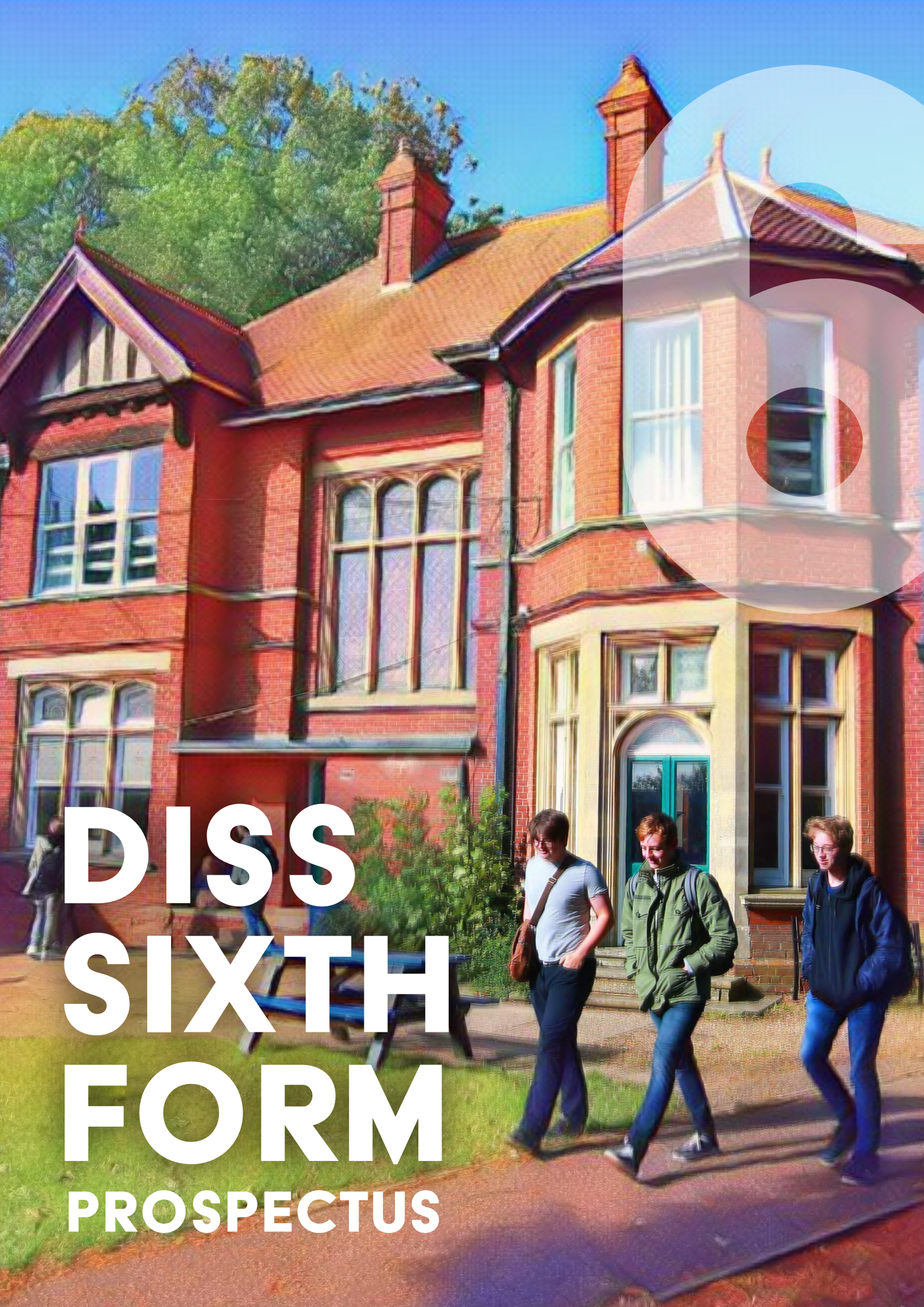

DISS SIXTH FORM

PROSPECTUS

WELCOME

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We offer you a warm welcome to Diss Sixth Form.

Since its beginning in the local Grammar School, Diss Sixth Form has been educating students to the highest standards. Always the natural choice for Diss High pupils, the school attracts sixth formers from all over the region. We pride ourselves on consistently high rankings in the league tables, and we are equally proud of the supportive environment and the warm, friendly atmosphere of Uplands House where the Sixth Form is based. Our unique facility includes classrooms, dedicated rooms for private study, common rooms, a careers library, and our Sixth Form kitchen.

As well as taking challenging and engaging subjects, you will be able to participate in a range of enrichment activities at Diss Sixth Form. In particular, our Extended Project and Higher Sports Leader qualifications attract UCAS points and have helped many previous sixth formers to gain entry to prestigious universities. Our tutoring programme means targeted guidance and advice is always available, and will support you in achieving your goal, whether it be a university place, an apprenticeship, or employment.

This prospectus gives details of all the Level 3 courses which are being offered at Diss Sixth Form in September 2024. The following pages will help you to make your choice of subjects. Each course has been summarised and you will find details of entry requirements, assessment patterns and an outline of the specification. Please visit our website for further course information, and for a virtual tour of our facilities.

We hope that you will be excited by the prospect of studying at one of Norfolk's top Sixth Forms and we look forward to meeting you in person.

JAMES HURLEY

Director of Sixth Form

Diss High School - September 2023

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Admission to all of our Level 3 courses requires a minimum of five grade 4 GCSE passes; these must include at least grade 4 in Maths and English Language. Additionally, many subjects have their own individual requirements (see below).

The majority of our students will choose to study three A Level courses or a combination of A Levels and BTECs. Some students may wish to take four A Levels; others can choose to take an AS course alongside their three other A Level subjects.

Entry requirements for individual subjects are as follows:

A LEVEL SUBJECTS	ADDITIONAL GCSE REQUIREMENTS
Art	Grade 5 in Art
Biology	Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or a 6 in Biology
Chemistry	Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or a 6 in Chemistry
Classical Civilisation	Grade 5 in either English Language or History
Computer Science	Grade 6 in either Maths or Computer Science
Drama and Theatre Studies	Grade 5 in English Language
English Language and Literature	Grade 6 in English Language
English Literature	Grade 6 in English Language
Film Studies	Grade 5 in English Language or Media Studies
Further Mathematics	Grade 7 in Mathematics
Geography	Grade 5 in either English Language or Geography
History	Grade 5 in either English Language or History
Mathematics	Grade 7 in Maths
Media Studies	Grade 5 in either English Language or Media Studies
Modern Languages (French or Spanish)	Grade 6 in the appropriate language
Music	Grade 5 in Music and English Language
Physical Education	Grade 4 in Science and English
Photography	Grade 5 in GCSE Art and Design; or submit a portfolio of images.
Physics	Grade 6 in Maths and 6-6 in Combined Science or a 6 in Physics
Politics	Grade 5 in either English Language or History
Psychology	Grade 5 in English Language
Sociology	Grade 5 in English Language

VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS	
Business (BTEC Single or Double Award)	Five GCSEs L4 or above including Maths and English
Health & Social Care (BTEC Double Award)	Five GCSEs L4 or above including Maths and English (Including grade 4 in a GCSE Science course)
Travel & Tourism (BTEC)	Five GCSEs L4 or above including Maths and English
Medical Science (Level 3 Diploma)	Five GCSEs L4 or above including Maths and English (including grade 4 in a GCSE Science course)
Food Science and Nutrition Level 3 Diploma	Five GCSEs L4 or above including Maths and English

AS COURSES	
Financial Studies (LIBF Certificate)	Grade 4 in Maths and English Language
EPQ	Five GCSEs L4 or above including Maths and English

ART & DESIGN

EXAMINING BODY
OCR

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 5 in GCSE Art and Design

COURSE LEADER
D Marshall

INTRODUCTION

Art and Design is a mode of expression and communication. It is concerned with visual perception and aesthetic experience; it forms a language in addition to those used by literary, mathematical, scientific and factually based subjects.

Most of the work for this syllabus is studio based, it will encourage you to develop practical and theoretical knowledge and understanding of continuity and change in different genres, styles and traditions. You will develop knowledge, skills and understanding of materials, processes, technologies and resources through practical and contextual studies.

This course enables the development of creative and intellectual skills for imaginative growth; it is also an excellent complement to many other areas of study as it teaches you to be analytical, to solve problems creatively and to gain cultural awareness.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 01 -Personal Investigation

You must provide two elements in response to your theme. This component is non exam assessment and will be internally and externally moderated using assessment criteria. This component is marked out of 120 marks and contributes 60% to the overall weighting of the A Level. The two elements that make up your Component 01 are:

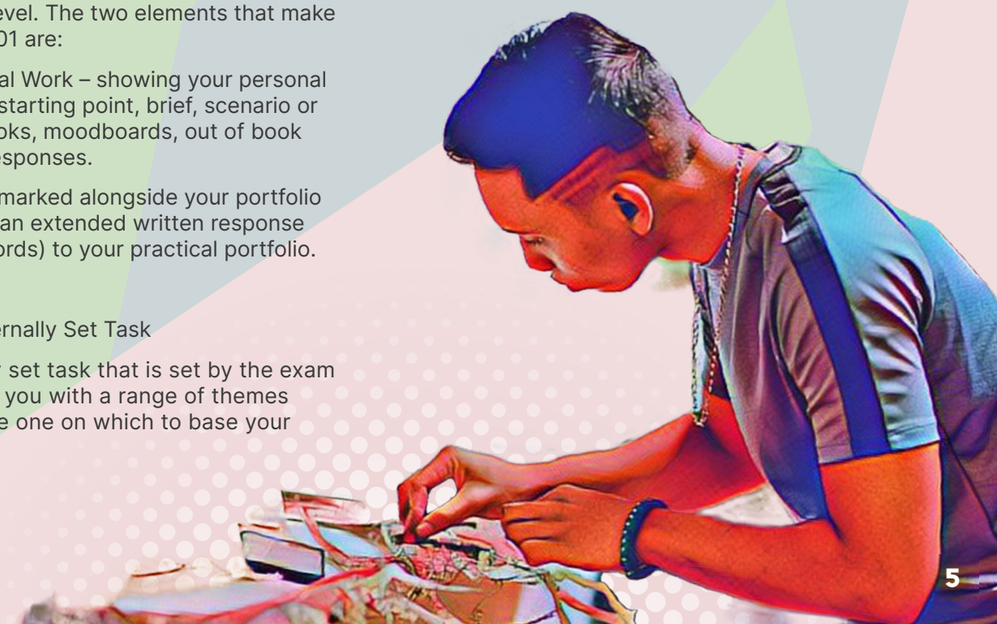
A Portfolio of Practical Work – showing your personal response to either a starting point, brief, scenario or stimulus in sketchbooks, moodboards, out of book pieces and written responses.

The Related Study - marked alongside your portfolio for practical work, is an extended written response (minimum of 1000 words) to your practical portfolio.

Component 02: Externally Set Task

This is the externally set task that is set by the exam board. It will provide you with a range of themes and you must choose one on which to base your personal response.

This component is non exam assessment and will be internally and externally moderated using assessment criteria. This component is marked out of 80 marks and contributes 40% to the overall weighting of the A Level.



BIOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

Biology is an exciting, challenging subject. It is a Science A Level which provides a foundation for understanding many of the most important scientific developments. It also provides an insight into contemporary scientific research in progress. Biotechnology is an important established industry offering opportunities for graduate employment. Molecular Biology, Genetics and Stem Cell Biology are growth areas in research. A Level Biology provides Science training and enables students to understand issues in today's world which are important for the future of the technical and ethical development of society.

EXAMINING BODY
OCR OCR (Biology A)

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science or 6 in GCSE Biology

COURSE LEADER
D Somers

COURSE STRUCTURE

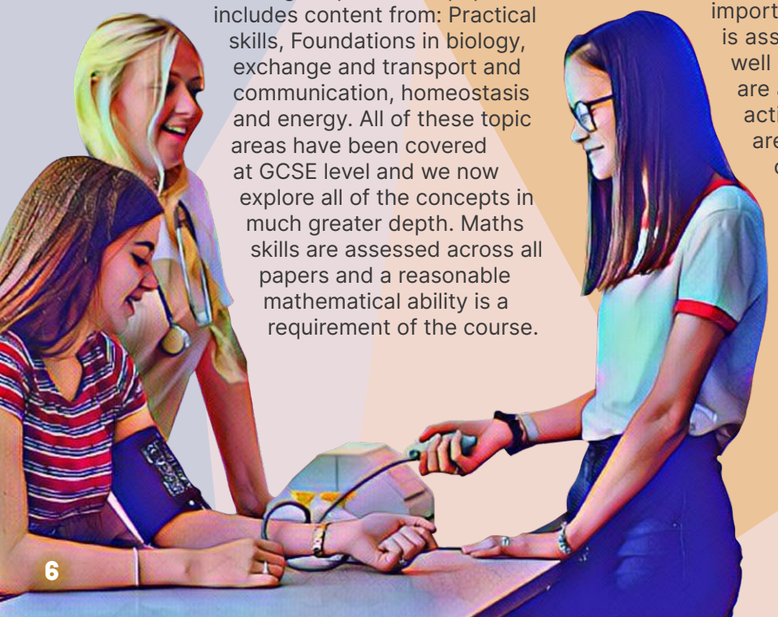
The specification consists of 6 modules: Development of practical skills in biology; Foundations in biology; Exchange and transport; Biodiversity, evolution and disease; Communication, homeostasis and energy; Genetics, evolution and ecosystems. The course is examined with 3 written papers: biological processes, biological diversity, and Unified biology. Practical skills and foundations in biology are tested across all papers.

The Biological processes paper includes content from: Practical skills, Foundations in biology, exchange and transport and communication, homeostasis and energy. All of these topic areas have been covered at GCSE level and we now explore all of the concepts in much greater depth. Maths skills are assessed across all papers and a reasonable mathematical ability is a requirement of the course.

Biological diversity includes content from practical skills, foundations in biology, biodiversity, evolution and disease and genetics, evolution and ecosystems. This also links to our ecology fieldwork which we complete in the summer term of Year 12. Once again, all of these topics build on to the work completed at GCSE.

The final paper, Unified biology, is holistic and will test content from all six units.

The development of practical skills is an important component of the course and is assessed throughout the course as well as in the final written papers. There are a number of assessed practical activities over the two years covering areas like microscopy, dissection, computer modelling, colorimetry, microbiological techniques and sampling techniques. Students are expected to demonstrate the ability to use practical equipment safely, follow written instructions, record measurements and present their data in a scientific way. This will result in the successful completion of the practical endorsement.



LEVEL 3 BTEC NATIONAL BUSINESS

INTRODUCTION

The Level 3 BTEC National in Business is an A Level standard qualification for students wishing to specialise in the world of business. You are assessed mainly through challenging, exciting coursework projects and some external assessments. This popular qualification provides real choice, as you can select Business as either a Single or Double option. The Extended Certificate is the equivalent of one A Level. The Diploma is the equivalent of two A Levels.

EXAMINING BODY
EDEXCEL (Pearson)

ENTRY CRITERIA
Five grade 4 passes, including grade 4 in both GCSE Mathematics and in English

COURSE LEADER
S Budds

COURSE STRUCTURE

Business Extended Certificate. This is the single A Level qualification studies four units over two years: Exploring Business; Developing a Marketing Campaign; Personal and Business Finance; Recruitment and Selection Process. Two of the units are assessed using examinations and two units assessed through coursework which are marked internally. The Finance module is assessed by a two hour exam. The marketing unit is assessed using an exam board case study and a three hour exam. These units offer a broad range of business topics and give you a chance to see the opportunities available for further studies post Sixth Form.

Business National Diploma award. This is the double A Level option. You will study all the units from the single A Level, plus a further four units including International Business, Managing an Event, Investigating Customer Service and Principles of Management. All these are coursework units except the Principles of Management, which is another exam board case study, assessed in a three hour exam. This option extends your opportunity to see the wide range of business topics available and provides an interesting and varied study experience.

A variety of teaching and learning styles are used, including business visits, group work, personal investigation and practical work. You will develop word processing, and spreadsheet skills, and learn how to interview employees and deliver presentations. This exciting two-year course will appeal to students who prefer to work steadily throughout the year and be assessed continuously. The skills you will develop on your course are greatly valued by employers in every sector. If you perform well in coursework and are interested in a career in business, this is the subject for you.

Grading for this subject is Distinction, Merit and Pass with a Distinction being equivalent to an A grade. For more information, please go to the Pearson website.

CHEMISTRY

INTRODUCTION

Chemistry shapes and underpins our relationship with the world around us, from manufacturing materials to producing medicines. During your A Level, you will study how chemicals interact on a molecular level, and the many ways in which chemical reactions can be used in a variety of settings and processes. Chemistry is the bridge between the other Natural Sciences, so you will develop knowledge and skills that will link to both Biology and Physics. If you master this critically important subject, it will open doors for you into a broad range of exciting careers and professions.

EXAMINING BODY
OCR

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science or 6 in GCSE Chemistry

COURSE LEADER
S Russell

COURSE STRUCTURE

The specification is split into six modules:

1. Development of Practical Skills in Chemistry;
2. Foundations in Chemistry;
3. Periodic Table and Energy;
4. Core Organic Chemistry and Analysis;
5. Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements;
6. Organic Chemistry and Analysis.

The course is examined with 3 exam papers: Periodic Table, Elements and Physical Chemistry, Synthesis and Analytical Techniques, and Unified Chemistry.

The teaching of the Chemistry course is divided to reflect the structure of the three exam papers at the end of year 13, with one teacher focusing on the content from paper 1 and another focusing on the content from paper 2. Paper 1 includes content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5, which focuses on Inorganic and physical chemistry. Paper 2 is made up from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 and covers organic and analytical chemistry. Paper 3 is a synoptic paper that could have content from any of the six modules in the specification.

The Foundations in Chemistry unit builds on much of the content from GCSE and lays the foundations for the rest of the course. It doesn't matter if you have done combined science of triple/separate science GCSE, this unit aims to get everyone to the same place so you can tackle the rest of the course with confidence and a solid foundation. While the Foundations unit has the greatest cross-over with GCSE you will find throughout the course that the content you have already studied at GCSE keeps coming up as the cornerstone of what we are doing in lessons.

The Natural Sciences are fundamentally practical subjects and as such the developments and refinement of practical skills is an important part of the course and is regularly assessed throughout. There are a number of practical activities that students are expected to have done over the two years of study, including synthesis and purification of organic compounds, various methods of chemical analysis, chemical kinetics and electrochemical processes. Students are expected to demonstrate the ability to use practical equipment safely, follow written instructions, record measurements, and present their data in a scientific way. This will result in the successful completion of the practical endorsement. While the practical endorsement does not affect the grade achieved at A Level it is important for anyone wishing to continue studying Chemistry, Medicine, or Veterinary Sciences at University or for those wanting to go to work or do higher level apprenticeships in a STEM sector.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

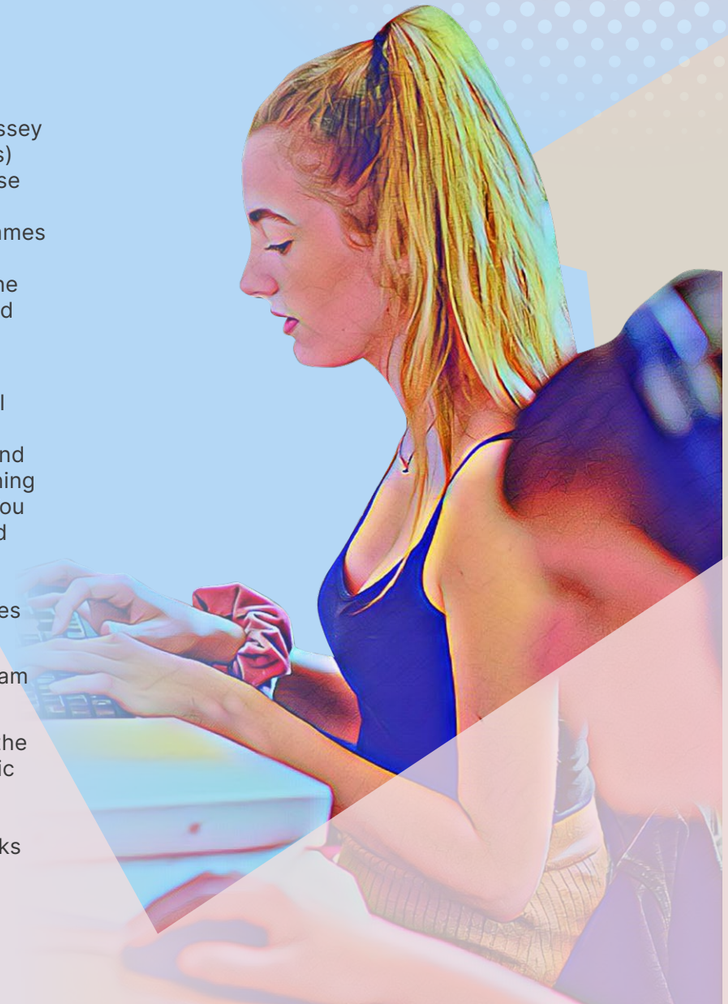
INTRODUCTION

A Level Classical Civilisation gives you the opportunity to explore the Greek and Roman worlds in depth. The course combines elements of Drama, Literature and History and attempts to understand the roots of western civilization whilst at the same time learning about the weird and wonderful worlds of ancient civilisations.
A Level Classical Civilisation is a fantastic foundation for anyone intending to go on to study Politics, Law, History, Economics or English at university or for those wanting to expand their horizons and understanding of the world today. If you want to discover where everything began, study Classical Civilisation!

EXAMINING BODY
OCR

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or History.

COURSE LEADER
E Bensley



COURSE STRUCTURE

Unit 1: The World of the Hero: Homer's Odyssey & Virgil's Aeneid – exam (2 hours 20 minutes) and 40% of total A Level. You will study these two epic stories which have formed the foundations for so many books, TV programmes and films today. Learn about heroes, gods and monsters and what they tell us about the ancient civilisations of Greece and Rome and our lives today.

Unit 2: Culture and the Arts: Greek Theatre – exam (1 hour 45 minutes) and 30% of total A Level. You will study two of the greatest tragedies ever written- 'Oedipus the King' and 'The Bacchae' and one comedy 'Frogs', learning from them how the ancient world worked. You will also study how Greek theatre influenced everyday life in the ancient world and the influence that it has had on today's culture. Finally, you will explore how art demonstrates many features of theatrical life.

Unit 3: Beliefs and ideas: Greek religion- exam (1 hour and 45 mins), 30% of total A Level.

This unit focusses on the role of religion in the lives of the ancient Greeks, from the Olympic Gods, myths and legends, to prophecy and temples. You will examine how important religion was to the lives of the ancient Greeks and how it worked on a daily basis.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

INTRODUCTION

A Level Computer Science splits learning into 3 sections: Computer Fundamentals, Programming Techniques and Logical Methods, and a Programming Project. It is a natural progression from GCSE Computer Science, providing the perfect springboard for students looking at specialising in a computing-based career. Students study a range of theories, including the principles and understanding linked to programming; topics such as hardware and software, networks, systems, development life cycles and implications of computer use. This A Level will develop your ability to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. You will apply skills in, and an understanding of, computing (including programming) to a range of contexts to solve problems. You will delve into producing graphical user interfaces and object-orientated programming solutions. Through the creation of a programming project, you will have the opportunity to create a substantial piece of software using modern design methods and in the programming language of your choice.

EXAMINING BODY
OCR

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 6 GCSE Maths or Computer Science

COURSE LEADER
V Pittman

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 01: Computer systems (written examination worth 40%): You are introduced to the internal workings of the CPU, data exchange, software development, data types and legal and ethical issues. The resulting knowledge and understanding will underpin your work in component 03. You will explore the characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices; types of software and the different methodologies used to develop software; data exchange between different systems; data types, data structures and algorithms; legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues.

Component 02: Algorithms and programming (written examination worth 40%): You will explore what is meant by computational thinking (thinking abstractly, thinking ahead, thinking procedurally); you will engage in problem solving and programming – how computers and programs can be used to solve problems; you explore algorithms and how they can be used to describe and solve problems.

Component 03: Programming project (coursework worth 20%): You are expected to apply the principles of computational thinking to a practical coding programming project. You will analyse, design, develop, test, evaluate and document a program written in a suitable programming language. The project is designed to be independently chosen by you and provides you with the flexibility to investigate projects within the diverse field of computer science.

DRAMA & THEATRE

INTRODUCTION

Drama and Theatre is an exciting and dynamic practical course that offers you so much more than a chance to play! A qualification in Drama and Theatre equips you with the collaboration and communication skills that are highly desirable to future employers and educators, as well as giving you opportunities to explore texts from the perspectives of performers, devisers, designers and directors. At Diss Sixth Form, we study a range of texts and provide opportunities to experiment with several performance styles in engaging workshop sessions that develop your ability to think critically and creatively about the world we live in.

EXAMINING BODY
Pearson / Edexcel

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language

COURSE LEADER
A Bishop

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 1: Devising Drama requires you to work as part of a small performance company to create a piece of original theatre based on a short extract from a play text. Throughout the devising process, your work must be influenced by the methodologies of a theatre practitioner / company. You will keep a record of the entire rehearsal and performance process to critically analyse and evaluate your work in a written portfolio that accompanies your performance. This component is worth 40% and is assessed through the completion of practical and written coursework.

Component 2: For Text in Performance, you will create two practical performance pieces – a group performance and a monologue or duologue. The group piece will be directed by a course tutor, who will select a suitably challenging and exciting text for you to edit and rehearse as a company. The monologue or duologue offers you the freedom to choose your own play and select a section to rehearse and perform. Worth 20%, this practical coursework unit is assessed by an external examiner.

Component 3: This unit offers the opportunity to work from several perspectives – an audience member, a performer, a designer and a director. Section 1 of Theatre Makers in Practice requires you to watch a live performance and critically evaluate the work seen. For section 2, we study Sophie Treadwell's expressionist play, 'Machinal' from the perspectives of a performer and a designer. Finally, for section 3, we direct a production of Georg Buchner's seminal drama, 'Woyzeck'. Assessed in a written exam lasting 2 hours and 30 minutes, it is worth 40% of the A Level qualification.

You do not have to have previously studied the subject to take this A Level.

ENGLISH

INTRODUCTION

An A Level in English opens doors everywhere. Students who can think deeply, analyse ideas, see both sides of an argument, express themselves cogently and persuasively, as well as having a world picture that only comes from reading widely, are indispensable in any profession. We want to help you to develop your skills and be challenged by your studies. We also understand that your results are very important; this is what enables you to move on to the next step of your education. The figures speak for themselves: at A Level there has been a 100% pass rate for many years.

EXAMINING BODY
AQA

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 6 in GCSE English Language

COURSE LEADER
S Johnson and M Bond

COURSE STRUCTURE

A Level English Language and Literature: Our Language and Literature course is a popular A Level choice at Diss High School. Throughout the course, students will combine their skills of literary and linguistic analysis to explore the ways in which language is used to create representations – how words create worlds - both in literary and non-literary texts.

Although not a creative writing course, there are numerous opportunities to undertake textual recasting and re-creative tasks, alongside close analysis of both literary and non-literary texts.

Our Examining Board for English Language and Literature is AQA. Their website offers more information.

A Level English Literature: Our Literature course is an excellent choice for those students who read widely and want to further develop their passion for Literature. This A Level explores the representation of love through the ages in poetry, prose and drama texts, as well as looking at how contextual influences impact upon a writer's choices. The course is intellectually challenging yet highly engaging and accessible. Our chosen texts allow us to analyse the creative force of fiction across time and through a range of genres.

Our examining board for English Literature is AQA, specification A. Their website offers more information.

Both courses are demanding in terms of time and intellect. Any student wishing to study an English course must be willing to read texts independently and be prepared to participate in discussion. The ability to write accurately and analytically is essential. Over the years, English courses have been chosen by students who have combined their studies with A Levels in the Arts, Humanities and Sciences. In recent years, our students have planned careers in journalism, law, the media and teaching.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

EXAMINING BODY
Edexcel (Pearson)

ENTRY CRITERIA
5 GCSEs L4 or above including Maths and English

COURSE LEADER
E Hughes

INTRODUCTION

The Extended Project Qualification gives you an opportunity to carry out an extended research project on a personally chosen topic. It is equivalent to half an A Level; it is graded A* to E and attracts up to 70 UCAS points. The project helps in the development of many key skills such as independent learning, research, and critical thinking, which are valued by both employers and universities. You get to decide what you will study by choosing a topic to explore in depth. It will usually be related to one of your A Level subjects but might be related to what you hope to study in Higher Education or pursue as a career.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The Extended Project Qualification gives you an opportunity to carry out an extended research project on a personally chosen topic. It is equivalent to half an A Level; it is graded A* to E and attracts up to 70 UCAS points. The project helps in the development of many key skills such as independent learning, research, and critical thinking, which are valued by both employers and universities. You get to decide what you will study by choosing a topic to explore in depth. It will usually be related to one of your A Level subjects but might be related to what you hope to study in Higher Education or pursue as a career.

You can choose the Project outcome in the form of one of the following four options:

- A written dissertation
- A scientific investigation/ field study
- A performance (sport, drama or music)
- An artefact e.g., a sculpture or model

Previous dissertation titles have included 'Is eyewitness testimony too unreliable to use in court?', 'To what extent could women's empowerment in India increase the country's development?' and 'Allergies: a psychosomatic illness?'. In addition, students have produced pieces of artwork, conducted science experiments and undertaken fieldwork research in order to complete their EPQ.

If you choose to complete an extended project qualification, you will begin research for your project in the summer term of Year 12, completing it by the end of the Autumn term in Year 13.

For further details please visit Pearson's website and search for Level 3 Extended Project.

FILM STUDIES

EXAMINING BODY
Eduqas

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 5 in GCSE English and/or GCSE Media Studies

COURSE LEADER
J Outred

INTRODUCTION

Film is one of the most important and exciting art forms. The Eduqas A Level Film Studies course will enable you to understand how the key elements of film form, such as shots, editing and sound, create meaning for the spectator. From this basis, the study of film also incorporates an understanding of broader fields such as the importance of historical context, the representation of people, and the application of theoretical perspectives. You will have the opportunity to study a wide range of films that are both powerful and culturally significant. You will also have the opportunity to demonstrate your own creativity in practical filmmaking and screenwriting.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 1 - Section A introduces you to the importance of Classical Hollywood – the Golden Age of American film making when the big studios controlled the industry. This is compared with the emergence of New Hollywood in the 1960s when maverick directors began to shake off the power of the studios and a new era of American film began. Section B compares contemporary mainstream Hollywood film with modern Independent American film. Section C compares two modern British films.

Component 2 covers several topics. These include: Global Film, Documentaries, Silent Cinema and Experimental Film. This component will introduce you to a wider scope of film experience than just Hollywood or British film. Component 2 also introduces Theoretical Perspectives and artistic movements. The study of Documentaries considers the importance and meaning of truth in film, while the study of Experimental Film will enable you to explore alternative film language and forms.

Component 3 - Following a period of research into professional scripts and films, you will produce your own screenplay, short film or film sequence.

You will be able to bring together your understanding of the key elements of film form to create powerful products of your own. This component, worth 30% of the A Level, is assessed through NEA coursework.

You do not have to have previously studied the subject to take Film Studies at A Level.

Please visit the Eduqas website for more information.

FOOD SCIENCE & NUTRITION LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA

EXAMINING BODY
EDUQAS

ENTRY CRITERIA
Five grade 4 passes (inc. grade 4 in both GCSE Mathematics and in English)

COURSE LEADER
R Adams

INTRODUCTION

Food Science is an exciting subject that allows you to learn and develop life skills. An understanding of food science and nutrition 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. Many employment opportunities within the field of food science and nutrition are available to graduates. At Diss Sixth Form, we will study the nutrients in more detail and apply them to different food products. We will investigate cooking methods and techniques for clients, and we will develop healthy eating policies.

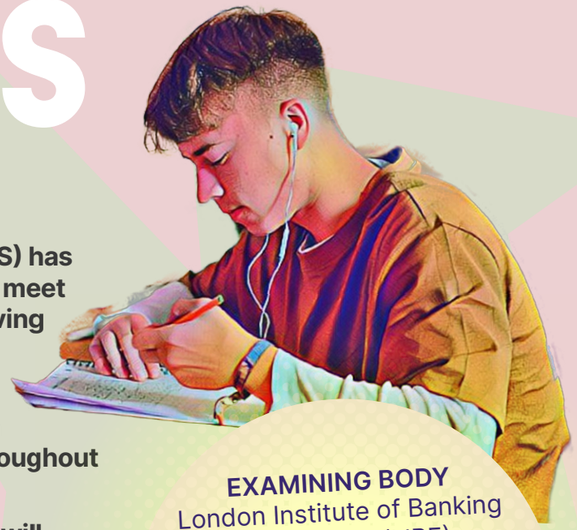
COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is divided into three units. The first unit will enable students to demonstrate an understanding of the science of food safety, nutrition, and nutritional needs in a wide range of contexts, and through on–going practical sessions, to gain practical skills to produce quality food items to meet the needs of individuals. The second unit will allow learners to develop their understanding of the science of food safety and hygiene; essential knowledge for anyone involved in food production in the home or wishing to work in the food industry. Again, practical sessions will support the gaining of theoretical knowledge and ensure learning is a tactile experience. The third unit will allow students to have the opportunity to study subjects of particular interest or relevance to them, building on previous learning and experiences. The course demands authentic work and related learning in each of the available units. It also requires learners to consider how the use and application of their learning impacts on themselves, other individuals, employers, society, and the environment.

Students will also develop: • skills required for independent learning and development • skills to ensure their own dietary health and wellbeing • a range of generic and transferable skills • the ability to solve problems • the skills of project based research, development and presentation • the ability to apply mathematical and ICT skills • the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment • the ability to apply learning in vocational contexts.

Unit 1 is assessed with a 90-minute external examination. The assessment is comprised of a variety of long and short answer questions, relating to food science, food safety, hygiene, nutrition, and the cooking methods. Units 2 and 3 are written reports, and students are given 8 hours to complete this in examination conditions. Reports are internally and externally assessed.

CERTIFICATE IN FINANCIAL STUDIES



INTRODUCTION

The one year Certificate in Financial Studies (CeFS) has been designed to encourage you to be inspired to meet your lifestyle aspirations in the context of an evolving financial services marketplace.

The course will enable you to become a responsible borrower, sensible saver, and have an appreciation of the need for financial planning throughout your life.

You will learn about managing your money, how it will impact on your life and the choices that you will have to make. Financial services products (such as credit cards, loans and mortgages) will be explained to you along with how they can help you meet your individual lifestyle needs. This qualification is intended to teach you what you need to know about managing your money.

EXAMINING BODY
London Institute of Banking and Finance (LIBF)

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 4 in
GCSE Mathematics and
GCSE English Language

COURSE LEADER
W Hemsley

COURSE STRUCTURE

Unit 1 - Financial Capability for the Immediate and Short Term. This unit focuses on the interaction between money, personal finance and the financial services market place.

Students will gain an understanding of cash flow to meet immediate and short-term financial needs through balancing income against expenditure and will also gain an appreciation of the differentiation of financial products for savings and the key features of interest and charges on borrowing. Students will understand earnings, income tax, National Insurance and other personal financial considerations depending on the stage of their life cycle.

Assessment is through a two-paper examination: Part A 35 multiple choice questions [45 mins] and Part B consisting of questions based on a pre-release case study requiring essay responses to 5 questions [1 hr 45 mins].

Unit 2 - Financial Capability for the Medium and Long Term. This unit introduces students to the features of risks and reward in managing personal finances.

Students will consider the changing priorities attached to needs, wants and aspirations as individuals progress through the personal life cycle and the role of financial services in assisting lifelong financial planning.

Assessment is through a two-paper examination: Part A 35 multiple choice questions [45 mins] and Part B consisting of questions based on a pre-release case study requiring essay responses to 5 questions [1 hr 45 mins].

Grading

The overall qualification will be graded A*- E. To achieve a pass, students must achieve a pass of 40% in all four exams.

FRENCH

INTRODUCTION

Studying French at A Level is unique in its combined study of language, sociology, history, culture, literature and film. This course will stimulate your cultural understanding of the countries across the world where French is spoken through lessons which will involve the study of current and authentic spoken and written sources. You will also gain invaluable research skills as you undertake your own personal study of a topic of interest which will provide an excellent foundation for further independent study at university.

EXAMINING BODY
Pearson/Edexcel

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 6 in GCSE French

COURSE LEADER
C Miles/ G Raven

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 1: You will study the four themes: Changes in French Society; Political and Artistic Culture in French Speaking Countries; Immigration and Multicultural French Society; Occupation and Resistance in WW2. This component is assessed through a 2 hour exam with listening and reading questions, plus translation from French to English. It is worth 40% of the final A Level Grade.

Component 2: You will study a literary text and a film, exploring the characters and themes in order to develop a detailed understanding and appreciation of the works. You will then be assessed through an exam of 2 hours and 40 minutes. For this, you will write a critical and analytical response to each of the works plus you will translate a passage from English to French based on one of the 4 themes above. This is 30% of the final A Level Grade.

Component 3: You will have the opportunity to choose a subject of interest relating to the social and cultural context of France or a French speaking country. For this exciting project, you will carry out extensive research for this Independent Research Project (IRP) in order to present and discuss your findings as part of the speaking exam. You will also discuss a statement about one of the 4 themes studied during the course. This exam is approximately 20 minutes in length and is worth 30% of the final A Level grade.

GEOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTION

Edexcel A Level Geography challenges students to engage with the physical and human world in new ways through a wide variety of interlocking issues. Throughout the course you will be encouraged to look at issues from a wide range of perspectives and to appreciate that no single vision of the world is correct. This is a multi-disciplinary course that involves essay writing, statistical analysis, and critical decision making. The Geography department organises a number of field trips as well as an optional overseas trip.

EXAMINING BODY
Pearson/Edexcel

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 5 in GCSE English and in Geography

COURSE LEADER
V Nolan

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 1: Dynamic Physical Processes (30%): Topics in this section include Coastal Processes and Change; Geophysical Hazards; Earth's Cycle (carbon and hydrological cycle); Energy and Water Security. These units take an in-depth look at the environmental science of a physical world and the challenges faced. It also addresses the geopolitical issues associated with resource management, widely believed to be the greatest challenge we face in the future.

Component 2: Dynamic Places (30%): Topics in this section include Globalisation; Diverse Places; Superpowers and Health; Human Rights and Interventions. This area of study focuses on changes to the human world and how areas are connected or disconnected. It examines how our understanding of places is made and redefined by different groups of people according to their power and influence.

Component 3: Synoptic Links (20%): Throughout the course there are 3 recurring themes (key player; attitudes and actions; futures and uncertainties). For this, you will apply your knowledge from across the course to a place-based geographical issue, critically examining the issue to provide an evaluation of the sustainability of this issue.

Component 4 Independent Investigation (20%): You are required to conduct 4 days of fieldwork during the course.

The first 2 days will enable you to build an understanding of a wide range of fieldwork techniques and then produce documentation in preparation for the independent investigation. You will then undertake two further days of fieldwork, collecting data for your own investigation that accounts for 20% of the final A Level grade. To help you complete this fieldwork, the Geography department organises field trips to Winterton, to London Olympic Park, and to Dorset.

The Edexcel website offers more information on the course content and assessment.

HEALTH & SOCIAL

EXAMINING BODY
Pearson

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 4 in GCSE Maths, GCSE English Language and GCSE Science course

COURSE LEADER
S Ryder

INTRODUCTION

The health and social care industry is one of the UK's largest employers. Working in this sector can be one of the most challenging yet rewarding careers with the opportunity to make a positive difference in the daily lives of others. This qualification will provide you with the opportunity to gain vocational experience as well as knowledge and understanding of the health and social care sector. In addition to the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin study of the health and social care sector, this qualification will provide experience of the breadth and depth that will prepare you for further study in the sector. You will be studying a range of units which will help you gain skills that will be valuable in your chosen profession or future study.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Unit 1 Human Lifespan Development. You will study patterns of human growth and development. This unit covers physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development across the human lifespan, and the factors affecting development and the effects of ageing. This unit will be assessed through one examination lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. Unit 2 Working in Health and Social Care. You will have the opportunity to explore what it is like to work in the health and social care sector, including the roles and responsibilities of workers and organisations. This unit will be assessed through one examination lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Unit 4 Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care. You will explore the methodologies of contemporary research and investigate the implications for health and social care practice and services. This unit is assessed through supervised research sessions and an examination lasting 3 hours. Unit 5 Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs. This unit focuses on the principles and practicalities that underpin meeting individual care and support needs, which are the foundation of all the care disciplines. This unit is assessed through written coursework and a presentation.

Unit 7 Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care. You will explore the importance of safe working practices, safeguarding procedures and responding to emergency situations in health and social care settings. This unit is assessed through written coursework. Unit 8 Promoting Public Health. This unit explores the aims of public health policy and the current approaches to promoting and protecting health and encouraging behaviour change in the population. This unit is assessed through written coursework.

Unit 12 Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs. While working in health and social care, you may care for a full range of individuals who have additional needs. Individuals with these additional needs have a right to receive the best quality care and support. This unit aims to give you specialist knowledge that can be crucial to ensuring that those with additional needs meet their full potential. This unit is assessed through written coursework. Unit 14 Physiological Disorders and their Care. This unit provides the opportunity to explore types of physiological disorders, the procedures for diagnosis, and the development of a treatment plan and provision of support for service users. This unit is assessed through written coursework.

HISTORY

INTRODUCTION

History is all around us, and in an age where we are constantly re-evaluating who and what we are, it is by looking at the past that we are able to understand ourselves and try to build a better future. However, the study of History is not just about looking at what happened in years gone by; the AQA course encourages the development of your analytical and evaluative skills, deep thought and clear expression – all skills that are looked favourably upon by employers in the 21st century workplace.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 1: You will study the Tudors 1485 – 1603. Having experienced the Wars of the Roses for decades, Henry Tudor usurped the throne of England with few people expecting him to survive. Our study considers how he achieved this and how subsequent Tudor monarchs changed the political, economic, social, cultural and religious landscape of England. This component will be assessed by a two hour exam at the end of the course, worth 40% of your overall grade.

Component 2: You will study International Relations 1890-1941 and consider the long and the short-term causes of the two most devastating wars the world has encountered, through the lens of not just the British, but other European countries as well. This component is assessed through a 2 hour exam worth 40% of your final grade.

Component 3: You will have the opportunity to undertake an NEA that will focus on African-American Civil Rights in USA 1868-1968. This will be guided by your teacher, but provides an opportunity for you to fulfil the role of an historian – research a topic, analyse and evaluate a range of source material and then communicate your own interpretations and conclusions. This will be completed throughout Year 13, accounting for 20% of your final grade.

You do not have to have previously studied the subject to take this A Level.

EXAMINING BODY
AQA

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 5 in GCSE English and/or GCSE History

COURSE LEADER
M McPhail

MATHS

INTRODUCTION

If you are a keen mathematician who enjoyed the concepts covered during GCSE, then A Level Maths is for you. We begin with topics that you have studied before – quadratics, trigonometry, and coordinate geometry, and we discover different yet interesting ways of solving problems. You will go on to learn about how differentiation can be used to find the gradient of a line, curve, or any polynomial for that matter, as well as determining the maximum or minimum value of our function. Integration is the reverse process of differentiation and one of its many uses is to determine the area underneath a curve. If exploring these concepts appeals to you, then you will find A Level Maths a rewarding and intellectually stimulating course of study.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 1 – Pure Maths will include proving mathematical statements, understanding indices, surds and polynomials. You will learn how to use different types of functions and their graphs. We discuss the rules of coordinate geometry and look at how logarithms and exponentials relate to each other and how they can solve complicated problems. We delve further into the world of trigonometry and learn about radians, as well as discover how differentiation and integration works. Other topics covered include vectors, binomial expansion, numerical methods, sequences and series.

Component 2 –In Statistics you will learn how to work with large data sets, deal with advanced probability scenarios and use hypothesis testing and the normal distribution to solve mathematical problems.

Component 3 – Mechanics looks at the forces and motion of objects. You will explore the rules of kinematics and the applications of vectors, and we will discuss how projectiles and moments apply to models of real-world situations. This module is particularly useful for students interested in Physics.

There are three exams – the first covers Pure Maths only, the second covers components of Pure Maths and Statistics and the third covers components of Pure Maths and Mechanics. All exams are 2 hours long.

EXAMINING BODY
OCR

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics

COURSE LEADER
J Dugdale

FURTHER MATHS

INTRODUCTION

If you love Maths and the A Level Maths course has whetted your appetite, then Further Maths is for you. Studying Further Maths will require a high level of self-motivation, as well as exceptional mathematical skills. Former students note that they gained a great deal of satisfaction and enjoyment from learning and understanding the complex skills required in Further Maths. This is a highly valued course, especially by prestigious universities.

EXAMINING BODY
OCR

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics

COURSE LEADER
J Dugdale

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 1: In Core Pure you will delve deeper into the vectors topic covered in A Level Maths. New topics include matrices and their applications, complex numbers, roots of polynomials, and polar coordinates. We also look at how mathematical induction can be used to prove mathematical statements as well as at what hyperbolic functions are and how they relate to trigonometric functions.

Component 2: You will study Additional Pure which will include the study of Number Theory. This will develop and extend your knowledge of number bases, divisibility tests and prime numbers, whilst also introducing modular arithmetic. Group Theory looks at the structure of a group of elements and how binary operations work. Partial differentiation is introduced to show how stationary points and tangent planes can be found on a 3D surface. We will then develop these ideas in other modules that relate to sequences and series, vectors and integration.

Component 3: You will study Further Mechanics which will include the following topics. This is particularly useful for students interested in studying in the field of Physics.

There are four exams – two for Pure Core and one each for Additional Pure and Further Mechanics. Each exam is 90 minutes long.

MEDIA STUDIES

EXAMINING BODY
Eduqas

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 5 in GCSE English and/or GCSE Media Studies

COURSE LEADER
J Outred

INTRODUCTION

The Eduqas A Level Media course explores the ways in which audio-visual, print and online texts communicate with their audiences. These texts include television, advertising, social media, websites, magazines, games and film. You will study the key concepts in the media including representations, audiences, genres, narratives and ideologies. You will study a wide variety of contemporary media texts and theoretical concepts such as post-modernism, post-colonialism, and feminism. You will have the opportunity to create their own media texts in print, in audio/visual, and in digital form.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 1 (written examination, 35% of the A Level): Introduces the knowledge, understanding and skills required to analyse media products through the key concepts of media language and representations. Social, cultural, industrial and theoretical perspectives are considered in depth. A range of texts is studied, from advertising, film marketing, music video and video games. The component also includes a contextual study of media representations. This component is assessed through a 135 minute exam.

Component 2 (written examination, 35% of the A Level): Through an exploration of media industries, audiences and representations. Topics include 'Television in the Global Age', 'Media and the Online Age' and 'Mainstream and Alternative Medias'. Eduqas set various online, print and AV texts for holistic study. This component is assessed through a 150 minute exam.

Component 3 gives you the opportunity to create your own media production in two different media forms. There is a choice of briefs set by the exam board which apply a theoretical framework and digital convergence.

You will be able to create work in the following media: film marketing, television, music marketing or magazines. This component, worth 30% of the A Level, is assessed through coursework.

You do not have to have previously studied the subject to take this A Level. The Eduqas website offers more information on the course content and assessment.

MEDICAL SCIENCE

LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA

EXAMINING BODY
WJEC

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 4 in GCSE Science

COURSE LEADER
P Brading

INTRODUCTION

Medical science is relevant to all our lives. Knowing how our bodies work when healthy is as important as understanding what can go wrong and what the medical profession can do about it. In this fascinating course, you will learn about the major human body systems, related diseases, diagnostic testing and potential treatments. The qualification is an A Level equivalent but differs from A Level Biology because it is vocational, focuses on human biology and has a significant coursework component. The Medical Science Diploma is a great foundation for students interested in careers in Nursing, Midwifery, Physiotherapy, Health and Social Care or Clinical laboratory work.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Year 12. You will study 3 units. In Unit 1, you will study 'Human Health and Disease'. This includes understanding biological principles, the function of human body systems and how external factors (e.g. disease, lifestyle) impact our bodies. This unit is assessed through a 2 hour exam. In Unit 2, you will learn how to conduct and interpret a range of physiological tests on patients. In Unit 3, you will explore Medical Science Research methods, conduct research surveys and carry out statistical analyses on your data. Both Units 2 and 3 are assessed through controlled coursework assignments.

Year 13. You will study 3 units. Unit 4 is all about 'Medicines and the treatment of disease'. You will learn the mechanisms of action of different medicines in the body as well as how they are administered to patients. You will study the biological and genetic basis of cancer and how it can be treated. This unit will be assessed through a controlled coursework assignment. In Unit 5, you will learn the principles and practical skills for clinical testing of biological samples. This unit is also assessed through a coursework assignment but is marked externally by WJEC. Unit 6 comprises a set of 'Medical Case Studies' provided by WJEC on three different disease conditions. You will study each disease, its symptoms, causes, diagnostic tests and treatments in detail before the unit is assessed by a 1.5 hour exam. This exam is synoptic and can assess skills and knowledge from all the other five units.

You do not need to have previously studied the subject to take this A Level. The WJEC website offers more information on the course content and assessment.

MUSIC

INTRODUCTION

The AQA Music course encourages you to develop your own practice as musicians by performing, composing and appraising music from a range of genres. In addition to the required study of Western classical music from 1650-1900, we will choose two further areas for detailed study from a choice of pop music, music for media, music for theatre, jazz, contemporary traditional music, and art music since 1910. Detailed listening, analytical and historical study allows students to critically examine the role of music in these cultural contexts. This knowledge is used as a foundation for your own composing and performing work, which is structured to build on the specific interests of each A Level class.

EXAMINING BODY
AQA

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 5 in GCSE Music and English Language.

Applicants who have not taken GCSE Music will be considered, if they demonstrate performing and theory skills equivalent to Grade 5 with one of the major music examination boards (e.g., ABRSM, Rockschool, Trinity Guildhall, Trinity Rock+Pop).

COURSE LEADER
R Collier

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 1: Appraising music is assessed through one written examination taken at the end of Year 13. It accounts for 40% of the A Level marks, and includes listening, analysis and essay-writing questions. Compulsory content includes Western Classical music from 1650-1900, which focuses on three strands: the baroque solo concerto, the operas of Mozart, and romantic piano music. You are also required to answer questions on two of the optional areas of study, listed above, all of which focus on specific genres from the twentieth century.

Component 2: Performance is assessed through a 10-minute recital given in March of Year 13. This component is 35% of the A Level marks, and you can prepare a performance that reflects your personal development as a musician. The submission can include solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist, vocalist, or producer using music technology, in any musical style. This performance does not have to use repertoire approved by the music examination boards, but those students who do take graded music examinations should note that the typical difficulty level of A Level performing repertoire is Grade 7 or 8.

Component 3: Composition is assessed through the submission of two compositions, totalling at least four and a half minutes. The composing portfolio accounts for 25% of the A Level marks, and is submitted in February of Year 13. One composition must respond to a brief provided at the start of Year 13, which will reference the areas of study chosen for the appraising examination. The other composition can be in any style. Both compositions are notated using an appropriate notation (staff notation, lead sheet, annotation, written commentary) and a programme note is also submitted for each piece.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

The course provides an excellent opportunity to study sport and its origins in depth and learn how to train and develop the Elite level athlete. An advanced level qualification in this subject is rapidly becoming essential for specialist study of Physical Education and Sports Studies in higher education and it is also a suitable qualification for other academic and vocational areas.

EXAMINING BODY
OCR

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 4 in GCSE Science and GCSE English

COURSE LEADER
J Kemp

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 1: You will study 'Physiological Factors Affecting Performance'. In this area you will look at the body systems and how they can adapt and perform in sporting situations. You will also develop an understanding of sports injuries and how to avoid and treat them. Assessment- 2 hour written exam.

Component 2: You will study 'Psychological Factors Affecting Performance'. Here you will explore how we learn and develop new skills and the best way to coach and develop new athletes. You will also study the impact of psychological factors such as the impact of the crowd on performance and how to adapt to these situations. Assessment- 1 hour written exam.

Component 3: You will study 'Socio-Cultural and Contemporary Issues'. For this, you will gain an understanding of how sport has developed in the UK from basic games in the 17th Century through to the modern era of highly commercialised professional sport. You will investigate the impact of government and technology on the way sport is developed and played in the modern era. Assessment- 1 hour written exam.

Component 4: Students will need to demonstrate a proficiency in their chosen sport (you can see a list of the accepted sports on the subject page of the OCR website). Please note that you do not need to be outstanding, but you do need to show a weekly commitment to training and performing. Assessment- you are required to submit a recorded performance that shows the key skills for your event and your performance in competitive situations.

You do not have to have previously studied the subject to take this at A Level.

PHOTOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTION

A Level Photography will introduce you to a variety of experiences that explore a range of photographic media, techniques, and processes. You will explore both traditional and new technologies. You will produce work in one or more of the following areas: portraiture, landscape photography (urban/rural/coastal), still life, documentary photography, fashion photography and experimental imagery. Photography encourages self-expression and creativity as well as a sense of individual identity. Photography offers opportunities to use your creativity to express yourself, explore how ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images. The course will guide your through historical and contemporary developments as well as different styles and genres of Photography. You will develop a working vocabulary and an understanding of specialist terminology relevant to your chosen areas of study. Photography will enable you to work independently and to make your own discoveries by exploring ideas and other photographers' work. Learning through and about the arts enriches the experience of studying while at school.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 1: Personal investigation

This unit of work is a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept, or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation will be identified by you and will lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. The investigation will be informed by an aspect of contemporary or past practice of photographers, digital artists, and designers. This component is non-exam assessment and will be internally and externally moderated using assessment criteria. This component is marked out of 96 marks and contributes 60% to the overall weighting of the A Level.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

This assignment is externally set by the exam board. For this, you will be provided with exam papers on 1 February. The exam paper will consist of a choice of eight questions/themes to be used as starting points. You are required to select one on which to base your personal response. Following the preparatory period, you will complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time. This component is non-exam assessment and will be internally and externally moderated using assessment criteria. This component is marked out of 96 marks and contributes 40% to the overall weighting of the A Level.

EXAMINING BODY
AQA

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 5 in GCSE Art and Design; or submit a portfolio of images

COURSE LEADER
D Marshall

PHYSICS

EXAMINING BODY
AQA Physics (7408)

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science or 6 in GCSE Physics & grade 6 in GCSE Maths

COURSE LEADER
T Deepu

INTRODUCTION

Physics - and the world around us - is changing so fast that no one can tell what aspects of the subject will be most important in, say, ten years' time. There are, however, some basic ideas that are essential to our understanding of the world, and indeed the universe, around us and these are included in the core A Level Physics course. Physics provides a means of fulfilling the human desire to find out how things work; a research base for Science and Technology which is second to none and a basis for much modern technology and engineering. The analytical skills involved provide excellent preparation for careers in IT, Communications Technology, Medicine, Law or Finance.

COURSE STRUCTURE

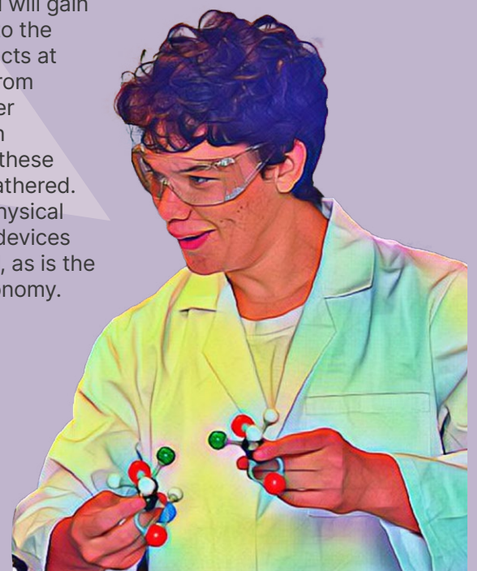
This is a linear course. This means assessment is by three examinations that take place at the end of the course. A Level practical skills are assessed via endorsement. For Measurement and their errors, you gain a working knowledge of the specified fundamental units of measurement. Likewise, practical work is underpinned by an awareness of the nature of measurement errors and of their numerical treatment. For Particles and radiation, you explore the fundamental properties of matter, electromagnetic radiation, and quantum phenomena. The Waves unit extends the GCSE study of wave phenomena through a development of knowledge of the characteristics, properties, and applications of travelling waves and stationary waves.

In Mechanics and materials, vectors and their treatment are introduced, followed by a further study of materials considered in terms of their bulk properties and tensile strength. The Electricity unit provides opportunities for the development of practical skills at an early stage in the course and lays the groundwork for later study of the many electrical applications that are important to society.

For Further mechanics and Thermal Physics the thermal properties of materials, the properties and nature of ideal gases, and the molecular kinetic theory are studied in depth.

In Fields and consequence, the ideas of gravitation, electrostatics and magnetic field theory are developed.

The Nuclear Physics section builds on the work of Particles and radiation to link the properties of the nucleus to the production of nuclear power through the characteristics of the nucleus, the properties of unstable nuclei, and the link between energy and mass. Finally, Astrophysics: Fundamental physical principles are applied to the study and interpretation of the Universe. You will gain deeper insight into the behaviour of objects at great distances from Earth and discover the ways in which information from these objects can be gathered. The underlying physical principles of the devices used are covered, as is the use of radio astronomy.



POLITICS

INTRODUCTION

We live in a modern world of many new and exciting concepts plus established ideas of conservatism and liberalism. Globalisation, the impact of Brexit, political leadership and much more will all be addressed in this exciting course which will give you a clear understanding of the world in which you live. The analytical and discursive nature of an A Level in Politics is well regarded by universities and employers. A Level Politics is an excellent foundation for students who intend to study Politics, Law, History or Economics at university. Politics is happening right now. Don't miss it!

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 1: You will study 'Political Participation', which includes democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media. You will also study the ideologies of conservatism, liberalism and socialism. This component is assessed through a 2 hour exam.

Component 2: You will study 'UK Government' which includes the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive and relationships between the branches. You will also study the ideology of feminism. This component is assessed through a 2 hour exam.

Component 3: You will study 'Sovereignty and Globalisation' which includes political and economic global governance, human rights, environmentalism, power, regionalism and the European Union plus comparative theories. The global politics topics have exciting crossovers with the Geography A Level offered at Diss Sixth Form. This component is assessed through a 2 hour exam.

You do not have to have previously studied the subject to take this A Level.

EXAMINING BODY
EDEXCEL

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 5 in GCSE English or GCSE History

COURSE LEADER
R Bradford

PSYCHOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

Psychology is the study of our thinking, feeling and behaviour. It is an academic discipline which seeks to explain why we think, feel, and behave the way we do. Research is used to try and answer these questions and that research needs evaluating to assess its credibility. It is said that "Psychology is describing things which everyone knows in language no one understands" (Raymond Cattell). So be prepared to learn a lot of new vocabulary! An interest in people, and why they do the things they do, is essential for this subject. Psychology students tend to come from a wide range of academic interests, and it crosses the boundary between the Arts and the Sciences. It links well with any other subject offered at Diss Sixth Form. Psychology is a fully recognised subject for university entrance in any subject. It offers a wide range of skills useful in a vast array of careers and will aid your ability to interact with others throughout your life.

EXAMINING BODY
AQA

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 5 in GCSE English

COURSE LEADER
W Shepperson

COURSE STRUCTURE

There is no coursework. Assessment is via three two hour examinations at the end of year 13. As assessment is by written examination a good level of English language is important. 10% of the assessment is of arithmetic and so a sound ability in Maths would be helpful.

Unit 1 covers Social influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology (the study of mental illness).

Unit 2 covers Biopsychology and Research Methods.

Unit 3 covers Gender issues, Schizophrenia and Addiction.

SOCIOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

Sociology is a wide-ranging study of the dynamics at work in our society. We focus on the influence of families, media and education on society as well as evaluating the causes and consequences of inequality in society. As an A Level Sociology student, you will also examine the work of Sociologists, exploring how they conduct their work using various research methods. This subject encourages students to think critically about real-world problems and consider a variety of perspectives.

EXAMINING BODY
AQA

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 5 in GCSE English

COURSE LEADER
C Kelly

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 1: You will study the 'Education' topic. This topic considers the role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure. For this topic, you will explore why there are differences in educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society. Additionally, you will consider a range of research methods used by sociologists and consider which methods best suit the research of different educational contexts. This component is assessed through a 2 hour exam.

Component 2: You will study the 'Families and Households' and 'Media' topics. The 'Families and Households' topic looks at the changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation and divorce. For this topic, you will also examine gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society. The 'Media' topic looks at the relationship between ownership and control of the media as well as media representations of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability. This component is assessed through a 2 hour exam.

Component 3: You will study the 'Crime and Deviance' topic. This topic encompasses the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender, and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime as well as the impact of globalisation on crime in contemporary society. This component is assessed through a 2 hour exam.

You do not have to have previously studied the subject to take this A Level.

SPANISH

INTRODUCTION

Studying Spanish at A Level provides an engaging and exciting opportunity for learners to build on their previous study of the language. Through social, historical, political, and cultural themes, as well as film and literature, you will be able to develop your linguistic knowledge and cultural understanding of the countries where Spanish is spoken. There is a strong focus on building learners' confidence and fluency in spoken Spanish using relevant and topical resources in lessons and for private study. You will also gain invaluable investigative skills as you undertake your own personal independent research project which will provide an excellent foundation for further study at university. A Level Spanish is well respected and combines well with many other subjects. Previous students have combined Spanish with both science subjects and Maths or English and other humanities. Many undergraduate courses offer further language study beyond sixth form.

EXAMINING BODY
EDUQAS

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish

COURSE LEADER
S Budds / L Narkiewicz

COURSE STRUCTURE

Component 1: Speaking. The Independent Research Project (IRP) gives you the opportunity to choose an area of personal interest which you will then research extensively in order to present and discuss your findings as part of the speaking exam. You will also discuss a stimulus card about one of the 4 themes they have studied during the course. This exam will last approximately 20 minutes and is 30% of the final A Level Grade.

Component 2: Students will study the four themes: Being a young person in Spanish speaking society; Understanding culture in the Spanish speaking world; Diversity and Difference; The Two Spains - 1936 onwards. This component is assessed through a 2½-hour exam with listening and reading questions plus two translations, from Spanish to English, and English to Spanish. It is worth 40% of the final A Level Grade.

Component 3 - Students will study a literary text (La Casa de Bernarda Alba by Federico García Lorca) and a film (El Laberinto del Fauno "Pan's Labyrinth" directed by Guillermo del Toro) and will explore the characters and themes in order to develop a detailed understanding and appreciation of the works. They will then be assessed through a 2-hour exam where they will write a critical and analytical response to each of the works. This is worth 30% of the final A Level Grade.

For more information, please visit the Eduqas website.

LEVEL 3 BTEC NATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

INTRODUCTION

Today's travel and tourism industry is dynamic and diverse, offering a huge variety of employment opportunities for young people. This sector is one of the fastest growing in the world and provides more than 250 million jobs worldwide. During the course you will learn transferable skills such as such as business planning, budgeting, communication, teamwork, presentation and sales skills. Outside of the classroom, you will have the opportunity to experience the travel industry first-hand through local excursions and employer involvement. This will give you the chance to experience how different tourist centres work and gain an insight into this exciting industry. The BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma is equal to 1.5 A Levels and assessment is in the form of both internally assessed assignments and externally assessed exams.

EXAMINING BODY
PEARSON/EDEXCEL

ENTRY CRITERIA
Grade 4 in GCSE Maths and GCSE English

COURSE LEADER
S Busby

COURSE STRUCTURE

Unit 1 - The World of Travel and Tourism: An introduction to the dynamic world of travel where you will explore the key components and scale of the industry, using data to analyse key trends and their impact.

Unit 2 - Global Destinations: You will investigate and analyse information regarding the features and appeal of global destinations, travel planning, and the factors and trends affecting the changing popularity of global destinations.

Unit 1 and 2 are externally assessed by an end of unit exam

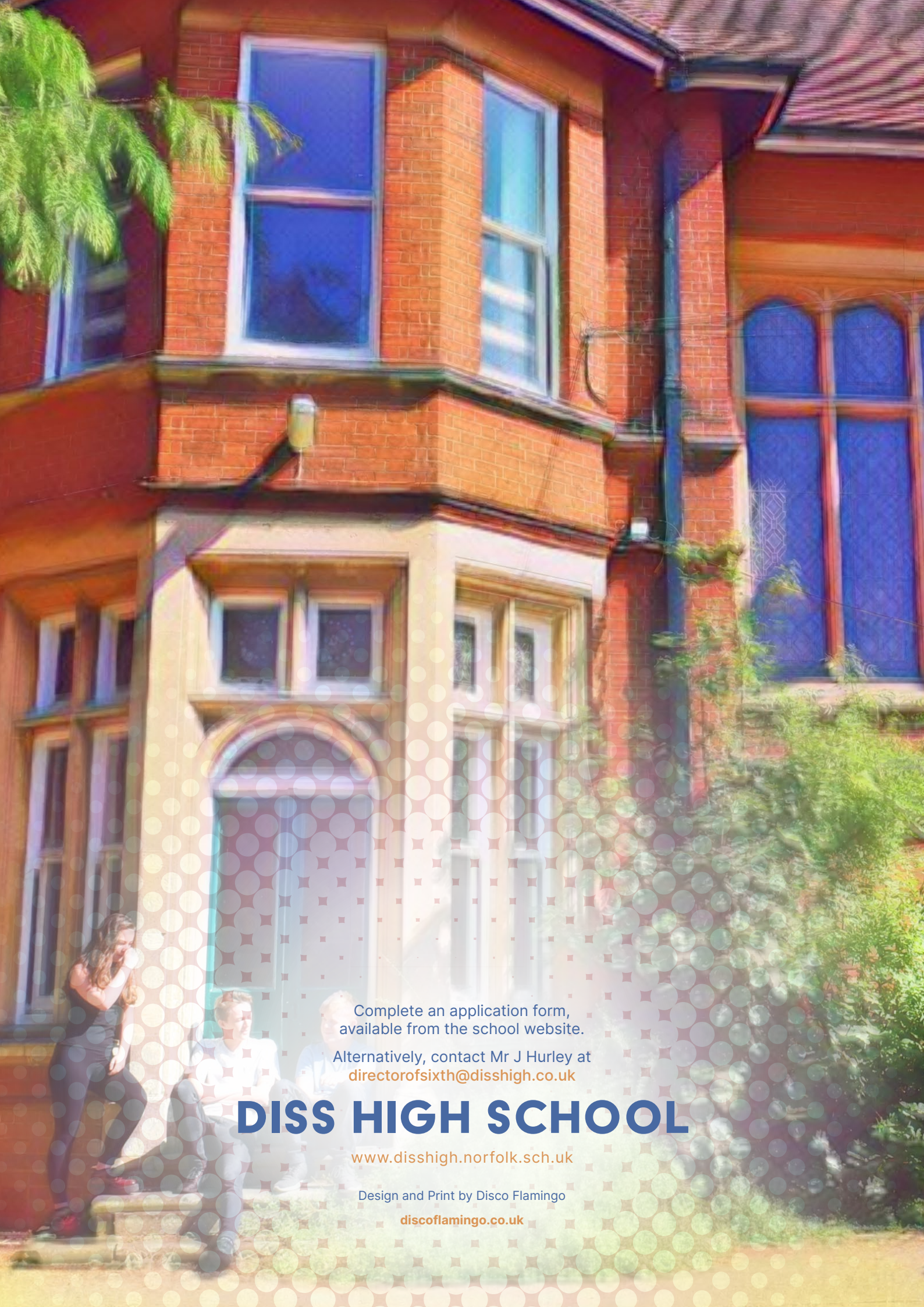
Unit 5 - Managing the Customer Experience in Travel and Tourism: A practical unit which enables you to understand what makes good customer service and develop their own skills as part of the assessment.

Unit 7 - Sustainable Tourism: You will research and analyse potential economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of tourism, and how tourism can be developed sustainably at different types of tourist destination.

Unit 8 - Travel and tourism Enterprises: An exciting unit where you have the opportunity to undertake research and prepare a business plan and pitch for your own travel and tourism industry.

Unit 9 - Visitor Attractions: You will investigate chosen visitor attractions in order to understand how they develop, diversify and use technology in order to meet the needs of their different types of visitors.

Units 5, 7, 8 and 9 are assessed internally through a series of written assignment.



Complete an application form,
available from the school website.

Alternatively, contact Mr J Hurley at
directorofsixth@disshigh.co.uk

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www.disshigh.norfolk.sch.uk

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