

Thomas Hardy Sixth Form

Newsletter 3—Science and PE Special

Welcome to Newsletter 3

We hope that you are enjoying reading these newsletters and they are helping to inform your decision making. If you would like to know further details on any courses please use the email address at the bottom of page 2.

We also want to wish you all the very best as we know many of you are completing mocks at the moment. The outcome of these mocks may influence your choices. Options can always be amended after you complete your application by emailing sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net.

Remember to watch the [video](#) too!

The Sixth Form Team

Physics

Do you need to study A Level maths to take A Level physics?

No. You need at least a six in GCSE maths, but do not need to be studying it at A Level. It is an advantage to study A Level maths, as the mechanics sections are taught in both courses. However, some of our highest achieving students did not study A Level maths.

Biology

Is there a lot of practical work involved in A level Biology?

A rich practical experience for students will include more than the 12 required practical activities. Many teachers will also use practical approaches to the introduction of content knowledge in the course of their normal teaching. Students' work in these activities can also contribute towards the endorsement of practical skills.

BTEC Applied Science

Will the course allow me to pursue a career related to science?

BTEC Applied Science is a Level 3 qualification which is recognised by universities and employers as equivalent to an A level. The skills and knowledge will allow you to consider a career in forensic science, nursing, radiography, veterinary science, chemical engineering amongst many other careers.

Chemistry

Is A level chemistry a simple continuation of GCSE chemistry?

There are lots of common concepts that are covered in more depth and require good maths skills. The main topics are Physical chemistry, Inorganic chemistry and Organic chemistry. There is also a considerable amount of practical work involved.

Should I take BTEC Sport or A Level PE?

A Level

This is a course which includes both exam based learning and practical assessment.

The students study a range of modules including both scientific and cultural approaches to sport. Within the practical element (30%) the students are asked to produce video evidence of their performance, evaluate a technical performance and offer strategies for improvement. The main emphasis is on academic learning and the final three exams include extended essay style questions.

It is suitable for students who prefer more traditional classroom based learning and complementary courses may include biology, psychology, history and physics.

Typical entry requirements are level 6 at GCSE PE.

BTEC Sport Level 3

The BTEC course lends itself to more student based independent learning . It includes a greater proportion of coursework with only a single external exam at the end of each year. It reflects on the role of sport in a vocational and a career perspective. The BTEC specification by nature allows the lessons to be taught in a much wider range of styles.

Typical entry requirements are level 5 at GCSE PE.

Both courses offer a pathway into higher education.

For all enquiries please email the [Sixth Form Team](mailto:sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net) (sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net)

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