



thornleigh  
**sixth** form

# Thornleigh Sixth Form Detailed Course Guide

See what Thornleigh Sixth Form has to offer you

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The minimum entry requirements for each course are 5 GCSE's at grade 4 or above.

Please see individual subjects for additional entry requirements.

Courses will run subject to student numbers.





# Introduction

We are delighted to introduce you to Thornleigh Sixth Form.

Building on our success at KS4, our Sixth Form can offer you the chance to be fully prepared for the next step in your personal development, whether that is towards university, an apprenticeship or the world of work.

Our identity as a Catholic Sixth Form means that you will be welcomed into a community where the student is at the centre of everything that we do. We welcome students of all faiths.

You will be provided with a purposeful, friendly and highly supportive learning environment in which to grow academically, personally and socially. Indeed, Ofsted Inspectors said that teachers have high expectations of students' attitudes to learning in the Sixth Form (Nov 2019) and we pride ourselves on the positive relationships that develop and our strong community cohesion.

We offer a good range of A Levels and BTEC courses that build on your previous successes, whilst preparing you for the increasingly competitive university and job markets.

Teachers are experts in their subjects and you will be challenged to be creative, innovative and leading decision makers; but more than this you will be given the chance to build the transferable skills that will make you stand out from the crowd in whatever you choose to do.

This booklet should give you a flavour of Thornleigh Sixth Form but if you require more detailed information about our courses then please contact us directly or visit the Sixth Form area of the Thornleigh website.

We believe that we can offer you the chance to achieve your full potential and we look forward to welcoming you to Thornleigh Sixth Form.



The Sixth Form Team





Teachers have high expectations of students' attitudes to learning in the Sixth Form.

Ofsted 2019



# A Level Art

## Additional entry requirements:

GCSE Art at minimum grade 5.

## Why study Art at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

Fine Art, Graphic Communication and Photography allow the opportunity to experience a full and creative range of subjects.

The exam board for Fine Art, Photography and Graphics is AQA.

Each of these qualifications follows the same format and uses the same assessment objectives, yet they can be taken as separate qualifications.

## Course Description

During Year 12 students will be given a variety of starting points all designed to support them in the creation of their final portfolio entitled component 1, which makes up 60% of the students' final grade.

Component 2- the externally set assignment, is 15 hours of exam time towards the end of Year 13.

Throughout the course your work will be assessed on the following areas:

- Your ability to gather and respond to research, taking inspiration from a variety of starting points
- Your observations, photographs, drawings and a well presented sketchbook or folder
- The development of your work, through a series of ideas and development pieces
- All of this work should allow you to create a final response which makes connections to the work of others, demonstrates refinement of techniques and ideas and most importantly, should showcase your talent

## What support will I receive?

A range of support is available to you within the department. You will be assessed regularly against the exam criteria and always offered constructive criticism.

All staff within the department pride themselves on being quick to offer additional support if needed. The department is well resourced and caters for individual pieces of work.





# A Level Biology

## Additional entry requirements:

A minimum of grade 7:7 in GCSE Combined Science. You will also be required to have a grade 6 in GCSE Maths. Biology should not be chosen as the only science option.

## Why study Biology at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

Biological research spans an almost infinite spectrum of studies from molecules to landscapes. Throughout this course you will be given the opportunity to explore the vast and diverse world of living organisms. Have you ever wondered about their origin and how they have evolved?

Biology has expanded enormously within the last four decades. Here at Thornleigh Sixth Form we reveal a wealth of knowledge about ourselves and the incredible variety of organisms that inhabit our planet.

## Course Description

Within the course you will be able to cover the following topics and areas:

- Basic biochemistry and cell organisation
- Biodiversity and physiology of body systems
- Energy transfers and how organisms respond to change
- Environment and ecosystems, genetics and gene expression

You will receive a separate grade for your practical skills.

## What support will I receive?

You will receive regular feedback on assessments. There will be many opportunities to practise exam technique and be given constructive feedback. The staff in the department are committed to ensuring that you fulfil your potential. Practical work forms a significant proportion of the A Level Biology units and students will gain competency in the use of a variety of specialist equipment and in experimental techniques.



# A Level Business

## Additional entry requirements:

A minimum grade 5 in GCSE Maths.

## Why take Business at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

The A Level Business course at Thornleigh Sixth Form helps with preparation for adult life. We all deal with business every day. We all need to budget and plan and we are all subjected to daily advertising and marketing activities.

A Level Business is an academic subject and will provide you with a range of skills that will be of use to future employers. The course will enable you to gain transferable skills including: carrying out calculations, interpreting and analysing data, applying knowledge to unfamiliar situations, developing arguments and making judgements and decisions.

## Course Description

Over the two year course you will study a variety of topics including:

- Meeting customer needs
- Marketing mix and strategy
- Managing people
- Entrepreneurs and leaders
- Financial planning
- Resource management
- Business growth
- Managing change
- Globalisation

## What support will I receive?

The department will provide a range of support. You will be assessed throughout the course against exam criteria and provided with constructive feedback to help you improve.

Departmental staff are available for individual consultation throughout the day. As the exams approach, teachers will provide focussed revision classes to help with your preparation.

A Level Business will provide you with a range of skills that will be of use to future employers.





# A Level Chemistry

## Additional entry requirements:

A minimum of grade 7:7 in GCSE Combined Science. You will also be required to have a grade 6 in GCSE Maths. Chemistry should not be chosen as the only science option.

## Why take Chemistry at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

Chemistry provides the key to learning more about the fascinating and varied world of the elements.

Why is copper sulphate blue? Why does ice float on water?

This course will enable you to delve into the atomic structure of each and every substance on our planet.

You'll be able to explore chemical reactions at advanced levels and become familiar with the unusual characteristics of the elements.

## Course Description

Within the course you will be able to cover the following topics and areas:

- Physical Chemistry – atomic structure, bonding, energetics, kinetics, redox
- Inorganic Chemistry – periodicity, reactions of groups 2 and 7, transition metal chemistry, inorganic compounds in aqueous chemistry
- Organic Chemistry – an introduction to organic chemistry, carbonyl chemistry, polymers, nitrogen containing compounds, aromatic chemistry, structure determination and analytical techniques, synthesis and analysis

You will receive a separate grade for your practical skills throughout the course.

## What support will I receive?

You will be regularly assessed and receive constructive feedback. The staff in the department are committed to ensuring that you fulfil your potential and will provide extra support sessions weekly.



# A Level Computer Science

## Additional entry requirements:

A minimum grade 5 in GCSE Maths. A Computer Science GCSE at grade 5 minimum is desirable.

## Why study Computer Science at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

In the digital age it is hard to think of any industries that Computer Science has not influenced. The number of jobs and careers in Computer Science are growing exponentially and it is estimated that there are currently 600,000 technical vacancies currently in the UK; predicted to rise to 1 million by 2020.

Computer Science A-Level provides students with outstanding career prospects and develops higher level problem solving skills. Students study the design, development and analysis of software and hardware used to solve problems in a variety of business, scientific and social contexts.

It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism.

## Course Description

In A level Computer Science, students learn the principles of computation and algorithms, computer programming, machine data representation, computer systems (hardware and software), computer organisation and architecture, communications and networking, databases and the consequences of using computing. Students will learn how a computer functions and how to design their own programs to utilise the power of computers. It is both analytical and creative, and the best computer scientists can combine the two.

You will sit two exams in addition to a non-exam assessment:

- Computer Systems (2h 30m) – 40%
- Algorithms and Programming (2h 30m) – 40%
- Programming Project – 20%

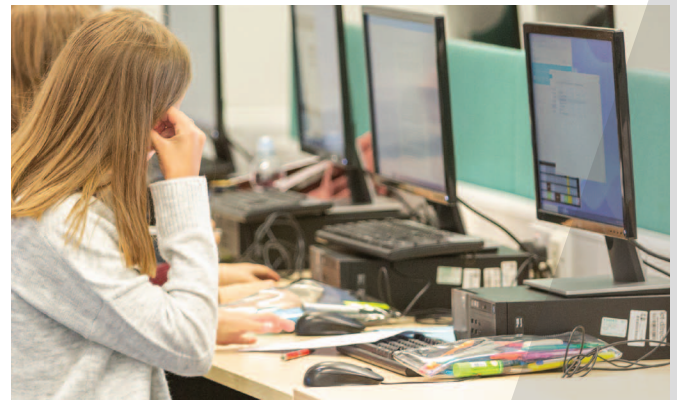
The Programming Project is a task of your own choosing, and you will analyse, design, develop and evaluate a solution from start to finish over an extended period of time. This could take the form of a game, simulator, desktop software or mobile app. The project can be tailored to your specific interests to help you on a chosen career path.

## What support will I receive?

All resources will be provided for students and intervention sessions can be accessed outside of the school day, online and during your independent study time. For those students who have previously not studied Computer Science, guidance will be given to complete extended programming work before the course commences.

## Where will this lead me?

Engineering, Health Care, Business, Physics or Maths related subjects.





# A Level Economics

## Additional entry requirements:

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Maths would be desirable.

## Why study Economics at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

Economics is an extremely versatile course that can be applied to every industry and every career path. When you read the newspapers or watch television you are presented with economic issues. These include issues such as motorway and urban congestion, NHS waiting lists, tropical rainforest destruction, allocation of world cup tickets the search for new energy sources and global economic problems.

## Course Description

Micro Economics - Market Failure, Business Behaviour and Labour Markets

Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of microeconomic models. Topics of study include:

- Economic methodology and the economic problem
- Competitive and concentrated markets

- The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets

Macro Economics – The UK and Global Economy  
Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of macroeconomic principles and will be given the opportunity to explore historical and current economic behaviour. Topics of study include:

- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- How the macro economy works
- Economic performance
- Macroeconomic policy

## What support will I receive?

The department will provide a range of support. You will be assessed throughout the course against exam criteria and provided with constructive feedback to help you improve. Departmental staff are available for individual consultation throughout the day. As the exams approach, teachers will provide focussed revision classes to help with your preparation.

Economics is an extremely versatile course that can be applied to every industry.



# A Level English Language

## Additional entry requirements:

A minimum grade 6 in GCSE English Language.

## Why study English Language at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

It's time to look at our language in a way you never thought possible. Prepare to become linguistic scientists, railroading through the language we use in a new and more creative way.

Examine how gender and technology impacts on meaning and representation. Scrutinize theoretic opinion on the development of language and predict how we might expect our language to change even further in our lifetime.

## Course Description

English Language is one of the most varied courses you can select to study at A Level. Areas of study include:

Language, The Individual and Society

- Examining how texts can change depending on genre, time and space, and audience.

Child Language Development from 0-11

- Evaluate and explore the development of a child's speech and language.

Language Diversity and Change

- Get stuck into debates and social attitudes about our good old mother tongue.

Language Investigation Coursework

- You'll be given the opportunity to select an area of personal linguistic interest and investigate the impact on language development.

Each half term you will be given a formal assessment piece and a grade will be recorded in order to track your progress.

## What support will I receive?

We will endeavour to make your time with us as productive and successful as we can. You can expect quality written feedback on assignments, giving clear and specific guidance on your next learning step towards your target grade. Need additional support? Just ask! Need a last push revision class? You'll have it. We pride ourselves on being there for you.



# A Level English Literature

## Additional entry requirements:

A minimum grade 6 in GCSE English Literature.

## Why study English Literature at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

English Literature at Thornleigh Salesian College will explore a variety of themes that are paramount to the development of literary analysis. This course focuses on how classic and modern literature reflects the history of human behaviour.

You will be given the opportunity to investigate a huge range of literary icons and examine their impact on the vast and varied world of literature.

## Course Description

English Literature is one of the most rewarding courses you can select to study at A Level. The material that you will examine offers a wide range of skills and techniques:

- Poetry pre and post 1900. This component encourages you to develop your ability to read widely and engage critically with a range of poetry from different times whilst developing further your techniques of analysis and evaluation.

- Drama. You will study a play by Shakespeare, and also make connections between one pre 1900 play and one post 1900 play. An example of this is John Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* and Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*.
- Unseen texts. This component gives you the opportunity to synthesise and reflect upon the knowledge you have gained from the course as a whole and to apply your skills of literary analysis to the examination of unseen prose and unseen poetry texts.
- Coursework component. You will take a theme of personal interest and explore it across personally chosen texts.

Each half term you will be given a formal assessment piece and a grade will be recorded in order to track your progress.

## What support will I receive?

You will be given detailed written and oral feedback, as well as staff being there in an advisory capacity for any queries regarding the more independent aspects of the course.





# A Level Further Mathematics

## Additional entry requirements:

Grade 8 minimum in GCSE Maths.

## Why take Further Maths at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

Further Mathematics is ideal for those students who wish to pursue a career in a purely mathematical profession or intend to study Mathematics at university. It is also an opportunity to further develop and extend students who have a talent or flair for this subject.

## Course Description

In Further Maths you will study some of the following topics:

- Matrices and Linear Spaces
- Polar Coordinates
- Polynomials and Rational Functions
- Complex Numbers
- Differential Equations
- Vectors
- Decision Maths

Further Maths enables the development of analytical skills as well as application of mathematical concepts.

## What support will I receive?

Further Mathematics at Year 1 and Year 2 is delivered by specialist Mathematics teachers who have a wealth of

experience and expertise. The Mathematics Department will provide a range of support throughout Year 1 and Year 2 modules such as:

- Maths clinics for one evening each week. Students should attend this if they have a specific question or topic they need help with.
- Additional sessions at lunchtime, during non contact periods and after College for revision and help prior to the exams.
- Topic assignments at the end of each unit which are marked with quality written feedback to give the students a measure of progress.
- Access to an online tutoring package to support your studies.



# A Level Geography

## Additional entry requirements:

A minimum grade 5 in GCSE Geography is desirable.

## Why study Geography at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

“Geography is one of those richly comprehensive subjects, whose relevance is all around us... More than ever we need the geographer’s skills and foresight to help us learn about our planet - how we use it and how we abuse it.” Michael Palin

The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years than ever before. Geography will explain why, and will prepare you for these changes.

The transferable skills that Geography develops are an asset in the world of work today. Geography is all about the future and encourages flexible thinking.

## Course Description

### Physical Geography

- Water and Carbon Cycles
- Water Cycle
- The Carbon Cycle
- Glacial Landscapes
- Human impacts on cold environments

### Human Geography

- The Geography of places
- Population change
- Worldwide Urbanisation
- How urban areas influence climate

### Environmental Geography

- The theory of Plate Tectonics
- Volcanic and Seismic hazards
- Global storm events
- Multi hazard areas

Fieldwork Skills and Fieldwork - Applied Geography skills including:

- Investigative
- Graphical
- Cartographic and Statistical

You will receive a separate grade for your Geography Fieldwork Investigation.

## What support will I receive?

The course is taught by teachers who mark external examinations, developing their knowledge and experience of the course requirements. Drop-in sessions are organised at lunchtimes for any additional support.

Subject teachers also put on extra revision sessions during the holidays prior to exam time.



# A Level Graphic Communication

## Additional entry requirements:

Experience of using Photoshop is desirable.

## Why take Graphic Communication at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

Graphic Communication is highly creative and practical. Throughout the course students will explore a variety of graphic media, techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies. They will explore the important role that graphic communication plays in advertising and product design. They will also have the opportunity to explore their creative talents in a range of different graphic techniques.

## Course Description

Students are required to select their own area of interest. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas. Their studies will include work in one or more of the following subject areas:

- Illustration
- Advertising
- Packaging Design
- Animation
- Digital Media
- Web Design
- Photography

During the first year of this course you will be given a variety of starting points, looking at the work of iconic graphics designers, learning essential digital skills and developing your own design ideas.

### Year 13

The first unit is set by the centre and is steered towards the individual's personal interests and ability. There is a written element at this stage. The second unit is set by the exam board and is restricted in time.

## What support will I receive?

You will be assessed regularly against the exam criteria and always offered constructive criticism. All staff within the department pride themselves on being quick to offer additional support if needed. The department is well resourced and tries to cater for individual pieces of work.





# A Level History

## Additional entry requirements:

A grade 5 in GCSE History would be desirable.

## Why study History at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

History is a subject that helps you to understand who you are and where you come from. It is a challenging, but very rewarding A Level. Decisions that have been made throughout history affect the world in which we live today. Studying History will enable you to develop key skills that are vital to any workplace, or further education. The coursework unit is excellent preparation for the dissertations you will be expected to produce in most degree subjects. The essays you write will enhance your communication and evaluate skills.

## Course Description

The History specification is made up of four parts. In Year 12 students will study Britain transformed 1918-97. In this unit students will investigate how Britain changed in the last century. This will cover themes such as changes in how people spent their leisure time, changes in society and changes in politics (such as Thatcher as Prime Minister).

Studying History will enable you to develop key skills that are vital to any workplace, or further education.

In Year 12 students will also study the USA 1920-55. This will cover topics such as the Roaring Twenties, prohibition, the Great Depression and the birth of the Civil Rights movement.

In Year 13 students will study the witch craze in Britain, Europe and North America 1580-1750. This will include topics such as the Salem and Pendle Witches and rise and decline of witch hunting. The final unit is coursework. It is likely this will be an investigation into the causes of World War One. This unit is the only unit not assessed by an exam.

A Level students will also submit coursework in the spring of Year 13.

## What support will I receive?

Reading is one of the main ways in which you can extend your knowledge. Remember, in all your assessed work you will be supported and will get plenty of practice. Students will also have the opportunity to access lunchtime drop in sessions throughout the course if they need extra help in the run up to final exams staff also put on weekly after school support sessions and sessions during the holidays.











# A Level Mathematics

## Additional entry requirements:

Grade 7 minimum in GCSE Maths.

## Why study Mathematics at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

Mathematics is a subject which is both challenging and thought provoking. It is the 'language of the universe'.

The course allows the development of analytical skills as well as application of mathematical concepts.

Some students choose Mathematics because it is a highly sought after subject at university. Mathematics at Thornleigh Sixth Form will enable you to understand how many mathematical concepts can be applied to real life situations and fine-tune problem solving skills.

## Course Description

The Mathematics course at Thornleigh Sixth Form is challenging and diverse which covers both pure and applied topics.

- Algebra and Functions
- Differentiation and Integration
- Polynomials
- Coordinate Geometry
- Indices, Logarithms and Exponentials
- Trigonometry
- Vectors
- Sequences and Series
- Mechanics
- Statistics

## What support will I receive?

Mathematics A Level is delivered by specialist teachers who have a wealth of experience and expertise. The Mathematics Department will provide a range of support throughout Year 12 and Year 13 with modules, such as:

- Maths clinics for one evening each week. Students should attend this if they have a specific question or topic they need help with or attend the topic revision session..
- Topic assignments at the end of each unit which are marked with quality written feedback to give the students a measure of their progress so far.
- Access to a digital curriculum to support revision



# A Level Music

## Additional entry requirements:

It is advised for students who wish to study Music at A-Level to have a GCSE grade 5 or above in Music. You should be able to play an instrument or sing to at least a grade 5 standard and be having regular tuition on your main performance instrument, or vocal lessons if you are a singer.

## Why study Music at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

If Music is your passion, you will relish the opportunity to learn through active participation and enjoyment. Studying Music will give you a strong foundation for a career in composing or performing. It can also provide you with essential skills to enter a career in the music industry for TV, radio or film companies.

## Course Description

The course consists of three components:

### Component 1: Appraising Music Listening:

You will answer three sets of questions; the first one based on AoS1 Western Classical traditions and the two other questions are based on AoS 2-7.

Analysis: You will answer two sets of linked questions, including short answers and extended writing, on two extracts of the set works from the two selected strands

in Area of study 1. The question paper will include scores of the extracts.

Essay: You will be required to answer one essay question on one area of study from a choice of Areas of study 2-7.

### Component 2: Performance:

You will present a performance lasting a minimum of ten minutes through one of the following, or through a combination: instrumental/vocal solo and/or in an ensemble

### Component 3: Composition

You will compose two pieces. One composition must be in response to an externally set brief and the other composition will be freely composed or production via technology.

Music A Level is 60% practical coursework with an accompanying listening/written paper worth 40% of the marks completed under exam conditions at the end of the course.

Highly trained staff and peripatetic teachers allows for a more diverse range of ideas being offered to you. You will seek guidance from your individual performance teacher when preparing for Unit 3 and for developing your compositional skills and ideas.

Learn through  
active  
participation  
and enjoyment.





# A Level Photography

## Additional entry requirements:

A GCSE in Art, Graphics or Photography will give you an advantage on this course.

## Why study Photography at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

- It provides good progression to higher education
- It will give you a strong foundation for a career in Photography or the media
- It gives a stepping stone to work in the creative industry
- If you have creative ideas and an artistic flair then Photography may be for you

## Course Description

You will study in areas of photography such as:

- Portraiture
- Documentary
- Photojournalism
- Landscape
- Photography - working from objects
- Still Life
- Natural World
- Experimental Imagery

Having your own SLR Camera would also prove to be invaluable.

A Level component 1: portfolio of work from briefs set by the department/individual. Personal study with written element

A Level component 2: externally set assignment with 15 hour exam time.

## What support will I receive?

Highly trained staff allows for a more diverse range of ideas being offered to you. All the staff in the department pride themselves on being quick to offer additional support if needed. The department is well resourced and has the ability to cater for individual students' mentoring.



# A Level Physics

## Additional entry requirements:

A minimum of grade 7:7 in GCSE Combined Science. You will also be required to have a grade 7 in GCSE Maths. Physics should not be chosen as the only science option.

## Why study Physics at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

Physics is a challenging but incredibly rewarding subject that is perfect for anyone with an inquisitive mind who wants to understand how the world around us works. The skills gained through studying Physics are transferable to and valuable in many areas of work and further study.

Ever wondered what the smallest thing is or what the biggest thing out there is?

Physics can be used to accurately answer questions from the simple; where will a thrown ball land? To the incredibly complex; what happens if we try to run as fast as light?

## Course Description

Physics is often at the forefront of innovation and

developing new technology. Throughout this course you will study the main topics of:

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and materials
- Electricity
- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Fields and their consequences
- Nuclear physics
- There will also be an optional unit.

You will also receive a separate grade for your practical skills throughout the course.

## What support will I receive?

The Physics Department are fully committed to ensuring you achieve your maximum potential and will take all steps necessary to ensure you do so. Practice towards exam success will be carried out during lesson times.

Physics is perfect for anyone with an inquisitive mind.



# A Level Psychology

## Additional entry requirements:

A minimum of grade 5 in GCSE Maths.

## Why study Psychology at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

Psychology is both an applied and academic field that seeks to understand and explain human behaviour, thought and emotion.

What makes us remember or forget? Can we treat mental illness? What causes aggression? Why do we conform? Why are we attracted to certain people?

Psychology combines science and practice.

Psychologists are interested in researching how people act, react and interact as individuals and in groups.

## Course Description

Studying Psychology at Thornleigh Sixth Form will offer you exciting challenges and rewards. Our students are taught through a combination of methods including discussion and debates, presentations and independent research.

Some of the topics include:

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Psychology  
combines science  
and practice.

- Approaches in Psychology
- Research methods
- Relationships
- Aggression
- Schizophrenia
- Issues and Debates

## What support will I receive?

A range of support is available to you within the department. You will be provided with a comprehensive set of resources, all of which are tailored to the needs of our students. You will be assessed regularly against the exam criteria and always offered constructive feedback.





# A Level Religious Studies

## Additional entry requirements:

A minimum of grade 5 in GCSE Religious Studies required.

## Why study Religious Studies at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

Thornleigh Sixth Form has an excellent reputation for delivering high quality Religious Studies courses and this is an extension of the success that we achieve with our GCSE classes. This subject allows you to develop your understanding about key questions regarding the existence of God, the problems of belief, how the Church is structured, the development of ethical principles concerning behaviour, war and sexual ethics and why some medical procedures present ethical problems.

Having a good religious knowledge is often something that supports the work and ethos of many major businesses and corporations in addition to enhancing skills that are critical for caring professions such as nursing, social work, public services and teaching.

## Course Description

Religious Studies is made up of three core elements:

- The Philosophy of Religion
- Ethical Theories
- Study of religion – Christianity

Philosophy of Religion comprises a study of Philosophical arguments about the existence of God and selected problems in the study of the Philosophy of Religion.

Ethics comprises a study of ethical concepts and dilemmas.

Within the study of religion we will explore the following topics:

- Sources of wisdom and authority
- God/gods/ultimate reality

- Self, death and the afterlife
- Good conduct and key moral principles
- Expression of religious identity
- Religion, gender and sexuality
- Religion and science
- Religion and secularisation
- Religion and religious pluralism.

This course combines a balance of teacher-directed and more independent student enquiry. It gives students the opportunity to undertake individual research into a topic in which they are particularly interested such as euthanasia, abortion or genetic engineering.

## What support will I receive?

Our dedicated team of RE teachers are always on call to help and to support you in your studies. As well as having well-structured and developed lessons you will receive free resource materials, revision guides, access to key related websites and your teacher will always be just an email away when you are out of class.

As the exams draw closer there will be scheduled, and personally arranged, revision classes for you to top-up your existing knowledge to help you to move closer to your target grade.



# A Level Sociology

## Additional entry requirements:

At least a grade 4 in either GCSE English Language or GCSE Literature.

## Why study Sociology at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

Sociology is the study of the people in society. It is concerned with our experiences and the various institutions that have an impact on our lives. Sociology examines why the world is as it is - why some people are poor and others rich, why you have to go to school, why some people commit crime, why the divorce rate is rising.

Sociology does not provide all the answers but it does provide you with a useful toolkit of ideas and skills for analysing the social world around you.

## Course Description

Many professions are taking a greater interest in sociological research so that they can plan their work more effectively. This course will introduce you to

the key themes and concerns including the family, education, crime and the mass media.

Sociology is also concerned with describing and explaining the patterns of difference, inequality, deprivation and conflict, which are features of nearly all societies.

This course combines a balance of teacher-directed and more independent student enquiry. Sociology evidence is what happens in the world every day and students need to have a well-rounded knowledge of current events.

## What support will I receive?

A range of support is available to you within the department. You will be provided with a comprehensive set of resources, all of which are tailored to the needs of our students.

You will be assessed regularly against the exam criteria and always offered constructive feedback.



# A Level Spanish

## Additional entry requirements:

We recommend that you have a GCSE grade 6 in Spanish.

## Why study Spanish at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

Spanish is the perfect choice for any student with an interest in learning about language and culture. The A Level provides the most comprehensive pre-degree study of language available.

With continuing connections around the globe, learning a foreign language will give you an important advantage in your future education and career. Fluency in a foreign language is a skill for life.

## Course Description

You will continue to expand your knowledge of Hispanic countries as well as looking in more depth at the construction of the Spanish language. You will explore the influence of the past on present day Hispanic communities. You will study technological and social change looking at the multicultural nature of Hispanic society. You will study Hispanic artistic culture, regional identity and the cultural heritage of past civilisations as well as the diverse political landscape of the Hispanic world. You will also study texts and films and will have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of your choice.

You will study:

Aspects of Hispanic Society including:

- Modern and traditional values
- Cyberspace
- Equal rights

Artistic culture in the Hispanic world including:

- Modern day idols
- Spanish regional identity
- Cultural heritage or cultural landscape

Multiculturalism in Hispanic society including:

- Immigration
- Racism
- Integration

Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world

- Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens
- Monarchies, republics and dictatorships
- Popular movements

You will be assessed in listening, reading, responding, translation and speaking.

## What support will I receive?

A range of support is available to help you to maximise your potential.

You will be assessed regularly against the exam criteria and given constructive advice on how to move forward. Individual support is given to students in the preparation of the speaking tests.

Our chosen course book is endorsed by AQA and is accompanied by a variety of electronic and multimedia resources.





# BTEC Applied Science

## BTEC Extended Certificate

### Additional entry requirements:

A grade 5 in GCSE Combined Science is desirable.

### Why study Applied Science at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science is a two year course equivalent to one A Level. Biology, Chemistry and Physics will all be studied during this course.

The course is designed to give students the knowledge, understanding and technical skills to prepare them for employment in a scientific environment.

Students will be required to perform and write up practical investigations, research new areas and work independently outside of lessons to successfully complete all the requirements. A commitment to hard work and an interest in science is essential.

### Course Description

Applied Science will provide valuable skills which the

students will be able to transfer into a practical setting.

A selection of units covered include:

- Principles and Applications of science
- Practical scientific procedures and techniques
- Science Investigation skills
- Astronomy and space science
- 2 units are externally assessed. Unit 3 is a synoptic two part task where students complete a timed investigation and then a 90 minute written exam based on their findings.
- 2 units require continuous assessment where students will build up a portfolio of evidence by completing assignments.

### What support will I receive?

Students will receive regular feedback on assignments and progress made during their studies. The staff in the department are committed to ensuring that you fulfil your potential.



# BTEC Children's Play, Learning and Development

## BTEC Extended Certificate

### Why study Child Care at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

BTEC Nationals are qualifications that are designed to provide specialist work-related qualifications in a range of sectors. They give students the knowledge, understanding and skills required for employment. On successful completion of a BTEC National qualification, you can easily progress into or within employment and/or continue your study in the same vocational area.

This course allows you to take complete control of your learning, experience the work place and learn valuable information that will help you with your progression to the next level.

### Course Description

The course consists of 4 units that provide for a combined total of 360 guided learning hours for the completed qualification.

Unit 1: Children's Development

Unit 2: Development of Children's Communication, Literacy and Numeracy Skills

Unit 3: Play and Learning

Unit 5: Keeping Children Safe

This course allows you to take complete control of your learning over 4 core units which will contribute equally to the whole qualification. Unit 1 is an external examination, Unit 2 is a set task which is externally marked and Units 3 and 5 are coursework focused. As part of the course you will also undertake a 50 hour work placement in a child care environment.

A range of support is available to help you to maximise your potential. Tutor support sessions, up to date resources and an effective tracker system to help you know how to progress.



# BTEC Criminology

## Level 3 Applied Certificate in Criminology

### Why study Criminology at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

The purpose of the Level 3 Applied Certificate in Criminology is to provide learners with an introduction to criminal justice and to give a context for humanities learning. Together with other relevant qualifications, such as Psychology and Sociology, it develops the understanding to support entry to higher education courses in the humanities sector. Students that are interested in joining the Public Services, want to study Law or who are just curious about aspects of criminology usually select this qualification and thrive in similar centres. This course also allows learners to balance assessment styles with a mixture of examinations and controlled assignments.

### Course Description

Studying Criminology at Thornleigh Sixth Form will offer you exciting challenges and rewards. Our students are taught through a combination of methods including discussion and debates, presentations and independent research.

Some of the topics include:

- The changing awareness of crime including different types of crime and criminal campaigns.
- An analysis of criminological theories of crime including causes of different types of crime and an understanding of policy change.
- An understanding of the process of crime scene to courtroom including the process of prosecuting suspects and reviewing evidence for miscarriages of justice.
- Evaluation of theories of crime and punishment including the role of punishment and social control.
- There are four assessed units.

- Two are assessed internally via controlled assignments.
- Two are externally assessed exams each being 90 minutes long and are available in June of each year.

### What support will I receive?

All teaching resources will be freely available, hosted online and the controlled assignment platform will be accessible beyond the classroom.

In addition to your guided learning time, you will also receive regular intervention sessions along with opportunities to access enrichment elements of the course such as visiting a courtroom.





# BTEC Dance

## BTEC Extended Certificate

### Additional entry requirements:

Students must be confident performing in front of others. They should have experience of dance either in school or outside of school. GCSE Dance minimum grade 5 or BTEC Level 2 Dance Merit is desirable.

### Why study Dance at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

If performing is your passion, you will relish the opportunity to learn through active participation and enjoyment. Studying dance will give you a strong foundation in performance, choreography and teaching. It can also provide you with essential skills to enter a career in the performance industry or for higher education. Studying Dance at Thornleigh Sixth form is perfect for those students who want to widen their experience of dance performance and choreography, and to engage further in the critical thinking about dance.

### Course Description

The course consists of three mandatory units and one optional unit.

The Mandatory Units are:

Investigating practitioners' work, developing skills and techniques for live performance and group performance workshop.

There is a long list of optional units including classical ballet technique, tap dance, jazz dance, contemporary dance and many more.

You will be assessed regularly against the exam criteria and always offered encouragement and constructive feedback.

Highly trained staff allows for a more diverse range of ideas being offered to you. You will seek guidance from your individual performance teacher when preparing for performances and for developing your skills and ideas.



Dance is perfect for those students who want to widen their experience of dance, performance and choreography.

# BTEC Health & Social Care

## BTEC Extended Certificate

### Why study Health and Social Care at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

Studying Health and Social Care at Thornleigh Sixth Form will give students the opportunity to develop a range of skills. The course looks at a variety of factors that can affect an individual's health and wellbeing.

This can include public health services, nutrition, medical and social care.

### Course Description

BTEC Health and Social Care consists of 4 units which fully explore:

- Human lifespan and development
- Working in Health and Social Care
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
- Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs

Each individual unit has a taught series of lessons and workshops, then a chance for students to create their own response to a series of assignments. Students can work at their own pace with opportunities for every learner to succeed and progress.

The extended certificate enables learners to gain qualifications at their own pace along flexible routes.

### What support will I receive?

Your tutor will provide you with support and help across the course. The college also has a range of BTEC books which you may want to use to extend your learning out of lessons.



# BTEC Performing Arts

## BTEC Extended Certificate

### Additional entry requirements:

Pupils opting for this course must have a strong interest in performance and must be confident performing in front of others. You should have experience of drama either in school or outside of school and should have an interest in the three disciplines of performance: Singing, Acting, Dancing.

You do not require a GCSE in Drama or Music but it is highly recommended you have an interest in these areas – we would advise singing lessons, which can be offered through the school.

### Why study Performing Arts at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

If Performing is your passion, you will relish the opportunity to learn through active participation and enjoyment.

Studying Performing Arts will give you a strong foundation for a career in performance. It can also provide you with essential skills to enter a career in the performance industry for theatre, TV, radio or film companies.

### Course Description

The course consists of three mandatory units and one optional unit.

The Mandatory Units include:

Investigating Practitioners' Work

Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance

Group Performance Workshop

The Optional Units include:

Theatre Directing

Writing for Performance

Screen Acting

Interpreting Classical Text for Performance

Acting Styles

Improvisation, amongst others.

### What support will I receive?

Highly trained staff and peripatetic teachers allows for a more diverse range of ideas being offered to you. You will seek guidance from your individual performance teacher when preparing for performances and for developing your skills and ideas.





# BTEC Sport

## BTEC Extended Certificate

### Additional entry requirements:

A minimum grade 5 in GCSE PE or Merit in BTEC Sport L2 is desirable. It is also essential that you participate competitively or coach/officiate in at least one sport at club level.

### Why study Sport at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

This course offers students the opportunity to study a variety of aspects of Physical Education and sport in both a theoretical and practical context. There is the opportunity to gain practical experience in a chosen sporting area of employment and the course provides deep and relevant subject knowledge for anyone looking to pursue a prospective career in the Physical Education and sport related industries. The course provides good progression to Higher Education and is widely recognised by Universities.

### Course Description

The course combines a mixture of theoretical and practical assessments. Students complete an external

exam on the anatomy and physiology of the body, as well as an assignment on practical sports performance which focuses on performance in one team sport and one individual sport.

Students also complete an external exam on fitness training and programming for health sport and well-being, in addition to completing a work experience placement in the sports industry which supports internally verified assignment.

Assessment will be through the completion of 4 units, 2 external exams and 2 internally verified assignment briefs.

### What support will I receive?

The PE department are committed to helping you achieve your personal and academic best. We will help you do this by; planning and delivering engaging lessons, providing regular detailed feedback to support progression, ensuring high quality in class support and thorough guidance on all assignment briefs.

The course provides deep and relevant subject knowledge.



# Level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in IT

## Why study IT at Thornleigh Sixth Form?

Cambridge Technicals are vocational qualifications at Level 3 designed with the workplace in mind and provide a more hand-on approach to learning. This qualification gives an insight into the IT sector and teaches the essential skills needed within IT and Cyber Security. The course develops knowledge and understanding of the principles of IT and global information systems.

This course takes the 'application developer' pathway, specialising in application development (both websites and phone application) and project management and gives you the opportunity to work with a real client base to develop end products.

## Course Description

The IT qualification investigates the pace of technological change, IT infrastructure and the flow of information on a global scale. Human factors including legal and ethical considerations form part of the course.

Students will sit two written exam papers and three controlled assessment units. The controlled assessment units include: mobile application development, website design and a choice of project management, cyber-security or social media and digital marketing.

There are two externally assessed exam units:

- Fundamentals of IT
- Global information systems

Three core controlled assessment units:

- Application Design
- Web Design and Proto-typing

Choice of one of the following units:

- Cyber Security (exam)
- Social Media and Digital Marketing
- Project Management

## What support will I receive?

The course is staffed with specialist Computer Science teachers. All resources will be provided for students and you will be able to access intervention sessions outside of the school day, online and during your independent study time.



Apply here for  
Thornleigh Sixth Form:



[www.thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk](http://www.thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk)

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