Thurstable
Welcome to Thurstable Sixth Form Centre

Our Sixth Form is extremely important to us here at Thurstable. It is the time when our pupils become our students, and our partners in the business of learning. At Thurstable you will be listened to, valued and respected. We will make sure that you get the balance of support and challenge that you need. We will also give you every opportunity to lead both within the Sixth Form and in the main school. Your Sixth Form years are a key part of your life and, if you do decide to spend them at Thurstable, I look forward to working with you.

MAS Bacon, Head Teacher

Come and be a part of a diverse community with a sociable and welcoming atmosphere!

We are very proud of our Sixth Form and the school’s strong reputation in the community, which has been spearheaded by the drive and initiative of our senior students. At Thurstable Sixth Form we pride ourselves in offering a truly unique academic and enrichment programme. We offer top range facilities and specialist teaching with small class sizes. Our teachers are experts in their field and can give you the help and one-to-one support you need to achieve success and develop key skills that will be invaluable in the future.

We are fully focused on your academic and personal ambitions. If you join our Sixth Form we will expect you to work hard in a broad range of challenging courses, but, at the same time, make a wider contribution to the school and community at large. We aim to ensure that you are prepared for your future by delivering enrichment programmes on such issues as driving safety, sexual health and managing finances. We also hope that the enrichment programme, opportunities for responsibility and extra-curricular activities will ensure that you develop more than just your academic abilities. This is combined with focussed support from the whole team in your progression path whether it be university, employment, apprenticeships or volunteering.

Getting involved: We offer a variety of opportunities to get involved in life beyond the classroom. You could shape your involvement around your interests or try something new:

- Sixth Form Committee
- Work Shadowing
- Coaching
- Year 7 Camp
- Young Enterprise
- Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Mentoring younger students
- Teaching Assistant
- Mid-day Assistant
- Sixth Form Leadership Team
- Sixth Form Committee
- School productions

Thurstable Sixth Form will give you every opportunity to succeed. Like many students that have gone before you we hope that you will continue this strong tradition and maximise your future potential.

We look forward to meeting you at the Sixth Form Open Evening!

Mr G Muttock, Head of Sixth Form

“. . . a flexible Sixth Form experience based on tailored academic and vocational provision and the development of personal and leadership skills”  

“Learners achieve well in the sixth form…many…come from other schools (and) are happy and well looked after. They are enthusiastic about what teachers do to help them improve their grades.”  

Ofsted 2016
Courses at Thurstable Sixth Form

Study Programmes available

**AS/A Level courses: 2 Years**
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- Drama and Theatre Studies p6
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**BTEC Level 3 courses: 2 Years**
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- Business Studies: p31
  - Subsidiary Diploma (1 A Level)
- Health and Social Care: p32
  - Subsidiary Diploma (1 A Level), Diploma (2 A Levels)
- Information Technology: p33
  - Subsidiary Diploma (1 A Level), Diploma (2 A Levels), Extended Diploma (3 A Levels)
- Performing Arts (Dance): p34
  - Subsidiary Diploma (1 A Level)
- Sport: p35
  - Subsidiary Diploma (1 A Level), Diploma (2 A Levels), Extended Diploma (3 A Levels)

**Level 2 courses: 1 Year**
- BTEC Diploma in Public Services p36
  - This course involves 4 days in Sixth Form and one day in a related work experience placement
  - GCSE Mathematics p36
  - GCSE English p36
  - Colchester United Programme p37
  - Cheerleading p38

Δ Denotes subjects delivered under the VI6 partnership.

Students who have not attained GCSE English and Mathematics at Grade 4 or above are expected to re-sit the examination until this is attained.

Those students who choose Level 2 Public Services will not be able to combine it with Level 3 courses.

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**GCSE mostly 6-9's - Choose up to 4 A-Levels/BTEC's**

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<th>A-LEVEL</th>
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<th>EPQ</th>
<th>Enrichment</th>
<th>Work Experience</th>
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**GCSE mostly 5's and 6's - Choose a combination of A-Levels and BTECs**

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**GCSE mostly 3's and below**

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<th>BTEC LEVEL 2 Public Services</th>
<th>Enrichment</th>
<th>Work Experience</th>
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If you choose to study at Thurstable you could have the chance to experience university life one/two days a week. As well as experienced teaching you will also experience university style lectures and seminars from leading academics which will include fascinating research relating to their subject.

You will immerse yourself in the living and learning environment at the University campus and also use facilities to make your studies unlike any teaching you have had before. Modern Language students will use the language translation lab; Law students will take part in mock trials; the opportunities are endless. In year 13, you may be based in the University departments for your lessons – just like an undergraduate student. You will learn how to work like a university student; university sessions will educate you to not only learn how but also challenge why.

VI6 is not just about learning; you will be able to use the facilities on campus including breakout spaces in our new Tony Rich Teaching centre, coffee shops and restaurants and become part of the university community. Current University of Essex students will join you for breaks to share their experiences and answer any questions about university life.

Working together, VI6 partnership and the University of Essex are opening up a new and exciting way of learning…

**Don’t just think outside the box, leap out and jump up and down on it.**

For more information, contact your Head of Sixth Form muttockg@thurstable.essex.sch.uk
Art

Course Content:
This course encourages an adventurous and enquiring approach to art and design. Students explore personal responses to a range of topics, are encouraged to develop their independent learning skills in the creation of an exciting individual work, and are expected to research a variety of sources including the work of contemporary artists and visits to galleries and relevant sites.

Year 12 comprises of short units that build skills in a wide variety of media.
Year 13 is structured to allow students to build their own personal portfolio.

Students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of past and contemporary art and design practice and be able to produce work that embraces a range of ideas. There is a focus on art and design practice and the integration of theory, knowledge and understanding.

Assessment:
A Level
Unit 1
60% Personal Portfolio – internally set.
12% Personal Study – an essay of 1000 words based upon the student’s personal work and research.
48% - Personal Portfolio of student’s own art work and research.
ESA 15 hour exam 40% externally set with 10 weeks preparation time.

This course will suit you if you enjoy experimenting, creating and researching art and art history, if you enjoy working independently and have strong self-motivational skills.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
You may progress onto Art Foundation and degrees in subjects such as Art and Design, Photography, Textiles, Architecture, Design, Print making, Teaching, or directly into employment in these areas.

“Spend two amazing years of your life in a familiar setting that offers new and unique challenges and opportunities”
Biology

Course Content:
AS Level (H020) consist of:
Module 1 – Development of Practical Skills in Biology
Module 2 – Foundations in Biology
Module 3 – Exchange and Transport
Module 4 – Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease

A Level (H420) consists of:
Modules 1-4 from AS and:
Module 5 – Communication, Homeostasis and Energy
Module 6 – Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems

Assessment:
The course will be delivered as a two year linear A Level with the option to sit exams at the end of Year 1 to obtain an AS Level. At AS Level, two components are externally assessed via public examinations. At A Level, three components are externally assessed via public examinations with a further component internally assessed for the Practical Endorsement Element which is a separate acknowledgement by the exam board of a student's practical skills ability.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
This specification provides a suitable foundation for the study of biological science or related courses in higher education such as medicine, dentistry, zoology, biochemistry, pharmaceutical chemistry, biomedical sciences, genetics and psychology.
Course:
1 year – AS
2 year – A Level

Exam Board:
Edexcel

Minimum subject specific entry requirements:
GCSE Grade 5 in Mathematics and English; and GCSE Grade 6 in Core and Additional Science, or GCSE Grade 6 in Triple Science.

Contact Person:
Mr Gay

gayc@thurstable.essex.sch.uk

Chemistry

Course Content:
AS year consists of:
Module 1 – Development of practical skills (ongoing throughout 2 years of study).
•  Practical skills assessed in a written examination
Module 2 – Foundations in Chemistry.
•  Atoms, compounds, molecules and equations
•  Acid-base and redox reactions
Module 3 – Periodic table & energy.
•  The periodic table and periodicity
•  Qualitative analysis
•  Reaction rates and equilibrium (qualitative)
Module 4 – Core Organic chemistry
•  Basic concepts
•  Alcohols and haloalkanes
•  Analytical techniques (IR and MS)

A Level year consists of:
Module 1 – Development of practical skills (ongoing throughout 2 years of study).
•  Practical skills assessed in a written examination
Module 2, 3 and 4 (AS) are also assessed in A Level examinations. Additionally the A Level year includes:
Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements.
•  Reaction rates and equilibrium (quantitative)
•  Enthalpy, entropy and free energy
•  Transition elements
Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis.
•  Aromatic compounds
•  Carboxylic acids and esters
•  Polymers
•  Chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR)

Assessment:
AS
Two 1.30 hour papers on all AS content (unit 1-4), both with equal (50%) weighting.
Paper 1 – Breadth in Chemistry. (70 marks)
Section A. Multiple Choice 20 marks. Section B. Short answer questions 50 marks.
Paper 2 – Depth in Chemistry. (70 marks)
Includes Short answer (structured questions, problem solving, calculations, practical) and extended response questions, including those marked using Level of Response mark schemes.

A Level
Three papers covering all contents of the AS and A Level course.
Paper 1 – Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry. 2.15 hour. 37% 100 marks
Paper 2 – Synthesis and analytical techniques. 2.15 hours. 37% 100 marks
Paper 3 – Unified Chemistry. 1.30 hours. 26% 70 marks
Also practical endorsement from unit 1 (non exam assessment)

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
Studying Chemistry will develop and enhance the necessary skills for careers such as medicine, pharmacology, veterinary science, dentistry or forensic science as well as many others. Chemistry at A level is a well-respected qualification that will allow progression into a number of career pathways.
Drama and Theatre Studies

Course Content:
Students study three main components over the two years

Assessment:
A Level

Component 1: Devising – devise an original performance based on a stimulus and a practitioner. The stimulus must be a short extract from a script. Non-examination assessment 20 marks (10%)

Component 2: Text in Performance – one group performance of a key extract from a script worth 36 marks. One monologue performance of a key extract from a different script 24 marks (20%). Externally assessed by a visiting examiner

Component 3: Theatre makers in practice 80 marks (40%)

Section A: Live Theatre evaluation

Section B: Page to Stage – two questions on how they would stage an unseen extract from a set text

Section C: One extended question on how they would re-imagine an unseen extract from another set text for a modern audience. Also showing how a practitioner has influenced their ideas

This course will suit you if you enjoy working in groups and have a genuine interest in all aspects of drama and theatre. If you enjoy visiting the theatre in your own time (trips, at least three a year, are organised by the department and paid for by you) then this course is for you. You will also need to be prepared to spend rehearsal time with your group outside of lesson times, particularly in the build-up to the practical exams. Overall, it will suit people who enjoy taking risks, pushing themselves and presenting and performing for audiences.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
A Level Drama and Theatre Studies forms a good foundation for all further study in Performing Arts qualifications. It also leads well into Theatre Studies and English degrees due to the level of literature studied during the course. In terms of career opportunities, the A Level not only supports routes into the theatre, but it also helps develop transferable skills such as teamwork, presentation, communication and self-confidence.
Economics

This Economics course provides a logical progression for students who are strong mathematicians, offering both Micro and Macro Economics. Students will look at how markets and the economy works, developing the skills to analyse the economy using tools and theories. It allows students to critically explore a range of economic issues and draw on data from local, national and international sources.

**Course Content:**

**AS level**
- Unit 1 The operation of markets and market failure
- Unit 2 The national economy in a global context

**A Level**
- Unit 3 Individuals, firms, markets and market failure
- Unit 4 The national and international economy

**Assessment:**

100% exam

*This course will suit you if you* have a good understanding of Mathematics and a high standard of English. If you have studied History at GCSE this would also be an advantage as you will be required to learn in a contextual style. Students on this course will analyse the wider impact on society and the economic environment such as privatisation, the impact of interest rates and taxation through written work, research tasks, debates and the analysis of data.

**Career opportunities and possible degree courses:**

Higher Education Degree (Economics, Business, Accountancy), Financial Institutions (banks, investment brokers, finance houses, accountancy), Civil Service jobs, Economist.
English Language

Course:
1 year – AS
2 year – A Level

Exam Board:
AQA

Minimum subject specific entry requirements:
GCSE grade 6 in English Language and English Literature and at least three other subjects at Grade 6 or above.

Contact Person:
Mr G Muttock
muttockg@thurstable.essex.sch.uk

Course Content:
Students will develop their subject expertise by exploring key language concepts and engaging with a range of texts and discourses. The specification explores the study of English language both as a medium of communication and as a topic in its own right with an emphasis on the ability of students to pursue lines of enquiry, analyse texts produced by others and debate different views.

Assessment of course:
AS level
100% examination (3 hours in total)

A Level
80% examination (5 hours in total)
20% non-exam assessment (3500 words)

Topics
• Textual variations and representations
• Methods of language analysis
• Language diversity (accent, dialect, gender, ethnicity)
• Children’s language development
• Language change (History of the English Language)

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
English Literature

**Course Content:**
Students will be encouraged to write in critical debate about a variety of literary forms and genres. They are required to show personal responses and critical preferences supported by relevant terminology. Students will explore aspects of literary themes over time as well as texts in shared contexts. This A Level provides students with an excellent grounding should they wish to study English further.

**Assessment of course:**

**AS level**
100% examination (3 hours in total)

**A Level**
80% examination (5 hours in total)
20% non-exam assessment (2500 words)

**Topics**
- Shakespeare (Othello)
- Prose (The Great Gatsby/Persuasion)
- Post 1900 Poetry
- World War 1 Literature in all its forms

**Career opportunities and possible degree courses:**

Course:
1 year – AS
2 year – A Level

Exam Board:
OCR

Minimum subject specific entry requirements:
GCSE grade 6 in English Language and English Literature and at least four other subjects at grade 5 or above.

Contact Person:
Mr G Muttock
muttockg@thurstable.essex.sch.uk
English Literature and Language

Course Content:
This course gives students the opportunity to develop a combined understanding of both English Language and English Literature. They will engage with a variety of texts, both spoken and written, studying how to analyse these texts from both literary and linguistic viewpoints. The course also gives students the opportunity to write creatively.

AS Paper 1: Views and Voices. Students will study one prose text and one set of poems from a choice of poets. This is assessed by written examination.

AS Paper 2: People and Places. Students will study and analyse a range of different texts in the AQA Anthology ‘Paris’. They will also develop the skills to adapt and shape these texts to respond to different re-creative tasks, as well as evaluate their own writing. This is assessed by written examination.

A Level Paper 1: Telling Stories. Students will revise three texts studied at AS Level: the AQA Anthology ‘Paris’, a prose text and a set of poems. They will focus on the idea of how and why stories are told and explore the ways speakers and writers present stories. This is assessed by written examination.

A Level Paper 2: Exploring Conflict. This unit focuses on how language choices help to construct ideas of conflict between people, and between people and their societies. Students will study one prose text and one drama text. This is assessed by written examination.

A Level Non-Exam Assessment: Making Connections. Students will complete an investigation, on a chosen theme/technique and texts. This unit is assessed internally, in the form of an extended essay.

This course will suit you if you are interested in both reading widely and writing in a variety of forms.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
This subject complements a range of courses and careers: Teaching, History, Law, Media.
Extended Project Qualification

Course Content:
The Extended Project is a single piece of work of a student’s choosing that requires evidence of planning, preparation, research and independent learning. The Project might be to design a report with findings from an investigation or study, a dissertation presenting an argument, an artefact or a performance. It is seen as increasingly valuable, particularly by universities who feel it demonstrates a student’s ability to be independent, creative and analytical whatever their academic interest.

Assessment:
Project product, in the form of
1. A research based written report. The recommended length is 5000 words.
OR
2. An artefact (e.g. a piece of music or drama, an event, a piece of art or a realised design such as a lighting system) with a shorter research based written report. The recommended word count is 1000 minimum.

Completed Production Log which helps students to record the process they have undertaken.

Both styles of project require a 10 minute power point presentation on their project.

This course will suit you if you are particularly passionate about a subject, work well independently and are able to manage your time effectively.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
This qualification is increasingly seen as essential by the top universities (Russell group). The skills that students develop through the Extended Project are excellent preparation for university level study and for those looking to enter the world of work. It helps students ‘stand out’ amongst other university applicants and is also popular with employers as it demonstrates clear leadership, commitment and problem solving skills.
Fashion and Textiles

Course Content:
You will study fashion, looking at past, present and future designers to gain inspiration. Textiles is about the creation of new fashion garments that people will buy. It includes appearance and function, design, decorative techniques, styling, and studies the balance between manufacturing and creativity. Styling and function are crucial to commercial success, and through Textiles you will gain a thorough understanding of the processes involved in turning ideas into attractive and useful garments. Shape, colour, user perception, usability and sustainability are just some of the elements you will learn to work with. You will be at the forefront of the next generation of ideas, concepts and prototypes, and you will develop your creativity and technical expertise.

Assessment:
Exam 10 hours – 100%
A Level – coursework – 50%
Externally set exam 50%

This course will suit you if you
• Are creative and have an interest in fashion
• Are interested in achieving a broad knowledge of marketing, styling, design, history of fashion and making skills
• Wish to experience the multidisciplinary nature of iterative design, learn specialist knowledge of design and carry out extensive project based work to develop skills
• Have the ability to convert design themes into a design concept and refine into a garment
• Wish to broaden skills in modern fashion illustrating methods

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
Art foundation courses, fashion and textile degrees. You could become a fashion designer, shoe/bag designer, textile print designer, textiles weave designer, textiles designer, card/wrapping paper illustrator, fashion illustrator, stylist, costume designer or a buyer.
French, German & Spanish

**Course Content:**
The AS/A Level courses cover the study of all four language skills to a depth which will enable students to partake in meaningful debates and gain insight into the culture of countries where the language is spoken. The course covers language, culture and contemporary issues.

**AS Units consist of studying topics on:**
1. Social issues and trends
2. Artistic Culture
3. Grammar
4. Literacy text and films

**A Level units consist of studying topics on:**
1. Social issues and trends
2. Political and artistic culture
3. Grammar
4. Literacy texts and films

**Assessment:**

**AS**
- **Paper 1** Listening, Reading and Writing - 1 hour 45 minutes exam
- **Paper 2** Writing - 1 hour 30 minutes
- **Paper 3** Speaking - 12 -14 minutes

**A Level**
- **Paper 1** Listening reading and writing - 2 hours 30 minutes
- **Paper 2** Writing - 2 hours
- **Paper 3** Speaking - 21-23 minutes

This course will suit you if you enjoy speaking another language in lessons, working in pairs and groups, and developing the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Also if you enjoy communicating with others and are interested in finding out about other people, cultures and different ways of life. The course is aimed at showing how languages work and helping you to identify underlying patterns. Above all, it is a challenge to grapple with expressing your ideas in written and spoken form in your chosen language.

**Career opportunities and possible degree courses:**
Languages can be combined with many other subjects at University level. Learning one language provides a firm foundation for learning other languages. The course also provides you with the ability to study or work in other countries around the world as well as offer a skill to employers in this country. Employers are constantly looking for employees who can speak other languages in every field of work in both public and private sectors from medicine to banking. Those who bring an additional language to their work often earn higher pay.
Course: 2 year – A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Minimum subject specific entry requirements: GCSE grade 6 in Geography.

Contact Person: Mr Muttock
muttockg@thurstable.essex.sch.uk

Geography

Course Content:
Physical Geography – Coastal systems and landscapes, hazards, water and carbon cycles
Human Geography – Changing places, global systems and governance, population and the environment

Assessment:
Paper 1 – Physical Geography (written exam 40%)
Paper 2 – Human Geography (written exam 40%)
Coursework – 20%

This course will suit you if you are interested in the world around you. Do you like to know why the world is the way it is? Are you intrigued by human and physical environments? Are you a global citizen? Do you realise your actions and those of others have consequences both positive and negative? Do you enjoy fieldwork? Do you enjoy problem solving and undertaking enquiries? Do you take an interest in news and current affairs locally and around the world? Geographers answer “yes” to these questions. Geography provides a unique bridge between social sciences and natural sciences; students who have good all-around skills and abilities are often well suited to Geography.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
Taking Geography at A Level will be well-received in a university application and will give you a wide range of opportunities for university study.

Geography can help access careers in the following sectors, and many more: Surveying, Architecture, Estate agency, Tourism and leisure industries, Marketing, Nature conservation, Environmental management, Demography, Urban planning, Disaster planning and management, Aviation, Local government, Politics, Archaeology, Armed forces, Teaching, Cartography, Transport management, Climatology / Meteorology, Resource exploitation / management, Ecology, Agriculture, Power / energy, Utilities, Geology, Engineering, Business and commerce, Astronaut.
Course Content:
Our Politics specification has been designed to encourage interest in and enthusiasm for the study of Government and Politics and will enable students to develop an insight into political beliefs central to an understanding of the modern world.

The AS course provides an introduction to the subject through an examination of UK political procedures and institutions such as democracy and political participation, party policies and ideas and key institutions. The A2 course allows more specialisation requiring more skills analysis and evaluation and offers a choice of challenging but comparable topics: UK and EU Political Issues; Political Ideologies; US Politics and Global Politics. You will be given the opportunity to engage in contemporary political debates and specialise in different areas at A2 giving students the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of aspects of the subject at a higher level.

Assessment of course:
100% examination: 2 exams at the end of AS and 3 exams at the end of A2.

Topics
During the course, you will discover:
- What it is like to be part of the political system;
- How politics is undertaken in the country we live in;
- How politics is different in the US compared to the UK.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
Advertising, Journalism, The Civil Service, Politics, Public Affairs, Research, Charity work, Public relations and Local government.

“The quality of the guidance and support to students is a strength of the Sixth Form. Students leave the Sixth Form with the qualifications and well developed personal, social and employability skills that prepare them well for the next steps in their education or the world of work.” OFSTED 2014
Graphic Communications

The aims and learning outcomes for these qualifications are to enable learners to develop:
- Intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive capabilities
- Investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical judgement
- Independence of mind in developing, refining and communicating their own ideas, their own intentions and their own personal outcomes
- The experience of working with a broad range of media
- An understanding of the interrelationships between art, craft and design processes and an awareness of the contexts in which they operate.

Within Graphic Communication learners are required to choose one or more area(s) of study, such as:
- Image and typography
- Illustration
- Advertising
- Layout design
- Packaging
- Editorial design
- Experimental imagery
- Signage
- Abstract approaches

Course Content:
- Learners should be able to explore, research and acquire techniques and develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of media specific to Graphic Communication.
- Learners should explore relevant images, text, design and resources relating to Graphic Communication. Learners may use traditional methods such as drawing, printing and/or digital techniques to produce graphic images.
- Learners in Graphic Communication are expected to demonstrate specialisation in particular materials, media or processes to allow for an appropriate depth of study. This can be achieved by working toward the extension and development of particular themes, ideas or issues.
- Drawing skills should be understood and developed as appropriate to the ways of recording and communicating intentions, ideas and emotions in the context of Graphic Communication.

Areas of study:
Image and typography, illustration, advertising, layout design, packaging, editorial design, experimental imagery, signage, abstract approaches.

Assessment:
A2 coursework—60%. Externally set task—40%

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
Advertising art director, Animator, Creative director, Graphic designer, Illustrator, Printmaker, Production designer, theatre/television/film, Multimedia Designer, Web Designer, Logo Designer, Brand Identity Designer, Flash Designer, Creative/Art Director, Photo Editing, Photoshop Artist, Layout Artist.

Course: 2 year – A Level
Exam Board: OCR
Minimum subject specific entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 in either Resistant Materials, Graphics.
Contact Person: Mrs T Goodwin
goodwint@thurstable.essex.sch.uk

Specialisation in particular materials, media or processes to allow for an appropriate depth of study. This can be achieved by working toward the extension and development of particular themes, ideas or issues.
- Drawing skills should be understood and developed as appropriate to the ways of recording and communicating intentions, ideas and emotions in the context of Graphic Communication.
History

Course Content:
Units consist of:

- Later Tudor Period 1553 - 1601
- European and World History – France in Revolution 1774 - 1815.

- Historical Interpretations and Investigations
- Historical Themes – Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992

Assessment:

- European and World History – Written paper.
- A Level Historical Interpretations and Investigations – Coursework unit
- Historical Themes – Written paper

This course will suit you if you enjoy investigating, comparing arguments, discussion, independent research, working in groups and doing presentations and if you want to know ‘why’ and ‘how’ events happened.

Skills required: considering the importance of events in the past and present, the techniques of critical thinking and the skills necessary to analyse and solve historical problems and the ability to communicate historical arguments and conclusions clearly.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
The study of History provides students with excellent transferable skills such as problem solving, communication and thinking skills. These skills are valued in many different professions, for example, law, business and administration, the police service, journalism, teaching and the media. History at A Level is a qualification accepted by many university degree courses. Other subjects that complement History are Politics and English.

Course:
2 year – A Level

Exam Board:
OCR

Minimum subject specific entry requirements:
GCSE Grade 6 in History or if you have not studied GCSE History, any other Humanities subject.

Contact Person:
Mr Lake

lakep@thurstable.essex.sch.uk

Minimum subject specific entry requirements:
GCSE Grade 6 in History or if you have not studied GCSE History, any other Humanities subject.

Contact Person:
Mr Lake

lakep@thurstable.essex.sch.uk
Law

Course Content:
AS level
The English Legal System - the civil courts, including the High Court and the European Court of Justice, police powers, the criminal courts and the penal system, legal personnel including judges, barristers and solicitors as well as the role of lay people such as magistrates and jurors.

Sources of Law - the different sources of law, including the doctrine of precedent, Acts of Parliament, European Union law and law reform, and how the law develops and changes over time.

A Level
Criminal Law - the general principles of criminal liability, including causation, intention and recklessness, specific offences including the principles of murder and manslaughter, non-fatal offences against the person and property offences such as theft, burglary and criminal damage. You will also study specific and general defences such as provocation, insanity, intoxication and duress.

Criminal Law Special Study - special study of a theme specified by the examination board.

Assessment:
Two examinations take place at AS level.
Paper one - 2 hours and is worth 60% of the total AS marks or 30% of the total A Level marks.
Paper two - 1 hour and is worth 40% of the total AS marks or 20% of the total A Level marks.
A further two examinations take place at A Level, lasting two hours and one hour 30 minutes respectively.

This course will suit you if you wish to go on to Higher Education to study Law or Business Studies, or you could work in the legal profession, local government or management. Equally the study of Law is also suitable for students who simply have an interest in people and related social issues.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
Of course some Law students want to eventually practise as either a solicitor or barrister but not everyone wants to qualify as a lawyer. The skills developed while studying Law at advanced level are considered valuable and held in high esteem by a wide range of future employers.

Course:
1 year – AS
2 year – A Level

Exam Board:
OCR

Minimum subject specific entry requirements:
Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and Grade 5 in GCSE Maths (preferred).

Contact Person:
Mr G Muttock
muttockg@thurstable.essex.sch.uk

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Mathematics

Course Content:

AS

AS Mathematics will be split into two test papers. *Paper 1 – Assessment is by an external examination of 2 hours* The topics that will be covered are below:

- Topic 1 – Proof
- Topic 2 – Algebra and functions
- Topic 3 – Coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane
- Topic 4 – Sequences and series
- Topic 5 – Trigonometry
- Topic 6 – Exponentials and logarithms
- Topic 7 – Differentiation
- Topic 8 – Integration
- Topic 9 – Vectors

*Paper 2 – Assessment is by an external examination of 1 hour 15 mins* (The topics that will be covered are below):

- Section A: Statistics
  - Topic 1 – Statistical sampling
  - Topic 2 – Data presentation and interpretation
  - Topic 3 – Probability
  - Topic 4 – Statistical distributions
  - Topic 5 – Statistical hypothesis testing
- Section B: Mechanics
  - Topic 6 – Quantities and units in mechanics
  - Topic 7 – Kinematics
  - Topic 8 – Forces and Newton’s laws

This course will suit you if you:

- Have an interest in furthering your mathematical skills
- Have good algebra skills
- Enjoy the modular approach and achieve more through completing external examinations rather than coursework
- Would like to discover how more complex maths is used in the real world

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:

There are numerous degree courses in which this A level will give a good grounding including Mathematics, Medicine, Business Studies, Economics, Accountancy, Marketing, Business Management, Computing, Information and Communication Technology (it will be extremely useful in most further qualifications). It will open up career opportunities in the following sectors Accountancy, Medicine, Architecture and Construction, Engineering, Teaching, to name but a few.
Maths (Further)

The A Level course in Further Mathematics consists of 6 modules for the full A Level qualification. It runs in parallel with the A Level Mathematics qualification, for which, it is a significant enhancement, bridging many topics that are met at undergraduate level.

**Course Content:**

**Further Pure Maths 1:**
- Complex numbers, numerical solution of equations, Co-ordinate systems, Matrix algebra, Series, Proof.

**Further Pure Maths 2:**

**Further Pure Maths 3:**
- Hyperbolic functions, further co-ordinate systems, Differentiation, Integration, Vectors, further matrix algebra.

**Mechanics 2:**
- Kinematics of a particle moving in a straight line or plane, Centres of mass, Work and energy, Collisions, Statics of rigid bodies.

**Statistics 2:**
- Binomial distribution, Poisson distribution, Continuous random variables, Continuous uniform distribution, Normal approximations, Populations and samples, Hypothesis testing.

**Numerical Methods:**
- This course involves finding the roots of complex equations, using numerical, as opposed to algebraic techniques.

**Career opportunities and possible degree courses:**
- As with Mathematics, opportunities include corporate finance, engineering, banking, actuarial positions and accountancy.
Course:
1 year – AS
2 year – A Level

Exam Board:
EDUQAS

Minimum subject specific entry requirements:
GCSE Grade 5 in English or English Language.

Contact Person:
Miss Hennahane
hennahaner@thurstable.essex.sch.uk

Media Studies

Course Content:

AS unit 1: Investigating the Media:
Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes (35% of qualification)
This unit assesses knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, media industries and media contexts. Areas of study include advertising, marketing, music video, newspapers, film, radio and video games.

AS unit 2: Investigating Media Forms and Products
Written examination: 2 hours (35% of qualification)
This unit assesses knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts. Areas of study include television, magazine and online media.

AS unit 3: Media Production:
Non-exam assessment (30% of qualification)
A media production, including individual research and planning, created in response to a brief set by the exam board. Students are tested on their ability to show their application of knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework.

A2 unit 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences
Written examination: 2 hours 15 mins (35% of qualification)
This unit assesses the same knowledge and understanding of the AS Unit 1 but adds three more set texts, of similar forms, for comparison.

A2 Unit 2: Media Form and Products in Depth
Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes (35% of qualification)
This unit assesses the same knowledge and understanding of the AS Unit 2 but adds three more set texts to compare to the television, magazine and online media texts in year 1.

A2 unit 3: Cross-Media Production:
Non-exam assessment (30% of qualification)
A cross-media production based on two forms, including individual investigative research and development, created in response to a brief set by the exam board. Students are tested on their ability to show their application of knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework and digital convergence.

Assessment:
This course will suit you if you have a creative and analytical mind; students who appreciate the way in which the media plays an important part in lives do very well at this subject. If you are interested in the way that media products are made and consumed, and the theoretical approaches that the media engages with, then this is the course for you. If emerging technology and the effects of the digital age fascinate you, then you will really enjoy studying the media.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
Media Studies opens up opportunities for employment in Journalism, Media, Law, Education, Advertising, Film, Television, Radio and the general Media sector. It also makes employment links with the following sectors: Technology, the Creative Arts and Communication. As the world continues to become more media/technology driven every profession is finding it more essential to have staff who are media literate and proficient at media production. Students that go on to university study degrees in Media Production, Digital Media and Communication. There are also apprenticeship opportunities in various media sectors as well as entry level jobs in most production environments.
Music

Course Content:

AS Level (1 year)
Component 1: (40%)
• AoSA: Western Classical Tradition (Haydn’s London Symphony, movements 1 and 2)
• AoSC: Musical Theatre
1 hour 30 minutes

A2 Level (2 years)
Component 1: Performing (35%)
• Minimum 3 pieces as a soloist, ensemble or both
• Two pieces must link to different areas of study.
• Approximately Grade 6.
• Assessed by a visiting examiner

Component 2: Composing (25%)
• Two compositions, One in the Western Classical Style
• 4 - 6 minutes
• Worth 25%

Component 3: Appraising (40%)
• Same as AS, PLUS AoSF: Into the Twenty-First Century (Asyla by Thomas Ades, String Quartet No. 2 by Sally Beamish)
2 hours 15 minutes

This course will suit you if you like performing and composing your own music and getting to know pieces of music in detail and can discuss and write about music. You will have many opportunities to be involved in performing both in school and in outside venues.

Course: 2 year – A Level

Exam Board: EDUQAS

Minimum subject entry requirements: Ability to read music (essential) and the ability to perform to at least grade 5 standard

Contact Person: Mrs Thomson

thomsons@thurstable.essex.sch.uk
Course Content:

A Level (2 years)

Component 1: Recording 20%
Production tools and techniques to capture, edit, process and mix an audio recording

Component 2: Technology-based composition 20%
Creating, editing, manipulating and structuring sounds to produce a technology-based composition.

Component 3: Listening and analysing 25%
Written examination: Knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles, in the context of a series of unfamiliar commercial recordings. Application of knowledge related to all three areas of study:
• recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
• principles of sound and audio technology
• the development of recording and production technology.

Component 4: Producing and analysing 35%
Written/practical examination: Knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques, to be applied to unfamiliar materials. Application of knowledge related to two of the areas of study:
• recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
• principles of sound and audio technology

This course will suit you if you are a practising musician with a desire to create recordings of both commercial and original material and have a desire to understand the associated processes integral to the recording and reproduction of sound. You will gain hands-on work experience during the course running sound for productions and concerts.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses for Music and Music Technology:
Music is a highly regarded academic subject and whether you take it with a view to a career in music or as an additional A level subject, it is held in high esteem by universities and other institutions of higher education. Students can go on to study music and or music technology, sound production at university. There are also numerous other degree courses which both courses provide a good grounding such as English, Mathematics, Physics, Theatre Studies, Journalism, Media etc. This can also lead to a career in the music industry, theatre or education.
Philosophy and Ethics (RS)

Course Content:
Three areas
1. The Nature of Religion
2. Philosophy of Religion
3. Religious Ethics

Assessment:
Exams in all three areas at the end of year 13 for A level.
No coursework / controlled assessment.

This course will suit you if you value the opportunity to look more deeply into the world in which we live and the philosophical and ethical beliefs which matter to people; enjoy exploring issues from a variety of viewpoints; are keen on analysing, defending and evaluating philosophers’ ideas, as well as your own ideas on ethical issues as well as on some of the ultimate philosophical questions -

What is the purpose of life? Why is the world the way it is? Is there a God? Can anyone prove that God exists? Why do innocent people suffer? Do we have free will? Where did we come from? Why should I be good?

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
Further degrees in Philosophy, Ethical Studies, Religious Studies, other Humanities subjects.

Careers in: broadcast, film, video and interactive media sector, education, financial services, law, politics, publishing, social care, community work, social work, and journalism.
Photography

Course Content:
This course encourages an adventurous and enquiring approach to photography. Students explore personal responses to a range of topics. Students are encouraged to develop their independent learning skills in the creation of exciting and individual work. Students are expected to research a variety of sources including the work of contemporary photographers and image makers and visits to galleries and relevant sites. Over the course students will develop skills in both dark room and photoshop techniques.

Students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of past and contemporary photography practice and be able to produce work that embraces a range of ideas. There is a focus on photography practice and the integration of theory, knowledge and understanding.

Assessment:
A Level
Unit 1
60% Personal Portfolio – internally set (12% Personal study + 48% Personal Portfolio)

Unit 2
ESA (exam) 40% externally set (10 weeks in school prep time 15 hr exam)

All coursework is marked internally and externally.

This course will suit you if you enjoy experimenting, creating, researching photography and photography history, if you enjoy working independently and have strong self-motivational skills.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
You may progress onto Art Foundation and degrees in subjects such as Art and Design, Photography, Architecture, Design, Teaching or directly into employment in these areas.
Physical Education

**Course Content:**
Please note this course is under reform by the exam board, with an updated syllabus and examination from September 2016. The information provided below is based on the Draft course specification. We hope in the near future to have a final copy of the specification.

Do you wonder why some people can run faster? How your personality affects your performance? How you could become an elite performer? Why people take drugs? How technology can help you? Study A level PE to find out the answers. The course involves both practical and theoretical elements. In AS you will study three units, the first two units are theoretical sections (see below) and the third will cover the practical performance element. For A Level you will study four units, three theoretical and one practical. Theory lessons will be lecture style, where you will be required to make notes with some interactive and hands on elements when linked to sport. You will be set additional study work from each teacher, each week. The practical performance unit is coursework based and consists of a practical performance in one sport, along with analysis of a performance. These lessons will mostly be computer based, where you will be preparing for the oral exam.

**Year 1:**

*Component 1: Physiological Factors Affecting Performance*
This group of topics focuses on key systems of the human body involved in movement and physical activity.

*Component 2: Psychological and Socio-cultural Themes in PE*
The component focuses on the psychological factors affecting physical activities and sports and sociological and contemporary factors that influence and affect physical activity and sport for both the audience and the performer and how sport affects society.

*Component 3: Performance within Physical Education*
You will be required to undertake two parts within this component.
Part 1: Performance/coaching of a sport or activity from the approved DfE list, which you are expected to take part in at local club level outside of school time.
Part 2: Evaluation of Performance for Improvement (EPI) of a sport or activity from the approved DfE list. In this section you will be assessed orally, where you have to evaluate, analyse and suggest improvements.

**Year 2:**

The A Level syllabus builds upon knowledge learnt in AS.

- Physiological Factors Affecting Performance
- Psychological Factors Affecting Performance
- Socio-cultural and Contemporary Issues
- Performance within Physical Education

**Assessment:**
The PE exam is a Linear A Level with assessment at the end of the two year course in June. Coursework submitted for moderation in June only (minimal coursework content).

This course will suit you if you are a passionate sports person, interested in all aspects that contribute to sport, the mind, body and its place in society. The course has elements from many subject areas including biology, psychology, history and sociology.

**Career opportunities and possible degree courses:**
Studying A Level Physical Education would be an excellent stepping stone to any sports related career or degree. Career opportunities include teaching, coaching, sports scientist, sports development, physiotherapy, personal training, sports management and sports development.
Physics

Course Content:
A Level Physics consists of 6 units:
Module 1 – Development of practical skills in Physics
Skills of planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation
Module 2 – Foundations of Physics
Physical quantities and units, making measurements and analysing data and nature of quantities.
Module 3 – Forces and motion
Motion, forces in action, work, energy and power, materials and Newton's laws of motion and momentum.
Module 4 – Electrons, waves and photons
Charge and current, energy, power and resistance, electrical circuits, waves and quantum physics.
Module 5 – Newtonian world and astrophysics (A level only)
Thermal physics, circular motion, oscillations, gravitational fields and astrophysics.
Module 6 – Particles and medical physics (A level only)
Capacitors, electric fields, electromagnetism, nuclear and particle physics and medical imaging.

Assessment:

AS Assessment
Paper 1: Breadth in Physics (Modules 1-4) 1hr 30mins written exam (50%)
Paper 2: Depth in Physics (Modules 1-4) 1hr 30mins written exam (50%)

A Level
Paper 1: Modelling Physics (Modules 1,2,3,5)-2hr 15mins written exam (37%)
Paper 2: Exploring Physics (Modules 1,2,4,6)-2hr 15mins written exam (37%)
Paper 3: Unified Physics (All Modules)-1hr 30mins written exam (26%)

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
This course provides natural progression onto Physics based university courses, like mechanical engineering, electrical and electronic engineering. More and more universities now have A Level Physics as a requirement for studying Medicine.

Thurstable is so friendly and welcoming; everyone having fun as well as working hard.”
Course: 2 year – A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Minimum subject specific entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in Mathematics and Science, GCSE Grade 6 in English. If students have previously studied GCSE Psychology and achieved a grade 6 or above this will also be acceptable.

Contact Person: Mr Muttock

Email: muttockg@thurstable.essex.sch.uk

Psychology

Course Content:
A Level

PAPER 1: Introductory topics in Psychology

Paper 1 includes learning about research in to why people obey orders, why some rebel against the norm, how are memories are created, manipulated and dealt with by the police. It also looks in to research into parent attachment to a child, and explanations for abnormal behaviours such as OCD and phobias.

Assessed: Written exam: 2 hours, 96 marks in total, 33.3% of A Level

PAPER 2: Psychology in context

Paper 2 includes studying the different areas of the psychological arguments in understanding complex human behaviours, the biological dimension that determines behaviours such as neurons and hormones, and the ability to apply, create and evaluate scientific creation of research studies including mathematical statistics.

Assessed: Written exam: 2 hours, 96 marks in total, 33.3% of A Level

PAPER 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

Paper 3 includes topics to develop analysis and criticism of research, and study in depth research into attraction and romantic relationships, factors affecting eating behaviour and explanations and influences of aggression.

Assessed: Written exam: 2 hours, 96 marks in total, 33.3% of A Level

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
Psychology is beneficial to a wide range of workplaces and careers, particularly those involving working directly with people. Particular careers with strong links to psychology include social work, teaching, health care and counselling. An A Level qualification in psychology can lead to university degrees in many areas due to the range of skills it requires. The strongest links would be social science degrees such as Psychology, Sociology or Economics.
Sociology

Course Content:
A Level (Year 1)
In Year 1, you will be studying the topics: Family and Households; Education; Methods in Context and Research Methods.

A Level (Year 2)
In Year 2, you will study your AS topics in more depth, and do additional topics on Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods; and Beliefs in Society.

How will the course be assessed?
The AS and A Level courses are 100% exam based. There is no coursework, but you will be required to write regular essays in preparation for the exams.

The AS course is assessed by two 1 ½ hour exams: Paper 1 on Education and Methods in Context, and Paper 2 on Research Methods and Topics in Sociology. Each exam counts as 50% of your final AS mark. The papers contain a mixture of short answer and extended essay questions.

Your A Level studies will be tested by three 2 hour exam papers, each counting as 33.3% of the final A Level mark: Paper 1 on Education with Theory and Methods; Paper 2 on Topics in Sociology (Families & Households; and Beliefs in Society); and Paper 3 on Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods. Each paper is comprised of short and extended answer questions.

Why study Sociology?
Sociology is an exciting and challenging subject, which will interest anyone who questions events occurring on a daily basis in the world around them, e.g. criminal, economic, political, global, etc. Why are events which harm large communities of people allowed to happen and what can we do to prevent their reoccurrence in the future?

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
The sociological skills of investigation offer a route into Higher Education courses, such as BA(Hons) degree courses at the University of Essex in: Sociology, Psychology, United States Studies, Therapeutic Care and Psychoanalytic Studies. Many other universities offer these and similar subjects, e.g. Criminology, Forensic Psychology, Human Rights, etc.; and are also relevant to a range of careers, particularly those which involve communicating with a wide range of people, e.g. police, social work, education, media, business, etc.
Criminology

Studying criminology develops your understanding of the social and personal aspects of crime, victimisation and responses to crime and deviance.

The two units studied for the certificate are:

**Unit 1 Changing Awareness of Crime:**
How we can differentiate between myth and reality when it comes to crime and to understand the importance of changing public perceptions of crime.

**Unit 2 Criminological Theories:**
Different theoretical explanations of crime and how to understand the behaviour of a specific crime or criminal.

An additional two units are studied in year two for the Diploma:

**Unit 3 Crime Scene to Courtroom:**
The development of the skills needed to review criminal cases, evaluating the evidence to determine whether the verdict is safe and just.

**Unit 4 Crime and Punishment:**
The consequences to those who violate our legal system and how they are punished within the criminal justice system in England and Wales.

**Assessment:**

**Certificate**
1 Unit External Examination and 1 Unit Internal assessment over 1 year of study

**Diploma**
2 Units External Examination and 2 Units Internal assessment over 2 years of study

**Career opportunities and possible degree courses:**
Criminology allows you to pursue a degree at university in degrees such as BA (Hons) Criminology; BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology; or LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology. It is also relevant in careers involving communication; generating and evaluating evidence; making reasoned arguments and ethical judgments; critical thinking and problem solving; and analysing and interpreting data. Alternatively, the qualification allows learners to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service.
BTEC LEVEL 3 in Business Studies

Course Overview:
The BTEC National in Business gives students a broad knowledge and understanding of business. You will learn by completing assignments which are based on real life business scenarios in order to develop a range of skills and knowledge. All students will study 3 units during the first year and a further 3 in Year 2.

Course Content:

BTEC Level 3 Certificate (1 AS equivalent) (3 units):
- Unit 1 – The Business Environment - Compulsory
- Unit 2 – Business Resources - Compulsory
- Unit 3 – Introduction to Marketing OR Unit 4 – Business Communication

BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma (1 A level equivalent) (6 units):
- Unit 1 – The Business Environment - Compulsory
- Unit 2 – Business Resources - Compulsory
- Unit 3 – Introduction to Marketing - Compulsory
- Unit 4 – Business Communication – Compulsory
- Unit 5 - Business Accounting
- Unit 13 - Recruitment and Selection in Business

Assessment:
The course is assessed purely through completing coursework set through assignments and currently there are no examinations. You will need to be able to manage your time and ensure deadlines are met. Entry onto the second year is dependent on the progress made over year one.

The units available form part of co-constructed conversations to target student strengths and interests. This course will suit you if you:
1. Have an interest in how businesses actually work
2. Want to develop a range of important life skills including the ability to present both verbally and in writing, analysis of data, problem solving and decision making
3. Enjoy practical learning related to the world of work which covers topical current affairs, meeting with local business people, visiting organisations and taking part in a range of curriculum enrichment activities such as business competitions and visits to relevant institutions

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
The BTEC National in Business is valued by both employers and universities. There are numerous degree courses in which this A level will give a good grounding including Business Studies, Economics, Accountancy, Marketing, Business Management or any degree related to the careers shown below. Accountancy, Advertising, Banking, Insurance, Journalism, Civil Service, Law, Customer Relations, Marketing, Public Relations, Retailing, Office Work (clerical and legal) and Teaching, to name but a few

Exam Board: Edexcel

Minimum subject specific entry requirements:
5 GCSE Grades 5-9 including English and Mathematics.

Students have a positive work ethic and ability to work independently.

You do not need to have studied GCSE Business Studies

Contact Person: Mrs C Hall

hallec@thurstable.essex.sch.uk
BTEC LEVEL 3 in Health and Social Care

Course Content:
All students will study a range of units throughout their course from a range of mandatory and optional units. Work experience of 100 hours is mandatory within the diploma and extended diploma. This qualification supports progression to higher education and apprenticeships within the health and social care sector.

The units you will study include the following:

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development
This is a mandatory unit in which learners cover physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the human lifespan, and the factors affecting development and the effects of ageing.

Unit 2: Working in Health and Social Care
This is a mandatory unit for learners to explore what it is like to work in the health and social care sector, including the roles and responsibilities of workers and organisations.

Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
This is a mandatory unit in which learners focus on the principles and practicalities that underpin meeting individuals' care and support needs, which are the foundation of all the care disciplines.

Assessment:
Health and social care have three main forms of assessment which are external exams, internal controlled assessments and synoptic assessment. Synoptic assessments include a period of preparation using set information in which learners will complete a research commentary based on a pre-released article.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
This qualification is the main focus of a two-year study programme of learning and is equivalent to A Levels, meaning that learners will be fully prepared for a range of health and social care jobs, apprenticeships and degree programmes.

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses, for example:
- BSc (Hons) in Nursing
- BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy
- BSc (Hons) in Speech Therapy
- BA (Hons) in Social Work
- BSc (Hons) in Occupational Therapy
- BA (Hons) in Health and Social Care.

"Thurstable Sixth Form Centre gives the right amount of support and encourages independence, allowing us to fulfil our potential and reach our goals."
Course: Subsidiary Diploma equivalent to 1 A Level Diploma equivalent to 2 A Levels Extended Diploma equivalent to 3 A Levels.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Minimum subject specific entry requirements: Students will have a positive work ethic and proven ability to work independently. Minimum subject entry is 5 GCSE 5-9. If this criterion is not met a reference from a member of the ICT Dept is required.

Contact Person: Ms K Davies
daviesk@thurstable.essex.sch.uk

BTEC LEVEL 3 in Information Technology (Subsidiary, Diploma and Extended Diploma)

Course Overview:
This course is based on real-life work and studies. It will allow you to demonstrate your skills and knowledge in a range of situations. You will build your confidence in the subject using role plays, practical tasks and written assignments. You need to be able to manage your own workload. Your progress will be monitored, with guidance and personal support given by your teachers. By the end of this course you will not only have increased your breadth and depth of IT Knowledge but also have developed your own learning and independent study skills. This course can be selected as a single option (equivalent to 1 A Level) or double option (equivalent to 2 A Levels) or as a triple option (equivalent to 3 A Levels).

Pathway 1 – Subsidiary Diploma in IT – 6 modules (equivalent to 1 A level)
• Module 1: Communications and employability skills for IT
• Module 2: Computer systems
• A further 4 units must be chosen and completed from the list below

Pathway 2 – Diploma in IT – 12 modules (equivalent to 2 A levels)
• Module 1: Communications and employability skills for IT
• Module 2: Computer systems
• Module 3: Information Systems
• A further 9 units must be chosen and completed from the list below

Pathway 3 – Extended Diploma in IT – 18 modules (3 A levels)
• Module 1: Communications and employability skills for IT
• Module 2: Computer Systems
• Module 3: Information Systems
• A further 15 units must be chosen and completed from the list below

Optional units
Module 4 – Impact of the use of IT on Business Systems
Module 5 – Software Design and Development
Module 6 – Organisational Systems Security
Module 7 – E-commerce
Module 8 – Computer Networks
Module 9 – Systems Analysis and Design
Module 10 – IT Technical Support
Module 11 – Database Design
Module 12 – Developing Computer Games
Module 13 – Maintaining Computer Systems
Module 14 – Website Production
Module 15 – Installing and Upgrading Software
Module 16 – Digital Graphics Module
Module 17 – Computer Animation Module
Module 18 – Business Resources Module
Module 19 – Computer Game Design Module
Module 20 – Spreadsheet Modelling Module
Module 21 – Procedural Programming Module
Module 22 – Human Computer Interaction

Assessment:
The course is assessed purely through portfolios which can include web design, student-designed games, reports, animations and video. You need to be able to meet deadlines and manage your own workload.

Who this course will suit:
This course will suit students with an interest in computers and ICT. It is suitable for those who are looking for employment or further education in the ICT or Business sectors where you will be expected to use ICT skills.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
BTEC Level National in IT is valued by both employers and universities. It is an ideal qualification for careers in IT technical support, web design, hardware repair, systems maintenance or Apprenticeships in ICT, office work and network support or Degrees in Business, Administration, Computer Science and ICT.

Transferable skills
BTEC courses provide transferable knowledge and skills which can be used in degree courses, apprenticeships, further education and work. In particular the BTEC courses allows you to develop skills in effective writing, reading technical texts, analytical skills, creative development and assessment methods.
BTEC LEVEL 3 in
Performing Arts
(Dance)- extended certificate

Course Content:
3 Mandatory Units include –
Unit 1: Investigating Practitioners’ Work
This unit is an externally marked unit and the task is set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions. Students will be provided with a set task booklet which will be completed over a period of 6 weeks, and will include investigation and critical analysis. The final task will be completed in 3 hours within the 3 day assessment period timetabled by Pearson.

Unit 2: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance
This unit serves as an introduction into the performing arts where you will develop the appropriate skills and techniques within Dance. Students will participate in regular workshops, classes and exercises in order to acquire, practise and develop necessary technical, practical and interpretive performance skills to help them succeed when performing live to an audience.

Unit 3: Group Performance Workshop
This unit is an externally marked unit and the task is set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions. Students will be provided with a set task booklet in order to prepare for the development and completion of the group performance and their digital process log. The final evidence will be completed in 5 hours under supervised conditions in a number of sessions arranged by the school within the period timetabled by Pearson.

You will then study 1 more optional unit which will be chosen by the Dance department and customised to suit the cohort. These units may include: Street Dance Technique, Choreography for Live Performance or Jazz Dance Technique.

Assessment:
Work is produced through coursework, both practical performances and written theory work, which is marked externally and internally. There are no exams.

This course will suit you if you enjoy dancing and want to:
• Engage in critical thinking about dance as an art form
• Develop significant knowledge for studying dance
• Gain personal experience of performance and choreography
• Develop an awareness of the importance of exercise and training

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
Studying Dance promotes skills valued by many employers including strong creativity, communication and innovation. Specific careers in Dance are Professional Dancer, Choreographer, Teacher, Dance/movement Therapist, Dance/theatre House Manager, Production and Stage Manager.

With a Level 3 qualification you may also chose to continue your study of dance at university,
BTEC LEVEL 3 Nationals in Sport

Course Content:
BTEC in sport is a vocational course where you will study across a range of topics in sport. This course also offers the opportunity to gain additional coaching qualifications and CSLA award (or equivalent). The combined assessment style of the course includes assessment through assignments, practical evidence, externally assessed tasks and exams. This course can be selected as a single option (equivalent to 1 A Level), double option (equivalent to 2 A Levels) or a triple option (equivalent to 3 A Levels):

**Extended Certificate in Sport – 1 A Level**
- Anatomy and Physiology (Externally Assessed)
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry
- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing (Externally Assessed)
- Application of Fitness Testing

**Diploma in Sport – 2 A Levels**
Units studied the same as the Extended Certificate, plus
- Investigating Business in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry (Externally Assessed)
- Skill Acquisition in Sport
- Sports Leadership
- Sports Event Organisation Principles and Practices for Outdoor and Adventurous Activities

**Extended Diploma in Sport, Development and Coaching – 3 A Levels**
Units studied the same as the Diploma, plus
- Development and Provision of Sport and Physical Activity (Externally Assessed)
- Research Methods in Sport
- Coaching for Performance
- Work Experience
- Practical Sports Performance

**NB - Please note the units are subject to change.**

Assessment:
This a vocational course, where the majority of assessment is achieved by completing coursework, set through assignments. Some units require completion of tasks, such as completing training programmes, leading activities, performing practically and running events. Some units identified above will be assessed by external assessments. The Anatomy and Physiology unit will be examined, with other external units assessed via external assignment task. If studying the Extended Diploma there will be more units externally assessed.

Assessment:
A good independent learner able to manage their time and ensure deadlines are met throughout the course. Enjoys completing coursework, applying practical knowledge and sporting experiences to theory.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
Studying A level Physical Education would be an excellent stepping stone to any sports related career or degree. Career opportunities include teaching, coaching, sports scientist, sports development, sports massage, personal training, sports management, sports development.
LEVEL 2 BTEC FIRST EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN Public Services

Course Content:
You will study a number of Units, including the following compulsory units:

UNIT 1: The Role and Work of the Public Services
UNIT 2: Working Skills in the Public Service Sector
UNIT 6: Citizenship, Society and the Public Services
UNIT 7: Crime and its Effects on Society and Individuals

The other units are optional and will be decided by the Public Services department before the start of the course, but will involve a range of practical activities and fitness testing.

Assessment:
There is both internally marked coursework and externally examined units.

This course will suit you if you enjoy independent research tasks and practical sporting activities. This course does involve a major fitness element and students have to participate in a range of sporting activities to pass.

Career opportunities and possible degree courses:
This qualification can be used to progress onto a Level 3 BTEC National Public Services course, or qualify you to continue on to Level 3 at Thurstable Sixth Form College.

GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Mathematics is offered as a retake course for students who wish to improve their grades. The key areas are: Number, Algebra, Shape & Space, Handling Data and Functional Skills.

Exams – The examination papers at the end of the course count towards 100% of the final grade. Depending on the ability and preference of students the retake may be done in November or January.

GCSE English
GCSE is offered as a retake course for students who wish to improve their grades. The areas covered are English Literature and English Language.

Exams – The examination papers will be at the end of the course and coursework will account for 25% of final grade.
COLCHESTER UNITED
Thurstable Sixth Form Centre

Girls’ and Boys’ Programme Content:
As part of our high performing Sports College, Thurstable Sixth Form Centre has the benefit of impressive sporting facilities including a 3g astroturf all weather football pitch, gymnasium, sports halls and squash courts. We work in partnership with Colchester United Football Club to offer a uniquely flexible educational programme of football coaching, match play and academic or vocational study. Players are able to study a combination of A Levels and BTECs and benefit from being full members of a Sixth Form while also enjoying the outstanding footballing opportunities offered by being associated with a professional football club.

Girls’ and Boys’ Football College Students benefit from:
• Direct links with Colchester United Football Club, including potential identification into the club’s academy system (Male ONLY) and Non-league playing partner clubs
• A daily structured football programme delivered by minimum UEFA B qualified coaches
• A competitive games programme in the EFL Community & Education Football Alliance against other professional club affiliated colleges (Male ONLY); the British College Sport (BCS) National College Football (Elite) League as well as local and national Cups
• Football Association coaching qualifications FA Level 1, FA Level 2 including Emergency Aid, Safeguarding Children and refereeing awards
• Coaching and employment opportunities at Colchester United Football in the Community

A few of the many success stories:
Llewelyn Evans was awarded a 3 year scholarship in USA
Rob Lee
Essex County FA and Essex Schools at U18’s Level

Contact Person:
Mr R Goldsbrough
Rick.goldsbrough@colchesterunited.net or 01206 755160

Anthony Hark: “I’ve been at the Thurstable Football College programme for two years, joining to link my football development with my education. It has been brilliant! The first year was a challenge to get used to training everyday but I’ve improved a lot. It’s a great way to get your qualifications and progress into work or uni whilst developing as a player with quality coaching”

Brandon Snook “I wanted to combine my sport development with my education as I’ve always found football to be important to me and my passion in life. It’s been quality to be honest, with the standard of league and football being high and the coaches and teachers are always there to support you to get your work done”.
The main aim of the Sixth Form Cheerleading programme is to provide a first class, development pathway that will help the cheerleaders progress to national competition standard, whilst also providing a high quality Sixth Form course that is tailored to the individual’s needs. We have a good professional working relationship with BCA, who are supporting the programme.

Cheerleading can be a misunderstood activity, that of glamour girls shaking Pom Poms on the sideline. At Thurstable, students discover that the discipline of Cheerleading combines acrobatic stunts, precision dance and gymnastics. The girls are all shapes and sizes and it’s hard work, in fact not glamorous at all...

The confidence and skills gained through representing their Cheerleading team will prove invaluable to the students and will enhance their academic qualifications.

**Cheerleading Involvement:**
- There will be additional allocated time to allow for training opportunities within timetables as well as regular after school training. The training sessions within timetables will allow for smaller groups and more attention with regards to specific development areas.
- Training sessions will cover a variety of areas such as stunts, gymnastics, dance and jumps
- You will get the opportunity to compete in national school competitions
- Achieve coaching qualifications
- There will be a variety of performance opportunities

**Coaching Opportunities:**
During your time as a Sixth Form Cheerleader you will be given the opportunity to participate in and complete coaching qualifications. The course will be led by BCA registered coaches and involves practical and theory elements with written exams. The qualification will last for 3 years and will allow you to coach up to USA Level 2.

Within the school you will be given opportunities to use these qualifications by helping to coach the lower school squads and beginner squads.
Application for Admission to Thurstable Sixth Form Centre

Personal Details:

Surname of student: ____________________________
All other names: ____________________________

Tutor Group: ____________________________
Date of Birth: ____________________________

Full address: ____________________________
Present school: ____________________________

Address of school: ____________________________

Telephone Number: ____________________________

Name of parent/carer: ____________________________

Parent email: ____________________________

Student email: ____________________________

Subject Choices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects to be studied</th>
<th>A Level, BTEC or GCSE?</th>
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Reminder: Please consult the brochure guidelines for individual course requirements.
Personal information to support your application:

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** List responsibilities undertaken during Yr 10-11

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** List any activities you have taken part in during Yr 10-11

**ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL:** List specific achievements outside school (e.g. sport, work within the community, caring)

**PERSONAL INTERESTS:**

**FUTURE PLANS:** Please give details of any career options you are currently considering so we can guide you in your choices.

Examination Details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Course (GCSE)</th>
<th>Mock Exam Grade</th>
<th>Estimated Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
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<td>English</td>
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If you have any special educational needs, additional learning needs or disability please tick this box and our SEND department will be in touch with you.

Student’s signature ___________________________ Parent/Guardian signature ___________________________

Please return by 31st January 2020 to Mr Muttock, Head of Sixth Form either by hand, by email to muttockg@thurstable.essex.sch.uk or by post to Thurstable School, Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex, CO5 0EW
Application Timeline

22nd October 2019
Sixth Form Open Evening

Advanced Training Programme Football Training will also take place on this date.
Enjoy visiting Thurstable Sixth Form Centre as a prospective Sixth Form student. Talk to staff about the opportunities and talk to students about their experiences. Find out as much as you can.

Applications are welcome after this date.

January / February 2020

You will be invited for a guidance meeting with Mr Muttock to discuss your future plans beyond Year 11. At the meeting you will discuss your predicted grades and the courses you would like to study. You will then be sent a formal letter advising you if you have a place and making a provisional offer of a course programme.

May / June 2020

GCSE examinations

June 2020
Sixth Form Taster Day

The day will be a mixture of taster lessons in each of the subject areas and more light hearted activities where you will have the chance to get to know other students and discover the other opportunities we offer here at Thurstable. There will also be time for you to ask lots of questions, including quizzing our current Sixth Form students about their time here so far. The emphasis on the day is for you to get as much out of the experience as possible and provides a valuable opportunity to get to know new students and your tutor before you start in September.

20th August 2020

GCSE exam results are published

21st August 2020 (provisional date)

Individual enrolment meetings to review your grades and confirm course selections.

External Applicants

If you are applying to Thurstable Sixth Form Centre and you are not currently a student at Thurstable School, you need to submit your application form to Mr Muttock by 27 March 2020. You will then be invited along for a formal meeting. Offers of admission will be made in order of the date of receipt of applications. The maximum number of external admissions is 30 for Year 12. All applications must satisfy the entrance requirements as found in the Thurstable Sixth Form Centre brochure. In the event of oversubscription, applications will be prioritised in accordance with the school admissions policy.

Appeals Procedure

Where applicants are not offered a place at Thurstable Sixth Form Centre, they have the right to appeal against the decision. Appeal forms may be obtained from the Sixth Form Centre. They must be received within 14 days of the date of the letter notifying them that their application was unsuccessful.

Subjects delivered through VI6 or in partnership with Philip Morant School

If you are applying for subjects delivered through VI6 or in partnership with Philip Morant School, the information you and your school supply as part of the application process will be shared with a partner schools.