

**The North East Consortium
Sixth Form Information Booklet**

Information for Entry in September 2010

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Introduction

Is the Sixth Form for me?

For the majority of students the answer to this question is quite simple – YES! The Sixth Form offers a wide variety of courses for students of all abilities. Employers are looking for skilled, educated young people who are capable of meeting the demands imposed by technological progress. Nowadays people may need to change jobs a number of times throughout their career. A good education will enable young people to make such changes successfully.

The number of students electing to continue their education post 16 within the consortium has increased year on year. We now have over 800 students studying sixth form courses in the consortium schools.

Having such a large number of students enables us to offer a huge number of courses and currently we are able to offer 36 Level 3 courses and 5 Level 2 courses. With support and guidance, students are able to construct a programme to match their interests and ambitions.

The courses on offer range from the traditionally academic 'A' level courses to a whole range of more vocationally orientated courses. The course you eventually chose will depend on a whole range of factors including GCSE examination results and career choice.

In the Sixth Form there will also be a limited opportunity to re-sit certain GCSE subjects. The facility to re-sit English and Mathematics will be available. The Sixth Form has much to offer and it is essential that you carefully consider all the options available before making any decisions.

Part time jobs

If you enter the Sixth Form it is very important that you are able to devote sufficient time to your studies to give you a good chance of being successful. All sixth form courses are demanding and require considerable commitment outside the school day. For this reason students who undertake part time work need to ensure that this does not interfere with their studies. We are recommending therefore that students who undertake courses in the Sixth Form do not work more than 10 hours per week. This is the maximum that we feel is compatible with full time education.

Progression

Whatever your choice of course in the Sixth Form it is important that there are clear progression routes for students who successfully complete their studies. We aim to ensure that all courses provide students with opportunities to continue to develop their interests and skills following their time with us. The following progression routes are applicable to our current sixth form courses.

Employment

A number of students having completed their Sixth Form courses will take up employment. The additional qualifications and wide ranging experiences obtained in the Sixth Form should provide you with a wider range of opportunities when you leave school.

College of Further Education

Students following a one year course may on completion take up a two year Advanced Level course at school. However, a number of students may take up an Advanced level course at College.

Higher Education

Within the North East Consortium we actively promote the virtues of Higher Education. We encourage our students to seriously consider this option and are very pleased with the numbers of students who take up places in Higher Education.

We have developed very positive links with many universities including Oxford and Cambridge, The University of East London, The University of Essex and the University of York. We organise visiting speakers on aspects of the application process, visits to universities as well as a specific Higher Education Information Evening for students and their families. A number of students also participate in additional Saturday School sessions at local universities. Some students take the opportunity to complete a week of study in summer schools at universities across the country. This enables them to experience university life prior to making an application for a full time university place.

Facilities

We are conscious of the need to provide Sixth Form students with the facilities that they deserve. Consequently ALL the schools in the North East Consortium have a designated sixth form area which is solely for the use of our sixth form students.

Life in the Sixth Form

You will find that life in the Sixth Form is different from the school life you have undertaken in previous years. The key to success is responsibility. The onus is in you to make a decision about your course of study and your involvement in extra-curricular activities.

Returning to school beyond the school leaving age is a positive move that involves choosing from a wide range of new courses depending on your interests and ambitions. You will be expected to study independently and manage your study time appropriately. Sixth form students studying level 3 or

advanced courses are expected to complete at least 15 hours of private study per week.

High standards of punctuality and attendance are required just as if you were in employment. Students at all consortium schools are expected to conform to the Sixth Form dress code. Students are expected to dress in a manner appropriate for work in a professional business environment. Boys wear a shirt and tie with smart trousers and leather shoes. Girls are expected to wear tailored trousers or skirts with a smart top. Jeans and trainers are not acceptable. As a Sixth Former you will be expected to set an example to the rest of the school.

We believe that you will find life in the Sixth Form provides opportunities for you to take responsibility for your own activities as well as organising activities for others in the community.

The development of the North East Consortium has brought together students from all four schools. It provides students with the opportunity to make new friends.

It is hoped that you will build on the work of your predecessors and ensure that the North East Consortium continues to flourish.

Enrichment Activities

All Schools will offer students the opportunity to complete additional studies as part of their enrichment programme. Activities this academic year include P.E, Finance courses, Voluntary work, ASDAN qualifications and General Studies. The enrichment programme varies year on year depending on student interest and staff expertise.

Rugby Academy

One of the partner schools is a specialist Rugby Academy. If you have a special interest in Rugby and wish to find out more about the opportunity to combine your interest in the sport with your academic studies, please contact Mr Maudsley on 0208 270 4200.

What Next?

Reading this booklet represents the first important stage in your decision to enter the Sixth Form. All students who wish to enter the Sixth Form will have an interview at which their application will be discussed. It should be noted that in September 2010 we are expecting the tremendous increase in the number of students wishing to return to the Sixth Form to continue. This will mean that in some cases courses will be filled and students applying late, for whatever reason, may not be offered a place on their first choice course. You must consider the course information carefully and make sure you discuss with the relevant people, your options in the Sixth Form.

SIXTH FORM INDUCTION WEEK 28 – 30 June 2010

For students intending to return to school great importance is placed on attendance at the Induction Programme. Students attending the Induction Programme will be given priority for places on oversubscribed courses.

The Induction Session represents an important stage in your successful integration into the Sixth Form. It will provide you with the chance to find out more about the courses and give you a great insight as to what is involved in your Sixth Form course.

You will be provided with information to help you prepare for the start of your course in September. It will also give you the chance to meet students from other schools and become familiar with new surroundings.

It will also give you an initial opportunity to become involved in a range of social activities which one associates with a thriving Sixth Form. If you wish to ensure a successful entry into the Sixth Form, attendance at the Induction Programme is essential. Please make a note of the dates now.

Further information

There are a number of people who are willing to help you in making the important choices that are facing you right now. In particular Form Teachers, Subject Teachers, Connexions Careers Advisers and other staff can assist you in the decision making process.

Questions regarding the organisation of the Sixth Form and any aspect of concern that you might have can be answered by the following people:

All Saints School
Head of Sixth Form: Ms McMahon
Tel. 020 8270 4242

Eastbrook School
Head of Sixth Form: Mrs Hawkins
Tel.0208270 4567

Robert Clack School
Head of Sixth Form: Mr Rissbrook
Tel. 020 8270 4200

Warren School
Head of Sixth Form: Mrs Calder
Tel. 020 8270 4500

Entry requirements

As stated in the prospectus cover information the GCSE grades that you achieve will affect the course that you eventually study in the consortium. However, your GCSE grades will not affect whether or not you are accepted into the consortium. Students who meet the following criteria will be successful in their application to join The North East Consortium.

Students with an excellent attendance and punctuality record. You will not be a successful sixth former if you do not attend regularly and punctually.

Students who are willing to lead by example. As the oldest students in our school community the younger pupils will undoubtedly look to you for leadership. Are you prepared to be an ambassador for your school and the consortium?

Students who are willing to learn. You will be a volunteer and as such need to be an enthusiastic student willing to expand your horizons and extend your capabilities.

Students who are prepared to contribute to the life of the whole school. There will be many occasions during your sixth form career when you will be asked to volunteer and help with the day to day running of some school activities. This may be at lower school parents' evenings, school productions, charity events or showing visitors around the building. All such activities give students the opportunity to demonstrate their reliability and also allow us to show younger pupils and their parents what an excellent group of sixth formers we have. Universities, colleges and future employers always view involvement in such activities positively.

The North East Consortium Curriculum Offer

Sixth Form courses within the consortium can be divided into 2 broad categories. These are **Academic** and **Vocational** courses.

Academic courses are more traditional in that you choose a range of subjects to study in depth for 1 but in most cases 2 years. Vocational Courses are geared towards students who have a more clearly defined idea of the career area that they wish to pursue. Students will spend the majority of their week studying several aspects of one particular area. Full details of both the academic and vocational curriculum offers are enclosed.

Applicants need to be aware that the curriculum offer as outlined in this prospectus may be subject to change in extreme and unusual circumstances e.g. lack of sufficient applicants or staffing issues. Should a course need to be withdrawn from the offer candidates who have applied will be advised as soon as possible. In some cases new courses are introduced after the publication of the prospectus and again, Year 11 students will be advised of this through assembly or other means.

Academic Courses

These courses are particularly suitable for those students who have enjoyed the type of work covered at GCSE level. There are currently 33 different subjects to choose from. Many are the same as those available at GCSE but in addition there are a whole range of new subjects. It is important to ensure that you select subjects you enjoy as you will need to spend a significant amount of time in private study during your course. You will also need to ensure that you choose subjects which are necessary for your future career. Subjects are studied in depth and students need to be prepared to take the initiative in reading around the subject. You will, of course, be given lots of help and advice from your subject teachers.

In the first year of your sixth form 'A' level course you will study an AS level syllabus. This is worth 50% of a full 'A' level award. Students in the consortium usually study 4 subjects in their lower sixth year, but some students study 5. At the end of the lower sixth, students elect to drop 1 subject and continue with their remaining subjects at A2 level. Once students complete this course they obtain a full 'A' Level award.

It is possible to leave after one year having achieved your AS level qualifications but almost all of our students who elect to follow such courses complete 2 years and leave with the full 'A' level award.

Entry Requirements for AS and A level courses

If you are hoping to study an AS qualification you will need to have achieved at least 5 grade 'C's in 5 separate subjects. **The vast majority of subjects will expect you to have achieved at least a grade B in English Language** as well as in the subject you hope to study at A level. Students who do not get a grade B in English Language need to be aware that they will have a more limited choice as to the range of courses they can elect to study. Full details are available on the prospectus supplementary sheets that are available for individual subjects in addition to this prospectus.

You should be aware that your GCSE grades will be a very good indicator of your likely success at AS level. The better your GCSE grades the better your AS and 'A' level grades are likely to be. You should also be aware that some students who enter AS level courses with weak GCSE grades go on to be highly successful in the final examinations achieving grades far beyond those originally anticipated.

Provisional AS and Level 3 Course Offer September 2010

We currently expect to offer the following AS level courses in September 2010

Accounting, Art, Art History, Art Textiles, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Design Technology, Drama, Economics, English Language, English Literature, Film Studies, French, General Studies, Geography, Graphics, Health and Social Care, History, Information and Communication Technology, Law, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Media Studies, Music, Music Technology, Philosophy and Ethics, Photography, Physics, Politics, Psychology, Sociology and Spanish.

You may also elect to study Applied Awards in Art, Information and Communication Technology and Performing Arts. We also offer B. Tec Awards in Business, ICT, Science and Sport. It is possible to study Applied Art, Business, ICT, Health and Social Care, Science and BTEC Sport as double awards. This means they are broadly equivalent to 2 A level qualifications.

We are very pleased to be able to offer a Level 3 Beauty Therapy course for those students successfully completing the Level 2 course.

We are also pleased that we are able to offer students the opportunity to study one of the new diploma courses in Engineering. (This is the equivalent of 3 A levels)

Please note that AS level courses are delivered in a blocking system. This means that it is not always possible to study every combination of subject. However, our consortium arrangement makes it possible for almost all students to study the range of subjects they choose and every effort is made to ensure that your choice of subject combination will be available.

AS Level Course Descriptions

The following gives a very brief outline of the AS, 'A' level and 3 unit Applied courses available in the consortium. Once you have decided which subjects you are interested in, you can obtain further information from your Head of Sixth Form. **All Subjects have provided a detailed prospectus supplementary sheet outlining the syllabus requirements.** You will need to read the additional information sheet provided by each subject to ensure that you are fully aware of the specific course details and entry requirements.

Accounting

The aim of the course is to enable students to understand and prepare accounts for every type of business from sole trade to limited company. Accounting involves decision-making skills related to financial affairs and the preparation of company reports. The course also includes an awareness of the effects of financial decisions on the environment, jobs and the life of the community. A prior knowledge of accounting is not required but it is essential that all prospective students obtain at least a grade 'B' at GCSE Mathematics. There is no course work with this course. All assessment is through externally set examinations. Internal assessment will take place every half term.

Art and Design

Art and Design offers students the opportunity to develop and broaden the skills they have already acquired at GCSE. Drawing is fundamental to the course and will be the starting point for work in all units. It is essential that students wishing to pursue this course at AS or A level have good drawing skills and enthusiasm. Students will use painting, sculpture, print making, ceramics and digital photography to develop their ideas. They will need to submit critical work on artists and must be prepared to visit galleries and exhibitions to further their knowledge. There are 2 units of work at AS of which one is an externally set assignment. It is recommended that students achieve at least a grade C at GCSE in order to be eligible for this course.

Art (History of Art and Architecture)

History of Art and Architecture explores aspects of painting, sculpture, craft, print-making, photography and architecture in the Western World from Classical Greece to the present day. Students will be taught how to analyse and interpret works of architecture, painting and sculpture and explore art historical themes. The course is suitable for all students who wish to develop their interest in and enjoyment of the History of Art. The course is assessed by two written examinations at 'AS' level and a further two at 'A' level. Students will be expected to complete a number of short and extended essays based on knowledge acquired in lessons as well as visits to galleries and architectural sites. Due to the academic nature of the course, students will need to have achieved at least a grade 'B' in English or History at GCSE. Although the course would be very beneficial to art and graphics students, it will also be of great interest to those who are interested in the academic study of the History of Art.

Art Textiles

Art Textiles offers students the opportunity to develop and broaden the skills they have already acquired at GCSE. Creativity and experimentation is fundamental to the course and will be the starting point for work in all units. Students will use a variety of techniques including painting, collage, weaving, hand and machine embroidery and felt making to develop their ideas. They will need to submit critical work on artists and designers and must be prepared to visit galleries and exhibitions to further their knowledge. There are 2 units of work at AS of which one is the externally set assignment. It is recommended that students achieve at least a grade C at GCSE in order to be eligible for this course although students who have not taken textiles at GCSE are welcome to apply.

Biology

The course aims to stimulate, develop and sustain an interest in Biology. A good understanding of biological facts and principles will be developed, with particular emphasis on the human, social and applied aspects of the subject. Biology is the study of life, from the simplest organism to the most complex multicellular organism. Starting from the basics of biochemistry and cell

biology, students will build an understanding of how living systems work, and how sometimes they go wrong in disease. Students will also further develop their experimental skills when investigating a number of topics within the syllabus

Business Studies

This course encourages students to develop their ability to recognise, define, analyse and evaluate problems connected with all types of business whether commercial or industrial. Independent research by students is essential and a personal knowledge of and/or contact with one or more businesses in the community is also helpful but not essential. It is not always necessary to have studied Business Studies at GCSE but a good grade in Maths and English is essential

BTEC National Business (Single Award)

Throughout the duration of this course students are required to study and complete 6 units covering a wide aspect of Business. Students are required to apply, analyse and evaluate their knowledge of a range of businesses and scenarios, completing 6 pieces of coursework over the two years.

The course allows students to develop the knowledge and key skills required to pursue a career in business. It is essential that students wishing to choose this course have good time management skills, are well organised and have excellent attendance due to the vocational demands of the course.

Chemistry

This is a subject for those students who enjoyed Science at GCSE and would like to study further the 3 main aspects of Chemistry. These are physical, inorganic and organic chemistry. This subject is essential for those who have aspirations to follow career paths such as Medicine, Dentistry, Chemical Engineering and Forensic Science. As a science subject it is a subject which involves a significant amount of practical work.

Design Technology

Design Technology is a popular AS and 'A' level course in the consortium. There are different 'options' within the syllabus which can be studied to achieve the full award. You can obtain full details from your Design and Technology teacher or contact your Head of Sixth Form.

(Product Design)

This course focuses on the processes and skills used to develop new products creatively. 'Blue sky' thinking – designing products to utilise emerging technologies – is also encouraged. Factors that influence design and designers, such as legislation, sustainability, business, materials considerations and processing techniques are also looked at. The use of CAD/CAM is used heavily in coursework which forms the main basis for the

way this course is assessed. Students will produce case studies, as well as design and prototype models of their ideas. Any DT subject (GCSE or B.TEC) will give the students a good basis to study this popular course.

(Resistant Materials)

This course focuses on the production of a working prototype to solve a particular design need. The use of CAD/CAM is used heavily in coursework which forms the main basis for the way the course is assessed. Students will produce case studies as well as design and manufacture their prototype. Factors that influence design and designers, such as legislation, sustainability, business, materials considerations and processing techniques are also looked at. Any DT subject (GCSE or B.TEC) will give the students a good basis to study this popular course.

Drama

This is a challenging and demanding course that requires commitment and enthusiasm. The emphasis is on practical drama but written work is also very important as there is a substantial amount of course work to complete. Regular trips to the theatre are essential. The course requires a high level of energy and interest in Drama and, although it is not essential, it is preferable to have studied Drama at GCSE level. This course will complement other AS and A2 courses such as English and Media Studies. Anyone looking to follow a career or university course in Drama or the Arts in general will find this course rewarding. An excellent attendance record is paramount because successful group dynamics are vital.

Economics

Economics is the study of resource allocation by various groups. These include consumers, businesses and the government. These groups aim to allocate resources in the most efficient way. Consumers are interested in obtaining as much satisfaction as possible from their products, businesses want as much profit as possible and the government wants to meet the needs of all groups. Studying Economics at A level will not only require an understanding of theoretical concepts but also of the practical issues such as inflation, unemployment and standards of living. Students electing to study economics will not be able to study Business studies A Level as there are many subject similarities.

English Language

English Language is aimed at those who like to analyse written and spoken words and enjoy discussion and debates. Discussion is an important element of the course and active participation is encouraged.

At AS level, pupils will explore and analyse Language and Gender, Language and Power and Language and Technology. For the coursework element, pupils will produce two pieces of original writing, focusing on purpose, audience and context.

At A level, pupils will explore and analyse the development of language: Language and Acquisition and social development of children from 0-11 years, as well as Language Change. The coursework element is a year long Language Investigation. The investigation is an investigation of language of your own choosing. This could include investigating and analysing song lyrics, stand up comedians, news reports, etc.

English Language is a popular subject at degree level and is regarded as an academic subject. The skills learnt during both the AS and A2 course can be used when studying such subjects as Law, History, English and Journalism.

English Literature

The aim of the English Literature course is to encourage an enjoyment and appreciation of English Literature. Discussion is an important element of the course and, wherever possible, active participation in the learning situation is encouraged. Visits to the theatre are an essential aspect of the study of English Literature at this level and film and video are used when helpful or appropriate.

English Literature is a very popular subject at Degree level. 'A' level English Literature is a highly regarded academic subject and its skills are transferable to degrees in subjects such as History, Law and Media Studies.

Engineering Diploma

This new qualification is a full time course worth 3 A levels. Students study a variety of engineering skills ranging from traditional hand tools to modern CAM machinery. There is a focus on the skills required to become a professional Engineer and progress to Chartered status. Students will produce a range of case studies and portfolios to demonstrate the skills they have gained and sit only one exam. A short placement with a local engineering employer will further develop their skills and provide an insight into the career of an Engineer. We are 1 of only 37 consortia nationally being allowed to run this course and we have the support of many local employers, including Ford. This course is ideally suited to students who have an ambition to pursue a career in Engineering to a high level. Students should have at least a grade 'C, in English and a 'B' in Maths.

Film Studies

Film Studies is designed to deepen students' understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film. Students will study cinema as an art form and as a social and economic institution. Students' will develop skills of observation, critical analysis and personal reflection. The course provides a strong base for progression to undergraduate film studies in Film Theory, Film Criticism and Film History.

French

The syllabus extends naturally from the skills developed at GCSE level. Equal stress is placed on each of the four linguistic skills, together with acquisition of knowledge about the contemporary culture where French is spoken through the study of selected topic areas. Students who elect to study this subject will be well prepared to use the language for practical communication and to continue their studies in Higher Education. Students are encouraged to take part in visits to France to develop their language skills through independent study and extra curricular activities. In addition, students may be invited to participate in a one week work experience placement in France to develop their speaking and listening skills.

Geography

The study of Geography at Advanced level covers a variety of topics both physical and human. It examines the interactions between people and their environment at different scales. The course focuses on changes through time, consequent issues, responses and strategies. Student investigation, enquiry and research feature strongly in both the AS and A2 course. The ideal Geography student will have studied Geography at GCSE level and have achieved a grade 'C' or above. Students will also have a keen interest in current issues and affairs.

General Studies

This 'AS' and 'A' level course enables students to develop their interest in current affairs. The syllabus requires that the students are familiar with a range of topics ranging from genetic engineering to politics and leisure activities. Students will be successful if they read quality newspapers and watch documentary broadcasts on television. A good student will be able to offer a balanced and informed opinion on a range of topics.

Graphic Design

This course deals with the communication of visual information. Principally the course deals with images in two-dimensional form and considers communication through the use of image and type. Students will be alerted to the possibilities of a wide range of material and techniques including drawing, typography, printmaking, computer graphics and the professional software associated with the subject. Making the graphic product is central to the course but students will also be expected to conduct critical studies into graphic designers, graphic design studios, the history of graphics, graphic techniques and processes.

Health and Social Care Applied Single and Double Award

This course was introduced into the consortium in September 2007. Students can elect to study this course in combination with other Level 3 courses or in some circumstances may elect to study this as a stand alone course. The single award involves the study of Human Growth and Development,

Communication and Values, Positive Care Elements, Meeting Individual needs, Promoting Health and Well being and Investigating Disease. In order to complete the double award you will additionally study Social Aspects and Life Choices, Activities for Health and Well-being, Public Health, Using and Understanding Research, Social Issues and Welfare needs and Understanding Human Behaviour

History

History is a popular subject in the consortium. Depending on the syllabus covered students will be able to study combinations of British and American History. The AS course comprises of 2 units of work with the full award being a further 2 units in year 13. Students must work closely with historical sources and undertake an independent investigation. The course gives students the opportunity to study certain periods in depth as well as evaluating change over a longer period of time. As well as developing knowledge and understanding, candidates are expected to demonstrate a range of analytical skills,

Information and Communication Technology

A Level ICT is designed to encourage candidates to work co-operatively and manage projects, develop personal learning and thinking skills, provide quality ICT based solutions to a range of problems and finally to develop an awareness of developments in technology.

At AS, the two units are complementary and are concerned with applying ICT to solve problems and the study of the opportunities for and affects of using ICT in the world today. Candidates will have the opportunity to put into practice a wide range of software and hardware to create solutions to solve problems

Applied 'A' Level in ICT

6 unit Applied 'A' Level

This is an applied 'A' level course leading to an AS in the first year and a full A level in the second year. In Year 12 students complete 2 units of coursework and sit an examination. In year 13 students complete 2 more coursework units and an additional examination. This course is available to all consortium students. All course work units and examinations are completed on computers.

BTEC ICT

It is also possible to study BTEC in ICT in the Consortium. This is a practical work related course which is equivalent to one A Level. There are no examinations as the course is totally based on coursework. The skills of analysis and evaluation are very important on this course. Students learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic situations, activities and demands.

OCR National ICT Level 3

This qualification is the equivalent to 2 'A' levels and is particularly suitable for those who wish to study in preparation for employment in job roles where they will be expected to use ICT, liaise with customers and carry out ICT operational roles. The course is practically based. Students will need to have achieved at least a grade C in both Maths and English. They must also have studied ICT in Year 10 and 11 and have achieved a grade C.

Please see your Head of Sixth Form for full details of the various ICT options which are available

Law

The course involves the study of the legal system in England and Wales. Candidates gain an overview of how the civil and criminal courts work and learn about the part played by both legal and lay personnel. If candidates go on to take A2 units for the full award there is the opportunity to study one branch of the law in depth. This in depth study can be taken in Criminal Law, the Law of Contract or the Law of Torts. Students do not need to study Law 'A' level in order to pursue a degree in law but the course will be of benefit to those interested in a whole range of career areas.

Mathematics.

This course is suited to those students who have enjoyed their study of Mathematics at GCSE level and have demonstrated a sound understanding of the mathematical principles involved. The course is based on 6 modules of work. Four modules are on pure core mathematics which is a continuation of the geometry algebra and trigonometry from Year 11. The other 2 modules are applied mathematics i.e. statistics or decision mathematics for business and accounting or mechanics for physics. The use of graphical calculators is beneficial. Only students obtaining an A*, A or B grade on the higher level at GCSE will be considered for this subject at AS or A level. Mathematics is generally regarded as a very prestigious subject which is required on many degree courses especially engineering, economics, accounting, business and medicine.

Further Mathematics.

It may be possible for students to take further mathematics in addition to Mathematics to give a double subject award. Students will need to be studying the 'A' Level Maths course and have attained a grade A* or A at GCSE level. Students are expected to demonstrate a great enthusiasm for Mathematics.

Media Studies.

This course is extremely popular in all Consortium Schools. The course aims to develop students understanding of the media in its various forms

through critical and analytical as well as practical work. Areas of study include new media technologies, film, television, the press and radio. Students will also make their own new media, video and audio media products.

Music.

The North East Consortium is able to offer Music at 'AS' and 'A' level in conjunction with the authority's music centre. The course aims to develop within the student a range of musical skills and interests which may include performing, composing and historical aspects of the subject. It is fundamental that students can offer an instrument, including voice, because performance is a compulsory element of the examination. Students will need to have taken examinations in their musical discipline and have reached a high standard. Students must also be able to read music and have studied GCSE. Please speak to your Music Teacher or Head of Sixth Form for full details.

Music Technology

Music Technology has been offered as an after school activity at AS Level. There are provisional plans to run the course again in the next academic year. The course involves learning about recording and manipulating sound and how to arrange Music using Music Technology Software. Students are able to combine an interest in Music with technological developments on this new course. It is strongly advised that students have studied Music at GCSE level. Please refer to the prospectus supplement for full details and speak to your Head of Sixth form as soon as possible to declare your interest.

Music BTEC National Award/ Certificate in Music

This year A BTEC course in Music is provisionally being offered by All Saints School. The course will be equivalent to 1 or 2 A levels depending on the option studied. There are 4 compulsory units including Music and Society, A Music Project, Planning a Music Project and The Sound and Music Industry. Please speak to your Head of Sixth Form if you would like additional information/

Performing Arts / BTEC National Certificate (Musical Theatre)

This course is ideal for those students wishing to further their studies in the area of Performing Arts. Pupils work on Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts Business Skills. Much of the course is about developing skills and applying them to real performance events both within the school context and also in external venues. It is very much focused on learning through doing and is well suited to those who have the confidence to try a new challenge and enjoy working with others. This award is ideal for those wishing to go into the performing arts, but is also ideal for those who just enjoy the subject and want to secure points towards a university or college place. This is a course that must be studied over 2 years.

Photography

The A Level Photography course gives students a grounding in this field of the visual arts. The students will begin with a lengthy introduction on how to

operate a digital camera and basic manipulation tools using photo shop. The students will need to have access to a camera at home. As their skills and knowledge develop they will be given instruction into more sophisticated processing techniques.

There will be visits to off site venues including galleries and studios.

Contextual study of the work of photographers is key and students will be expected to maintain and record their ideas in a journal / sketch book. Their work will be finally assessed in a formal exhibition.

Physics

Physics is the study of properties and interactions of matter and energy. Our understanding of many features of the every day world relies on knowledge drawn from the ideas and methods of physics. In this course the basic principles of physics are introduced and, through example, placed in the context of the world in which physics is used. The course also introduces the different scales of physicists' interests, from planets to atoms. Venturing into the field of Particle Physics provides students with a new interest and dimension to their knowledge of the subject. Some of the things studied in the particle physics unit are the nucleus including particles, antiparticles and photons, hadrons and leptons; the quark model; Quantum phenomena including photoelectricity, energy levels and photon emission and wave particle duality.

Physics is a science course and therefore has a practical component.

Possible links to employment include engineering, medical physics, meteorology, computing, material science and environmental physics.

Politics (Government and Politics)

Government and Politics is for those who have an interest in law, politics and current affairs. This is a contemporary course where students analyse every day events. Students can expect to study pressure groups, human rights and the judiciary. Media pressure on the Prime Minister and the future of the House of Lords are popular contentious issues that are investigated. Other study options include politics in the USA which gives students the opportunity to study the Presidents and the Supreme Court or the study of Political Ideologies e.g. Liberalism, Nationalism and Socialism. In addition students can look at more sensitive issues such as abortion, racial politics and the right to carry guns. Government and Politics is an excellent 'AS' or 'A' level course for those considering most careers especially those in Law, Business, the Civil Service, Politics and Media.

Psychology

Psychology is the study of human behaviour. The course will provide a general introduction to psychological theory, research and application. Topics which are studied include Social Psychology, Individual Differences and Development, Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Perspectives and Research Methods. The course requires students to show skills of application, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and analysis in dealing

with psychological concepts and data. Consequently students must have obtained at least a grade C in Mathematics and English in order to take this course.

Philosophy and Ethics

Philosophy and Ethics at AS or A level requires the ability to handle material and weigh its significance. The study of Philosophy and Ethics play a major part in the course. It develops and encourages disciplined thought. It is a good subject to study in combination with other Arts subjects such as History and English.

Science (BTEC)

Please see the vocational section

Sociology

Sociologists are interested in why society works in the way that it does and the extent that our behaviour and opportunities can be shaped by our social class, age, gender and race. We question the society in which we live in order to understand the relationship between individuals and institutions such as the education system, religion, the criminal justice system and the mass media.

By critically studying the way that our everyday lives are effected by and related to such institutions, A level sociology seeks to provide students with the necessary “tools” to analyse and evaluate information, understand historical social development, form coherent written arguments, make decisions and form judgements about themselves and the world around them which will be of lasting value for the successful navigation of their future.’

Spanish

It is likely that this subject will be offered as an option outside of the normal blocking system. Students are expected to have studied Spanish at GCSE level and have achieved at least a grade C.

Sport (BTEC) Please see the vocational section

Vocational / Applied Courses

What is a Vocational Course?

Vocational / Applied Courses are for those students who have already made a fairly definite decision as to the career they want to enter on leaving the Sixth Form. They are different from traditionally academic courses in that the skills needed and type of study is not the same. They are not better or worse than academic courses, they are different. Many employers actively seek students who have completed vocational / applied courses because of the skills they develop through their course.

Vocational courses are available at 3 levels. The level you choose will be determined by your GCSE results.

Which level should I choose?

Level 2 Courses are for those achieving mostly D grades at GCSE level. They last for 1 year and once completed are broadly equivalent to 4 GCSE's at grade C or above. You should be aware that a level 2 course allows you to progress onto an applied level 3 course but is not suitable for entry onto an AS or A level course.

Level 3 Applied 'A' Level courses are for those students who achieved a minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade C or above. The entry requirements are similar to those for AS level study. They are 2 year Courses and once completed are broadly equivalent to 2 full 'A' level passes. Students who successfully complete the course may enter employment or progress onto a University course.

We are very pleased with the range of vocational courses offered in the consortium and are especially pleased that a significant number of our students who study the Applied A Level awards go on to obtain places in Further and Higher Education.

What Vocational / Applied courses are available in the Consortium?

Level	Entry Requirements	Course
Level 2	Predominantly D grades at GCSE	Art and Design
Applied A Level Double Award (Level 3)	5 A-C grades at GCSE or a pass on the one year Level 2 Course	Art and Design
Level 2 VTCT	Predominantly D grades at GCSE including a C or D in GCSE English	Beauty Therapy
Level 3 VTCT	A pass at Level 2	Beauty Therapy
Level 2	Predominantly D grades at GCSE	Business
BTEC National Certificate (Level 3)	5 A-C grades at GCSE or a pass on the one year Level 2 Course	Business
CACHE Level 2	Predominantly D grades at GCSE	Child Care in Education
Level 2	Predominantly D grades at GCSE	Health and Social Care (EB)
Applied A level Single and Double Award (Level 3)	5 A- C passes at GCSE or a pass at Level 2	Health and social care
Level 2 / 3	Predominantly C/D grades at GCSE	Legal Studies and Legal Secretarial course (EB)
City and Guilds Level 1	Open entry – interest in the subject	Motor Vehicle Studies and Construction
BTEC National Certificate (Level 3) Double Award	5 A – C grades including Maths English and Science	Science - Applied medical science
BTEC National Certificate (Level 3) Single or Double Award	5 A – C grades including Maths English and Science	Sport, Fitness and Performance

Art and Design Level 2

This is a one-year course for students who have a desire to develop their skills in the field of Art. The course is extremely practical and allows students to learn a range of artistic skills and techniques.

Students need to have completed an Art related course at GCSE level in order to start the course. If you have not done so speak to your Head of Sixth Form who will make arrangements for you to have a special interview with the teacher in charge to discuss your application.

Students will need to complete 6 units of work to achieve the full award. Large numbers of students who complete this course with us elect to continue on to the full time Level 3 Art course.

Art and Design Level 3

Most students start this course having successfully completed the one-year Level 2 course in the consortium. However, a number of students who successfully achieve 4 A-C grades at GCSE go straight on to the Level 3 course.

This course is for those who have a love of Art and a talent for the subject. Students complete a total of 12 units of work over a two-year period. The units cover a broad range of media techniques, materials, processes and technology in a variety of 2D and 3D activities. Students will study the work of other artists and designers. All units of work carry equal marks and the overall grade is determined by the accumulation of marks over the 12 units.

The standard of work produced by our students is extremely high with many achieving top grades. Many students elect to continue with their studies at university level once they complete the course in the consortium.

NVQ Level 2 Beauty Therapy

This course was introduced into the consortium in September 2007. It is based at Robert Clack and is taught in a fully refurbished state of the art Beauty Salon with reception area. Students electing to study the course are expected to have achieved at least a D grade in English. Students will learn Manicure, Pedicure, Facials, Waxing, Eye treatments and Make up application.

Students will gain a nationally recognised qualification accredited by VTCT. Level 2 Beauty Therapy is an excellent foundation for the level 3 course. Applicants should be aware that the places on this course are limited and early application is recommended. This course may lead directly into employment although completion of the NVQ Level 3 Beauty Therapy course is highly recommended.

NVQ Level 3 Beauty Therapy

This course was introduced into the consortium in September 2008. It is based at Robert Clack in a purpose built, state of the art salon. Students electing this course must have successfully completed the NVQ level 2 course. Students will learn Massage, Aroma massage, electrolysis, electrical

facials and electrical body treatments. Students gain a nationally recognised qualification accredited by VTCT. Students will need to complete all units to gain the full qualification. This course leads directly into employment.

Business Level 2

This course has been designed for those students who want to gain knowledge and understanding in the area of business. It is not necessary to have studied Business at GCSE level in order to start the course. You need to have a specific interest in the business field and a willingness to learn. The course is assessed by 2 external examinations and 4 internally moderated assessments. Students will develop skills and acquire knowledge which will make them extremely attractive to future employers. Several students who complete the course with us go on to the B Tec National course. This can lead to a place at university and we are very pleased that a significant number of our students are now following this route.

B Tec National Certificate in Business Level 3

This course provides progression from the level 2 course for those students who wish to further their studies in the field of Business. Students will need to complete 12 units of work over a 2 year period. Students who elect to study this course will need to be self motivated, hard working and able to meet deadlines. Some students who achieve 4 C grades at GCSE level progress straight on to the level 3 course while many others have successfully completed the level 2 course in the consortium. Once this course is completed students can progress in to employment or enter University. We are very pleased that significant numbers of our students now follow this route.

Level 2 Health and Social care

This is a full time course available for those students interested in pursuing a career in the field of Health Social Care and Early Years. Students who successfully complete the course can progress onto the level 3 course leading to opportunities for further study at Degree level.

Level 2 Legal Studies / Legal Secretarial Courses

These courses will be available at Eastbrook School. Eastbrook will be rejoining the North East Consortium in September 2010 and all students will be able to opt into these courses. Full details are available from your Head of Sixth Form at School

BTEC National Certificate – Applied Science – Medical Science

Edexcel's Level 3 BTEC National Awards, Certificates and Diplomas in Applied Science offer the opportunity to specialise in areas ranging from forensics to medicine. They are designed to provide the opportunity to advance to a university degree in an appropriate vocational discipline, or - for those working in the sector - to progress with BTEC Higher National

qualifications (HNCs and HNDs) or Foundation Degrees, or to enter employment.

The BTEC National Certificate in Medical Science provides the underpinning knowledge, understanding and skills for science technicians in the areas of laboratory and industrial science, and the medical science service. It also provides a progression route to higher education vocational qualifications such as BTEC Higher National Certificates in Applied Sciences or a part-time degree in Applied Biology, Clinical Science or Forensic Science and/or a Level 4 NVQ qualification.

Below are the units that will be studied over the two year period. The first 6 units are core units which must be taken however there are also a number of specialist units. The specialist units displayed below are the ones that are most likely to be offered as part of this qualification.

- 1 Fundamentals of Science
- 2 Working in the Science Industry
- 3 Scientific Investigation
- 4 Scientific Practical Techniques
- 5 Perceptions of Science
- 6 Application of Numbers for Science Technicians

Unit Specialist units

- 7 Mathematics for Science Technicians
- 10 Using Science in the Workplace
- 11 Physiology of Human Body Systems
- 12 Physiology of Human Regulation and Reproduction
- 15 Microbiological Techniques
- 18 Genetics and Genetic Engineering
- 29 Physiological Investigations

All units are assessed by coursework; each unit may generate 4 pieces of coursework in addition to practical assessment.

This course is available only as a double award and is the broadly the equivalent to 2 A levels

BTEC National Certificate in Sports, Fitness and Performance Level 3

The B.Tec National Certificate in Sport is a part practical, part theoretical course that provides students with the opportunity to develop their understanding of sport and sporting performance. This course is available in the consortium as both a double and single award. The double award is equivalent to 2 'A' Levels with the single award being equivalent to 1 'A' Level. Assessment is made up of a number of assignments spread through the year. The course is particularly useful for students interested in a career in coaching or the fitness industry. Students must have achieved at least 5 GCSE's at grade C or above including English and Maths. Students should ideally also be actively participating in a sports club activity outside of school. Full details of the course elements and organisation are available on the prospectus supplement.

Diploma in Childcare and Education. (CACHE) Level 2

This course has been designed for those who feel that they would like a career working with children in the early years setting. Students spend 2 days per week in the classroom and 3 days per week on placement in an early years setting. On placement you will be working with children aged between 0 and 7 years.

In the classroom you learn about the following topics:

Child development both physical and mental

The role of adults in the care and education of young children

How children learn through play and experiences

You will also plan activities to take into your placement and develop your own creative skills.

Full attendance, hard work and commitment are essential on this course. If you are successful you will gain a recognised early years qualification and access to the Diploma in Child Care and Education Course (NNEB)

Motor Vehicle Studies Servicing and Construction

This is a course that has been running successfully for a number of years.

Students on the course have enjoyed an excellent pass rate. The course is made up of 2 BTEC First

Diploma qualifications; one in construction, one in motor vehicle studies. The course is structured so that students work for only 2 days per week at school. The remaining 3 days are on placement, where the students work alongside a fully qualified school staff member. Students work at a number of different placements during the year. As well as local dealerships, students can work at the local bus garage as well as a local motorcycle dealership, as well as construction based placements. The course will investigate personal safety, vehicle system skills, manual and planning skills. Students will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence based on the practical work carried out at their placements. Most students who complete the course are successful in obtaining full time apprenticeships. If you would like to find out more about the course, speak to your Head of Sixth form who will provide you with the details.

North East Consortium Application Form (Internal Applicants)

Name: _____

Current School; _____

Year 11 Course Details and Estimated Grades (if known)

Subject	Estimated Grade

Please state the course or courses that you are interested in

Please state your reasons for applying to the Sixth Form

What is your Career ambition?

Please return this initial application form to your Head of Sixth Form at school. You will be advised as to interview dates in due course.

North East Consortium Application Form (External Applicants)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Current School: _____

Year 11 Course Details and Estimated Grades (if known)

Subject	Estimated Grade

Please state the course or courses that you are interested in

Please state your reasons for applying to the North East Consortium

Please give the name and address of your current Head of Year so that we can contact them for a reference.

Thank you for your interest. We will contact you in due course regarding your application.