

COURSES AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER 2010

Level 3 Subjects

Accounting
 Art with specialisms in: Fine Art, Graphic Design, Photography, Textiles
 Art (Applied A Level)
 Biology
 BTEC National Diploma in Business
 BTEC National Diploma in Sport
 Business Studies
 Chemistry
 Classical Civilisation
 Computing
 Criminology
 Dance
 Design Technology (Textiles)
 Design Technology (Product Design)
 Design Technology (Resistant Materials)
 Economics

English Language
 English Literature
 Environmental Studies
 French
 Further Mathematics
 General Studies
 Geography
 German
 Government & Politics
 Health & Social Care (Applied A Level)
 History
 Human Biology
 Information Technology
 International Baccalaureate
 Latin (AS only)
 Law

Leisure Studies
 Mathematics
 Media Studies
 Music
 Performing Arts
 Philosophy
 Physics
 Psychology
 Religious Studies
 Science (Applied A level)
 Science for Society
 Sociology
 Sport Studies
 Theatre Studies
 Use of Mathematics
 World Development

Level 2 Subjects:

GCSE - English
 - Mathematics

Others:

CSLA – HSLA: Community & Higher Sports Leaders' Awards
 Vocationally Related Qualification in partnership with 'the Technical Training Group' at Teesside.

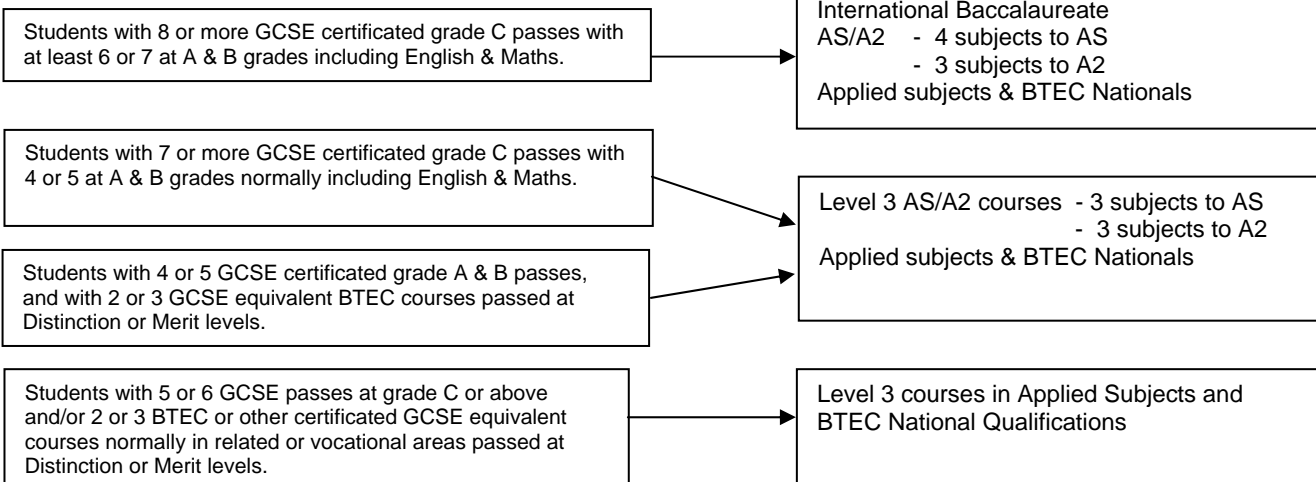
(Depending on student demand, it is expected that these courses with the exception of Latin will be offered at A2 Level 2011-12, but this cannot be guaranteed).

Students' Academic Background, Entry Recommendations & Requirements, Appropriate Progression Pathways

Normal Progression Routes

Students' Level 2 Academic Profile

Level 3 Courses



Other Points To Note:

- The Centre has found that, because of their specific demands, some subjects recommend that only students achieving a Grade A or B in a related subject at GCSE should pursue the subject at Level 3. Please see individual subjects to discuss entry requirements.
- Entry to some subjects is constrained by the limited facilities available – this is especially the case in subjects needing more specialised facilities. Entry decisions will be taken by September and at enrolment, and students should be aware that they may need to demonstrate previous interest, involvement and experience in the subject area, together with an aptitude for it – sometimes based on examination success at 16, sometimes by providing a portfolio of evidence or by audition. Subject staff will advise where relevant and appropriate.
- Due to the availability of facilities, some parts of some subjects may be taught at our sister premises. Where this is the case, students will be transported to and from the premises at no cost to the students.
- Most lessons take place between 8.50 am and 3.30 pm, but some are timetabled between 3.30 pm and 4.30 pm.
- Although information is correct at the time of going to print, Durham Sixth Form Centre cannot guarantee that all courses listed above will be on offer in September 2010.

COURSE EXPLANATION

1. AS and A Level Courses

Advanced Subsidiary (AS) qualifications are available in Year 12 -“The Lower Sixth” - (1st year of study). The AS qualification represents the first half of a full A level and the level of academic demand is that expected of a student halfway through a full A level course of study. However, that academic demand is less than in Year 13. The second part of the A level is called A2 and will be available in Year 13 (2nd year of study). AS and A2 each make up 50% of the full A level.

Most A level courses comprise four assessment units (sometimes called modules). There are two units for AS and two units for A2. Students will normally complete the two AS modules by the end of their first year of study (and be entered for external examinations) and the two A2 modules by the end of the second year of study followed by external examinations. Units will be available for external examinations in January and June of each year; although because of their nature, some subjects do not offer students for AS unit examination in January of Year 12. Some subjects include coursework units, others do not.

It should be noted that enrolment onto the second part of the course – the A2 section - is dependent upon satisfactorily passing the AS part.

2. Applied A Levels, BTEC National and Level 3 Diploma courses

These are taught differently to other A Levels, having a more vocational emphasis. They can be equivalent to one, two or three A Levels, dependent on course and subject; they offer full UCAS points and so also provide clear pathways into work, work-based learning or related Higher Education courses.

These are especially suitable for students who have followed more than one BTEC qualification at Level 2, normally in a related subject area and who have obtained Distinction or Merit grades.

A. Possible Subject Combinations In Year 12 – “The Lower Sixth” – 1st Year of Study

1. International Baccalaureate Diploma
2. 4 AS subjects
3. 3 AS subjects / Applied A Level (Single Award) + CSLA
4. 3 AS subjects + GCSE Mathematics or English (Re-sit – generally advisable only if a student obtained a Grade D at GCSE at 16)
5. Applied A levels (Double Award)/BTEC National Diploma + 1 AS subject / CSLA / GCSE resit.

Any other combination is only possible after consultation with the appropriate Director of Learning.

At the end of the first year, students doing AS level subjects should have completed 2 units in each subject enabling them to gain an AS qualification in that subject. After consultation with their Director of Learning, students will need to choose the subjects which they intend to do at A2 level in Year 13. Remember that AS + A2 = A level. All A2 level courses will commence at the end of the AS external unit examination period. Up to 4 weeks will be available before the end of the 1st year of study for A2 work. Generally, students take only 3 subjects through to Year 13.

B. Possible Subject Combinations in Year 13 – “The Upper Sixth” – 2nd Year of Study

1. International Baccalaureate Diploma
2. 4 A2 subjects (where 2 are closely related)
3. 3 A2 subjects
4. 3 A2 subjects + HSLA
5. 3 A2 or 2 A2 subjects + 1 AS subject (this depends on the availability within the Lower Sixth curriculum)
6. Applied A levels (Double Award)/BTEC National Diploma + related subject at appropriate level

It may be possible to choose other groupings, but only after consultation with the Director of Learning.

In both Year 12 and 13 all students, in addition to the above subject groupings, follow a course of Complementary Studies and Enrichment each week. As part of this programme all students will be entered for AS and A2 General Studies in order to provide and certificate a broader and enriched curriculum.

P. Knight, Head of Sixth Form Centre