Literature 6	English Language 6	
Media Studies	English Language 5		
Humanities Courses			
Geography	Geography 5		
History	History 5		
Religious Studies	English 5	Religious Studies (if taken) 5	
Politics	English 5		
Psychology	English 5	Mathematics 5	Science 55 or Biology 5
Sociology	English 5		
ICT Courses			
IT CTEC	Computer Science/ICT 4	Mathematics 4	
Computer Science	Computer Science 6	Mathematics 6	
Mathematics Courses			
Mathematics	Mathematics 6		
Further Mathematics	Mathematics 8		
Modern Foreign Languages			
French	French 6		
Spanish	Spanish 6		
Performing Arts Courses			
Drama BTEC	English 4	Drama (if taken) 4	
Music RSL	Music 4		
PE Courses			
Sport CTEC	PE 4		
Science Courses			
Biology	Science 65	Mathematics 5	Biology exam paper 6
Chemistry	Science 65	Mathematics 5	Chemistry exam paper 6
Physics	Science 65	Mathematics 6	Physics exam paper 6
<p>The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) can be taken by any student successfully proposing a project idea on any topic area. This is launched in the Autumn term of Year 12.</p>			

50% of Sixth Formers progress to apprenticeships and employment



80% of Sixth Formers who apply progress to their first-choice university



The Misbourne meets all 8 Gatsby benchmarks to provide the very best careers education



LEAP Award to recognise transferable employment skills



10% of Year 12 students joined us from other schools in September 2021

The Misbourne

Misbourne Drive, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire HP16 0BN

Tel: 01494 862869 email: admin@themisbourne.co.uk www.themisbourne.co.uk DCFS No: 825/4042

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @misbournesixth