



**St. John Fisher**  
CATHOLIC COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

## SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

**Ofsted**  
Good  
Provider



“The high level of inclusion ensures that no pupil is forgotten. Pupils of all abilities and backgrounds benefit from the care and support from staff in this safe, spiritual learning environment.”

DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION 2021

## Welcome to St John Fisher Sixth Form

### Dear students,

A warm welcome to our Sixth Form; thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus and consider studying with us. At St John Fisher, we help our students to do and be better for themselves, their families, and their communities. We are a Catholic school that includes, involves and inspires everyone.

As a high achieving sixth form, we have the expertise required to ensure that you reach your potential. Many of our students go on to take up university places at a wide variety of destinations, including Russell Group institutions. Our Oxbridge and Medics programmes provide personalised support for students seeking to go on to top universities.

As a proudly comprehensive school, we offer a plethora of academic and vocational qualifications, ensuring that there are challenging and appropriate pathways for students of all abilities. We are also in the process of completing our new build which will be ready to move into by Spring 2023, offering you world-class educational facilities in which to complete your studies.

As an SJF student, you'll be encouraged to take an active role in school life, developing your skills for learning beyond the classroom. You'll be offered opportunities to volunteer, both in school and outside in the wider community. Year 12 students undertake a work experience placement; Year 12 and 13 students form our student leadership team, acting as peer mediators and mentors to younger pupils.

Above all, we are a Catholic sixth form, which means that we have a uniquely warm and supportive ethos. The word 'Catholic' originally meant 'universal', and we are proud to be a comprehensive school with students from a wide variety of backgrounds, of all faiths and none. Everyone is welcomed here and helped to reach their goals.

Whether you want your next steps after Sixth Form to be work, an apprenticeship, or an Oxbridge application, we will support you to be both the brightest and the best person that you can possibly be.

**We look forward to meeting you and inspiring you to take the next important steps to achieving your aspirations.**

MRS D. LENNON

MRS E.L. BAILEY



**MRS D. LENNON**  
Headteacher



**MRS E. L. BAILEY**  
Assistant Headteacher  
Head of Sixth Form

“Teaching in the sixth form is good. Teachers use their strong subject knowledge to provide stimulating activities that encourage independent study and structured learning. As a result, students develop a high level of knowledge and understanding in their subjects.”

OFSTED 2019





# A Level & Vocational Subjects

4. Applied Science BTEC Level 3

5. Art A Level

7. Biology A Level

8. Business BTEC Level 3

9. Chemistry A Level

10. English Literature A Level

11. Engineering BTEC Level 3

12. Health and Social Care BTEC Level 3

13. History A Level

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# Applied Science

Pearson BTEC Level 3

National Extended Certificate in Applied Science (2016)

## Introduction

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science has 360 guided learning hours. It consists of three mandatory units plus one optional unit. Two out of the four units are externally assessed and accounts for 58% of the final grade.

The BTEC qualifications in this specification have been developed in the science sector to:

- give learners the opportunity to acquire technical and employability skills, knowledge and understanding which are transferable and will enable individuals to meet changing circumstances, whether these arise

from a shift in their own status or employment, or general changes in applied science practice, provision or environment

- provide education and training for science employees to develop their underpinning knowledge and scientific skills
- give learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-4** grades at GCSE. Grade **4** in Science.

## Links to other subjects and careers

Having the Applied Science Level 3 BTEC can open a world of possible scientific careers.

Possible career choices that require BTEC Level 3 in Applied Science include:

- Biological testing
- Biotechnology
- Independent research
- Food industry jobs
- Nutrition
- Nurse
- Zoo keeper
- Animal care
- Veterinary nurse
- Scientist
- And many others

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science (2016)		
Unit	Mandatory Units	Assessment
1	Principles and Applications of Science 1	External
2	Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques	Internal
3	Scientific Investigation Skills	External
Optional Units		
8	Physiology of Human Body Systems	Internal
11	Genetics and Genetic Engineering	Internal
14	Applications of Inorganic Chemistry	Internal
15	Electrical Circuits and their Application	Internal

# Art

A Level

AQA Syllabus number: 2200

## Introduction

The AQA A level Fine Art course offers students the opportunity to explore a variety of materials processes and techniques in both traditional and new media. Throughout the course students will be expected to explore a variety of techniques and are required to present findings in more than one of the following areas:

- drawing and painting
- mixed media, including collage and assemblage
- sculpture
- ceramics
- installation
- printmaking (relief, intaglio, screen processes and lithography)
- moving image and photography.

Students will be expected to demonstrate these skills in the context of their chosen project.

## Course content

### Component 1 - Personal Investigation

- Non-examination assessment set and marked by the centre. During the first year, students will investigate various project themes

which will enable them to explore a range of disciplines before selecting a chosen specialist area. At the end of this year students will feel confident in selecting a personal area of investigation that brings together their previous learning. Students will produce a sustained and in-depth body of work which will be submitted for final assessment.

- No time limit
- 96 marks
- 60% of A-level

### Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment

- Students will receive an examination style paper issued by the examining board, AQA, in February of their second year containing themes and suggested starting points in which they will use to form a new final body of work.
- Preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time
- 96 marks
- 40% of A-level

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-4** grades at GCSE and GCSE grade **4** in Art.

## Links to other subjects and careers

- Graphic Design
- Illustrator
- Artist
- Interior Designer
- Game design
- Web design
- Design for Performance
- Product Designer
- Advertising
- Teacher





# Biology

A Level

AQA Syllabus number: Biology 7401

## Introduction

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems. The human genome has been sequenced, work on Alzheimer's disease and cancer continue to make breakthroughs. In Kenya, 350 people die every day from AIDS and in South East Asia the skies are dark with smoke as the Bornean rainforests are burned to grow oil palms. Biologists are concerned with all these issues.

## Course content

In the first year, students will complete four topics: "Biological Molecules", "Cells", "Organisms exchange substances with their environment" and "Genetic information, variation and relationship between organisms". These four topics give a solid grounding in biology. Over the year, students will carry out at least six practical investigations.

Year two helps students to build on the knowledge and skills learnt in year one. They will study four further topics: "Energy transfers in and

between organisms", "Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments", "Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems" and "The control of gene expression". Within these topics students will complete a further six practical investigations.

To gain an A-level qualification, students will have three examinations at the end of year 13: paper 1 will cover any content from topics 1-4, paper 2 will cover any content in topics 5-8 and paper 3 will cover any content from topics 1-8. All papers are 2 hours long and 15% of the marks for each paper will assess practical skills.

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-4** grades at GCSE including a **6** or above in trilogy or triple science.

## Links to other subjects and careers

Biology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in health and clinical professions such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, pharmacy, optometry, nursing, midwifery, zoology, marine biology or forensic science.

There is a biological revolution taking place at the moment. Many jobs are being created in industries using biology which did not exist 10 years ago. The need for employees with qualifications in biology has never been greater.

# Business

BTEC Level 3

Pearson Level 3 RQF Extended Certificate

## Introduction

The BTEC business qualification at level 3 is designed to provide highly specialist, work-related qualifications. It gives students the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to prepare for further study or employment. The qualification provides career development opportunities for those wishing to progress onto employment or further training such as further or higher education. Studying business will equip students with the knowledge and skills required to consider starting their own business.

## Course content

Students will study for a BTEC Level 3 which is equivalent to one A Level. The course is assessed via 40% coursework and 60% external examination.

### Units include:

- 1. Exploring business
  - 2. Marketing
  - 3. Finance
- as well as a further optional unit.

## Entry requirements

**5 9-4** grades at GCSE. Grade **3** in English.

### Links to other subjects and careers

The study of business has many other subject links such as

- Economics
- Media
- Psychology
- ICT

### Related Careers Include

- Entrepreneur
- Marketing
- Web Design
- Accountancy
- Economist

# Chemistry

A Level

AQA Syllabus number: Chemistry 7405

## Introduction

Students will experience the excitement and intellectual challenge of contemporary Chemistry by exploring the frontiers of research in the environmental and technological applications of the subject.

Students will be challenged by the rigorous theoretical content of the course but will have the opportunity to consolidate and extend knowledge as every topic is revisited several times.

## Course content

In the first year, students will cover: atomic structure, energetics, periodicity, bonding, kinetics and organic chemistry. Over this year, students will carry out six of the required practical investigations.

Year two helps students to build on their knowledge and skills learned in year one. During this second year, they will study thermodynamics, electrolysis, equilibrium and further organic chemistry.

To gain an A level qualification, students will have three examinations at the end of Year 13:

- Paper 1 will cover any content from topics 1,2,3 and 5

- Paper 2 will cover any content in topics 1,2 4 and 6
- Paper 3 will cover any content from topics 1-6.
- All papers will be between 75 and 95 minutes long.

## Practicals

Chemistry, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- measuring energy changes in chemical reactions
- tests for identifying different types of compound
- different methods for measuring rates of reaction
- studying electrochemical cells
- preparation of organic solids and liquids
- an advanced form of chromatography for more accurate results.

## Exams

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practicals will be assessed. At least 15% of the marks for A-level Chemistry are based on what you learned in your practicals.

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-4** grades at GCSE including a **6** grade in Combined Science. Students will also need a **5** grade in Maths.

### Links to other subjects and careers

A Level Chemistry is usually essential for degree courses in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and chemical sciences. Skills acquired in Chemistry such as numeracy, analytical thinking and literary precision are valued in careers including research, marketing, finance and computing.

Chemistry has obvious links with Biology, Physics and Geography, but it can also be linked with most other subjects. It opens doors to many careers and is highly regarded by the academic world and industrialists.

// The entrepreneurial instinct is in you.  
You can't buy it, you can't put it in a bottle. It's just there and it comes out. //

ALAN SUGAR

# English Literature

A Level

AQA Syllabus number: A Level (7712)

## Introduction

The A Level Literature specification approaches the study of literature through the lens of historicism, encouraging the independent study of a range of texts within a shared context, giving logic and meaning to the way that texts are grouped for study. This unifying approach facilitates the inclusion of a range of wider reading, thus extending students’ experience and appreciation of literature.

## Course content

### A2 - Paper 1: Love through the ages

Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play. Examination will include two unseen poems.

Assessed through a written exam:

- Written exam: **3** hours
- Open book in Section C only
- **75** marks
- **40%** of A-level

### A2 - Paper 2: texts in shared contexts

Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000.

Assessed through a written exam:

- Written exam: **2** hours **30** minutes
- Open book
- 75 marks
- **40%** of A-level

## Non-examined assessment:

### Independent critical study:

#### Texts across time

- Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900
- One extended essay (2500 words) and a bibliography

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-4** grades at GCSE including a **5** in English Language and English Literature.

# Engineering

BTEC Level 3

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Engineering

## Introduction

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Engineering is designed for learners who are interested in a career in the engineering sector and want to progress to further study in the sector. Learners will take a practical, applied engineering course as part of their Level 3 study programme. Combining this with other qualifications, such as an A Level in Mathematics or Physics, would allow them to progress to higher education to study engineering or other STEM-related programmes. The qualification has also been designed so that it is appropriate for learners who plan to enter employment directly in the engineering sector after their sixth form studies are complete.

Engineering covers a broad variety of roles, and it involves the application of scientific principles and practical knowledge to transform ideas and materials into products and systems safely and support them during their lifetime. This qualification has a focus on a broad range of engineering specialist areas; learners taking this qualification will study mandatory content covering:

- engineering principles and mathematics
- health and safety, teamwork and interpreting and creating computer-aided engineering drawings
- design and manufacture of products.

## Course content

Students will study for a BTEC Level 3, which is equivalent to one A Level. The course is assessed via **33%** coursework and **67%** external assessment. External assessment can take two forms including:

- examinations – all learners take the same assessment at the same time, normally with a written outcome
- set tasks – learners take the assessment during a defined window and demonstrate understanding through completion of a vocational task.
- Students will study four units including:
  1. Engineering Principles (externally assessed)
  2. Delivery of Engineering Processes Safely as a Team (internally assessed)
  3. Engineering Product Design and Manufacture (externally assessed)

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-4** grades at GCSE. Grade **4** in Maths and Product Design.

## Links to other subjects and careers

BTEC Level 3 Engineering links well with subjects such as Mathematics and Physics. The qualification is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many relevant courses in a variety of areas of the engineering sector, for example:

- BEng (Hons) in Engineering
- BEng (Hons) in Electronics Engineering
- BSc (Hons) in Computer Science

This qualification also supports progression to job opportunities in the engineering sector. Jobs that are available in these areas include:

- engineering operative
- manufacturing operative
- civil engineer
- structural engineer
- mechanical engineer
- motorsport engineer

This qualification also supports those following an apprenticeship in engineering.

// Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. //

JOSEPH ADDISON



# Health and Social Care

BTEC Level 3

Pearson Level 3 RQF Extended Certificate

## Introduction

Health and social care is the biggest growth industry in Europe and this course gives students an opportunity to work in this area. The health and social care department is supportive as well as active, fun and energetic. Students will visit the Gurdwara Temple in Gravesend as part of their “Culture and diversity” unit and spend a day with the British Red Cross to complete a Basic First Aid certificate. The course also contains visits from the school nurse and a dementia care worker, as well as a whole day relating to mental health care. Every student also has the opportunity to look after a cyber-baby to practise their parenting skills!

## Course content

Students will study for a BTEC Level 3 which is equivalent to one A Level. The course is assessed via 40% coursework and 60% external examination. Four units will be studied, including:

1. Human life span and development
2. Working in health and social care
3. Meeting individual care and support needs

and one other optional unit.

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-4** grades at GCSE. Grade **3** in English.

## Links to other subjects and careers

This course provides the knowledge, skills and understanding to progress into a career in the health and social care industry such as:

- Nursing
- Social work
- Child care
- Midwifery

//To enjoy good health, to bring true happiness to one’s family, to bring peace to all, one must first discipline and control one’s own mind. If a man can control his mind he can find the way to Enlightenment, and all the wisdom and virtue will naturally come to him. //

BUDDAH

# History

A Level

AQA Syllabus number: A Level (7042)

## Introduction

Through the study of the past, we can understand how our own world works. Through the study of history, students will develop certain common skills such as the ability to use sources, how to construct valid and justified arguments and how to examine change over time and explore the reasons for change. A good historian will use the skills that they develop in the subject to sort fact from fiction, opinion from fact and to use evidence to piece the jigsaw together. We will never truly know what happened in the past, or why, but the good historian will argue that by looking at the evidence and making decisions we can form judgements - a skill highly valued by employers.

## Course content

A-level students must take assessments in all three of the following units, in the same year.

## Unit 1. Breadth study

The Tudors 1485-1603 (the consolidation of the Tudor dynasty 1485-1547 and the reigns of Henry VII and Henry VIII) plus the reigns of Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I.

- Written exam: **2** hours **30** minutes.
- **40%** of A Level

## Unit 2. Depth study

Democracy and Germany 1918-1945 (the Weimar Republic 1918-1933, the new Democratic Republic in Germany and the rise of the Nazis) plus the Nazi dictatorship 1933-45

- Written exam: **2** hours **30** minutes.
- **40%** of A Level

## Unit 3. Historical investigation

A personal study based on a topic covering 100 years, e.g. Russia and their revolution.

- **3,500 - 4,500** words
- **20%** of A Level

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-4** grades at GCSE, including a **4** grade in English.

## Links to other subjects and careers

History links well with English, sociology, economics, foreign languages and religious studies. There are numerous careers that require the skills that the study of history develops. These include: medicine, business, finance, accountancy, politics, archaeology, diplomatic service, restoration, teaching and law.





# Cambridge Technical in ICT

OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma

OCR Syllabus number: Extended Certificate 601/7098/0-05839

## Introduction

The qualification aims to develop students' knowledge, understanding and skills of the principles of IT and Global Information Systems. Students will gain an insight into the IT sector as they investigate the pace of technological change, IT infrastructure, the flow of information on a global scale, and the importance of legal and security considerations. Level 3 Cambridge Technicals in IT focus on the requirements that today's universities and employers demand. Students will focus on the design, implementation and management of an organisation's IT Infrastructure. Additionally, they will learn about the activities and roles that are carried out in the workplace such as selecting hardware and software for clients, and learning how to build, upgrade or develop computer systems and networks that are safe and secure.

## Course content

The course is assessed using a variety of methods. Elements are assessed externally by examinations and set tasks and internally set tasks. The

course consists of two mandatory units and three optional units studied across two years. The mandatory units provide learners with an insight into the IT sector as they investigate the pace of technological change, IT infrastructure, the flow of information on a global scale and important legal and security considerations. They also reflect on important developments in the sector around information security, requiring learners to consider how data should be protected and the response of the IT sector to emerging threats such as cyber terrorism.

The optional units include Project Management, Product Development, Systems Analysis and Design and the Internet of Everything. All units assist in the development of transferable skills such as communication and problem solving. The optional units encourage the development of time management, research and analytical skills, as well as emphasising the need for good written and verbal communication skills.

Students will study the mandatory units 1 (Fundamentals of IT), 2 (Global Information) and 4 (Computer

Networks) in the first year, with all units being externally assessed. In the second year, students will study optional units as described above.

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-4** grades at GCSE.

## Links to other subjects and careers

This qualification opens the door to a range of careers including roles within:

This qualification opens the door to a range of careers including roles within:

- The game design industry
- Web and animation development
- Network management
- Network security
- Digital forensics
- Mobile app development

# Mathematics

A Level

Edexcel Syllabus number: 9MA0

## Introduction

Core mathematics is the study of: algebraic techniques, functions, sequences and series, exponential and logarithms, trigonometry, co-ordinate geometry, differentiation, integration, numerical methods, vectors and proof. Students will use these skills and techniques to solve problems in core mathematics and statistics and mechanics. Statistics is the analysis of data graphically and calculating statistical measures. The theory of probability is used to set up mathematical models of random experiments. Students will then compare sets of observations, draw conclusions and make predictions about future events. An important aspect of statistics is measuring the significance of such conclusions and predictions. In mechanics, students will set up simple models of practical situations in order to study the action of forces on bodies.

## Course content

This qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. The A Level qualification builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding set out in the GCSE subject content for Mathematics. A Level Mathematics has 100% prescribed content, with pure and applied in a 2:1 ratio. Mechanics and Statistics are part of the compulsory content. The A Level Mathematics qualification follows a three-paper model, with calculator usage allowed in all papers. Paper 1 - Pure Mathematics 1 (2 hours) Paper 2 - Pure Mathematics 2 (2 hours) Paper 3 - Statistics and Mechanics (2 hours) In the second year, students study a further two core mathematics units and one application unit of statistics and mechanics. Each unit is assessed by examination at the end of two year course.

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-4** grades at GCSE including a **6** grade in mathematics.

### Links to other subjects and careers

The study of mathematics links well with other subjects such as the sciences and IT. Career options include roles within:

- Finance
- Economics
- Communication
- Transportation
- Engineering
- Architecture
- Biomedical science
- Physics
- Education
- Medicine
- Dentistry

// God used beautiful mathematics to create the world. //

PAUL DIRAC

# Media Studies

A Level

Eduqas Syllabus number: 603/1149/2

## Introduction

Studying the mass media (from traditional forms such as film, television, advertising or news to more recent ones such as online and social media) allows students to explore issues that are of the utmost importance in our modern, increasingly digitised society. Our course offers students the opportunity to develop their practical skills as well as their understanding of the theoretical processes that underpin media industries and texts.

## Course content

### Component 1: Media products, industries & audiences

Students investigate media industries and texts, focusing on the codes and conventions of a range of genres. Analysing how meaning and representation is constructed through the use of media language is a key aspect of this component; students also explore the concept of audience, discovering how consumers are targeted by media companies and how their responses may depend on media contexts. Written exam: **2 hour 15 minutes 35%** of A level

### Component 2: Media forms & products in depth

This component allows students to study three media forms in more detail: television, magazines and online media. Through the exploration of set texts (including **Life on Mars**, **Vogue** and **Zoella**), they develop a profound understanding of how media industries, their conventions and audiences, develop and change over time. Written exam: **2 hours and 30 minutes 35%** of A level

### Component 3: Cross-media production

In order to create their own media production in response to a specific brief set by the exam board, students will need to hone their research and practical skills. They will use a range of technology such as Photoshop to create two forms of professional media texts which suit audience and genre. Texts produced may include magazine covers, posters advertising films, or even music videos. **30%** of A level

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-4** grades at GCSE including a **4** in English.

### Links to other subjects and careers

Careers linked to media studies include:

- Journalism
- Web design
- Advertising
- Script writing
- Radio and audio work
- Digital media
- Media production
- Editing and directing



# Physics

A Level

Syllabus number: Physics 7408

## Introduction

Physicists explore the fundamental nature of almost everything we know of. They probe the furthest reaches of the earth to study the smallest pieces of matter. Join them to enter a world deep beneath the surface of normal human experience.

## Topics covered

A-level Physics lasts two years, with exams at the end of the second year. The table below shows the topics covered in each year.

## Exams

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practicals will be assessed. There are three exams at the end of the two years for A-level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A-level Physics are based on what you learned in your practicals.

First year of A-level	Second year of A-level
Measurements and their errors	Further mechanics and thermal physics
Particles and radiation	Fields
Waves Mechanics and energy	Nuclear physics
Electricity	And one more optional topic

## Practicals

Physics, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- investigating interference and diffraction of laser light
- measuring acceleration due to gravity
- investigating systems that oscillate
- investigation of the links between temperature, volume and pressure
- safe use of ionising radiation
- investigating magnetic fields.

These practicals will give you the skills and confidence needed to investigate the way things behave and work. It will also ensure that if you choose to study a Physics-based subject at university, you'll have the practical skills needed to carry out successful experiments in your degree.

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-4** grades at GCSE including a **6** grade in Combined Science. Students will also need a **5** grade in Maths.

## Possible career options

Studying A-level Physics offers an infinite number of amazing career opportunities including:

- Geophysicist/field seismologist
- Healthcare scientist, medical physics
- Higher education lecturer
- Radiation protection practitioner
- Research scientist (physical sciences)
- Scientific laboratory technician
- Secondary school teacher
- Meteorologist
- Structural engineer
- Acoustic engineer
- Product/process development scientist
- Systems developer
- Technical author.

You can also move into engineering, astrophysics, chemical physics, nanotechnology, renewable energy and more, the opportunities are endless.

# Politics

A Level

Edexcel Syllabus number: 600/4781/0

## Introduction

Politics is a highly respected A Level amongst both universities and employers. Students taking the course will benefit from the skills acquired; developing an enquiring mind whilst exploring new concepts and challenging old ideas. Students will develop an ability to communicate their own ideas eloquently and effectively, as well as the ability to argue a coherent case. This exciting course will appeal to students who enjoy debating and challenging ideas which affect their everyday lives now and in the future.

## Course content

The areas studied are:

- Governing the UK - Executive, legislative & judicial functions
- People and politics - Electoral systems & engagement
  - Ideological traditions:
  - Conservatism
  - Socialism
  - Anarchism
  - Nationalism
  - Feminism
- Comparative politics:
  - Government and politics of the USA
  - Comparing the UK and US political systems

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-4** grades at GCSE including a **4** grade in English.

## Links to other subjects and careers

Government & politics links well with:

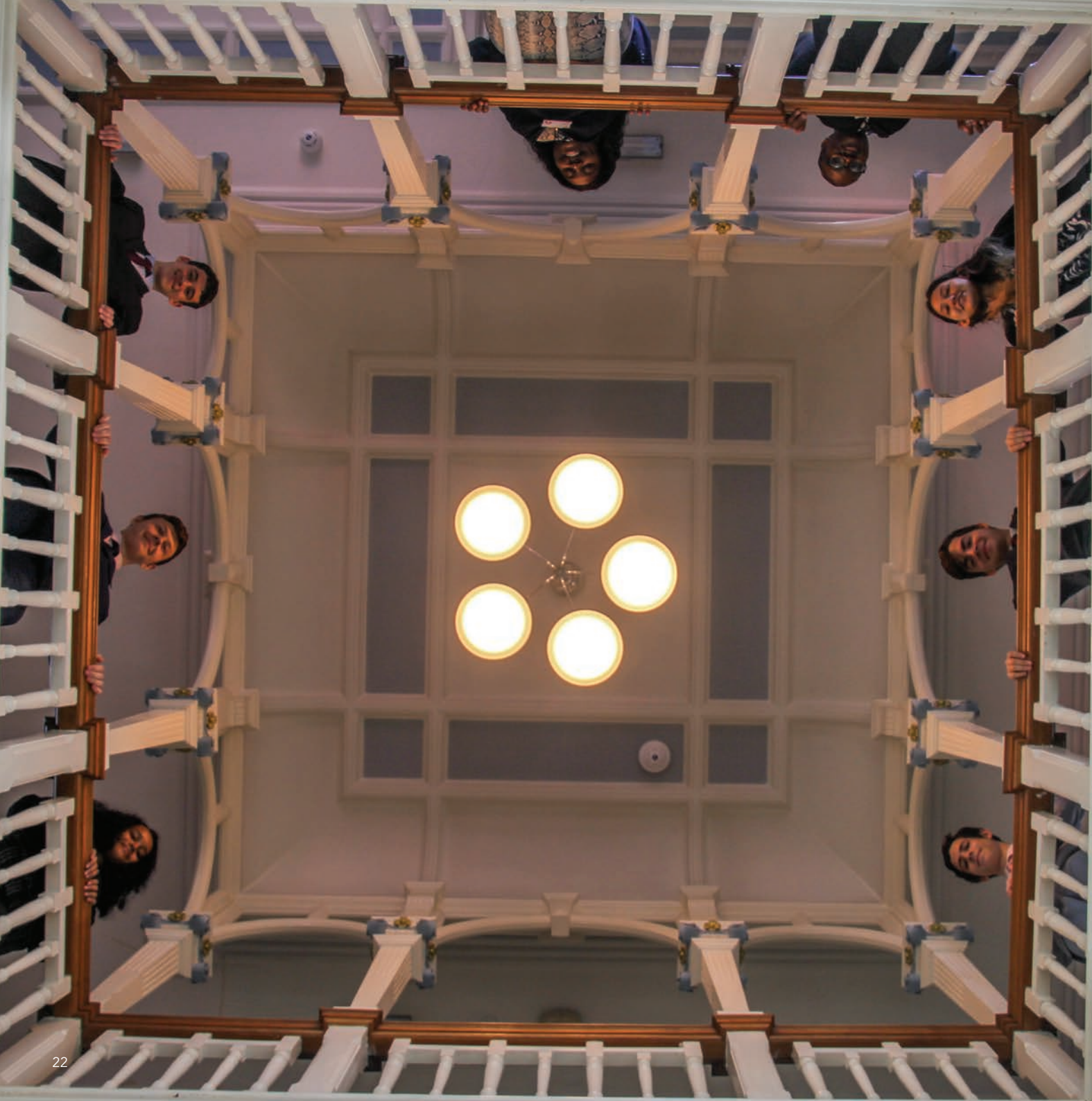
- History
- English
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Foreign languages
- Philosophy

There are numerous careers that require the skills that the study of politics develops. These include:

- Law
- Business
- Accountancy
- Politics
- Archaeology
- Diplomatic service
- Teaching
- Journalism

// The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter. //

WINSTON CHURCHILL



# Psychology

A Level

AQA Syllabus number: 7182

## Introduction

Psychology is the scientific study of human mind and behaviour: how we think, feel, act and interact individually and in groups. Psychology is concerned with all aspects of behaviour and with the thoughts, feelings and motivations underlying that behaviour. It is both a thriving academic discipline and a vital professional practice. We are all interested in what makes people tick and how this understanding can help us solve major problems in society. Psychology is a science and psychologists study human behaviour by observing, measuring and testing, then arriving at conclusions that are rooted in sound scientific methodology. Their conclusions can make a real difference to human lives.

## Course content

### A-Level - Paper 1 (33.3% of A-Level)

#### Introductory Topics in Psychology

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

### A-Level - Paper 2 (33.3% of A-Level)

- Psychology in Context
- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

### A-Level - Paper 3 (33.3% of A-Level)

#### Issues and Options in Psychology.

##### One from each of the following:

- Relationships, gender, cognition and development
- Schizophrenia, eating behaviour, stress
- Aggression, forensic psychology, addiction

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-4** at GCSE including **5** in English, 4 in maths and 4 in science.

## Links to other subjects and careers

Psychology is a helpful subject for many possible careers and courses in Higher Education. Whilst it is relevant for careers/courses in the 'caring professions' such as clinical psychology or social work, it is also relevant to many more including journalism, business, teaching, scientific and social research, counselling and criminology. It links well with other humanities subjects as well as the sciences.



# Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)

A Level

OCR Syllabus number: H573

## Introduction

A Level Religious Studies provides the opportunity for students to gain a deeper understanding of the big questions of human reasoning and religious worship.

Students will engage in topical issues and acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of major issues that are relevant to learners in the 21st century. Students are involved in engaging with and responding critically to a wealth of philosophical, ethical and religious concepts, equipping them with analytical skills readily transferable to other subjects.

## Course content

Students will study 3 components: philosophy of religion, religion and ethics and development in religious thought based on in-depth study of Christianity.

In the first year, Philosophy of Religion learners will study ancient Greek school of thought including Plato and Aristotle, debate the meaning of religious language, as well as philosophical issues and questions

raised by religion and belief. These include arguments regarding the existence or non-existence of God, the nature and influence of religious experience and the problems of evil and suffering. Religion and ethics is characterised by the study of ethical theories like Kant, Utilitarianism and Natural Moral Law, exploration of key concepts like meta-ethics and conscience and the applying these to euthanasia and business. Developments in religious thought provides an opportunity for the systematic study of one religious tradition covering a broad range of issues including secularism, gender and liberation theology.

In the second year of the course, students will continue to study aspects of the 3 components. In philosophy of religion, learners will study the nature of God and issues in religious language. In religion and ethics, students will study ethical language and thought, the idea of conscience and sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs. Developments in

religious thought will include analysis of social and historical developments in theology and religious thought and key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

## Entry requirements

Minimum **5-9** grades at GCSE including a **5** grade in religious education and a **4** grade in English.

## Links to other subjects and careers

The study of philosophy and ethics is universally desirable due to the skills that it cultivates. Specific links can be made to English, history, sociology and psychology. Students can go into careers in law, politics, medicine, business, marketing, crime prevention, social work and education.

# Sociology

A Level

AQA Syllabus number: (A Level 7192)

## Introduction

Sociology offers a distinct and highly informative perspective on human behaviour, offering an insight into the interactions between people and posing challenging social and moral questions. It is a vast discipline that allows students to explore anything from celebrity culture to mass media and violence. The methods of study developed by sociologists will equip students with a broad base of knowledge and skills that will differentiate them in the market place. Students will learn methods used by sociologists in research and analyse evidence to formulate new ideas and concepts.

## Course content

### A Level – Sociology Paper 1 – Education with Methods

#### Content

- Education Methods in Context

#### Assessment

- <sup>2</sup> hour written exam **80** marks **33.3%** of A Level

#### Questions

- **3** compulsory sections all requiring written answers

### A Level Sociology Paper 2 – Topics in Sociology

#### Content

- Families and Households and Beliefs in Society

#### Assessment

- **2** hour written exam **80** marks **33.3%** of A level

#### Questions

- **2** sections each offering a choice of **4** topics. Students answer **1** topic from each Section

### A Level Sociology Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

#### Content

- Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods

#### Assessment

- **2** hour written exam **80** marks **33.3%** of A Level

#### Questions

- **2** compulsory sections all requiring written answers

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-4** grades at GCSE including a **4** grade in English

## Links to other subjects and careers

Sociology can lead to careers in law, education, social work, counselling, research, policy analysis, politics and human resources. Sociologists can enter the corporate world as well as not for profit organisations and government.

# Public Services

BTEC Level 1 / 2 First Award

Edexcel Syllabus number: 601/0926/9

## Introduction

This course is designed to improve the students’ knowledge and understanding of the public service sector. Students will learn about the key public service providers, including emergency services, armed forces and local authorities and how they support local and national communities. Students will have the opportunity to take part in practical activities that will enable them to develop a range of transferable skills needed to enter employment within a wide range of junior job roles across the public sector.

## Course content

This is a 75% coursework-based course.

### Students study the following units:

- Unit 1 The Role and Work of the Public Services (externally assessed)
- Unit 2 Working Skills in the Public Service Sector
- Unit 3 Employment in the Public Services
- Unit 4 Public Services and Community Protection

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-1** grades at GCSE.

## Links to other subjects and careers

The study of Public Services has many other subject links such as:

- Business
- Health and Social Care
- Citizenship
- Sport

Successful completion of this course will allow students to move to level 3 qualifications in their next year of study.

# Health and Social Care

BTEC Level 2

Edexcel Syllabus number: 600/4782/3

## Introduction

This course is a great introduction to the world of health and social care. Throughout this course there are opportunities to develop personal, learning and thinking skills. You will become an independent enquirer and a creative thinker. ICT functional skills will be developed by using ICT systems to research and produce evidence for your assessment activities. You will be set assignments to complete throughout the course. They may take the form of projects where you research, produce presentations and complete written work. You will also undertake practical activities and analyse case studies.

## Course content

This course is assessed by 75% coursework and 25% exam.

### Students study the following units:

- Unit 1 Introducing the Hospitality
- Unit 2 Human Life Span Development (Exam)
- Unit 3 Care values for Health and Social Care
- Unit 6 Communication for Health and Social care

## Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-1** grades at GCSE.

## Links to other subjects and careers

Health and social care level 2 links well to science and sport studies. This course is for anyone who wishes to go on into a health care or social care profession or to study further at level 3 at our sixth form. Students have gone on to study health and social care at university, nursing, midwifery etc. Successful completion of this course will allow students to move to level 3 qualifications in their next year of study.

// There are no secrets to success.  
It is the result of preparation, hard  
work, and learning from failure. //

COLIN POWELL

// To keep the body in good health is a  
duty... otherwise we shall not be able  
to keep our mind strong and clear. //

BUDDAH





# Applied Science

## BTEC Level 2

Pearson Qualification number (QN): 600/4787/2

### Introduction

The BTEC qualifications in this specification have been developed in the science sector to:

- Give learners the opportunity to acquire technical and employability skills, knowledge and understanding which are transferable and will enable individuals to meet changing circumstances, whether these arise from a shift in their own status or employment, or general changes in applied science practice, provision or environment
- Provide education and training for science employees to develop their underpinning knowledge and scientific skills – give learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

### Course content

The BTEC First Principles of Applied Science Level 2 has 120 guided learning hours. It consists of four mandatory units. One out of the four units are externally assessed and accounts for 25% of the final grade.

- Unit 1: Principles of Science (externally assessed)
- Unit 2: Chemistry and Our Earth (internally assessed)
- Unit 3: Energy and Our Universe (internally assessed)
- Unit 4: Biology and Our Environment (internally assessed)

### Entry requirements

Minimum of **5 9-1** grades at GCSE.

### Links to other subjects and careers

Having the BTEC First Principles of Applied Science Level 2 can open a world of possible scientific careers or further study routes such as the BTEC Level 3 Applied Science.

Possible career choices could include:

- Biological testing
- Biotechnology
- Independent research
- Food industry jobs
- Nutrition
- Nurse
- Zoo keeper
- Animal care
- Veterinary nurse
- Scientist – And many

# St John Fisher Sixth Form

Entry Requirements Per Subject

## Entry for Level 2

Subjects require a minimum of **5**  
GCSE Grades **9-1** from **5** subjects

## Entry for Level 3

Subjects require a minimum of **5**  
GCSE Grades **9-4** from **5** subjects

Below are subjects with specific entry requirements.

SUBJECT	ART	MATHS	ENGLISH	SCIENCE	PRODUCT DESIGN	GEOGRAPHY	RE
LEVEL 3 COURSES							
BTEC Applied Science				4			
A Level Biology				6			
A Level Art and Design	4						
A Level Chemistry		5		6			
A Level Physics		5		6			
A Level Government and Politics			4				
A Level English Literature			5				
A Level History			4				
A Level Mathematics		6					
A Level Media Studies			4				
A Level Religious studies			4				5
A Level Psychology		4	5	4			
A Level Sociology			4				
BTEC Health and Social Care			3				
BTEC Business Studies			3				
BTEC Engineering		4			4		

## We offer

**A welcoming and smooth transition from Key Stage 4 and a challenging learning environment.**

- A range of academic and vocational courses at levels 2 and 3 to cater for all students.
- Excellent individual academic and pastoral support.
- A dedicated team of staff to guide you through UCAS, university choice and career options. We also offer a work experience placement in Year 12.
- An enrichment programme designed specifically to develop your skills in leadership, working in teams both within the school and supporting pupils in primary schools, developing your subject specific knowledge for either university or employment.
- An exciting future supporting you to make your dreams a reality.

// Leaders in the sixth form have worked hard to raise the aspirations of students. High quality careers advice, visits to universities and inspirational visiting speakers have resulted in higher numbers of students securing university places. //

**OFSTED 2019**

# Introducing additional courses

## Higher Education Preparation

As part of the enrichment time, students participate in programmes to prepare them for Higher Education. These include guidance on student finance, UCAS application advice and providing opportunities for students to seek guidance and advice from young people who are currently studying at university. This is in addition to guidance provided by Medway Youth Trust and staff at the school.

## Core RE

The Religious Studies course is a programme that is aimed at supporting students’ spiritual and ethical development in a changing world. Alongside collective worship and extracurricular activities offered by the school, this programme is aimed at developing the whole student and enabling them to see how their studies come together to answer the bigger questions of life. The course develops skills such as questioning, presentation, analysis and reflection, skills that apply to all other subjects and will prepare students for the next stage of their academic or working life.

## Oxbridge Programme

Students averaging a grade 6 or higher across all their GCSE subjects will be invited to apply for this programme, which aims to prepare them for applying to Oxbridge or another elite Russell Group university. Students accepted onto the programme will be offered subject-specific support, extracurricular activities and mentoring to ensure that they are prepared for the academic challenges of studying at a top university.

## Medics Programme

Students who are aspiring to enter the medical field after leaving SJF will be invited to apply for this programme, which aims to prepare them for the demanding application process. Students accepted onto the programme will be offered a personalised programme of support delivered by a teacher who is also a qualified doctor, meaning that they are prepared for the challenges of their future programme of study.

## Enrichment

Alongside these additional courses, we offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities for all students, ranging from trips out of school to guest speakers coming in, as well as opportunities to mentor younger students.

## Frequently asked questions about A-Levels:

**Q: Must I choose only subjects that I will be studying at university?**

**A.** If you are going to study a specific subject like medicine or accountancy then it is important that you choose subjects that are listed as essential criteria in the university brochure. However, if you are considering a subject that has no specific subject criteria, the UCAS points score totalled from your A-Level results is the primary target.

**Q. When will I take my examinations?**

**A.** You will take your A Level examinations at the end of Year 13.

## What are Level 2 Qualifications?

Level 2 programmes of study are a one year course and equate to 3 GCSE equivalent grades. In addition to our range of successful BTEC courses. Students study GCSE English and Mathematics. Many of these BTEC courses will be offered at level 2 (GCSE Level) and level 3 (post-16) to ensure that students access the right courses at the appropriate level. This also offers the potential for students on level 2 courses to work towards a level 3 course of your choice the following year if a merit at level 2 is achieved.

## What Happens Next

Once you have a good idea of the course and subjects you are interested in, you should complete the St John Fisher Application Form through the Sixth Form area on the school website:

**www.stjohnfisher.school**

Alternatively you can ring the school office on **01634 543 123** or email **office@stjohnfisher.school** and we will send you an application form.

Current St John Fisher students and all external applicants should complete their applications by the dates listed at the back of this pack. You will then be called for interview. Internal candidates will be interviewed during the school day. External candidates will be interviewed on a first come, first served basis. Applicants will receive confirmation of their conditional place after interview.

Students accepting a place at St John Fisher are expected to attend an enrolment day to confirm their place. This will take place in late August after GCSE results have been released and you will be contacted to confirm your time to attend.

We look forward to receiving your application. If you have any further questions regarding opportunities at St John Fisher, please do not hesitate to contact the sixth form team or the school.



# Our Facilities

St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School is moving to a purpose-built, single-site school on City Way during the 2022-23 academic year.

St. John Fisher has been transformed in recent years. Both our results and our Ofsted rating have improved, and the school has become increasingly popular. The new City Way site will help us build on these successes in the years to come, providing the outstanding facilities that our students, staff and community deserve.

Situated at the top of the hill between Chatham and Rochester, with amazing views looking out across the River Medway, the new build offers a wide range of outstanding facilities in addition to standard teaching rooms, including multi use games area (MUGA) pitches, a football pitch, a dance studio, gym, and kiln room. State-of-the-art IT facilities are available throughout the build, while a purpose-built library space looks out over our beautiful courtyard, providing an inspiring place for independent study. Our sixth form curriculum has been redesigned to make the most of these extensive facilities, and we look forward to offering a broader range of Level 3 subjects, including Engineering, in the future.

A walkthrough of the design is available to view on our website at [www.stjohnfisher.school/new-build](http://www.stjohnfisher.school/new-build).

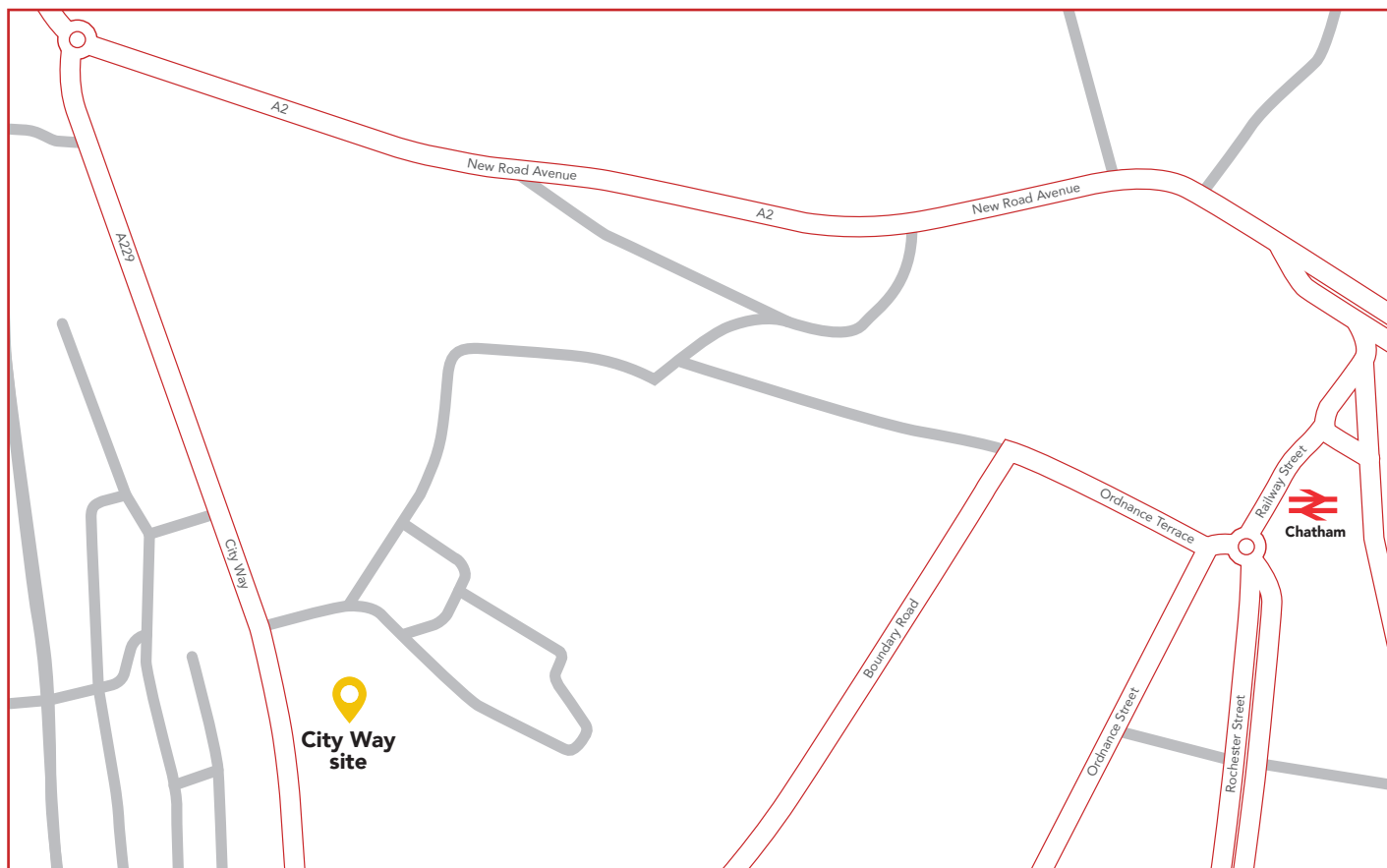


**ST. JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC  
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL**  
City Way, Chatham

Please use the intercom as you drive in to speak to a receptionist and ask for the barrier to be lifted.

Visitor car parking is clearly signposted close to the front of the school.

For information about booking a tour, please visit  
**<http://stjohnfisher.school/home/school-information/admissions/>**.



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