

BROOKSBANK

SIXTH FORM

Supporting you to succeed

Sixth Form Prospectus 2021-22



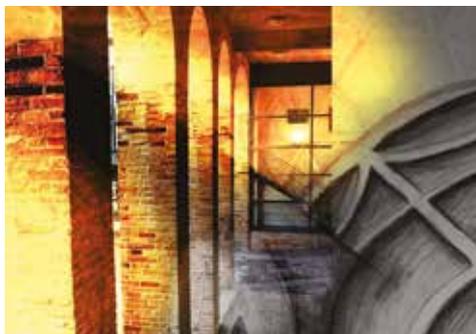
Aspire

and

Achieve



Choice



Learning

Support



Why choose Brooksbank?

Our aim is to provide a first class educational experience for every one of our students.

We have a lot to offer our students:

- A strong track record in academic and vocational attainment;
- A wide range of over thirty academic and vocational study programmes;
- A highly-experienced support team to guide and support students in their learning, development and progression;
- A friendly and high-achieving learning community with specialist teachers and excellent facilities and resources;
- Access to Calderdale 6, a network of four Post-16 colleges for increased choice and specialism, with transport provided;
- High-quality careers guidance to ensure successful progression to university or employment;
- A host of social, cultural and recreational opportunities and experiences.

We hope that this prospectus will give you a flavour of Sixth Form life at The Brooksbank School.

Find out more...

- Visit our website; bbs.calderdale.sch.uk;
- Read our school magazine, which is produced every term;
- Come to our Open Evening;
- Visit our stand at Post-16 events across Calderdale and Kirklees;
- Engage with our lively Twitter and Instagram accounts, @BBS6thForm and [bbs_6th_students](https://www.instagram.com/bbs_6th_students/);
- Contact us to arrange a visit at another time.

A thriving learning community committed to developing individual success

We are a thriving successful Sixth Form with a strong sense of community plus a commitment to each individual student. There are currently over 300 students here. Many choose to stay on at Brooksbank having studied here from Year 7, but increasing numbers of students join us at the start of Year 12 from other schools across Calderdale and Kirklees, reflecting our proven track record for academic success.

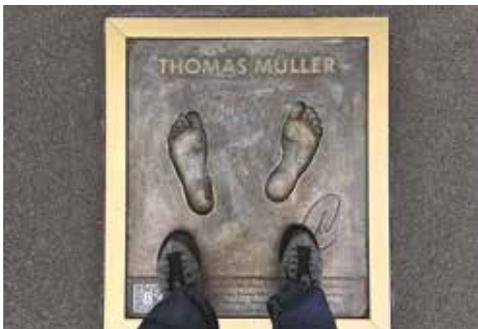
Academic achievement is a top priority for us and we are proud of our results at all levels. Our vocational BTEC results are significantly above the national average and many of our academic subject results place Brooksbank in the top 20% of schools and colleges nationally.

The majority of our students are on a two-year linear study programme, where examinations are taken at the end of Year 13. Students can choose to take traditional academic A Levels, a vocational programme of BTEC subjects, or a combination of both. We also offer a one-year Level 2 resit programme for those who want to improve their GCSE grades before moving on to Level 3 study or employment.

At Brooksbank, our students experience high-quality teaching from our specialist subject teachers who are well qualified, highly motivated and committed to successful outcomes for all our students. We also work hard to ensure that students settle in quickly and are ready to progress with their learning. Each student is assigned a personal tutor who works with them on a one-to-one basis to support their academic studies and personal development. We also employ Progress Tutors, who work intensively with individuals who may require extra support.

"The teachers are truly a fantastic asset to the school; every single one consistently went above and beyond. They were always available and eager to help in whatever manner they could. If I could credit my success at Brooksbank to one factor of the school, it would definitely be the excellent teaching staff." says Dominic.

Create



Develop

Excel



Inspiring opportunities and excellent facilities combine to create a climate for successful learning

Equally important is our range of other opportunities on offer in our Sixth Form. All students have access to a range of enrichment opportunities to broaden their experience. Activities on offer include sport, art, music, drama, public speaking, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme plus a host of social and recreational events.

“Without the school’s focus on providing experiences, ranging from trips, such as the UK Space Design Competition, to the Senior Maths Challenge, I wouldn’t have nearly the same skill set as I do today. Through these experiences, my ability to work within groups, speak publicly to large audiences and problem-solve effectively has been greatly enhanced,” says Dominic.

Our Sixth Form facilities range from our unique Arthaus, located alongside our Dining Hall, an exclusive centre with its own Coffee Shop, conservatory and intensive study room, plus an exclusive Sixth Form mezzanine in the LRC which is well-equipped with computers to research and enhance coursework.

“The Arthaus is a great place to work in. Working vertically on the walls is a lot easier than on a cramped table. It’s a very grown-up space and this really helps us to progress. It’s a real privilege to have this facility.” says Adam.

Aiming high with Brooksbank+

The Brooksbank+ programme includes: advanced study skills sessions, university visits, skills workshops to develop self-confidence, create UCAS personal statements and hone interview skills. Sixth Form students benefit from excellent connections with Oxford and Cambridge universities, and other Russell Group universities, as former Brooksbank students are keen to connect and share their expertise.

Dream



Aspire

Engage



Introducing Calderdale 6

Calderdale 6 is an exciting and collaborative approach to learning for Post-16 students. C6 offers more choice for students when choosing courses and opens up opportunities to study at different colleges across Calderdale.

Students travel between home and host school at no extra cost as transport is provided.

Students tell us that they appreciate the extra choices that collaboration brings and enjoy the chance to mix with students from different colleges and schools.

“Coming to Brighouse to study French is like the best of both worlds. I really wanted to stay at my sixth form, but I also desperately wanted to take French A Level, which wasn't possible. I'm really glad I did! I've got amazing teachers, made some new friends, and I get the chance to study all the subjects I want,” says Evie whose home school is The Brooksbank School and travels to Brighouse Sixth Form to study A Level French.



C6

Career



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www.bbs.calderdale.sch.uk
Headteacher: Andrew Taylor
Director of Post-16: Dave Puddephatt
Raising Aspirations Co-ordinator: Richard Miller

Course Information

In this section you will find information about the courses you can study here. There is a brief summary of each one. More detailed course descriptions will be available at our open evening in November and on our school website: bbs.calderdale.sch.uk

Level 3 courses

We offer many different subjects at Level 3. Our curriculum offers traditional academic A Level subjects as well as a range of more vocational BTEC qualifications. It is vital that you choose courses that are right for you; reflecting your interests, strengths and future career aspirations. Most students will study three A Level / BTEC courses over the two years, although some students may be allowed to study four, if required. Please note that most A Level courses are changing to a new linear assessment pattern, where students will sit their exams at the end of two years of study. The final grade awarded will be based solely on these final exams.

Please note, we reserve the right to make final decisions about curriculum programmes, which may be subject to change subject to viable student numbers.

General entry requirements

In order to study Level 3 (academic A Level) courses you must have at least five GCSE passes at 9 - 4 or equivalent. These must include a grade 4 and 5 in English Language and Mathematics (either way round but higher grade must support subject choices).

In order to study Level 3 vocational (BTEC) courses, students must have a minimum of at least five GCSE passes at 9 - 4 grades including English Language at Grade 4.

In addition some subjects have specific entry requirements. These are listed in our prospectus.

Level 2 courses

For students with GCSE passes at 9-3 in at least five subjects, we offer a choice of Level 2 courses to prepare them for Level 3 study, further education, training or employment. In 2019, we offered a selection of applied BTEC courses, with opportunity to improve GCSE performance in English, Maths, and Science. We are pleased with the notable successes of students who follow this programme and go on to study with us for two further years.

Collaborative Delivery

While we endeavour to offer a broad range of subjects to our students, we are delighted to be working in collaboration with other local secondary schools to widen subject choice further.

The Calderdale 6 (C6) initiative currently involves five local secondary schools; Brooksbank, Brighouse High School, The Crossley Heath School, Lightcliffe Academy and Ryburn Valley High. It works by allowing students to stay at their 'home' school for the majority of their courses, but then travel to one of the other C6 schools to take a subject they would not otherwise be able to study.

Working together offers students more breadth in subject choice. Currently, Dance, Business Studies, Computer Science, Politics, Religious Studies and Textiles are all part of this collaborative option and we are delighted to report students are finding lots of positives about this flexible approach. Students taking advantage of the benefits of C6 also receive travel support to enable them to commute between schools at no extra cost.

Thinking ahead ...

While life after Sixth Form may seem a long way off at the moment, it is important that you plan ahead now. Some university courses require specific A Level subject combinations. Popular courses are becoming very competitive and may require higher A Level grades. They might even look at your GCSE grades to decide who should be offered a place at university. It is really important therefore, to get good advice about which subject combinations to take and to select courses that will give you the best possible chance of being successful. Ask your teachers for advice, if you are unsure.

Art and Design

(A Level)

A Level Art and Design provides students with opportunities to develop personal responses to ideas, observations, experiences, environments and cultures in practical and written forms.

This two component specification, requires students to develop their ability in a range of skills - contextual studies which encompasses research of artists, crafts persons and designers; formal skills in drawing, painting, photography and three dimensional studies; foundation skills including more experimental methods and developmental techniques.

Students will choose an area of personal interest, developing practical responses from their investigations and research. A Level Art and Design enables students to develop and explore their practice. Teaching staff aim to develop students' strengths, so that they may progress successfully within the assessment objectives and achieve successful results. These encompass Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Three Dimensional Design, Photography, Fine Art which are but a few art disciplines on offer. Students will also gain an awareness of the different roles, functions, audiences and consumers of art and design practice, which will inform their ideas when curating their exhibitions.

A Level Art and Design provides a firm foundation for further study in Art and Design, such as Fashion Design and Graphic Design, Architecture and Art History at university and college. Transferable skills including research, exploration, recording, time management, exhibition curation and thinking outside the box will enable you to become a desirable student, employee and team player. If you are passionate about art and creativity, you will find this course life enhancing and hugely enjoyable.

Biology

(A Level)

This is a challenging and rewarding subject that is desirable if you wish to embark on a career in the health sector as it targets careers including that of doctor, dentist, physiotherapist and veterinary surgeon. If you are interested in such topics as how the human body works and how we could combat global problems, such as malnutrition and HIV Aids, you should seriously consider choosing A Level Biology.

The course includes topics on cells and their structure, how they exchange materials as well as a transport section which deals with plant and animal transport systems. In the second year, topics of study include homeostasis, respiration and photosynthesis as well as genomes and the environment. The course utilises a wide range of teaching and learning styles and develops independent learning and team work.

Business Studies

(BTEC National Extended Certificate (Equivalent to one A Level)

or the BTEC Diploma (Equivalent to two A Levels)

This vocational course is offered as a Double or Single Award and aims to build student knowledge about the different strategic decisions businesses face including, ethics, staff management and finance. Units studied include marketing, finance, market research and visual merchandising and the psychology behind point of sale displays.

The course is split into units and offers an in-depth insight into real world business through research, application, and links with local and national companies. The course is designed to enhance skills such as communication, presentation, time management and research. Students have a wide range of careers to explore such as the banking industry, digital marketing, logistics and management or further their education by studying at university in Business related courses.

Business Studies

(A Level) Collaborative Delivery

This course is offered at Brighthouse High School. The aims of the A Level in Business are for students to develop an enthusiasm for studying business, develop a critical understanding of organisations and their ability to meet society's needs and wants, understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives, be aware of the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations and individuals and apply numerical skills in a range of business contexts.

This course is ideal for students who want to learn about the business environment but prefer 100% examination assessment. Regardless of which career you are considering, A Level Business will be a useful subject to study as it provides an insight into the world of work. It will prepare you for the challenges of your future.

Chemistry

(A Level)

If you enjoyed studying Science at GCSE and are interested in how Chemistry affects the world we live in - then make Chemistry one of your A Level choices. There are many careers where a qualification in Chemistry is essential (including, medicine, pharmacy, veterinary science and dentistry) whilst there are other careers where it is strongly recommended or very useful, such as engineering, agriculture and environmental studies. The course builds on Chemistry GCSE and includes topics such as atomic structure, chemical bonding and patterns in the periodic table. Rates of reaction, organic chemistry, energy changes and analytical techniques are also covered. Our students choose Chemistry for two main reasons: firstly, they are interested in the subject itself and secondly, because it fits in well with other subjects choices like Physics, Biology, Mathematics or Geography.

Criminology

(Diploma. Equivalent to one A Level)

Not all types of crime are alike. What different types of crime take place in our society? How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? What is the difference between criminal behaviour and deviance? How do we explain why people commit crime? What happens to those who commit a crime? Why and how do we punish people? What organisations do we have in our society to control criminality? Want to find out? Then this is the course for you.

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, including police officer, probation officer, prison officer and social worker.

The WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Criminology has been designed to provide learners with knowledge, understanding and skills to progress to further study and training. The Diploma is designed to complement study in related subjects such as A Level Sociology and Law and provide an insight into the subject area with a view to further study or training in related subjects.

Computer Science

(A Level) Collaborative delivery

This course is offered at The Crossley Heath School who follow the OCR specification (Course code: H446). Computer Science develops your ability to solve problems and to think logically. The course has two elements in Year 12. The first is the theory of computing, including how computers work and how we communicate using computers. The second element is concerned with problem solving and algorithm design. Techniques to solve problems will be taught together with developing your programming skills.

During Year 13 the course will look further into computing theory. Additionally, students have the chance to work on a project of their choice. Previous examples have included designing computer games, building an online shop and a hotel booking system.

Dance

(Level 3 Diploma) Collaborative delivery

This Performing Arts Dance course is offered at Ryburn Sixth Form. You'll have outstanding teaching from staff with significant industry experience, guest teachers and professional performers. You'll be inspired in your own creative performance, with the insight and skills to succeed in a career in the industry. You will have the opportunity to explore a range of dance styles and professional repertoire. You will learn the importance of applying safe dance practice, lead practical classes and create and perform choreography both in groups and solo.

This diploma course will develop analytical skills, increasing creativity and confidence in collaborative and independent work and prepare you for a higher-level course in Dance and the Creative and Performing Arts whether at a vocational training college or university.

Drama and Theatre Studies

(A Level)

Taught by an industry specialist, Drama and Theatre Studies is a course for anyone interested in creating theatre, whether as a performer, designer, reviewer or to instigate social change. The course provides opportunities to see, analyse and evaluate live theatre (you should be willing to experience as much diverse theatre as possible during the course). You will study a variety of realist and surrealist theatre practitioners, including Stanislavski, Artaud, Berkoff, Katie Mitchell and Sarah Kane; be involved in two examined public performances (as actor or designer) as well as having the opportunity to be involved in school productions. You will also study the social and historical contexts of plays from at least three different British theatre epochs. Lessons generally have a practical approach to theoretical understanding of theatre to communicate meaning, including performance, lighting, set and costume design. Independent reflection and analysis is expected as, too, is out of school hours rehearsals for examined pieces.

It is not necessary to have studied drama at GCSE, although a good grasp of English language and/or literature is essential. The course combines well with the social sciences, English and the arts. Furthermore, Russell Group universities are now giving greater prominence to the arts than in previous years. Former students have also combined Maths with Drama for a broad knowledge base.

English Language

(A Level)

Any student with a natural curiosity about language and a willingness to work hard will find studying English Language extremely rewarding. In Year 12, students begin by analysing different types of texts and comparing them. Units of study include: Language and Gender, Occupation, Ethnicity, Social Groups and Region; The Individual and Society. We also study Language, Diversity and Change and Child Language Acquisition. Two coursework tasks will be completed in Year 13, one will be original writing, which may be stories, articles or monologues for different audiences, with a written supportive commentary. The other will be a language investigation on an aspect of English which interests students.

English Literature

(A Level)

This two-year course explores a wide range of texts and genres. The specification encourages students to further their interest in English Literature through reading widely, critically and independently. There are three core units: Literary Genres; Texts and Genres and Theory and independence and a further four option units: aspects of comedy or tragedy and elements of crime writing or political and social protest writing. Texts include: Shakespeare, Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*, *Death of a Salesman*, John Keats' and Tony Harrison's poetry. Two coursework essays will be completed.

French

(A Level)

The A Level French course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE in listening, speaking, reading and writing, with a focus on the grammatical system and structures of French language, culture and society. Students learn about the mechanics of the language (grammar, syntax and structure), whilst at the same time, developing their ideas about different social issues and improving general cultural awareness of France and the French-speaking world.

We aim to bring the language to life, basing the study topics around issues related to lifestyle and society which students should find interesting and engaging. The ability to speak a foreign language is not only an asset in terms of demonstrating communication skills, but it also supports broader employment options and can help students on a wide variety of career pathways.

Students will study texts and films in addition to developing research skills in preparation for an individual research project to support the speaking assessment.

Geography

(A Level)

Students opting for this course will study the key issues that we face in the 21st century – issues such as globalisation, hazard management, climate change, changing urban areas and sustainable development. Geographers make sense of the world around them and develop a number of skills which themselves are tested as part of this course.

Fieldwork is an integral part of this subject and as well as a number of local fieldwork opportunities, students enjoy a residential at a study centre in North Yorkshire to thoroughly prepare them for their examinations and their independent coursework submission. This part subsidised trip is a compulsory element to this course. ICT also plays an integral part in the subject and students will be expected to independently research patterns and processes to enhance their understanding.

Studying Geography opens up a whole host of options and perhaps just as importantly, it makes you much better informed about your role and responsibilities towards our planet.

Health and Social Care

(BTEC National Diploma equivalent to two A Levels)

(BTEC National Extended Certificate equivalent to one A Level)

These new advanced courses are the equivalent of either one or two A Levels. Some of the topics studied during the two year course include: Human Lifespan Development, Working in Health and Social Care, Meeting Individual Support Needs, Safe Practice, Research and Public Health. Work experience and links to the workplace form an integral part of the programme and the department has established excellent links with local service providers who contribute to the course and support students during placements and work experience.

This new BTEC will be assessed in three different ways: assignments (set and marked internally); tasks (set and marked by Pearson); written examination (externally assessed).

Hard work, determination and a sense of humour are essential in order to work in this field and to study on this course. If you are planning a career in the NHS, the social services or the voluntary services, this course would be an advantageous choice. The qualification will build and develop the necessary practical skills and understanding to provide learners with a firm grounding in the principles of health care and social care, enabling progression into employment or higher level education.

History

(A Level)

Studying A Level History offers an exciting opportunity for all students who enjoyed the subject at GCSE. Many of the topics will be familiar but will be explored in greater depth. Advanced Level History builds on skills from GCSE, with students exploring topics in more breadth and depth. However, we also welcome analytical thinkers who haven't studied History at GCSE. Some of our recent success stories come from students who joined us at A Level!

At Brooksbank we have had great success in A Level History in recent years, producing some of the best A Level results in Calderdale. Our students regularly go on to continue their studies at Russell Group universities.

We follow the Edexcel A Level History course which comprises three exam units and a coursework module. All three exams are taken at the end of the second year, making this a linear A Level. There is no option to do an AS Level at the end of Year 12. The units studied are: Britain, 1625-1701 Conflict, Revolution and Settlement; Russia in Revolution, 1894-1924; Industrialisation and Social Change in Britain, 1759-1928, Forging a New Society; coursework, an independently researched enquiry.

A Level History combines well with other subjects, and is actively encouraged by leading universities as a respected entry route to a wide range of degree courses. Beyond this, the analytical and evaluative skills that studying A Level History develops are highly valued; History graduates are able to choose from a diverse range of careers such as law, politics, journalism and broadcasting, the civil service, financial services and beyond.

Information Technology

(BTEC National Extended Certificate. Equivalent to one A Level)

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology is intended as an Applied General qualification equivalent to one A Level. It is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT. Learners will develop a common core of IT knowledge and study areas such as the relationship between hardware and software that form an IT system, managing and processing data to support business and using IT to communicate and share information. There is a two-hour written examination, covering both technical aspects of ICT systems and the role of computer in modern working life. Students also are required to carry out a five-hour practical examination involving the development of a working database system.

This course is suitable for students with a desire to extend their skills using database and web design software, but also who are capable of producing written portfolio work at a high standard. Students are expected to be literate, able to meet deadlines and self-motivated. Please note that vocational ICT courses is currently an area where much change is taking place. We are constantly monitoring new courses as they become available and the exact awarding body and course choice may alter if different opportunities unfold.

Applied Law

(BTEC National. Equivalent to one A Level)

The BTEC National in Applied Law is equivalent to one A Level. It is an exciting and interesting course which focuses more on applying the law to case studies rather than learning huge quantities of information, thus allowing more emphasis on learning skills rather than learning information. The topics that are covered in the course are useful if you are thinking about going on to studying law at undergraduate level but are interesting and relevant to everyday life, as you will see the topics covered in news articles on a daily basis.

Year 12 of the course focuses on two units. The first is a coursework unit which covers the basics of law making and applying; the roles of solicitors, barristers, magistrates, judges and juries; and non-fatal offences against the person such as assault, battery, ABH and GBH. The second unit in Year 12 is an examined unit which focuses on the tort of negligence. Year 13 returns to criminal law for an examined unit on homicide, offences against property and police powers. Finally, there is a coursework unit in Year 13 on family law - specifically marriage, divorce and court orders following divorce.

If you are hardworking, enjoy solving problems, follow current affairs, enjoy a challenge and have an eye for detail then this is the course for you.

Mathematics

(A Level)

Mathematics is an important qualification. An A Level in Maths is a requirement of all mathematically based degrees and of many scientific courses. Students study elements of pure mathematics, statistics and mechanics. Some familiar topics will include further study of algebra, trigonometry, graph plotting and sketching. Calculus, an area of Mathematics not encountered at GCSE, will be studied in detail. Calculus is an important component of higher education courses in Mathematics, engineering and sciences.

Mathematics opens all sorts of doors - in recent years students have become mechanical engineers, sound production engineers, accountants and actuaries, doctors and medical scientists, computer graphic designers, graduate engineering apprentices, sports scientists, teachers, fashion designers and architects to name just a few.

For A Level Mathematics you will need at least a grade 6 at GCSE. It is also recommended that students have a good graphical calculator for this course.

Further Mathematics

(A Level)

Further Mathematics is an additional A Level qualification taken in addition to the Mathematics A level. This can be taken as an A level across Years 12 and 13, or as an AS Level in Year 13.

This is a highly challenging and highly regarded course. This qualification both broadens and deepens the mathematics covered in A Level Mathematics and, for someone who enjoys mathematics, it provides a challenge and a chance to explore new and/or more sophisticated mathematical concepts.

Studying Further Mathematics is excellent preparation for University, especially if you wish to study Mathematics related subjects eg Engineering, Computing. Methods studied in A Level Mathematics will be developed further. In addition new areas of Pure Mathematics will be introduced, such as complex numbers, matrices and group theory. To study Further Mathematics, you will need at least a grade 8 at GCSE and also need to be studying A Level Mathematics.

Media Studies

(A Level)

We live in a media rich environment and receive information through complex combinations of text, image and sound. A Level Media Studies involves investigating and analysing a wide range of media texts, including those found in television, magazines and advertising, to understand the message of the media maker and how it is conveyed. Students develop their ability to critically 'read' and respond to media through the study of key concepts: texts, industry and audience. The course also encourages creativity, enabling students to gain a greater appreciation of media by planning, developing and analysing their own production work. If you have an interest and enthusiasm for unpicking concepts, analysing how the media conveys its messages and being creative, then you will find this course both relevant and enjoyable.

Music Performance

(BTEC National Extended Certificate. Equivalent to one A Level)

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance gives learners the opportunity to progress to a degree in a Music discipline or a degree where performing arts-related skills may be advantageous. The course enables learners to develop the knowledge and skills needed for entry-level roles relating to Music. These could include vocational apprenticeship roles and trainee/entry-level roles, such as administration, instrumental teaching, event management and community arts worker.

Studying BTEC Level 3 Music gives learners the opportunity to formalise and deepen their knowledge, experience and understanding of the contemporary music industry. They will analyse performance practice and incorporate current trends into their own music making in ensemble settings, as well as strengthening their knowledge of the rudiments of music. This knowledge will then be put into practical use in vocational contexts to deepen their awareness of relationships within the organisations found in today's ever evolving music industry. Although the course is largely practical, and mostly focused on performance of contemporary music, two units have externally assessed written exams.

Students will study three mandatory units, which provide an essential introduction to the skills and knowledge required to be successful in music. They cover the following topics: ensemble music performance, professional practice in the music industry, practical music theory and harmony.

The optional units have been designed to complement the knowledge and skills developed in ensemble music performance and support progression to more specialist creative courses in higher education. They also link with relevant occupational areas. The optional units cover the following areas: composing music, music performance session styles, solo performance and improvising music.

Photography

(A Level)

Students studying A Level Photography are introduced to a variety of experiences including the exploration of a range of photographic media, techniques and process both in traditional and new technologies. Students explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to photography and a wider range of art and design, from the past and recent times including European and non-European examples. Students will choose an area of personal interest, developing practical responses from their investigations and research. A Level Photography enables students to develop and explore their own photographic practice. Teaching staff aim to develop students' strengths, so that they may progress successfully within the assessment objectives and achieve successful results.

The course provides a firm foundation for further study at university in Photography or related media subjects such as Media, Graphic design as well as more technical degrees such as Lighting and Sound for Film and Television. Transferable skills including research, exploration, recording, time management, exhibition curation and thinking outside the box will enable you to become a desirable student, employee and team player. If you are passionate about photography and have drive and enthusiasm you will find this course beneficial and enjoyable.

Physical Education

(A Level)

In this course you will study both the theoretical and practical aspects of Sport and PE. In Year 12, students learn about the psychological, physiological and historical influences on performance. This is combined with demonstrating your ability to perform sporting skills from one practical activity. In Year 13, the focus switches to analysing the factors that influence elite performance, such as how to control stress and anxiety; how to train the specific energy systems required for different sports; and how the media and commercialism influences elite sport.

Students are also required to evaluate their own performance and use their theoretical knowledge to explain how performance can be improved further. The course provides an excellent foundation for students wishing to study Physical Education or Sports Science at university, or wishing to pursue a career in teaching, coaching or the health and fitness industry. Please note that to be successful in this subject it is essential that you are a strong practical performer in at least one sport.

Physics

(A Level)

Physics is at the heart of the modern world. Have you ever used a mobile phone, flown on an aeroplane, crossed a bridge, watched TV or used the internet? The chances are that you have done most, if not all, of these – and without Physics they would be impossible. A Level Physics is your gateway into this world of advanced engineering and technology. In Year 12, students will study units on mechanics, waves and quantum physics, involving many new and challenging ideas. In Year 13, the units studied include gravity, orbits, electromagnetic fields, cosmology, particle physics and medical imaging.

Research shows that the skills that Physics students develop through their studies are in high demand and therefore Physics graduates can earn higher salaries than students from many other areas of study. Physics is a rigorous and challenging subject demanding hard work and determination. We strongly recommend that all students also choose to study A Level Mathematics or Chemistry to support their learning in this subject.

Politics

(A Level) Collaborative Delivery

This course is offered at Brighthouse High School. Politics exists because people disagree. They disagree about how they should live (moral questions), about who should get what (resource questions) and about who should make decisions (power questions). Politics therefore seeks to establish the general rules under which we live and it is those rules that make orderly existence possible. As such, politics is the most basic and necessary of social activities — without orderly existence, society will degenerate into a civil war of each against all.

A Level Politics is likely to suit students who have an interest in the world around them — ones who want to know more about the society they live in, how it works and how it could work, enjoy debate, discussion and argument and like to think for themselves.

Applied Psychology

(BTEC National Extended Certificate. Equivalent to one A Level)

This qualification has been designed to give you the opportunity to study Psychology through applied learning. You can explore the range of approaches and applications of Psychology and take the opportunity to carry out your own Psychology research projects.

There are three mandatory units covering Applications of Psychological Approaches, Conducting Psychological Research and Health Psychology. You will also have the opportunity to choose a specialist topic from a range of optional units such as Criminal and Forensic Psychology, Children's Psychological Development, Psychopathology and Sport Psychology.

The qualification is perfect for those wanting to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the Applied Psychology sector.

Religious Studies with Philosophy and Ethics

(A Level) Collaborative Delivery

This course is offered at Brighthouse High School. Ever since humankind started to think, philosophy and religion have been fundamental parts of our development. As people look into the vastness of space or witness the miracle of birth, they contemplate the meaning of life and their own mortality. In the 21st century, Philosophy, Ethics and Religion still addresses the same eternal human questions about life and death, values and relationships, right and wrong.

If you are interested in current affairs, people, different cultures and the debates about the meaning of life, then this could be the course for you. A Level Religious Studies requires the study of Philosophy and Ethics in Year 12 and in-depth study of one world religion in Year 13, the beliefs and teachings of which are then applied to various philosophical concepts and ethical issues.

Key areas of study include: Life after death, arguments for the existence of God, the challenge from Science, religious identity, free will and moral responsibility. Students will be challenged to consider how religion is influenced by, and influences a range of ethical issues.

Applied Science

(BTEC National Extended Certificate. Equivalent to one A Level, BTEC National Diploma.

Equivalent to two A Levels)

This vocational qualification is the new alternative to the previous Applied Science A Level. It gives learners a practical and vocational qualification that can be taken alongside other A Levels or BTEC qualifications. The Extended Certificate (one A Level equivalent) consists of three written exams, two coursework units and an externally marked practical task. The Diploma (equivalent to two A Levels) consists of the same units as the Extended Certificate plus an additional three coursework units and an additional three written exams. This course is a great opportunity to continue studying Science to A Level as it covers Chemistry, Physics and Biology, whilst also gaining an overview of how Science is used in industry.

Sociology

(A Level)

This course will be particularly appealing to students who wish to forge a career involving the Social Sciences. Social phenomena studied include the family and education in Year 12, along with crime, deviance and the mass media in Year 13. Analysing, evaluating and critical thinking skills are developed throughout this course which provides a perfect springboard to a wide variety of career paths including law, journalism, management, business and teaching. There are many opportunities for debate within Sociology, so it is suitable for students with an enquiring mind.

Former Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher famously once said, "There is no such thing as society". However, others disagree. If this discussion interests you, then Sociology could be the right subject for you.

Sport

(BTEC National Extended Certificate. Equivalent to one A Level, BTEC National Diploma.
Equivalent to two A Levels)

This course is designed to prepare students for a career in the world of sport, or as preparation for a higher education course. The qualification is a combination of coursework and one externally assessed examination. Over the two year course, students investigate a range of topics including: anatomy, physiology, fitness training and programming, professional development in sport and one additional optional unit. Additional opportunities, such as trips and visits and working with neighbouring primary schools, will enable students to gain a wide range of experiences. These will add to any UCAS, job and training application. This course can be studied as a single or double option.

Textiles

(A Level) Collaborative Delivery

This course is offered at Brighthouse High School. Textiles study is eminently suited to expressive and creative students who have studied Textiles at GCSE. The fashion industry is explored in detail, as are technological advances in textiles. In Year 12, students produce detailed and visual design folders and a range of creative and innovative products. The course provides an insight into the world of fashion and textiles design and students are given opportunities to work on live briefs. Year 13 allows students to specialise in their chosen area of textile product design, having the opportunity to design and produce unique textile creations.

If you are passionate about fashion and want to be creative using textiles, talk to our Textiles teachers. Your resulting portfolio of work could be your gateway to many exciting career paths including; fashion, design, retail and marketing.

3 Dimensional Design

(A Level)

This creative course strengthens students' practical skills, theoretical knowledge and builds confidence in working with a variety of materials. The practical, problem-solving approaches within the course encourage independent learning, creativity and innovation.

A Level 3 Dimensional Design builds on experience in Design and Technology at Key Stage 4. Students investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design, and enjoy opportunities to put their learning into practice by producing prototypes of their own designs.

In Year 12, students work on a series of tasks to build a portfolio of evidence that demonstrates their ability to design, make, communicate and evaluate a range of products. In Year 13, students work through a design process to produce a single product. They develop their communication ability using CAD, ICT and graphics, and use these skills to plan a series of outcomes. Homework elements include background reading, responding to examination-style questions and producing a folder of work. An invaluable text book accompanies the course which helps prepare students for their final examination.

Course Information

Level 2 GCSE courses

We offer a one-year Level 2 programme for students who wish to improve their existing GCSE grades and gain more qualifications. This course gives some students the grades they need to stay on to study Level 3 courses. For others, it gives them additional qualifications for further training or employment.

Entry requirements

To access one of our Level 2 courses, students must have **five** GCSE passes at 9 - 3 and be willing to work hard to improve their grades.

Two courses are to be chosen from the following list:

- Business Studies (BTEC Extended Certificate)
- Children's Play Learning and Development (BTEC First Certificate)
- Public Services (BTEC Level 2)
- Combined Science (GCSE)

Each course on the Level 2 programme is equivalent to one GCSE pass. Students also study English, Mathematics and Citizenship. This may allow students to improve their existing GCSE grade or develop their literacy and numeracy skills through a Functional Award. Extension Studies give students a number of extra opportunities, some of which lead to nationally recognised qualifications. Students also complete two weeks of work experience.

Business Studies

(BTEC Award) Level 2

This vocational course is equivalent to one GCSE and aims to teach students about how a business operates. The course provides students with the opportunity to apply theory to real world businesses. Students visit businesses in order to gain an insight into the world of work. Students will use research from business visits in order to complete three portfolios of work.

The course consists of three units of coursework and one exam. The coursework includes: Promotion; Personal Selling and Business Enterprise. The exam is based on finance. Students may go on to choose to follow A Level courses, for example, the BTEC Level 3 Business course or enter the employment market with increased skills.

Children's Play, Learning and Development

(BTEC First Certificate)

This Level 2 qualification will give you the knowledge, understanding and essential skills needed if you are considering entering employment in the child care sector. It is a vocational course giving students the necessary knowledge and skills through school and placement experience to work in the caring sector at a junior level or to progress onto BTEC National Diplomas in health, caring or employment.

The course is divided into three units which allow you to develop your interests and introduce you to areas including Understanding Child Development, preparing inclusive environments for child care and Development through Play.

Assessment is based on two internally marked assignments and one external examination. Students need to undertake sixty hours of work experience and must be well organised and self-motivated to keep to coursework schedules.

Public Services

(BTEC Award Level 2)

This course is ideal for students preparing for employment in the public sector, particularly in job roles where they will be expected to use physical fitness skills, research skills and to carry out roles where customer relations and interpersonal communication is important. The course provides ideal preparation for students interested in pursuing a career in the emergency services, armed forces, or the police and law enforcement service. The award (equivalent to one GCSE) requires completion of four units - three of which are coursework based. The coursework units include: exploring the skills required by those working in the public services; understanding the work done and the application process to join the public services; and understanding the health and fitness required employment in the public services. The final unit is examined and involves looking at the political and economic factors which affect public service operations.

Specific entry requirements

To study **Level 3** (academic A Level) courses students must have a minimum of:

- at least **five** GCSE's at 9 - 4 grades (or equivalent).
- these must include a grade 4 and 5 in English Language and Mathematics (either way round, but higher grade must support subject choices).

To study Level 3 vocational (BTEC) courses, students must have a minimum of:

- at least **five** GCSE's at 9 - 4 grades, including English Language at Grade 4.

In addition, some subjects have specific entry requirements. These are outlined below.

Course Title	Additional entry requirements above the minimum detailed above
A Level Art and Design	GCSE grade 4 or above in an Art discipline.
A Level Biology	Grades 6/6 in GCSE Science AND Grade 5 GCSE Mathematics OR Grade 6 in GCSE Biology, Grade 5 in GCSE Chemistry AND Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.
BTEC Business Studies Extended Certificate / Diploma	GCSE grade 4 or above in Mathematics.
A Level Business Studies (collaborative delivery)	GCSE grade 5 or above in Mathematics.
A Level Chemistry	Grades 6/6 in GCSE Science and Grade 5 in GCSE Maths OR Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry AND Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.
A Level Computer Science (collaborative delivery)	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics or a grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science.
BTEC Criminology Diploma	-
Dance: Level 3 Diploma (collaborative delivery)	-
A Level Drama and Theatre Studies	If this subject has not been studied at GCSE, then GCSE grade 5 or above in English Language or Literature is required.
A Level English Language	GCSE grade 6 or above in English Language.
A Level English Literature	GCSE grade 6 or above in English Literature.
A Level French	GCSE grade 6 or above in French.
A Level Geography	GCSE grade 5 or above in English Language and Mathematics plus at least a grade 5 in Geography.
BTEC Health and Social Care National Extended Certificate / Diploma	-
A Level History	GCSE grade 6 or above in History (if History was not taken at GCSE, grade 6 in either English Language or Literature)
BTEC Information Technology National Extended Certificate	GCSE grade 5 or above in Maths, plus at least a merit in OCR Diploma ICT course or equivalent
BTEC Applied Law Extended Certificate	-
A Level Mathematics	GCSE grade 6 or above on the Higher Tier GCSE Mathematics paper.
A Level Further Mathematics	GCSE grade 8 in Mathematics.
A Level Media Studies	GCSE grade 5 or above in English Language.

BTEC Music Performance National Extended Certificate	GCSE grade 4 or above in Music or a Pass in BTEC Music.
A Level Photography	-
A Level Physical Education	GCSE grade 5 or above in PE and Science and be a strong performer in one sport.
A Level Physics	GCSE grade 6 or above in Physics or 6/6 in Dual Award Science. GCSE Mathematics grade 6 or above, if studying Physics in combination with Mathematics or Chemistry. GCSE Mathematics grade 7 or above, if not studying Mathematics or Chemistry A Level.
A Level Politics (collaborative delivery)	-
BTEC Applied Psychology National Extended Certificate	-
A Level Religious Studies with Philosophy and Ethics (collaborative delivery)	A grade 5 in GCSE Religious Studies if studied.
BTEC Applied Science National Extended Certificate / Diploma	GCSE Science qualification at grade 4 or above or 5/4 in Combined Science.
A Level Sociology	GCSE grade 5 or above in English Language.
BTEC Sport National Extended Certificate / Diploma	A recognised Level 2 qualification in PE such as GCSE or BTEC PE.
A Level Textiles (collaborative delivery)	GCSE grade 5 or above in a creative arts subject.
A Level 3 Dimensional Design	GCSE grade 5 or above in Materials Technology.

Student Life

Our Sixth Form is a vibrant and happy community with a positive atmosphere and a lively cultural, social and sporting scene.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Students can get involved in a wide range of out of hours activities. This might mean pursuing something you are good at already, or trying something new. As a Sports College, there are literally dozens of sports activities, from rock climbing to trampolining, from Duke of Edinburgh to helping to coach younger students or primary school children. We also have an extremely strong arts scene in the sixth form. Students organise concerts and shows themselves as well as starring in our whole school productions and musical events.

There are also numerous trips and holidays on offer too. Some are educational such as our field trips or university days, others are just for fun like the annual London theatre weekend or our Ski America trip.

We also find time to think about other people too! The sixth form has a great record in fundraising and our charity work is impressive. We adopt a number of specific charities as well as Comic Relief or Children in Need. We bake cakes, sell ourselves as slaves, dress up in silly clothes and generally have a good time as well as raising money for good causes.

Social Scene

The Sixth Form is a lively place to be if you want to have a good time too. There are events organised by the committee ranging from bowling trips to party nights. The year starts with our "get to know you" day out at Alton Towers and ends with the lavish Year 13 Prom. A highlight of the year for many, this is splendid occasion takes place at The Venue Barkisland, so get the tux hired and the limo booked now!

Student Voice

At Brooksbank we think it's important that our students have a say in how their Sixth Form is run. This happens in lots of ways:

- every student has regular meetings with a personal tutor where views and opinions are expressed and passed on,
- formal interviews are scheduled with groups of students to gain your views on all aspects of Sixth Form life,
- every course holds an annual review which gives you the opportunity to feedback on your experience in that subject,
- the Sixth Form has an elected committee which meets regularly to discuss issues raised by staff and students and plan events and activities. This feeds into our whole school council where the sixth form students play an important role,
- each year, students are invited to apply for the positions of Head Girl and Head Boy. This is an important role which is highly valued and sought after. The successful candidates, together with their deputies, form a team, which works closely with the Head of Year 12 and 13 on a range of Sixth Form issues.

Food for thought...

At Brooksbank we are committed to providing healthy nutritious food for our students. We have four food outlets which provide freshly-prepared meals and snacks every day:

- The Coffee Shop is exclusive to Sixth Form students and staff and provides a range of healthy snacks, meals and drinks throughout the day;
- The Dining Hall serves a delicious range of popular dishes from around the world and is situated alongside the arthaus;
- The Deli provides freshly prepared sandwiches, salads and home-bakes on a take-away basis. The Deli is located in the Small Hall, which is a popular place for our Sixth Form students to study;
- The Kiosk is an outdoor snack point providing chilled drinks plus hot and cold take away food.

Additional Studies

In addition to your Level 3 or Level 2 programme, there is a wide range of additional opportunities for you.

Enrichment

We offer a number of activities that Sixth Form students can get involved with to enhance their CV and develop wider skills. The courses currently on offer include:

•	MENGAGE – mental health first aid training,
•	Photography,
•	Community Sports Leaders Awards,
•	Sixth Form Magazine,
•	Mentoring and Leadership opportunities.

As a Sports College, we enter teams in competitive leagues and tournaments for football and netball and our Sports Leaders often assist the coaching of younger students in a range of sports.

Tutorial

Each student has a weekly form period which is run by form tutors and covers a range of activities. This will include individual tutorial work, sessions on study skills or university preparation, one off talks/lectures from outside speakers and in the run up to Christmas, our famous Brightsparks Quiz.

Preparation for the future

A team of specialist staff, both inside and outside school, ensures you receive individual impartial careers advice and support. Our careers education, information, advice and guidance programme helps you to develop self-awareness, decision making and research abilities.

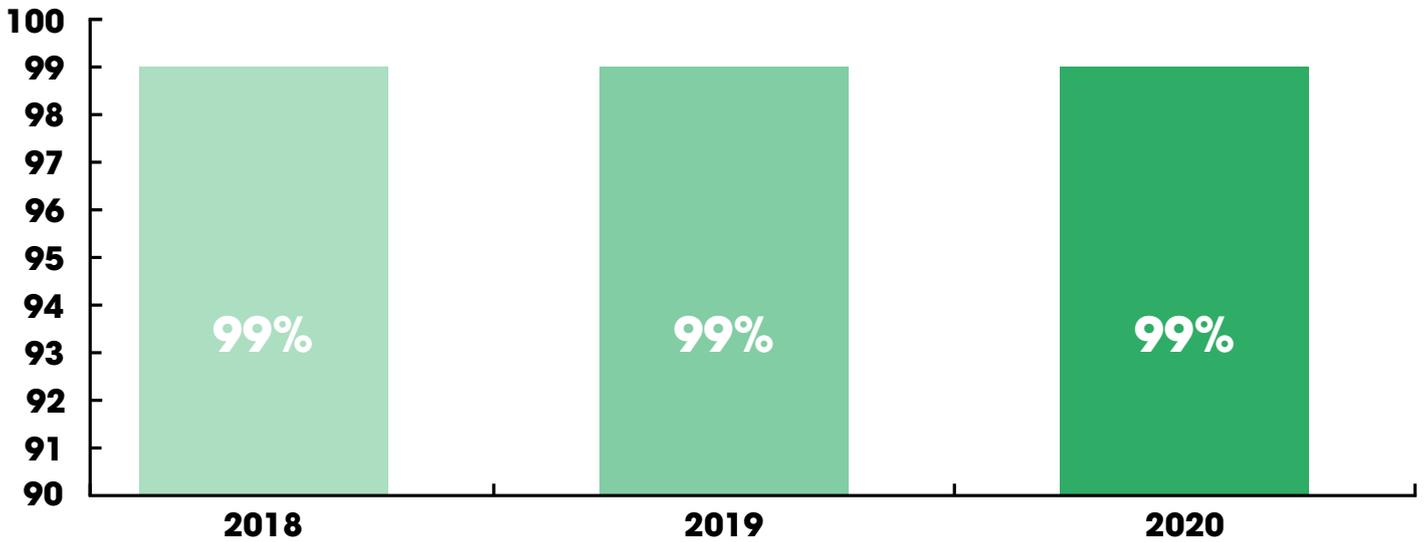
Brooksbank Sixth Form students are also given extensive support to prepare them for the transition to further or higher education. We have a well-developed UCAS application programme, offering students advice on personal statement writing, university course choices and interview preparation. Potential candidates for Oxbridge have access to a support programme called Brooksbank+, which is organised in collaboration with other Sixth Form Colleges.

Work experience/Internships

Developing employability skills is seen as an important and integral part of all Post-16 Study Programmes. To support this, all Year 12 students have a work experience placement, in an external working environment, during the summer term. We attempt to ensure each placement is stretching, and based on a student's prior attainment, career and learning goals.

A Level Results

% pass rate at A Level



% Grades A* - B Level

