



We deliver the  
whole package



**WEST  
DERBY**  
SIXTH FORM



# Meet the Sixth Form team

---

## Mr S Donohue

Head of Sixth Form

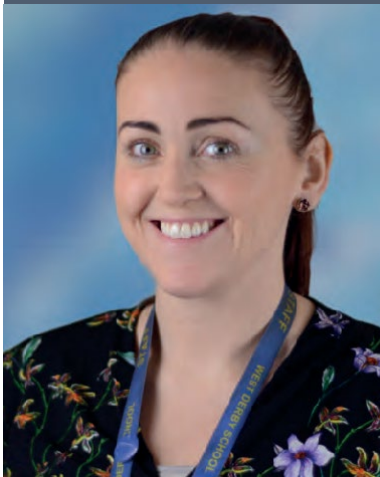


Welcome to West Derby Sixth Form. I would like to thank you for considering us for what is an important stage in your life. At West Derby School we are proud of our supportive and inclusive environment. Whether you are aiming to go into further education, an apprenticeship or employment we offer a range of courses to suit your needs. To complement this, we run an extensive programme of enrichment activities to extend and broaden your horizons.

s.donohue@westderbyschool.co.uk  
0151 235 1300

## Mrs R Williams

Head of Sixth Form



Mr Donohue and I are dedicated to ensuring that your experience in Sixth Form fully prepares you for your future Career choices. We aim to provide a curriculum rich with academic and vocational courses, intertwined with enrichment, PSHE, information and guidance. We try to provide as many opportunities as possible to develop not only your subject knowledge, but also the skills needed to succeed in modern society. We have a strong pastoral team who are there to support your health and well-being, and help you deal with any issues you may face during your Sixth Form journey.

r.dudley@westderbyschool.co.uk  
0151 235 1300

# Welcome to your Sixth Form

---

**Mrs P Speed**

Student Support Officer

---

Sixth Form is about independence and taking responsibility for your own development and progress. It is also a big transition and it is my role to ensure that you are given my full support in your welfare and learning during the two years of your course of study and that you are provided with first hand advice and guidance regarding apprenticeships, university choices (UCAS process), finance, placements and scholarships.

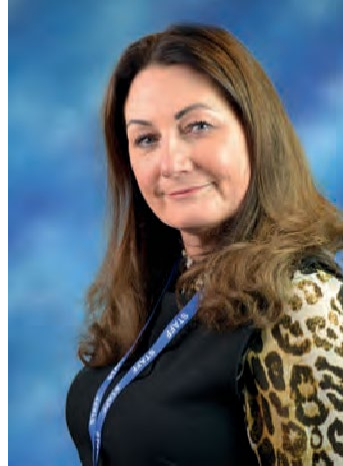
---

[p.speed@westderbyschool.co.uk](mailto:p.speed@westderbyschool.co.uk)

0151 235 1300

[www.westderbyschool.co.uk/Sixth-Form](http://www.westderbyschool.co.uk/Sixth-Form)

---



Welcome to West Derby Sixth

## West Derby Sixth Form

---

To enhance your learning experience, West Derby School can offer you state of the art facilities. All Sixth Form students have exclusive access to 'Café West' for a catch up with friends and a good meal! This area also has free internet access if students wish to work quietly or in small study groups.

The Sixth Form facilities boast a designated common room, quiet study area and access to a computer suite available throughout the school day. Students may also use these facilities for study until 5pm each day. All students at West Derby have the benefit of free high speed internet access. If you are currently a student at West Derby School you will already be aware of our proud sporting tradition. However, if you are currently studying elsewhere we can offer unrivalled sporting facilities and a sporting enrichment programme that is sure to keep you fit and active!

---

### Bridging the gap: Year 11 to Sixth Form

---

All Year 12 Sixth Form will take part in a Team Building Day in the first term. This will be a great opportunity to get to know your fellow students, your tutor and the rest of the Sixth Form team.

---

*Applications are made  
via  
the school website.*

# Your Study Programme

---

West Derby School offers both A Levels and Level 3 vocational courses. Selecting the 'right course for you' is vitally important. To that end, students are provided with one-to-one support and guidance in year 11 to assist with subject selection.

We currently offer 20 courses for students to select from a range of disciplines including Science, Photography, Business and Politics. We aim to provide courses to suit your needs. To study A Level courses you will need at least 5 GCSEs (grade 6 or above). Furthermore, many subjects require a minimum GCSE grade 7 in that subject. Level 3 vocational courses have similar requirements but sometimes a good record with coursework can allow us to be more flexible.

## A Level Qualifications

These are traditional academic courses. The majority of assessment is by external examination, with coursework contributing to marks in certain subjects. A Level subjects can also be combined with vocational subjects. Please read the Career Pathways appendix at the back of the prospectus for information on how the subjects we offer can help with bespoke career choices. Certain subjects have different entry requirements - further details are available from the Head of Subject.

## Vocational Qualifications

These two year courses are equivalent to one or two A Levels and can be combined with A Level courses. They give students a vocational focus to their work yet can still be used for a wide range of career options including Higher Education. Students learn to take responsibility for their own work, producing assignments which are assessed throughout the course, complemented by examination sessions.



# Careers & Enrichment

---

Life at West Derby Sixth Form does not start and end in the classroom. In order to enhance your Sixth Form experience we offer a wide ranging enrichment programme throughout the year. Enrichment will strengthen any future university or employment applications, broaden your experience and help you to stand out from the crowd.

## Activities Include:

Aspiring Professionals Programme  
Continuing Education Programme  
Cookery Classes  
Driving Awareness Course  
Educational Visits  
Financial Awareness Course  
Google Digital Garage  
Liverpool John Moores University Shadowing  
Music Lessons  
National Citizenship Service  
Oxbridge Collaborative  
Pathways to the Legal Profession  
Reading Enrichment Scheme  
Sixth Form Leadership Team  
Unifrog  
Voluntary Work/Active Citizenship  
Work Experience  
Young Scholars Programme

Full details of these activities can be found on our school website.

# Support & Guidance

---

## Helping You to Learn

West Derby Sixth Form is here to support all students with their studies. Our friendly, experienced team will be only too pleased to sit down and have a relaxed and informal discussion with you about any support you may need.

## Student Bursary

To further support you on your Sixth Form journey, students can apply for a 16-19 bursary. Applications for this bursary are subject to meeting eligibility criteria set by the school. This bursary can be used to cover the cost of course material, textbooks, stationery, transport and meals. Please see the Sixth Form section of our website for further details.

## Guidance and Careers

Starting at West Derby Sixth Form is a stepping stone to your future career. It is essential that you make well informed choices before and during your programme of study. Regular meetings will be scheduled for you with our careers advice officer who will guide you through future career options. You will also have the added advantage of working with an experienced staff, many of whom have worked in industry and other specialist areas, on hand to offer advice and guidance.



# A to Z of Courses

## Contents

---

Art, Craft & Design	9
Art, Graphic Communication	9
Biology	10
Business Studies	10
Chemistry	11
Computing	11
English Language & Literature	12
Food Science & Nutrition	13
Geography	13
History	14
Information Technology	14
Mathematics	15
Mathematics (Level 3)	15
Mathematics (Further)	16
Photography	16
Physics	17
Politics	17
Product Design	18
Science Applied	18
Sport	19
Career Pathways Appendix	20 onwards

---





## Art, Craft and Design A Level (AQA)

### Topics covered:

In this course you will be introduced to a range of different Art processes, techniques and materials. You will be given the opportunity to experiment within a range of specialist areas such as paint, printmaking, textiles and photography. Throughout the course you will be introduced to a wide range of contemporary and historical artists, designers and craftspeople

### How will I learn?

You will produce a coursework portfolio which will account for 60% of your overall grade. There is also an externally set assignment focusing on a particular theme. You will be assessed on your interpretation of the theme and will be expected to work through the creative process independently, exploring a range of ideas and processes. During year 13, you will produce a body of work that not only means something to you but demonstrates fully your understanding of the processes and practices of art, craft and design.

### Where this course can take me...

This specification lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Art and Design or related subjects in Higher Education.



## Art, Graphic Communication A Level (AQA)

### Topics covered:

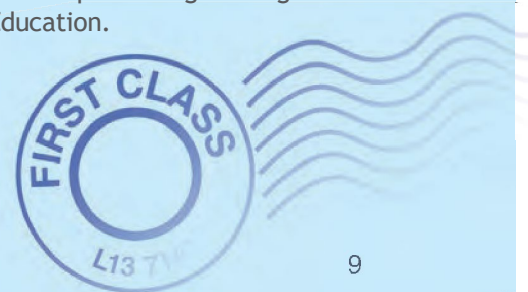
In this course you will be introduced to a range of different Graphics and Digital Media processes, techniques and materials. You will be given the opportunity to experiment within a range of specialist areas such as typography, branding poster design, motion graphics, art and photography. To help you create a range of digital media products you will learn to use Adobe Creative Cloud software including Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. Throughout the course you will be introduced to a wide range of contemporary and historical artists, designers and craftspeople.

### How will I learn?

You will produce a coursework portfolio which will account for 60% of your overall grade. There is also an externally set assignment focusing on a particular theme. You will be assessed on your interpretation of the theme and will be expected to work through the creative process independently, exploring a range of ideas and processes. During year 13, you will produce a body of work that not only means something to you but demonstrates fully your understanding of the processes and practices of art, craft and design.

### Where this course can take me...

This specification lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Graphic Design or Digital Media in Higher Education.





## Biology

### A Level (AQA)

---

#### Topics covered:

Biology is an exciting and ever changing field of study which can offer you many challenges and rewards. In A Level Biology you will cover dynamic and exciting topics such as; cell Biology, the functioning of living organisms, genetics and DNA.

#### How will I learn?

Your A Level Biology studies will culminate in written exams. The development of your practical skills will be monitored and endorsed by your teacher and your knowledge and understanding of practical Biology will be tested in the written exams.

#### Where this course can take me...

Studying Biology at A Level offers you many possible career options. Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Physiotherapy and Pharmacy all have a basis in A Level Biology.



## Business

### Level 3 (OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate)

---

#### Topics covered:

Business Studies looks at how organisations work, grow and succeed. It examines the consequences of 'Business behaviour' from the perspective of a number of stakeholders including customers, managers, shareholders and employees. With our economy on the move again, our country will need successful business people. This course aims to set you up to become one of these highflying Business people. Throughout this course you will look at topics such as; planning and financing a business, managing a business, strategies for success and the business environment.

#### How will I learn?

There are five units of work (2 compulsory externally examined units 1 and 2, then three optional controlled assessment units) each one is mark internally then externally assessed to be verified. One controlled assessment unit and two externally examined units are covered in Year 12 and two controlled assessment units in Year 13:

#### Where this course can take me...

This qualification is suitable for those wishing to gain a Level 3 qualification to support further study in Higher Education. University degrees linked to this course include Business Management, International Business, Marketing, Sport Business and many more such as Business and Human Resource Management. Career prospects include; Accountancy, Investment Banking, Banker, Marketing Manager or many more roles in wide range of industries.



## Chemistry A Level (AQA)

### Topics covered:

Chemistry is the study of the world around us, from the smallest atom to life saving medicines. You will explore the fundamental principles that form the basis of Chemistry such as atomic structure, bonding, periodicity and an introduction to organic chemistry. Students also look at the applications of these principles.

You will also develop further the concepts and principles introduced at AS through topics; including equilibria, polymers, aromatic chemistry, thermodynamics, energetic chemistry and inorganic chemistry.

### How will I learn?

Assessment of A Level Chemistry is designed to be rigorous, while maintaining fair and balanced question papers. This includes testing synoptic understanding, knowledge of how Science works and providing stretch and challenge. For this course, 100% of the content is assessed by exam, 20% of the overall assessment will contain mathematical skills and at least 15% will assess knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to practical skills.

### Where this course can take me...

A Level Chemistry may be combined with a variety of subjects at A level and can open the door to a number of careers such as Medicine, law, Engineering, Education, Chemical Research, Development and Industry.



## Computing A Level (OCR)

### Topics covered:

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism. Topics include: applying the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science including abstraction, decomposition, logarithms and data representation. Analytical problem solving in computational terms and Mathematical skills,

### How will I learn?

There are two external exams that are worth 40% of your A Level, alongside a programming project which is externally moderated by the exam board and forms 20% of your A Level grade.

### Where this course can take me...

This qualification is suitable to those wishing to gain a L3 qualification to support further study in Further Education and Higher Education. It can also lead into employment in the more specialised fields of Computing such as Computer Science, Programming, Network Engineers and Network Managers.





## English Language and Literature A Level (AQA)

---

### Topics covered:

This stimulating course enables students to engage with a variety of spoken and written texts. It gives them the opportunity to combine linguistic and literary study with creative writing. Students will develop their understanding of English Language and Literature as a combined discipline. They will discover how different writers represent the same place, approach the same genre and consider how they can take a piece of non-fiction and recreate it in another form or genre. The course enables students to analyse the three major literary forms: prose, poetry and drama, as well as a range of literary non-fiction texts.

### How will I learn?

Throughout this course you will develop a combined understanding of Language and Literature and engage with a variety of texts, both spoken and written. There are two examinations and a piece of coursework (that accounts for 20% grade) at the end of the A Level.

In the first year students will study *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, an anthology of non-fiction texts on Paris and a wide selection of poetry by Robert Browning. approaches.



In the second year students will also study *Othello* by William Shakespeare, *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer, and they will select and study a literary and non-fiction text and compare them in a thematic and linguistically exploratory manner.

### Where this course can take me...

English Language and Literature at A Level provides its students with the ability to communicate clearly and effectively and as such lends itself to any degree that requires the articulate conveyance of analytical and critical thinking.



## Food Science and Nutrition Level 3 (WJEC)

### Topics covered:

We live in a city that loves its food and a region that produces some of the freshest produce in the UK. From the Albert Dock to West Derby Road, the streets are lined with some of the finest restaurants and hotels this country has to offer! This course is aimed at students who like cooking and learning about food. You will gain knowledge about Food Science and Nutrition and have the opportunity to learn about the relationship between the human body and food. There is a strong emphasis on practical work, making this an ideal course for students who prefer learning through doing.

### How will I learn?

This course is assessed by completion of a coursework file and an externally assessed exam. There are also several practical elements to this course.

### Where this course can take me...

Completion of a Food Science and Nutrition course can lead to University courses in; Food Science and Technology, Public Health Nutrition, Hospitality and Environmental Health. Careers can include; Quality Control within Food Manufacturing, Food Science, Events Management, Restaurant Management and many more.



## Geography A Level (AQA)

### Topics covered:

The topics you study will see you exploring everything from inequalities in Latin American cities to the likely impact of future climate change.

### Topics include:

- Hazards
- Coastal environments
- Changing places
- Water and carbon cycles
- Contemporary urban environments
- Global systems and global governance
- Fieldwork based geographical investigation

Awareness of current affairs, environmental issues and your local area will all help you with this course. Under the guidance of our teachers, you will explore worldwide issues. You will engage and debate in your learning, challenging your own views, as well as those of others. A core element of your learning involves fieldwork, so you'll be regularly learning outside of school and the classroom!

### How will I learn?

Examination and coursework based. You will sit two final examinations, each 2.5 hours long and each is worth 40% of your final grade. Questions range from multiple choice to extended written answers. Your final write up of your geographical investigation accounts for 20% of your final grade.

### Where this course can take me...

Geography is highly valued by universities as an A Level choice. Career areas related to the study of Geography include; Urban Planning, Cartography, Climatology, Environmental Management, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Research.



## History

### A Level (OCR)

---

#### Topics covered:

Understanding of History can help us to shape the events of tomorrow. The study of History is both interesting and intellectually rigorous. You will develop the skills of research, assimilation, comprehension and the analysis of a wide range of material, formulation of a reasoned interpretation and the development of an ability to communicate clear and coherent judgement. You will study British, American and Russian History. You will gain an appreciation of the civil rights movement in the USA. You will gain an understanding of the significance of the Tudors in British History. You will understand the complexities of Russia History and carry out an historical enquiry on the Holocaust

#### How will I learn?

A Level History is assessed by a terminal exam.

#### Where this course can take me...

A Level History can provide you with a great launching pad into University. Careers linked to the study of History include; Lawyer, Journalist, Archaeologist, Teacher, Police Officer, News Researcher to name but a few.



## Information Technology

### Level 3 (OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in IT)

---

#### Topics covered:

This pathway focuses on the development of a range of applications across platforms and sectors. Students will gain the right combination of knowledge, understanding and skills required for the Twenty First Century, enabling them to demonstrate the skills of writing specifications, and the design, build, testing and implementation of applications.

In addition to the mandatory units, students must also achieve the mandatory pathway unit Application Design.

#### Topics covered include:

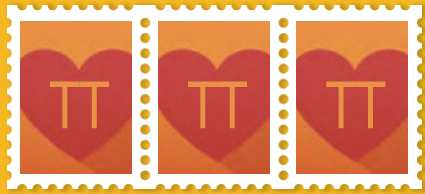
- Fundamentals of IT (exam component)
- Global Information (exam component)
- Application Design
- Social Media and Digital Marketing
- Internet of Everything

#### How will I learn?

There are five units of work in which two of them are a compulsory written exam (to be taken at in Year 13). One controlled assessment unit and two externally examined units are covered in Year 12 and two controlled assessment units in Year 13:

#### Where this course can take me...

This qualification is suitable for those wishing to gain a Level 3 qualification to support further study in Further Education and Higher Education. IT can also lead into employment in the more specialised fields of Computing such as Computer Science, Programming, Network engineers and managers.



## Mathematics

### A Level (EDEXCEL)

#### Topics covered:

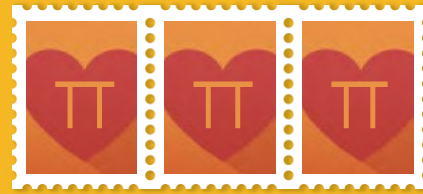
The study of A Level Mathematics can be both an exciting and challenging prospect. You will develop your abilities to reason logically, generalise and construct mathematical proofs, using Mathematics as an effective means of communication. You will relate Mathematics to real life situations, representing various scenarios mathematically by constructing models and theorems.

#### How will I learn?

A Level Mathematics is assessed by a set of terminal exams.

#### Where this course can take me...

Several University courses require A Level Mathematics. If you are thinking of studying Science, Engineering, Architecture, Accounting, Business, Computing or Teaching A Level Mathematics can provide you with the skills necessary to succeed.



## Mathematics (Core)

### Level 3 Certificate – Mathematical Studies (AQA)

#### Topics covered:

The Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies aims to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in GCSE Mathematics. You will develop your abilities to reason logically and use Mathematics for real world problems such as personal finance and taxation. You will develop your mathematical thinking and learn skills which support courses such as A Level Psychology, Sciences and Geography as well as Technical and Vocational qualifications. Level 3 Mathematics is taken as an optional extra subject, to complement your three primary choices.

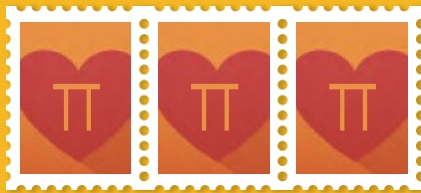
#### How will I learn?

Level 3 Certificate Mathematical Studies is assessed by a set of terminal exams.

#### Where this course can take me...

Several University courses benefit from the skills learned in Mathematical Studies, including Accounting, Business, Computing or Teaching. Level 3 can provide you with the skills necessary to succeed and many valuable skills for life.





## Mathematics (Further) A Level (EDEXCEL)

---

### Topics covered:

The study of A Level Mathematics can be both an exciting and challenging prospect. This course provides a complete route of progression through the various strands of Mathematics, from AS Level, through to the first year of university work. This course is designed to meet the needs of a wide range of students through an unparalleled choice of units. Further Mathematics is taken as an optional extra subject, to complement your three primary choices.

### How will I learn?

A Level Further Mathematics is assessed by a set of terminal exams.

### Where this course can take me...

Several University courses require A Level Further Mathematics. If you are thinking of studying Science, Engineering, Architecture, Accounting, Business, Computing or Teaching, A Level Further Mathematics can provide you with the skills necessary to succeed.



## Photography A Level

---

### Topics covered:

Photography is a practical and creative course. Like Art it is about creating pictures. You will be taught to use the Nikon DSLR camera, to understand the use of different lenses and how to use the camera outside of the 'Automatic' mode.

You will develop your Photoshop skills to edit and enhance your images. The course will develop your understanding of how best to present your work to the examiners- using a variety of media including website building. Over the two years you will produce an impressive portfolio of photographic work.

The course will develop your understanding of the history of photography and the many great photographers who work to change the world. You will also examine the role of commercial photographers.

The course will include visits to studios and galleries. It will also include Field Trips to provide you with opportunities to develop your project work.

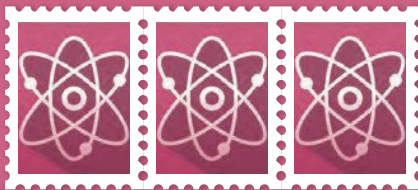
### How will I learn?

This is a practical course that will require you to produce a portfolio of photographs in response to a set project. There is also an externally set practical exam where you will showcase your skills and understanding of Photography.

### Where this course can take me...

A Level Photography will prepare you for both continued academic study at College or University or work in the Photography sector.





## Physics

### A Level (AQA)

#### Topics covered:

Physics is the study of our universe. Throughout this course you will develop an understanding and appreciation of the mechanics of our universe. You will research issues that have a huge impact on our society today including Nuclear Physics and Quantum Mechanics.

#### How will I learn?

Assessment of A Level Physics is designed to be rigorous, while maintaining fair and balanced question papers. This includes testing synoptic understanding, knowledge of How Science Works and providing stretch and challenge. The course is assessed through two exam papers which cover the entire programme of study as well as assessing practical skills and techniques practiced during your sixth form lessons

#### Where this course can take me...

Physics is a highly sought after qualification and one which opens the door to a number of careers such as Medicine, Engineering, Dentistry, Optics and Teaching.



## Politics

### A Level (AQA)

#### Topics covered:

The A Level Politics specification is designed to encourage students to develop their critical thinking skills and enhance their ability to interpret, evaluate and comment on the nature of politics. Students acquire knowledge of the structures of authority and power within the political systems of both the United Kingdom and the United States. They are also encouraged to think and debate more widely about how other political systems may differ. In this course you will learn to weigh up evidence against opinion and understand how people's lives are affected by political activity. You will develop a critical awareness of political events and issues.

#### How will I learn?

A Level Politics is assessed by a terminal exam. There will be opportunities to take part in city wide debates with other schools, as well as a visit to the Houses of Parliament, and attend a Question Time session with our local MP.

#### Where this course can take me...

Politics can open doors to several career areas including; Journalism, Politics, Teaching, English and History.





## Product Design

### A Level (AQA)

---

#### Topics covered:

The design and appearance of a product can massively influence our decisions. In this course you will be encouraged to take a broad view of Design and Technology, develop your capacity to design and make products to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing. Students with an interest in Product Design will possess an enquiring mind, be able to think creatively and be prepared to challenge expectations.

#### How will I learn?

Assessment of A Level Product Design combines traditional exams and practical coursework. You will design a product for a client which will aid their lives in some way.

#### Where this course can take me...

A qualification in Product Design could lead to a range of further education or career opportunities. You may wish to follow a career path in Interior Design, Set Design, Product Design, Architecture, Games Design and Engineering.



## Applied Science

### Level 3 (EDEXCEL BTEC)

---

#### Topics covered:

Science is the study of the world around us; throughout this course you will develop your skills as a scientist and gain an understanding of industrial science. You will acquire new practical skills required for the scientific industry. This sector is highly varied and diverse. You will become familiar with different aspects of industry including, Food and Drink, Sports Science, Microbiology, Forensic Science, Genetic engineering and Medical Sciences.

#### How will I learn?

You will complete 6 units in total, of which 58% is externally assessed by examination. The remaining content is assessed by the completion of a coursework portfolio.

#### Where this course can take me...

Students completing their BTEC Nationals in Applied Science will be aiming to go on to employment, often via the stepping stone of higher education. A qualification in Applied Science can lead to study at University in Sports Science, Science and Football, Nursing, Natural Sciences, Sports Psychology and Applied Psychology. You will also have the skills necessary to train as a laboratory technician in large pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, universities and schools.



## Sport

Level 3 (EDEXCEL BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport)

### Topics covered:

A BTEC National in Sport is one of the most popular BTEC courses. It is a vocational qualification that will help prepare you for a huge range of careers. You may be thinking of pursuing a career either as an elite sports performer or as a coach. At present, there are around 1.2 million coaches in Britain. You may be considering joining the health and fitness industry as an exercise professional. Research demonstrates a clear link between an active lifestyle and good health. As a result, the health and fitness industry has grown substantially over the last 10 years. There is a huge demand for exercise professionals, and there are good employment opportunities.

In your BTEC course, you will be studying a wide range of units; all related to sport. You will learn about your body and how it responds to exercise.

This will help you to understand how and why your body responds to training and how training programmes can be devised for health, sport and well-being.



### How will I learn?

This is a combination of external assessment, exam and case study (67%) along with internal assessment coursework and practical performance (33%). You need to be well organised to co-ordinate a variety of tasks for each unit and assignment. You must be confident in terms of self-study and research as well as disciplined to meet deadlines. Your teacher will set homework for each task and expect it to be done by an agreed date; deadlines must be met.

### Where this course can take me...

This course can be your stepping stone to University or a career in a Sport and Leisure Industry. University courses that you may wish to study include; Sports Science, Sports Coaching, Sports Development and Sports Nutrition.



# How to Apply

To apply for any of the courses we offer, students should follow the guide below.

**Meet our staff, have a look at our facilities and ask questions!**



## **Taster Day**

All year 10 students will have an opportunity to attend our Sixth Form Taster Day where they can sample subjects before making that all important choice in Year 11!



## **Sixth Form Open Evening**

Meet with our staff, have a look at our facilities and ask questions! If you cannot make it to our open evening just call to arrange a visit.

## **Application Form**

Complete an application form online via our school website.  
External applicants apply using a separate form via the school website.



## **Interview**

All prospective students will be asked to attend an interview with a member of our Sixth Form Team.



## **Results**

After you have received your GCSE results your place at West Derby Sixth Form will be confirmed via letter.

## **Enrolment**

Start your course in September!



**Start your  
course in  
September!**



**If undelivered please return to**  
364 West Derby Road, Liverpool,  
Merseyside L13 7HQ

