

QUALIFICATION

BTEC Level 3 National Applied Science

Qualification options: Certificate (equivalent to 1 A-Level), Diploma (equivalent to 2 A-Levels), Extended Diploma (equivalent to 3 A-Levels).

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS STUDY PROGRAMME?

Applied Science is a hands on science course that does not solely rely on exams for the final grade. The course is practical based and offers lots of opportunities to get out of the school and into the workplace, from visiting hospitals and research centres, to technology companies and even quarries.

Applied Science can prepare you for a suite of careers, including sports science, nursing, agriculture, engineering, and, of course, biological research. In the past our students have gone on to train as nurses, science technicians and used their BTEC qualification to get into university for a number of different programs.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

What does the course cover?

One of the advantages of the Level 3 BTEC in applied science is that the course is adaptable to the students. For each of the 3 qualifications, there are some mandatory units and some optional units. The mandatory units, depending on the qualification, include: Principles and Applications of Science, Science Investigation Skills, and Contemporary Issues in Science. The optional units can be grouped into biology, chemistry and physics. For example, if our students prefer Biology, we can tailor the optional units to be Biology heavy and light on the Chemistry and Physics.

What is the assessment model?

The course is assessed through a combination of internally assessed assignments and externally assessed exams. Roughly 40% of the course is exam based.

Assignments are set and marked at specific points during the year. It is critical that students plan their time wisely and submit their assignments on time. Failure to submit assignments can lead to failing the course.

Assignments and External Exams are graded as pass, merit or distinction. To achieve a distinction on an assignment, all the pass, merit and distinction criteria must be satisfied. To achieve merit for a unit, a student must achieve at least a merit on all assignments in that unit.

WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF ME?

- A strong work ethic
- Regular attendance to lessons
- Bringing the correct equipment to lessons
- Completion of homework which will include pre-reading and reading around the subject
- Meeting assignment deadlines
- The willingness to ask for help when it is needed and to help other students when you are able to do so
- An understanding that your progress is your responsibility
- The ability and willingness to work with other students
- Attendance to intervention sessions, where necessary.

WHO WILL BE INVOLVED?

- YOU!
- The teachers
- The Internal Verifier who checks the submission and marking of your assignments
- The External Moderator who will check the marking of your assignments
- Visiting lecturers
- Hosts at university and industry visits

FURTHER INFORMATION

Units are assessed using a grading scale of Distinction, Merit, Pass and Unclassified. All mandatory and optional units contribute proportionately to the overall qualification grade, for example a unit of 120 GLH will contribute double that of a 60 GLH unit.

To achieve any qualification grade, learners must:

- Complete and have an outcome (D, M P or U) for all units within a valid combination
- Achieve the required units at pass or above (Units 1,2,3,4,5,6).
- Achieve the minimum number of points at a grade threshold and for the Extended Diploma achieve a minimum of 900 GLH at pass or above

Qualifications are graded using a scale of PPP to D*D*D*. Depending on total points scored across the course of the year.