



# WHY A LEVELS?

**If you enjoy academic learning and would like to continue to study a broad range of subjects before deciding upon your ideal career path then the A level programme here at Weymouth College could well be the right choice for you.**

A Levels open up a wide choice of career opportunities and are seen as a traditional route into Higher Education or employment. The subjects you decide to study can really help to shape your future.

Students at Weymouth College achieved a 100% pass rate at A Level in summer 2020 and as always, a very high proportion of our students progressed to the university of their choice.

As an A level student you will be part of a college community of many ages and disciplines – a culture and environment very different from a traditional school sixth form and an ideal preparation for higher education and university level study.

“I felt supported and happy. A levels are tough but I could never have achieved the results I did at any other sixth form.”

**Stephanie**

“I had very little confidence at school but starting A levels at Weymouth College was the best decision I ever made – I have great support and have discovered both the belief and direction that was lacking for so long.”

**Ben**

“The wide range of A levels allowed me to study what I am passionate about. I will never forget the great times I have had at Weymouth College.”

**Jacopo**



# A LEVELS AT WEYMOUTH COLLEGE

## OUR TEAM

Experienced and committed – many of our A level team have years of experience in industry and bring that real-life understanding to their teaching. Many more of our team have immense classroom based experience with six staff members currently examiners at A level – with one chief examiner and one senior examiner amongst them!

## OUR CENTRE

A dedicated A Level centre with a 'Sixth Form' Common Room and study rooms for all students plus:

- Specialised science laboratories
- Art and photographic studios
- Computer labs for media and film studies with the latest equipment
- Access to laptops for all students

## OUR RESULTS

In 2020 our A Level students achieved an outstanding overall pass rate of 100% in 16 subjects, demonstrating that the College continues to maintain an excellent level of performance alongside a strong national pass rate.

Of those A level students who made a UCAS application for 2020 university entry, 100% were offered places, with students who applied to the elite Russell Group universities also receiving offers.

## OUR ENRICHMENT

- Access to musical instruments and lessons
- A wide range of course-based trips and events – Auschwitz (history), Parliament, Old Bailey (politics), field trips (geography), industry-based STEM days (science/maths)

## PLUS

UCAS and university open day trips

Access to the Royal Geographical Society Lecture programme

Access to all Weymouth College facilities including:

- Subsidised gym
- Variety of sports at College-owned Redlands Community Sports Hub

## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Outstanding for sport – VTCT award for Sport in the Curriculum – 2014/15 and 2016/17
- Beacon commended – Careers, Education and Guidance, 2018/19
- Centre of Excellence for Engineering – opening June 2021
- Outstanding quality levels (scoring between the 90th and 99th percentile\*) for A-Levels at Weymouth College.

\*ALPS 2021 provider quality indicator grade 2 – scoring between the 90th and 99th percentile

# EXPERIENCE

## FACILITIES FOR YOU

**Wi-Fi enabled campus** – so you can always stay connected

**Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom** – virtual learning environments for students, giving you access to resources and study programme materials direct from home so you can study your way.

**Learning Resource Centre** – with full library facilities and specialist computer suite connected to gigabit fibre broadband – so you can access the information you need, when you need it.

**College Square** – summer BBQs in College Square are legendary. With music playing in the College's student performance space, it's the perfect way to relax at lunch.

**On-site café** – proud to serve Costa.

**Student HQ** – a quiet place to relax and catch up with friends and sample a coffee or snack from the Deli.

Students can also enjoy our wide range of public facilities including:

- The Bay Theatre
- The Avenue training restaurant
- Hair and beauty salons
- Jelly Babies Day Nursery
- Gym and sports centre
- Redlands Community Sports Hub
- Weymouth and Portland Adventure

## STUDENT VOICE

The views and opinions of our students are important at Weymouth College:

- Two of the fifteen members of the College Governors are students.
- Students on every course elect one or more Student Representatives who meet regularly with the Principal and other Senior Leadership Team members to feedback their ideas and suggestions for helping to make improvements to all aspects of College life.

Some recent changes made in response to feedback from students include:

- Contactless payment in place in the canteen plus contactless vending machines.
- Recyclable food containers and cutlery.
- New, secure and covered, 40-place swipe-card entry cycle shelter.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We are able to support claims for financial assistance, providing the student meets the required criteria. Schemes that are available include:

- 16-18 Guaranteed Bursary
- 16-18 Discretionary Bursary
- 19+ Discretionary Learner Support (including childcare)
- Advanced Learning Loan Bursary for 19+
- Free College meals (Please contact the Student Support team on 01305 764807 for further information)

## TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

We offer the largest contribution towards student travelling costs in Dorset – part of our dedication to meeting the travel needs of Dorset students. For full information on our subsidised travel routes please visit: [www.weymouth.ac.uk/studying-with-us/travel-transport](http://www.weymouth.ac.uk/studying-with-us/travel-transport)

## SUPPORTING YOU

We want you to enjoy your experience with us and we offer support to help you achieve your full potential. The Student Support team provides information, advice, help and support at every stage, sensitively and in confidence. The team works closely with teaching staff to ensure an effective support system for each student, according to individual needs. Our students feel safe here and we are dedicated to maintain this. A safeguarding culture is actively promoted within the College; incidents of bullying, intimidation and harassment will be acted upon immediately.

Our students have successfully gained places in over 50 universities across the UK.

Aberystwyth	Liverpool John Moores
Anglia Ruskin (Cambridge)	London School of Economics
Bath	London South Bank
Bath Spa	Manchester Metropolitan
Bedfordshire (Luton)	Middlesex (Hendon)
Bournemouth	Northampton
Brighton	Northumbria (Newcastle upon Tyne)
Bristol	Nottingham
Brunel (Uxbridge)	Oxford Brookes
Central Lancashire (Preston)	Oxford
Chester	Plymouth
Chichester	Portsmouth
Coventry	Ravensbourne (Greenwich)
De Montfort (Leicester)	Reading
Essex (Colchester)	Salford
Exeter	Sheffield Hallam
Falmouth	Southampton
Glamorgan	Southampton Solent
Gloucestershire (Cheltenham)	Stirling
Greenwich	Surrey (Guildford)
Hertfordshire (Hatfield)	Swansea
Hull	UWE (Bristol)
Kent (Canterbury)	Wales (Cardiff)
Kingston	Wales (Newport)
Lincoln	Winchester
Leeds Metropolitan	Wolverhampton



# YOUR FUTURE

## INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

We offer information, advice and guidance to all our A Level students. We can help you with:

- Future student finance
- Choosing the right study programme
- Career identification and career change
- CV development, application forms and interview techniques
- Higher education
- Support with UCAS application process
- Higher Level Apprenticeships
- Employment choices

## PROGRESSION ROUTES

As a student you will have access to a careers programme which is supported by our online virtual learning environment. There are opportunities to complete activities such as CV writing, interview preparation and one-to-one appointments with an adviser. Many students who complete studies at the College progress to university.

We guide and support any student who wishes to apply by helping them to research suitable study programmes and universities and to make an application. For those A level students who would like to continue their HE studies at Weymouth College we offer a range of higher education courses - all offered at our campus-based HE centre.

We currently offer courses in the following subject areas:

- Performing arts, art and design, creative media production, health and social care, public services, sport, professional studies (health and community) (approved by the University of Plymouth).
- Business, engineering, creative media (visual effects), computing, construction and the built environment, music (approved by Pearson).

# YOUR COURSES



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Developing and nurturing a variety of assessment styles – including data analysis, discursive essays, directed writing, original writing and research-based investigative writing—you will develop your appreciation of the many forms and contexts of the English language.

## ENGLISH LITERATURE

Challenging the interpretations of other readers and developing your own informed personal responses, you will explore the relationship between texts and the contexts within which they are written. You will consider texts from Shakespeare and pre and post 1900 poetry and prose to literature from 1945 to the present day.

## CHEMISTRY

Giving you an insight into the contemporary world of chemistry – and the impact it has on industry and many aspects of everyday life – you will learn about its relevance and application in a range of different contexts. These will include: elements of life, developing fuels, elements from the sea, the ozone story, the chemical and medical industries, developing metals and polymers.

## PHYSICS

Physics is the study of fundamental quantities and events. You will learn about the scale of our universe and how science quantifies and describes our world – exploring a wide variety of areas including particle, nuclear, mechanical, and thermal physics. You will gain an understanding of the applications of physics and how it relates to everyday life. Physics also encourages the development of problem solving, analytical and mathematical skills – all considered highly desirable for further study and employment.

## BIOLOGY

Studying areas including lifestyle, immunity, genes, biodiversity, infection and forensics you will develop practical and mathematical problem-solving skills. You will understand how the sciences contribute to the success of both the economy and society

## MATHS

Studying Maths will give a student a varied and highly sought after skillset that can be an advantage in a huge variety of careers. The A Level course focuses on the disciplines of pure maths, statistics and mechanics. You will be introduced to a variety of key mathematical skills including, probability distributions, kinematics, logarithms, trigonometrical equations and calculus.

# YOUR COURSE

## (Continued)

### FILM STUDIES

You will write your own scripts and design storyboards whilst exploring a wide range of films from the classic Hollywood Golden Age to contemporary independent film. You will consider the theory of film and study films from different cultures and non-mainstream movements and analyse and explore short films and sequences further developing your own taste in film and film makers.

### ART, CRAFT, DESIGN

Follow your own passions and aspirations within art, craft and design, with a programme that allows you to explore and develop skills and approaches across all our specialist workshops. There is a strong emphasis on drawing and experimentation and this is supported by trips and visits. Past students have followed specialisms as varied as Fashion, Painting, Graphics, Sculpture, Illustration and Animation.

### MEDIA STUDIES

The environment, new technologies, the economy, employment, sport, celebrity, music and events – what would you know about any of these without the media bombarding you with messages all day every day. Whether we like it or not, the media tell most of us what to think, most of the time. Media Studies helps you make sense of and question those messages. Be an opinion leader, not a mere follower.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Build a wide range of skills using both digital and analogue film cameras. Developing skills in software – such as Photoshop and Lightroom – will allow you to edit digital images and you will explore film and darkroom processing and printing for the analogue film camera.

# YOUR COURSE

(Continued)

## GEOGRAPHY

Engage critically with real-world issues and places and assess major issues including place identity, rising sea levels, rise of new superpowers, energy and water supplies, migration and national identity.

## FRENCH

The course aims at developing your linguistic competence and knowledge of contemporary French culture and society through the study of stimulating topics of genuine relevance to young adults. As well as exploring and developing a greater degree of understanding of French modern society and cultural background, you will develop your critical thinking, analysis skills and be able to present your points of view.

## HISTORY

You will study The Cold War in Europe 1941–1995 – exploring the rise and fall of the USSR as a superpower, its changing relationship with America and the impact of global events on the Cold War in Europe. You will also consider the Early Stuarts and the origins of the Civil War, including the growth of Puritan opposition, the first civil war and the problems of non-monarchical government between 1649 and 1660 under Oliver Cromwell.



# YOUR COURSE

(Continued)

## POLITICS

Your exploration of politics will give you an understanding of the role of political decisions in today's society and raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and the state. You will consider American politics and ideologies and the British political system.

## SOCIOLOGY

What is Sociology? A subject which helps explain social change, past, present and future. A subject which encourages political and social engagement with contemporary social issues. A subject which involves being actively involved with social research and policy.

## LAW

You will develop an understanding of the role of Law in today's society and consider the rights and responsibilities of individuals through the study of real life legal situations in criminal, contract and the law of tort. You will study the workings of the English Legal System from the development of legislation and the role of legal personnel.

## PSYCHOLOGY

Learn about conformity, social norms, how the mind remembers and forgets and how children form attachments.

# AT WEYMOUTH COLLEGE

## NEW FOR 2021/22

At Weymouth College we are committed to ensuring that you have the support in place to get the very best possible results and maximise the opportunities you have to move forward to university, an apprenticeship or employment.

So we have created 'Pathways' in three of our key subject areas which will help you identify the best subject combinations and qualifications for the career destination you are working towards. A Levels and a BTEC can be studied together in these Pathways.

Studying A Levels and BTECs together will offer you both academic and vocational qualifications in your chosen field.

BTEC Nationals (Level 3) offer a similar UCAS tariff to A Levels and will support an application for a higher education place whilst offering a practical and hands on experience – thus also equipping you well for a position in industry.

Opposite you will see our current Pathways and suggested subject combinations. Other A Level subject combinations may, however, also be available.

Contact us now on [alevels@weymouth.ac.uk](mailto:alevels@weymouth.ac.uk) so we can talk you through the right Pathway for you.

Business Pathway	BTEC L3 Business	GCE English Language	GCE Law
Engineering Pathway	BTEC L3 Engineering	GCE Maths	GCE Physics
Sport Pathway	BTEC L3 Sport	GCE Biology	GCE Psychology

BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C
HISTORY	BIOLOGY	ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PHYSICS	POLITICS	PHOTOGRAPHY
PSYCHOLOGY	FILM STUDIES	PSYCHOLOGY
BLOCK D	BLOCK E	BLOCK F
MATHS	ENGLISH LITERATURE	CHEMISTRY
ART, CRAFT, DESIGN	LAW	MEDIA STUDIES
SOCIOLOGY	FRENCH	GEOGRAPHY

A Level students choose three subjects, which must come from different blocks in the matrix. Alternatively you can choose one of our three Pathways which combine two A level subjects with a vocational option.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Generally 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 (C) or above including English and maths. There may also be further specific entry requirements depending on the A Level subject(s) to be studied. Please check our website for full details.

## YOUR NEXT STEPS

# AND HOW TO MAKE AN APPLICATION

Once you've decided on the A Level subjects or the Pathway you are interested in, you can find out more information by visiting the relevant subject or Pathway pages on our website.

You could also pop along to one of our Open Events in October, November, February or June to speak to current students and staff. Don't forget to book your place online at [www.weymouth.ac.uk/register-open-day](http://www.weymouth.ac.uk/register-open-day). This is a great opportunity to see our campus and ask lots of questions about the A Level programme.

However, if you would like to see first-hand the great facilities we have available for our A Level students – simply contact [alevels@weymouth.ac.uk](mailto:alevels@weymouth.ac.uk) today to arrange a personalised/small group campus tour.

You need to apply online, either at home or please come into college if you need help or support.

You'll be offered an interview within 4 weeks of applying.

If you're offered a place on the A Level or Pathway programme, work hard, have fun, get your grades, have an epic summer and before long you'll be enrolling with us ready to start in September. We will give you some summer tasks to help you prepare for your new courses.

Don't forget if you have any questions or would like any advice or guidance about the best route to follow to achieve your aims, just give one of our friendly team a call on 01305 761100 and we will be very happy to help.

Start Your Journey, Earn Your Success



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[weymouth.ac.uk](http://weymouth.ac.uk)



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*The College reserves the right to withdraw study programmes depending on demand and class sizes. Please check our website for the latest information.*