

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

Information for Entry in September 2008

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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. The employment situation has changed significantly in recent years. 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.

Britain is beginning to catch up with other western countries in encouraging young people to get the best possible qualifications and training before taking up employment. This trend is certainly evident in the North East Consortium where we have experienced large increases in the number of students wishing to continue their education beyond 16. We now have over 800 students in the Sixth Form in the North East Consortium.

We are able to offer 34 Level 3 courses and 8 Level 2 courses. With support and guidance, students are able to construct a programme to match their interests and ambitions.

In recent years the most significant expansion in the Sixth Form has been the development of vocational and applied courses that provide students with an alternative route to employment and Further and Higher Education. We are committed to continue our developments in this area. Please refer to the section on vocational / applied qualifications for full details

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 once they complete their sixth form 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 gained in the Sixth Form should provide you with a wider range of opportunities when you leave school.

College of Further Education

Increasingly students having completed one year in the Sixth Form will wish to continue with their 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 are actively promoting the virtues of Higher Education. It has been pleasing to note the significant increase in recent years in the number of students within the North East Consortium entering Higher Education. This is a trend that we are confident will continue.

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 the 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.

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 2008 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 30 June - 2 July 2008

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
Acting Head of Sixth Form:
Mrs D.Hawkins
Tel. 020 8270 4567

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

Warren School
Head of Sixth Form: Mrs S. 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 or Applied** 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 / Applied 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 / applied 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 30 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

All GCSE grades are given a nominal point score. The number of points you get will determine your eventual sixth form course.

What are my GCSE grades going to be worth?

A*	=	8
A	=	7
B	=	6
C	=	5
D	=	4
E	=	3
F	=	2
G	=	1

All Advanced or Level 3 Applied courses require that students have achieved at least 40 points at GCSE level. Within the 40 points a student must have achieved at least 5 'C' grades. Some subjects have additional grade requirements.

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 Applied (Level 3) Course Offer September 2008

We currently expect to offer the following AS level courses in September 2008

Accounts, Art, Art Textiles, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Design Technology, Drama, Economics, English Language, English Literature, Film Studies, French, General Studies, Geography, Graphics, History, Information and Communication Technology, Law, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Media Studies, Music, Music Technology (Provisional), Philosophy and Ethics, Physics, Politics, Psychology, Science for Public Understanding and Sociology.

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

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.

Accounts

The aim of the course is to enable students to understand and prepare accounts of every type of business from sole trade to company accounts. Accounts 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 community, environment, jobs and the social life of the community. A prior knowledge of accounts 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 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

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.

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 although it is not essential 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 was reintroduced to the consortium offer in 2004 and has proved extremely popular. 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 (Applied)

Students will study a variety of aspects of Engineering including practical skills, CAD / CAM and also the business and professional roles of engineers. The majority of units on the course are assessed through practical assignments rather than formal examinations. Any Design and Technology subject (GCSE or BTEC) will give students a good basis to study this popular course. This course is ideal for students looking to follow an Engineering discipline at university but the skills gained are equally transferable to any degree course. Students will need to have achieved a grade 'C' grade in both Maths and English at GCSE to follow this course.

Engineering Diploma – New for 2008

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. Since its introduction 3 years ago, Film Studies has been a very successful course and we are looking to expand our provision in this area.

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. 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 Level 3

Information available in the Vocational / Applied section

History

History is a popular subject in the consortium. Depending on the syllabus covered students will be able to study combinations of British, American and Russian 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

Within half a century computers and Information technology have changed the world and affected millions of lives in ways that no one could have foreseen.

Here are some quotes about IT

“I think there is a world market for maybe 5 computers” Thomas Watson
Chairman IBM 1940

“There is no reason why anyone would want to have a computer in their home” President of Digital Equipment Corporation 1977

Contrary to these predictions computers have changed the way we live and are important in all aspects of life.

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.

12 Unit Applied Award.

Students who have completed their GCSE Studies at All Saints may elect to study a 12 unit award leading to a qualification which is equivalent to 2 'A' Levels. There is one examination in year 12 and two in year 13. This course is only available to All Saints students as it follows on from a specialist pre-16 course studied only at All Saints. Please see Ms McMahon or Mrs Siddiq for details.

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.

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

Law

Law 'A' level was introduced for the first time in September 2005. 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. 4 modules are on pure core mathematics which is a continuation of algebra and trigonometry from Year 11. The other 2 modules are applied mathematics i.e. statistics or decision mathematics for business. 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, business and other numerate subjects.

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 demonstrated a great enthusiasm for Mathematics.

Media Studies.

This course has become increasingly popular in the North East Consortium with 8 teaching groups in Year 12 in the current academic year. The courses aim to develop students understanding of the media in its various forms through critical and analytical as well as practical work. Areas of study include photography, film, television, the press and radio. Students will also make their own photographic, 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. 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 for the 2007 / 8 academic year at AS Level. It is anticipated that the course will run 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. Please refer to the prospectus supplement for full details.

Performing Arts Applied 'A' Level / BTEC National Certificate

This course will be taught at 2 consortium schools in the 2008/9 academic year.

This course is ideal for those students wishing to further their studies in the area of Performing Arts. Pupils work on Music, Drama, Dance, Music Technology 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. 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.

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. 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, Politics and Law)

Government, Politics and Law 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, Politics and Law 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 for Public Understanding

This is a one year AS Level Course. The aim of the course is to develop and sustain interest in Science and develop an interest in media reports involving science and technology. This course will enable you to hold an informed view on the everyday issues that involve decisions about your personal lifestyle.

The course is examined through 2 written examinations and a piece of coursework which contributes 30% to the final mark.

Pupils who have studied a Double Science at GCSE and have obtained a double C grade would be eligible for this course.

Sociology

The chief aim of the course is to provide students with the necessary intellectual skills to critically analyse and comment on a rapidly changing social world. In order to achieve this, the course comprises of 6 modules covering topics as diverse as crime, mass media, the family, work, politics, education, religion, theory and methods, stratification and differentiation.

These topics are examined from the viewpoint of women, ethnic minorities, and various other social groups.

Sport (BTEC) Please see the vocational / Applied 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?

All GCSE grades are given a nominal point score. The number of points you get will determine the level of course which is most suitable for you.

What are my GCSE grades going to be worth?

A*	=	8
A	=	7
B	=	6
C	=	5
D	=	4
E	=	3
F	=	2
G	=	1

Level 2 Courses are for those achieving mostly D grades at GCSE level.(approximately 27 points) 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	27 points 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	27 points at GCSE including a C or D in GCSE English	Beauty Therapy
Level 2	27 points 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
Level 2	27 points at GCSE	Health and Social Care
Applied A level Single and Double Award (Level 3)	5 A- C passes at GCSE or a pass on the Level 2 course	Health and social care
Level 2 ILEX / City and Guilds	27 Points including a C Grade in English	Legal Secretaries
Level 2 ILEX / City and Guilds	27 Points including a C Grade in English	Vocational Para Legal
Level 2	27 points at GCSE	Leisure Studies (Provisional)
BTEC National Certificate (Level 3) Single or Double Award	5 A – C grades including Maths English and Science	Sport, Fitness and Performance

Other Vocational Courses

Certificate of Child Care in Education (Level 2)

Certificate in Motor Vehicle Servicing (Level 2)

CLAIT /EDL (Level 2)

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.

Beauty Therapy Level 2

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. Students electing to study the course are expected to have achieved a C or D grade in English. Students will learn Manicure, Pedicure, Waxing, Ear Piercing, Make up Techniques, Tanning and
The course is accredited by the VTCT and is an excellent foundation for the Level 3 course. Applicants should be aware that places on this course are limited and early application is recommended.

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 40 points 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.

Health and Social Care Level 2.

We are very pleased the Health and Social Care course was reintroduced to the consortium offer in September 2006. The course is a full time one year course which has been designed to enable students to gain an understanding of the key components in the Health and Social Care sector and how they interact to meet the needs of today's clients. This qualification provides students with the essential skills, knowledge and understanding to enable them to enter a career or to access Level 3 courses.

Health and Social Care Applied Single and Double Award – Level 3

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

ILEX / City and Guilds – Legal Secretaries Level 2

This is a new course being offered at Eastbrook School over six hours per week for one year. (This course will therefore be studied in combination with other subjects) It involves studying the world of work from a legal point of view and you will be trained in legal word processing (copy typing) and audio word processing (legal touch typing). Students are therefore expected to produce legal documentation to a professionally acceptable standard and be competent in touch typing. (Minimum speed of 40 wpm). There are 3 units to be studied: Working in the Legal Environment, Legal Word Processing and Audio Word Processing as well as a proof reading element. To join the course, students must have a good grade in English, an interest in working in the legal environment and be familiar with Microsoft Word. Successful candidates may continue with the Legal Secretaries Diploma and /or compliment their studies with other vocational paralegal subjects and / or A level Law.

ILEX / City and Guilds – Vocational Para Legal Level 2

This is a new course being offered at Eastbrook School over six hours per week for one year. (This course will therefore be studied in combination with other subjects.) It involves a study of legal principles from 3 different aspects: The Legal Environment, General Legal Principles (Contract Law, Criminal Law, Land Law and Human Rights) as well as an elective (currently Employment Law). You will be expected to produce six assignments within the registration period and sit a multi-choice timed examination. Qualification entitles the successful candidate to pursue the Diploma in Vocational Para Legal Studies and then qualify eventually as a Legal Executive in the work place via the Institute of Legal Executives. To join the course, students must have a good grade in English and a sound interest in working in the legal environment.

Leisure Studies Level 2

This course is suitable for those students who have an enquiring mind and an interest in the Leisure industry. The course will allow students to gain a broad understanding of Leisure and Tourism. Students will develop skills, knowledge and understanding which will allow them to go on and obtain employment in the field or continue with their studies to a higher level. This course did not run in the 2007/8 academic year. It could be reintroduced if there is enough interest.

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.

Certificate of Childcare in 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

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 structured so that students spend only 2 days per week at school. The remaining 3 days are on placement at a local dealership where the students work alongside a fully qualified Motor Vehicle Technician. Students work at 4 different placements during the year. Each placement lasts between 7 and 8 weeks. As well as local dealerships, students can work at the local bus garage as well as a local motorcycle dealership. Students who successfully complete the course will obtain a City and Guilds qualification at level 1. Students will need to sit 4 modular examinations that are spread throughout the year. The course will investigate personal safety, vehicle system skills, manual and planning skills.

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.

CLAIT / ECDL Level 2

This is a one year course geared specifically for those who wish to obtain a qualification in computing and to help them widen their I.T skills and enhance their career prospects. The course will develop the IT user's ability to manage data in a variety of applications and enable them to complete tasks effectively. This course is based at Eastbrook School. Please collect a prospectus supplementary information sheet to see if the course is appropriate for your study needs. This course did not run in the 2007 / 8 academic year but may be reintroduced in 2008 / 9

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.