

# ST THOMAS MORE SIXTH FORM SUBJECT BOOKLET



**OUR COURSES**

**2025/26**



Here at St Thomas More High School we offer a wide range of courses which are outlined in this document, along with the GCSE entry grade criteria. All areas of the curriculum provide opportunities for developing independence, growing as leaders and taking ownership of your learning.

# SUBJECTS

-  **APPLIED SCIENCE LV3**
-  **ART**
-  **BIOLOGY**
-  **BUSINESS**
-  **CHEMISTRY**
-  **COMPUTER SCIENCE**
-  **ENGLISH LANG**
-  **ENGLISH LIT**
-  **FILM STUDIES**
-  **GEOGRAPHY**
-  **HISTORY**
-  **BTEC IT LV3**
-  **MATHS**
-  **MATHS CORE (1 YEAR COURSE)**
-  **MATHS FURTHER (1 YEAR COURSE)**
-  **MEDIA STUDIES**
-  **BTEC MUSIC LV3**
-  **BTEC SPORT LV3 (SINGLE & DOUBLE AWARD)**
-  **PHYSICS**
-  **POLITICS**
-  **PSYCHOLOGY**
-  **R.E**
-  **SOCIOLOGY**
-  **SPANISH**

*God's servant first*



# APPLIED SCIENCE

Every great advance in science has issued from a new  
audacity of imagination.



**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

**COMPLIMENTS:** COMPUTER SCIENCE, PE, PSYCHOLOGY

**HOD:** MR. JONES

**TEACHERS:** MR. JONES, MRS WILSON, MR CLUNN

## COURSE SUMMARY

This applied general course would be suitable for those who wish to progress to higher education or to employment in an applied science area.

You will study units in biology, chemistry, and physics; the content is challenging (at A-Level standard), but each unit of study has an applied purpose as a focus for learning.

You will need to demonstrate skills in processing and problem-solving, and a high level of commitment and organisation.

You will consider how different sectors of science affect individuals, employers, society and the environment.

The applied purpose develops:

- skills required for independent learning and development
- 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 ability to apply learning in vocational contexts.

These skills will also prepare you well for apprenticeships or the attached UCAS points will support application to university. As this qualification contains 50% examined and 50% assignment-based assessment, you should be well prepared for the learner-centred ethos of higher educational study.

**ENGLISH**

**5**

**MATHS**

**5**

**SCIENCES**

**5**

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**



Nursing/midwifery

Criminology

Radiology

Animal Science



**LINK TO SPECIFICATION**



**LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN**



**SJJONES@ST-THOMASMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK**





**EXAM BOARD:** EDEXCEL

**COMPLEMENTS:** MEDIA, DESIGN & TECH

**HOD:** MISS. BRENNAN

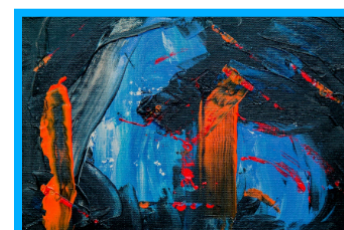
**TEACHERS:** MISS BRENNAN, MISS. KAYLEN,  
MISS BARLOW

## COURSE SUMMARY

On the A Level course, you will complete coursework which is intended to form the basis on which students develop their knowledge, skill and understanding in creating a rich visual language within the context of selected ideas. Ideas provide the starting point for art and design practice, forming an integral part of the creative process. Students should be encouraged to formulate ideas from a variety of starting points. They should learn how to carry out appropriate research into the works of artists and use this to inform the development of their ideas. Unit outcomes should reflect intentions expressed in the supporting studies. There will be a strong emphasis on developing technical skills including painting, drawing, printmaking and image manipulation using photo shop.

In Year 13 students will be required to produce a 'Personal Study' which is a 1000-3000 word thesis based on a particular interest within the world of art and design. This is marked separately.

ART	6	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
N/A	-	
N/A	-	



**ART TEACHER**  
**GRAPHIC DESIGN**  
**ARCHITECTURE**  
**FINE ARTIST**

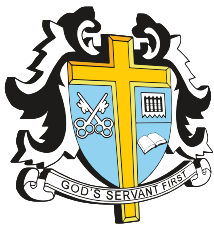


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# BIOLOGY



The beginning and the end of everything, the biggest source of ideas, the biggest source of invention. Nobody can invent better than nature.

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

**COMPLEMENTS:** CHEMISTRY, MATHS, GEOGRAPHY, PSYCHOLOGY

**HOD:** MR. JONES

**TEACHERS:** MR. JONES

## COURSE SUMMARY

Biology is the study of living organisms and how they interact with each other and their environments. It is a multidisciplinary subject comprising many distinct and interdependent fields. We explore how organisms are constructed, as well as how they develop, communicate, interact, reproduce, defend themselves, and shape the biophysical environment around them.

Biology is driving an incredible and exciting revolution in our understanding, one that started in the 20th Century with the elucidation of the structure of DNA, and now continues in the 21st century with the completion of the Human Genome Project, and the emergence of disciplines such as proteomics, genomics, and synthetic biology. Biology is awesome and dynamic. For example, there is incredible excitement and anticipation around projects such as the US's BRAIN Initiative and the EU's Human Brain Project, both of which seek to unravel and brain's neuronal map.

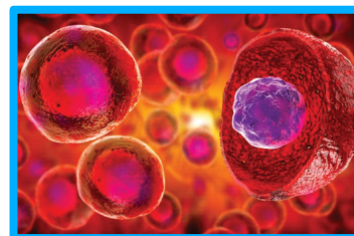
Students who study biology at A level learn the fundamentals of the cell, biochemistry, ecology, physiology, and genetics. You will develop a range of skill sets including, the scientific method, observation, data analysis and statistics, and understanding correlations and causal relationships. It will open the door to studying subjects at degree level such as agriculture, biochemistry, biomedical science, genetics, ecology, medicine, dentistry, neurology, physiology, and zoology. Biology at Advanced level will be hard work, but always fascinating, engaging, and relevant to you and our planet.

**ENGLISH** 6

**MATHS** 6

**COMBINED SCIENCE  
OR  
BIOLOGY & CHEMISTRY** 7'S

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



**FORENSICS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

**PHARMACEUTICALS**

**MEDICINE**



[LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN](#)



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# BUSINESS



"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." – Winston Churchill

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

**COMPLEMENTS:** ENGLISH, MATHS, MEDIA, POLITICS, SOCIOLOGY

**HOD:** MISS MYHILL

**TEACHERS:** MRS LINDSAY, MR SIMMONDS

## COURSE SUMMARY

Business Studies looks at all the important activities which satisfy our needs. We want to spend our time doing interesting and exciting things in a safe and secure environment. We want to be challenged and we want to make our own lives and the lives of others better. The organisations' which carry out these activities are businesses. They all have the same goal – to provide goods and services which people want to buy. This will involve studying all areas of business including accounting and finance, marketing operations management, people in business and the external influences which can affect businesses.

Business Studies is now one of the most popular degree level courses. It also offers those entering the job market practical skills that they can present to a wide range of employers. Business Studies involves many different skills that can be adapted to any career you choose.

Skills improved include evaluating, analytical, mathematical, verbal and written. No matter where your career or education takes you, business studies helps to support our understanding of the immense impact that businesses have on our lives as a customer and as an employee.

**ENGLISH** 6

**MATHS** 6

**BUSINESS** 6

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



**BUSINESS ANALYST**  
**OPERATIONS MANAGER**  
**ACCOUNTANT**  
**DATA ANALYST**

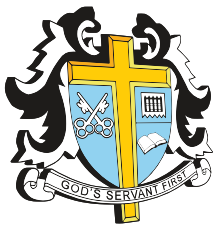


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# CHEMISTRY

Chemistry is the central science. It touches all aspects of our lives.



**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

**COMPLEMENTS:** ECONOMICS, LAW, SOCIOLOGY, BUSINESS & MORE

**HOD:** MISS DARE

**TEACHERS:** MISS DARE, MRS HARDIMAN

## COURSE SUMMARY

A-level Chemistry goes into much more detail than GCSE. It attempts to answer the big question 'what is the world made of' and it is the search for this answer that makes this subject so fascinating. From investigating how one substance can be changed drastically into another, to researching a new wonder drug to save millions of lives, the opportunities that chemistry provides are endless.

Sometimes referred to as the 'central science', Chemistry helps to connect physical sciences, like Maths and Physics, with applied sciences, such as Biology, Medicine and Engineering. In fact, Chemistry is all around us and an understanding of the subject can help to answer many simple questions about everyday life!

Within the AQA specification, topics fall into three main categories: physical Chemistry, inorganic Chemistry and organic Chemistry. Specific areas of study may include aspects such as atomic structure, energetic, kinetics, oxidation, alkanes and alkenes, thermodynamics, polymers and amino acids, proteins and DNA.

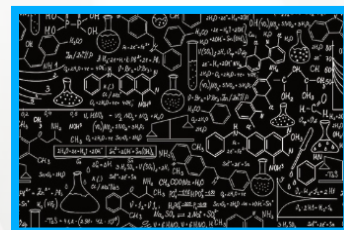
As it is a science subject, the process of learning it helps a student to learn how to be objective, analytical, methodical, process and in turn solve problems. You can apply these skills outside academia, and the study of Chemistry can help understand current events including news about petrol, environmental issues, health and product scares and more.

**ENGLISH** 6

**MATHS** 6

**COMB SCIENCE  
OR CHEMISTRY** 7'S

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



**DENTISTRY**

**FORENSICS**

**GEOCHEMISTRY**

**PHARMACY**

**CHEMICAL ENGINEERING**



LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN



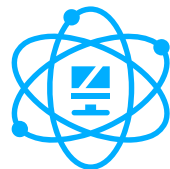
**EDARE@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK**





# COMPUTER SCIENCE

A computer would deserve to be called intelligent if it could deceive a human into believing that it was human



**EXAM BOARD:** OCR

**COMPUTER SCIENCE** 6

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**COMPLEMENTS:** BTEC IT, SCIENCE, PHYSICS, MATHS, MEDIA

**HOD:** MR. MARSHALL

**MATHS** 6

**TEACHERS:** MR. MARSHALL, MR COCKELL & MR HIGGINS

**ENGLISH** 5

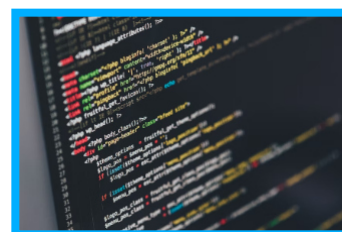
## COURSE SUMMARY

Computer Science is an exciting subject that encourages students to think creatively, logically and critically and to develop advanced problem solving skills.

Students will build on their GCSE skills to gain an understanding of a wide range of complex, sometimes abstract, data structures and to develop algorithms that manipulate their data. Algorithms will be implemented using a variety of programming paradigms including procedural, object oriented and functional techniques. Python is the main programming language used on the course.

Students will find it highly beneficial to study A level Maths (this is essential if they intend to continue with Computer Science at degree level). Many students also study Electronics and/or Physics and combining the subject with BTEC IT L3 has led to very successful outcomes for students who really love computers.

The specification has been designed to prepare students who wish to go on to higher level courses (e.g. a degree in Computer Science or Cybersecurity) or into employment, where the ability to program and enhanced knowledge of computer systems is of value. We have been highly successful in helping students to gain places on Degree Apprenticeships in Software Engineering.



**APPLICATIONS DEVELOPER**

**CYBER SECURITY ANALYST**

**DATA ANALYST**

**FORENSIC COMPUTER ANALYST**



[LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN](#)



[JMARSHALL@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK](mailto:JMARSHALL@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK)



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Knowledge of languages is the doorway to wisdom.

ENG

**EXAM BOARD:** OCR

**COMPLEMENTS:** ALL SUBJECTS

**HOD:** MRS. COTGROVE

**TEACHERS:** MRS. COTGROVE, MR. JENKINS, MRS DURRIT

**ENGLISH LANG** 6

N/A -

N/A -

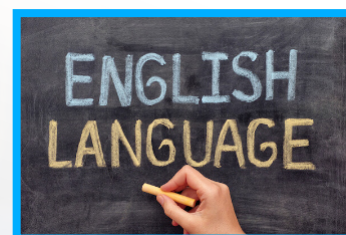
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

## COURSE SUMMARY

The OCR A Level in English Language introduces learners to the concepts and methods of English language. Learners develop an ability to analyse a wide range of spoken and written forms of English, including electronic and multi-modal forms. Learners will develop contextual and theoretical knowledge and understanding through their course of study. Learners will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the language levels, including:

- Phonetics, phonology and prosodics: how speech sounds and effects are articulated and analysed
- Lexis and semantics: the vocabulary of English, including social and historical variation
- Grammar including morphology: the structural patterns and shapes of English at sentence, clause, phrase and word level
- Pragmatics: the contextual aspects of language use
- Discourse: extended stretches of communication occurring in different genres, modes and contexts.

The course provides a varied and interesting study of many aspects of language use such as child language acquisition (how children learn to speak), language change over time, language and gender and language and technology. There are also opportunities for topical writing within the course. NEA makes up 20% of the course, where learners complete an investigation into a language area of their own choice accompanied by an academic poster.



**ENGLISH TEACHER**

**COPYWRITER**

**EDITOR**

**WRITER**



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# ENGLISH LITERATURE

Knowledge of languages is the doorway to wisdom.



**EXAM BOARD:** OCR

**COMPLEMENTS:** ALL SUBJECTS

**HOD:** MRS. COTGROVE

**TEACHERS:** MRS. COTGROVE, MR. JENKINS, MRS GREENE

## COURSE SUMMARY

The course provides a varied and interesting study of many aspects of language use such as child language acquisition (how children learn to speak), language change over time, language and gender and language and technology. There are also opportunities for topical writing within the course. NEA makes up 20% of the course, where learners complete an investigation into a language area of their own choice accompanied by an academic poster.

The OCR A Level in English Literature qualification will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE, introducing learners to the discipline of advanced literary studies, and requires reading of all the major literary genres of poetry, prose and drama. The OCR A Level in English Literature will extend these studies in breadth and depth, further developing learners' ability to analyse, evaluate and make connections.

Learners are required to study a minimum of eight texts at A level, including at least two examples of each of the genres of prose, poetry and drama across the course as a whole. This includes:

- at least three texts published before 1900, including at least one text by Shakespeare
- at least one work first published or performed after 2000
- at least one unseen text.

NEA submission forms 20% of the course where learners can choose to write creatively as well as analytically and complete a comparative study based on texts of their choice guided by their teacher. At St Thomas More we study Hamlet, Ibsen and Chaucer as part of our focus on early texts. For Paper 2 our focus turns to the study of the Gothic in Literature, particularly focusing on Dracula and The Bloody Chamber.

ENGLISH LIT

6

N/A

-

N/A

-

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



**ENGLISH TEACHER**

**COPYWRITER**

**EDITOR**

**WRITER**



LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN



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# FILM STUDIES



The filmmaking process taught me that I need to be authentic—in my scripts and in real life.

**EXAM BOARD:** EDUQAS

**COMPLEMENTS:** ENGLISH, MEDIA, FILM, ART

**HOD:** MRS. COTGROVE

**TEACHERS:** MRS. COTGROVE, MRS LEWIS, MS CARUS

## COURSE SUMMARY

This exciting course is designed to deepen your enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of film as an art form. As a Film student you will study a wide range of films from mainstream Hollywood to British and Global film. The course will help you develop academic skills in research, critical analysis and reflective evaluation that you can transfer to other courses and careers. The course will also provide practical experience, allowing you to create a professional portfolio of work to carry forward to university or employment.

'Film' is arguably one of the most important cultural products of this century and the last. This course will give you a foundation and insight into the way films are produced, in addition to a detailed analysis of some of the most influential films ever made. Significant time is put into viewing and analysing these films. You will learn the basic principles of cinematography, editing, sound design, and story construction and you will also research the UK and USA film industries, focusing on specific aspects of their historical and contemporary output with a focus on a short film, experimental film, film movements, classical Hollywood, contemporary Hollywood and silent film. You will also broaden your understanding with a study of World Cinema and Documentaries.

Much of the learning in Film Studies is based on analysing films in order to understand the technical, aesthetic, philosophical, cultural, industrial, and economic processes that have contributed to their production, distribution, and exhibition. You must be capable of writing thoughtful articulate essays based on what you see and the interpretations you make.

**ENGLISH**

6

N/A

-

N/A

-

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



**FILM MAKING**  
**DIGITAL MEDIA**  
**ANIMATION**

**TV**



[LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN](#)



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# GEOGRAPHY

Geography is the study of earth as the home of people



**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

**COMPLEMENTS:** MATHS, SCIENCE(S), POLITICS, SOCIOLOGY

**HOD:** MISS. YOUNG

**TEACHERS:** MR WEST, MR AHMED, MR HOLLINGSWORTH

## COURSE SUMMARY

Geography students are the most employable out there! This is because of the diverse range of skills they develop. Studying Geography at A Level can open lots of doors into related subjects, however it also teaches lots of 'transferable skills' including data analysis, essay writing, research and evaluation which will help you succeed in many different career paths or university courses.

This subject can lead to a range of university courses both, BA and BSc, including Geography, Geology and Environmental Science, as well as a huge variety of options not directly related to Geography such as Law and Engineering.

Geography is a topical, contemporary subject which is especially attractive for those who want to maintain strong links with the 'real world' outside the classroom.

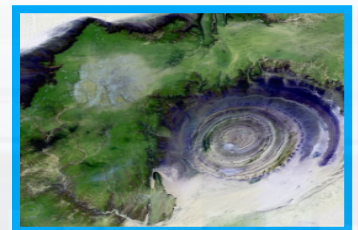
The Geography specification will cover all key skill areas, with a particular focus on developing students' literacy skills through extended essay writing; numeracy skills through data presentation, interpretation and analysis, and mathematical calculations; and ICT skills through the research and presentation of data in fieldwork projects and Coursework.

**GEOGRAPHY** 6

**MATHS** 5

**ENGLISH** 5

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



**GEOGRAPHY**

**GEOLOGY**

**ENVIRONMENTALIST**

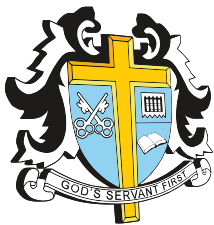
**LAW**



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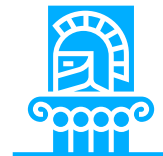


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# HISTORY

History is not the past but a map of the past,  
drawn from a particular point of view,  
to be useful to the modern traveller.



**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

**COMPLEMENTS:** RE, GEOGRAPHY

**HOD:** MR. DALY

**TEACHERS:** MR. DALY, MRS. DOWNEY, MR CHIPPING

## COURSE SUMMARY

It is taught following the AQA exam board and delivered in three modules over two years; the modules are assessed in various ways including independent research essays and standard examinations; students will be required to contribute during lessons and undertake their own independent learning.

You will be expected to write regular research essays, requiring a great deal of reading, note making and thought. You will learn to read historical interpretations and sources of evidence and will develop the skills to interpret them. You will also learn how to construct an argument and support it with historical evidence. There are three units of assessment at the end of your A-Level course. All examinations are taken in May/June of your Yr13 course.

Our history course aims to deepen your knowledge and understanding of topics you may have studied in the past, as well as help you learn about new issues and periods. The concepts of causation, consequence, continuity and change and similarity and difference run through the entire course, and help you to analyse major threads in British, European and world history, such as radical protest and political extremism

**HISTORY**

5

**ENGLISH**

6

**N/A**

-

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



**TEACHER**

**ARCHIVIST**

**POLITICAL ANALYST**

**HISTORIAN**

**JOURNALISM**



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# BTEC IT LEVEL 3



Information technology is at the core of how you do your business and how your business model itself evolves.

**EXAM BOARD:** PEARSON EDEXCEL

**COMPLEMENTS:** COMPUTER SCIENCE, BUSINESS

**HOD:** MR. BARRETT

**TEACHERS:** MR BARRETT, MR COCKELL, MR HIGGINS

## COURSE SUMMARY

The BTEC Certificate in Information Technology is equivalent to half of an A Level achieved with one block of the timetable study in one academic year. Certificate students can progress to the "single" Extended Certificate for their second year of study. The Extended Certificate is equivalent to one A Level.

The Extended Certificate is aimed at students who really enjoy IT and have a vocational or career interest in the subject. Most students who study for the course anticipate a future working in IT or studying an IT-related subject at University or another HE college. The BTEC Information Technology suite of qualifications are fully accredited for UCAS points.

An Extended Certificate comprises 4 units, including two mandatory units. Each unit is awarded a Pass, Merit, or Distinction and the combined marks produce the final overall grade of Pass, Merit or Distinction or Distinction\*.

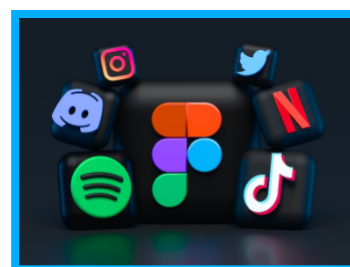
You will be expected to develop independent thinking and study skills. You will use a wide variety of software applications and produce coursework in different formats such as multimedia presentations, web pages, written reports and posters. Students who prefer to demonstrate ability and expertise through practical coursework and ongoing assessment should enjoy the rigour and structure of the course.

**ENGLISH** 5

**MATHS** 5

**CREATIVE MEDIA  
OR BTEC DIT** M

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



**WEB DESIGNER**  
**CYBER SECURITY**  
**IT SUPPORT**  
**NETWORKING**  
**IT ENGINEER**



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**EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL**

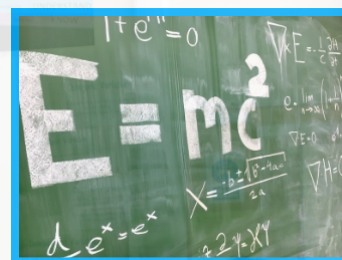
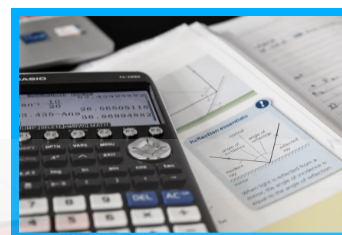
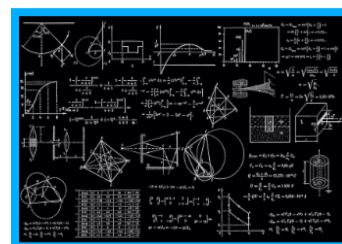
**COMPLEMENTS:** SCIENCE, PHYSICS,

**HOD: MRS. CLARKE**

**TEACHERS:** MS. CLARKE, DR. ARNOLD, MR. BOWDERY, MR MAGUIRE

## COURSE SUMMARY

- To develop your understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment
- To develop abilities to reason logically and recognise incorrect reasoning, to generalise and to construct mathematical proofs
- To extend your range of mathematical skills and techniques and use them in more difficult, unstructured problems
- To develop an understanding of coherence and progression in mathematics and of how different areas of mathematics can be connected
- To recognise how a situation may be represented mathematically and understand the relationship between 'real-world' problems and standard and other mathematical models and how these can be refined and improved
- To use mathematics as an effective means of communication
- To read and comprehend mathematical arguments and articles concerning applications of mathematics
- To acquire the skills needed to use technology such as calculators and computers effectively, recognise when such use may be inappropriate and be aware of limitations
- To develop an awareness of the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study, to the world of work and to society in general
- To take increasing responsibility for your own learning and the evaluation of your own mathematical development



## MATHS TEACHER

## DATA ANALYST

# STOCKBROKER

## SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

## INSURANCE UNDERWRITER

[LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN](#)

**ECLARKE@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK**





# (1 YEAR) CORE MATHS

Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas.  
— Albert Einstein, German theoretical physicist



**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

**COMPLEMENTS:** BIOLOGY, BUSINESS, CHEMISTRY, COMPUTER SCIENCE, PSYCHOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY

**HOD:** MRS. CLARKE

**TEACHERS:** MR. LONERGAN, DR. ARNOLD

**MATHS** 6

**N/A** -

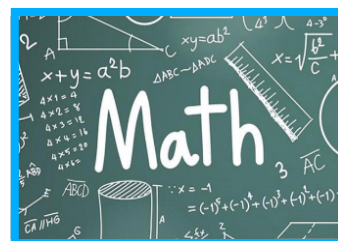
**N/A** -

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

## COURSE SUMMARY

Core Maths helps students develop their quantitative and problem-solving skills beyond their knowledge at GCSE. This is valuable preparation for the numerical skills they will need for many degrees. The subject is broken down into two sections. The first is the mandatory paper which covers financial mathematics and includes:

- Analysis of Data
- Maths for Personal Finance e.g. Mortgages, Calculating Income Tax and National Insurance, AER and APR
- Fermi Estimates
- Critical Analysis of Data and Models



The second section is a choice, unique to each candidate, of one of three options modules:

Paper 2A is statistical based and includes topics such as:

- Normal Distribution
- Probabilities and Estimation using the Normal Distribution
- Correlation and Regression



Paper 2B is business based and includes topics such as:

- Critical Path and Risk Analysis
- Expectation
- Cost Benefit Analysis — using probability to make informed choices on financial matters e.g. should a shop expand, should you take out insurance



Paper 2C is graph based and includes topics such as:

- Graphical methods — applying knowledge from GCSE graphs to real world situations
- Rates of Change
- Exponential Functions and Graphs

Core Maths is an AS only and so it is a one-year course with a grade 'in the bag' at the end of year 12. This would be a great addition as a 4<sup>th</sup> subject to any student thinking of taking Biology, Psychology or Geography.



**MATHS TEACHER**

**DATA ANALYST**

**FINANCE**

**RETAIL MANAGEMENT**



**LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN**



**ECLARKE@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK**





# (1 YEAR) FURTHER MATHS



"Mathematics, rightly viewed, possesses not only truth,  
but supreme beauty..." Bertrand Russell

**EXAM BOARD:** EDEXCEL

**COMPLEMENTS:** COMPUTER SCIENCE, PHYSICS

**HOD:** MRS. CLARKE

**TEACHERS:** DR ARNOLD & MR EAMES

**MATHS** 8

**N/A** -

**N/A** -

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

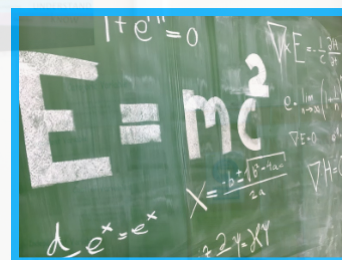
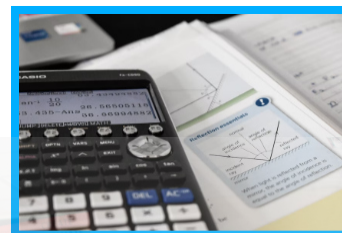
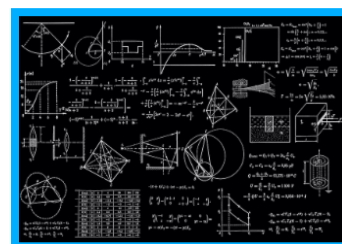
## COURSE SUMMARY

Note: A student must be taking A-Level Maths to take the AS Further Mathematics course. This is a one-year course.

AS Further Maths builds upon the subject knowledge that students have learnt at GCSE and will learn over the A-Level maths course. It takes simple topics like algebra and geometry, and by asking slightly different questions from those at GCSE, it opens a whole new world of techniques and wonders that will stretch and surprise students. There are 3 books which are covered as part of the course:

- Core Pure 1 – this takes topics from the A-Level Maths pure specification and builds upon them
- Decision 1 – this looks at networks like those used in Computer Science and studies the algorithms that underpin them
- Further Pure 1 – this takes topics like proof, trigonometry and calculus and extends them to first year undergraduate level so that students gain the knowledge and basic skills to tackle real world problems using high-level mathematics

If you are looking to study a science-based discipline at university, or if you just love maths and want to see what more it has to offer, then this is the subject for you!



**MATHS TEACHER**

**DATA ANALYST**

**STOCKBROKER**

**SOFTWARE DEVELOPER**

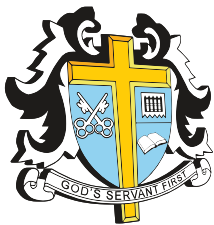
**INSURANCE UNDERWRITER**



[LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN](#)



[MARNOLD@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK](mailto:MARNOLD@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK)



# MEDIA STUDIES

Study the ways new media shapes people's perceptions of the world.

**EXAM BOARD:** OCR

**COMPLEMENTS:** ALL SUBJECTS

**HOD:** MRS. COTGROVE

**TEACHERS:** MRS. COTGROVE, MS CARUS, MRS. LEWIS

## COURSE SUMMARY

This exciting course is designed to deepen your enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of film as an art form. As a Film student you will study a wide range of films from mainstream Hollywood to British and Global film. The course will help you develop academic skills in research, critical analysis and reflective evaluation that you can transfer to other courses and careers. The course will also provide practical experience, allowing you to create a professional portfolio of work to carry forward to university or employment.

Media Studies encourages you to think critically about the messages you receive daily from the mass media. You will need to be prepared to tackle difficult theoretical issues, read up on current media issues and debates, produce quality practical coursework and write coherent and analytical essays.

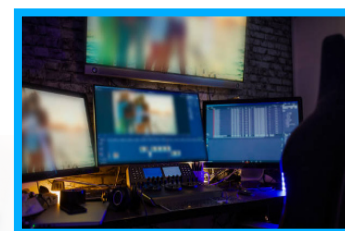
The syllabus covers television, newspapers, magazines, new media, radio and advertising. In their coursework, students can extend these areas to include film advertising and the music industry if they wish. We spend time looking at media institutions (Who owns the companies and how they are run), the 'texts' they produce, (such as newspapers, tv programmes, websites etc) and the audiences who watch or read them. This course may include the use of 18 certificate material.

ENGLISH 6

N/A -

N/A -

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



**FILM MAKING**  
**DIGITAL MEDIA**  
**ANIMATION**  
**TV**



LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN



DCOTGROVE@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK





**EXAM BOARD:** PEARSON

**COMPLEMENTS:** SCIENCE, PSYCHOLOGY, BUSINESS

**HOD:** MR BASS

**TEACHERS:** MR. KEARNEY, MR. SHERIDAN, MR SPILLET

PE 4

N/A -

N/A -

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

## COURSE SUMMARY

The Btec Sport Level 3 courses are designed for those Learners, who have an interest and passion for sport and PE. Students can choose to do a Single, Double depending on what their interests are. A combination of assessment methods are used across the range of courses, to develop student's confidence in their own ability to apply knowledge in order to succeed in the workplace, or go onto higher education. Within the course there are specialist Units, providing the learner with more in depth understanding of specific areas within the sports industry. These courses are ideal for learners, who excel in coursework.

BTEC National qualifications consist of core units (which are mandatory) and specialist units.

Core units include:

- Anatomy and Physiology (External Exam)
- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being (External Exam)
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry (Internal)
- Investigating Business in the Sport and Leisure industry (External)
- Skill Acquisition (Internal)

In addition to the cores units, students will study

- Sports Leadership (Internal)
- Application of fitness testing (Internal)
- Sport Psychology (Internal)

The variety of units means that students will gain a wide breadth of understanding in sports and exercise science.



**PE TEACHER**

**SPORTS COACH**

**FITNESS COACH**

**SPORTS SCIENCE**

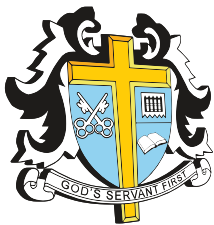
**SPORT PSYCHOLOGIST**



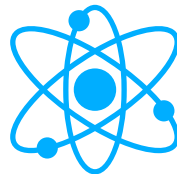
LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN



**EJKEARNY@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK**



# PHYSICS



Physics is more than a subject – it trains your brain  
to think beyond boundaries.

**EXAM BOARD:** EDEXCEL

**COMPLEMENTS:** MATHS, D&T, GEOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY

**HOD:** MX. PIERCE

**TEACHERS:** MX PIERCE, MR CLUNN

## COURSE SUMMARY

A level Physics gives you the opportunity to explore the phenomena of the Universe and to look at theories that explain what we observe. This subject combines practical skills with theoretical ideas to develop descriptions of the physical Universe. You will learn about everything from kinematics to cosmology, and many recent developments in fascinating topics, such as particle physics. If you are interested in the limits of space, the beginning of time, and everything in between, this is the subject for you.

A level Physics is a mixture of highly conceptual thinking and very practical applications. You need to be able to think about abstract ideas such as fields, but be able to apply those ideas to how, for instance, electric motors work. You will need to be able to obtain accurate results from experiments which requires practice and competence in the use of lab equipment. Calculations and units are a fundamental part of A level Physics and so you need to be comfortable with algebraic manipulation and conversions. At the same time descriptive work requires you to communicate theory and ideas clearly on paper.

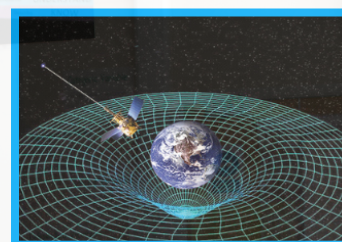
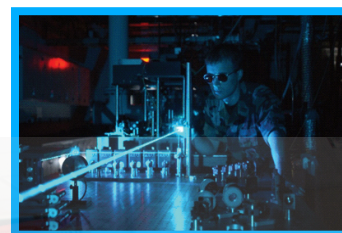
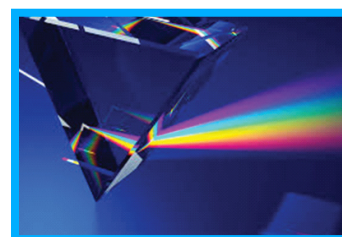
The study of physics is also an adventure. You will find it challenging, sometimes frustrating, occasionally painful, and often richly rewarding.

**ENGLISH** 6

**MATHS** 7

**PHYSICS OR  
SCIENCE (DOUBLE)** 7'S

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



**ASTRONOMER  
ENGINEER  
GEOPHYSICIST  
NANO-TECHNOLOGIST**



LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN



**APIERCE@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK**





**EXAM BOARD:** EDEXCEL

**COMPLEMENTS:** RE, HISTORY, ENGLISH, GEOGRAPHY

**HOD:** MS. WILKES

**TEACHERS:** MS. WILKES, MR DALEY, MRS DOWNEY

## COURSE SUMMARY

The course will follow the Edexcel Government and Politics A Level. The course is a comparative course looking at British politics and US politics. In Year 12 the course will explore the British aspects of the course, looking at a wide range of issues from how political parties function, to the effect that the media has on voting behaviour. In Year 13 the course switches focus to the other side of the Atlantic, where the focus will be on the presidency, the Supreme Court and Congress. There will also be an opportunity to explore the classical political theories of Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism, as well as exploring the concept of Feminism.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

RE 5

HISTORY 5

ENGLISH 6



**LAW**

**INTERNATIONAL SERVICES**

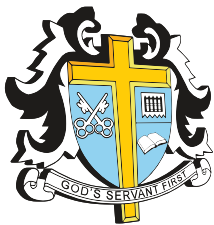
**CIVIL SERVICES**



[LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN](#)



[JWILKES@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK](mailto:JWILKES@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK)



# PSYCHOLOGY



If you are depressed you are living in the past.  
If you are anxious you are living in the future.  
If you are at peace you are living in the present."

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

**COMPLEMENTS:** SOCIOLOGY, BIOLOGY, PHYSICS

**HOD:** MISS. OSBORNE

**TEACHERS:** MISS OSBORNE, MS. CORR

**ENGLISH** 6

**MATHS** 6

**SCIENCES/BIOLOGY/CHEMISTRY** 6

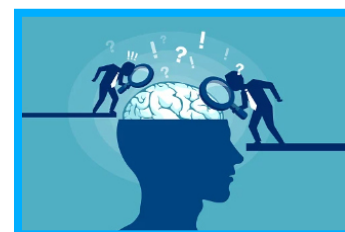
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

## COURSE SUMMARY

Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour. There are plenty of reasons to learn more about psychology, even if you don't plan to work in a psychology-related profession. Psychology can help you better understand yourself. You'll gain a stronger grasp of research methods and you will develop your critical thinking skills. You can gain a greater appreciation for human development at all stages of life. Psychology can complement your study of related subjects. Psychology can be both fun and fascinating!

Psychology is relevant to many occupations involving interactions with others'. Psychology prepares students for employment in a variety of areas including mental health, human resources, education, research, and law enforcement.

Many careers directly related to psychology require education beyond an undergraduate degree and psychology graduates are well prepared for post-graduate studies in psychology, medicine, law, and business



**SPORTS PSYCHOLOGIST**

**EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST**

**FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGIST**

**OCCUPATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST**



[LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN](#)



[JOSBORNE@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK](mailto:JOSBORNE@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK)





"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use." — Galileo Galilei,

**EXAM BOARD:** EXAM BOARD

**COMPLEMENTS:** HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, ENGLISH

**HOD:** MR. P GRIFFIN

**TEACHERS:** MR. GRIFFIN, MRS. MCKENNA

**ENGLISH** 6

**RE** 6

**N/A** -

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

## COURSE SUMMARY

Religious Studies is an inter-disciplinary subject that develops skills of critical analysis, written expression, construction of arguments and skills of evaluation.

There are three key elements to the Religious Studies A level:

- Philosophy of religion. This is a highly engaging section of the course that our students find fascinating. We discuss all kinds of big questions, looking at proofs of the existence of God, the problem of evil, whether miracles are real, is there life after death, and a range of other interesting topics. Pupils get the opportunity to look at the strengths and weaknesses of these arguments and form their own views, while also learning about what scholars and philosophers have argued.
- Ethics. This is a branch of philosophy that considers how we make moral decisions. How do we decide what is right and wrong? How do different ethical theories impact our decisions and what can they say to issues such as abortion, animal rights, sexual morality and other relevant issues.
- Christianity. This begins with a consideration of Christian teachings and then moves into Christianity in the modern world, considering a range of issues such as God and science, Religion, gender and sexuality, secularisation and religious pluralism. We ask big questions such as does science disprove religion? Are all religions true? Is Christianity sexist?

Religious studies is a subject that is suited to all types of belief. It can be great for those who wish to deepen their faith and develop their knowledge, for those who wish to work out what they believe, and for those without a belief.



**TEACHING**

**LAW**

**JOURNALISM**

**THEATRE**



LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN



**PGRIFFIN@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK**



# SOCIOLOGY

The function of sociology, as of every science,  
is to reveal that which is hidden.



**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

**COMPLEMENTS:** POLITICS, HISTORY, PSYCHOLOGY

**HOD:** MRS. COTGROVE

**TEACHERS:** MRS. COTGROVE, MRS GREENE, MRS. AHMED

## COURSE SUMMARY

Ever wondered how we have become the society we are today? How the way you see yourself determines the way people identify you? Whether men or women are more likely to commit a crime?

A Level Sociology will help you to make sense of the society by studying issues which affect us all. You will learn a number of skills including; supporting arguments with relevant evidence, how to investigate and evaluate information, and critical thinking. Sociology opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

A-level Sociology offers students the opportunity to develop the essential knowledge and understanding of central aspects of sociological thought and methods. It is designed to encourage students to demonstrate the application of a range of skills and consider the integration of sociological themes:

- socialisation, culture, and identity
- social differentiation, power, and stratification

Students can progress directly on to degrees in Sociology, Psychology or Criminology. Sociology is also beneficial for degrees in Law, History, Politics or Social Work. Many students study Sociology with a combination of other subjects in order to facilitate a pathway into careers such as teaching, counselling, public services, family support work, social work and social research. Sociology is a valued A Level by universities, due to the skills you acquire throughout the 2 year course.

**ENGLISH** 5

**MATHS** 5

**SCIENCE** 5

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



**CRIMINOLOGY**

**POLICE**

**LAW**

**SOCIAL SERVICES**



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**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

**COMPLEMENTS:** ECONOMICS, POLITICS, LAW, BUSINESS

**HOD:** MS. GARCIA REY

**TEACHERS:** MS. GARCIA REY, MRS. WILLIAMS

## COURSE SUMMARY

Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, after English and Mandarin. There are more than 400 hundred million Spanish speakers in the world, not just in Spain and South America, but also in the United States and even the Philippines. 25 different nations speak Spanish either as the official language or as a first language. In addition, it is one of the top five languages used in business, so speaking Spanish could also improve your job prospects in the future. When you broaden your knowledge of the culture, traditions and societies within the Hispanic world, it helps you become a more flexible and open-minded person. Studying Spanish A-Level will enable you to build on the skills that you have learnt at GCSE and deepen your understanding of the language, culture, society and history of Spain, as well as develop your grammatical knowledge and your spoken fluency.

What will you study?

- Family structures in Spain
- Spanish Traditional and modern values
- Friendships/relationships/citizenship in Spain
- Spanish Youth trends
- Issues and personal identity, education and employment opportunities
- Migration and integration in Spain
- Culture, history and politics of Spain from 1936 onwards
- A Spanish fiction (film and book)

SPANISH 6

MATHS 5

ENGLISH 5

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



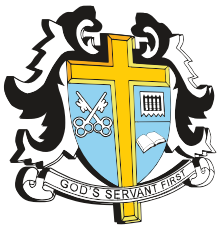
**SPANISH TEACHER**



LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN



**RGARCIA-REY@ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK**



# MUSIC

"Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything."—Plato

**EXAM BOARD:** PEARSON

**COMPLEMENTS** FILM, MEDIA

**HOD:** MR. DIXON

**TEACHERS:** MR. DIXON, MISS. DONAHUE,

**MUSIC** 4

**INSTRUMENT GRADE** 4

**N/A** -

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

## COURSE SUMMARY

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance is intended for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the music sector or the extended creative sector. The programme gives a broad overview of the industry, with a focus on performance, including musical skills development and professional practice.

This BTEC is equivalent to one A Level. It is suitable for all instrumentalists or vocalists who have some proficiency and a passion to develop as a performer. The course broadens experience and skills in ensemble and solo performance. Students will be required to perform in public on a regular basis throughout the course. Students will perform a variety of genres covering popular music from the 1950s to the modern day. The course also includes training in listening, critical review, and composition.

The BTEC in Music Performance is a combination of practical and theoretical work. You need to be prepared to work hard and be committed to performing in a group and as a soloist. You need to have an interest in a wide range of musical styles. You will be expected to perform and organise gigs, shows and recording projects. You will be expected to practice regularly, taking lessons in your instrument or voice as part of your development.

The Extended Certificate carries UCAS points equivalent to one A-Level and will support entry to higher education courses in a wide range of disciplines.



**SESSION MUSICIAN**  
**MUSIC PRODUCER**  
**SOUND TECHNICIAN**  
**EVENTS MANAGER**



[LINK TO CURRICULUM PLAN](#)



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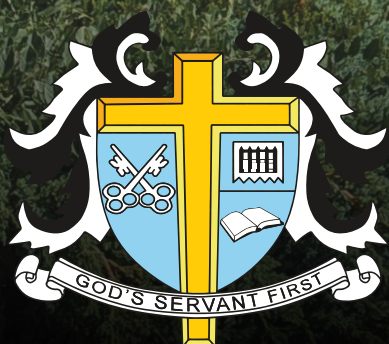


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# ST. THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL



**ST THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL**

**KENILWORTH GARDENS**

**WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA**

**ESSEX, SSO OBW**