



# **St Benedict's Sixth Form**

**A Guide to Support Students  
in choosing A Level and  
Applied Level 3 Subjects**

As you approach this stage of choosing your post-16 subjects, it is essential to consider your interests, strengths, and the requirements of potential career pathways.

Firstly, really think about which subjects you are passionate about both inside and outside the classroom and what your key strengths are academically. A Levels and BTECs typically require a high degree of commitment; therefore, selecting subjects that genuinely interest you is vital for sustained motivation and success.

Most students in the Sixth Form will select **three** A-level courses, or a combination of A-level and BTEC/Applied courses and will continue with these courses for two years. It is possible to take four A Level subjects, but this is only recommended for students with very strong GCSE results as there is a considerable workload. Almost all Universities (except for Oxford and Cambridge for a small number of courses) only ask for three A Level equivalent qualifications and it is therefore better for most students to focus on achieving excellent results in three courses

You may also like to reflect on the changing nature of the jobs market and which qualifications and skills you will need to look for employment. The current growth industries in the UK include Healthcare, Ecommerce, Renewable Energy, Cybersecurity, Social Work, Administration and Management.

Career aspirations can significantly guide the selection of A Levels or BTECs. Below is a list of A Level and BTEC subjects along with relevant university courses and career pathways:

- **Mathematics**
  - University courses: Mathematics, Engineering, Physics, Economics
  - Career pathways: Engineering, Finance, Data Analysis, Actuarial Science
- **Biology**
  - University courses: Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Veterinary Medicine
  - Career pathways: Healthcare, Research, Environmental Science
- **Chemistry**
  - University courses: Chemistry, Medicine, Pharmacy
  - Career pathways: Pharmaceuticals, Healthcare, Research
- **Physics**
  - University courses: Physics, Engineering, Astrophysics
  - Career pathways: Engineering, Research, Information Technology
- **Geography**
  - University courses: Geography, Environmental Science, Urban Planning
  - Career pathways: Environmental Consultancy, Urban Development

- **History**
  - University courses: History, Law, Politics
  - Career pathways: Law, Academia, Archiving
- **English Literature**
  - University courses: English Literature, Creative Writing, Journalism
  - Career pathways: Writing, Publishing, Education
- **Sociology**
  - University courses: Sociology, Social Work, Psychology
  - Career pathways: Social Research, Counselling, Community Work
- **Psychology**
  - University courses: Psychology, Criminology, Education
  - Career pathways: Clinical Psychology, Therapy, Human Resources
- **Art and Design**
  - University courses: Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Architecture
  - Career pathways: Artistry, Design, Creative Industries
- **Drama and Theatre Studies**
  - University courses: Drama, Theatre Arts, Performing Arts
  - Career pathways: Acting, Direction, Production
- **Music**
  - University courses: Music, Music Performance, Music Education
  - Career pathways: Musician, Composer, Music Therapy
- **Business Studies**
  - University courses: Business Administration, Marketing, Management
  - Career pathways: Business Management, Marketing, Entrepreneurship
- **Languages (French, Spanish)**
  - University courses: Modern Languages, Translation, International Relations
  - Career pathways: Translation, Teaching, Diplomatic Services
- **Design and Technology**
  - University courses: Product Design, Engineering Design, Fashion Design
  - Career pathways: Design, Engineering, Product Development
- **BTEC Travel and Tourism**
  - University courses: Travel Management, Tourism Studies, Hospitality Management
  - Career pathways: Travel Consultant, Tour Operator, Event Manager
- **BTEC Uniformed Protective Services**
  - University courses: Public Services, Criminology, Emergency Management
  - Career pathways: Police, Fire Service, Emergency Management

- **BTEC Business**
  - University courses: Business Management, Marketing, Human Resources
  - Career pathways: Business Management, Entrepreneurship, Retail Management
- **BTEC Health and Social Care**
  - University courses: Nursing, Social Work, Public Health
  - Career pathways: Healthcare Assistant, Social Worker, Community Health Worker
- **BTEC Sport**
  - University courses: Sports Studies, Physical Education, Sports Management
  - Career pathways: Sports Coaching, Sports Psychology, Physiotherapy
- **BTEC IT**
  - University courses: IT Management, Software Engineering, Cyber Security
  - Career pathways: IT Support, Software Development, Database Management



It is beneficial for students to be aware of the specific A Level or BTEC requirements of the universities or courses they are interested in, as these can vary significantly. Researching entry requirements early can prevent future complications and help students align their subject choices with their aspirations.

### **Most Common Degree Subjects for St Benedict's Students and Their Entry Requirements**

#### **Biomedical Science**

For a degree in Biomedical Science, candidates will often need A Levels in Biology and Chemistry, along with a third subject. A BTEC Level 3 in Applied Science may also be accepted.

#### **Business Studies**

A BTEC National Diploma or Extended Certificate in Business is accepted by universities.

#### **Computer Science/IT**

Students aiming to study Computer Science typically require A Levels in Mathematics, a BTEC Level 3 in IT is also acceptable (check entry requirements) .

#### **Dentistry/Medicine/Vet Science**

To pursue a Dentistry/Medicine/Vet Science degree, A Levels in Chemistry essential, in addition to a third A Level, often in Mathematics or Psychology. Prospective students will also need to sit for the UCAT exam.

#### **Engineering**

For an Engineering degree, candidates usually need A Levels in Mathematics and Physics, complemented by a third A Level in a relevant subject such as Chemistry or Technology.

#### **Law**

Students aspiring to study Law are commonly required to have A Levels in subjects such as English Literature and History, though specific requirements may vary. Alternatively, a BTEC Level 3 are also accepted, note you do not need to have a Law A Level to study Law.

#### **Nursing**

A Nursing degree typically requires A Levels in subjects such as Biology and a social science, along with relevant work experience in a healthcare setting. A BTEC Level 3 in Health and Social Care is also widely accepted.

#### **Pharmacy**

For Pharmacy, A Levels in Chemistry and Biology are crucial, accompanied by a third A Level, which may be Mathematics or Physics. Some universities accept a BTEC Level 3 in Applied Science.

#### **Psychology**

For a Psychology degree, students typically need A Levels in Psychology along with another subject, with Biology often being advantageous. A BTEC Level 3 in Health and Social Care may also meet the requirements for some universities.



You should seek advice from teachers, Sixth Form Team, career adviser, and St Benedict's students. They can provide valuable insights into the experiences of studying different subjects and their relevance to career paths. All Year 11 SBSJ students will be invited to attend the St Benedict's Careers event in March and speaking to professionals in desired fields will further clarify how A Levels and BTECs relate to specific careers.

Finally, choosing A Level or BTEC subjects requires careful consideration of personal interests, strengths, and future aspirations. By aligning subject choices with career pathways and seeking appropriate guidance, students can make informed decisions that pave the way for successful academic and professional journeys.

### **GCSE results are very important.....**

All A Level or BTEC courses in the Sixth Form have GCSE entry requirements. But you may not know that so do degree courses as well. Most degree courses require you to have GCSE Maths and English at Grade 4 or above (often Grade 5). Some course like Primary Teaching will require at least a Grade 5 in science.

Medicine, Dentistry and Vet courses will require at least 6 GCSEs at grade 7 to 9. Many courses at Cambridge or Oxford will require you to have 8 or more passes at GCSE at this level.

