

# Sixth Form Pathways – 2010

## **Oxbridge and Russell Group University Entry Pathway**

Requirements – 9 GCSEs (6+ A\*/A)

Courses – AQA Bacc, 4/5 AS Levels, Extended Project, Critical Thinking. Enrichment/ Voluntary Activities.

Support –Oxbridge/ UCAS preparation/ Business placement/ Leadership roles/ Connexions

## **University Pathway**

Requirements – 5 GCSEs (A\*-B) (B+ chosen subject)

Courses – AQA Bacc, 4 AS Levels, Extended Project, Citizenship, Enrichment/ Voluntary Activities

Support – UCAS support/ Business placement/ Leadership roles/ Connexions

## **University/Vocational options Pathway**

Requirements – 5 GCSEs (A\*-C) (C+ chosen subject)

Courses – 3 AS Levels and/or Applied A Levels, Choose from COPE L3, Citizenship, CSLA, Food, Nutrition and Health and/or GCSE resit/ Level 2 course.

Enrichment / Voluntary Activities

Support – UCAS/ Employment/ Connexions/ Business placement/ Guided Independent Learning/ Leadership roles

## **Widening Career opportunity Pathway**

Requirements – 4 A\*-C GCSEs (C+ grade in chosen subject)

Courses – 2 AS Levels or equivalent Applied A Levels and/or part time Swindon College courses.

Choose from COPE L3, CSLA, Food, Nutrition and Health or GCSE resit and/or Level 2 courses

Support – Business Placement/ Employment/ Connexions/ Guided Independent Learning/ Leadership roles

## **Improving Qualifications Pathway**

Requirements – 3 A\*-C GCSEs (C+ grade in chosen subject)

Courses – 1 AS Level\* or equivalent BTEC or Applied A Level course and/ or part time Swindon College courses plus at least one level 2 / GCSE course (minimum of 10 guided learning hours per week on timetable)

\* by agreement with subject leader

Choose from COPE L3, CSLA, Food, Nutrition and Health or GCSE resit and/or Level 2 courses

Support – Business Placement/ Employment/ Connexions / Guided Independent Learning

## **Entry Requirements**

Acceptance on courses may not only be judged on GCSE grades but will be judged on an individual basis. The pathways are used for choosing appropriate course combinations.

# Oxbridge and Russell Group University Entry Pathway

**Requirements – 9 GCSEs (6+ A\*/A)**

**Courses – AQA Bacc, 4/5 AS Levels, Extended Project, Critical Thinking. Enrichment/ Voluntary Activities.**

Support –Oxbridge/ UCAS preparation/ Business placement/ Leadership roles / Connexions

Advice from Cambridge – The list below details the A-Level subjects that provide a less effective preparation for Cambridge. To be a realistic applicant, a student will normally need to be offering two traditional academic subjects (i.e two subjects not on the list). For example Maths, History and Business Studies would be an acceptable combination of subjects for a number of our courses. However, History, Business Studies and Media Studies would not be considered an acceptable combination as it contains more than one subject from the list below;

Art and Design

Business Studies

Design and Technology

Drama/Theatre studies

Film Studies

Health and Social Care

Music Technology

Media Studies

Photography

Travel and Tourism and Performing Arts

Critical Thinking will be considered as fourth A-Level and not as part of conditional offer. We advise Oxbridge students to complete Critical Thinking as Core option as it extremely useful for admission tests, LNAT (Law) UKCAT, BMAT (Medicine)

We would consider students with at least 5 A\* GCSEs as having Oxbridge potential.

## FAQ

### ***Are we saying do not do the new A-Levels?***

Absolutely not! We should try to protect the student's right to choose new subjects. If students follow the guidelines and mix new subjects with traditional they should still be eligible for consideration at the most selective institutions and for many of the more academic HE courses.

### ***What about the more creative/ talent based subjects such as art, music, Drama, PE etc?***

Do not seek to steer away from these courses, if students have a genuine interest and talent in them. The safest way to keep options open would be to combine with the more traditional academic subjects.

### ***What are the Russell Group Universities?***

**The Russell Group** is an association of 20 major research-intensive universities of the United Kingdom.

The current membership of the Group is:

- University of Birmingham
- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- Cardiff University
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Glasgow
- Imperial College London
- King's College London, University of London
- University College London, University of London
- University of Leeds
- University of Liverpool
- London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London
- University of Manchester
- Newcastle University
- University of Nottingham
- Queen's University Belfast
- University of Oxford
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- University of Warwick

### ***What is the AQA Baccalaureate?***

Students build on core A-level subjects, adding value through **wider learning and enrichment activities**. Students can complete a Bacc based on GCE A-levels awarded by any awarding body to achieve a grade of **Pass, Merit** or **Distinction**. Students will need to complete three A-Levels, Extended project and Critical Thinking or Citizenship to gain the AQA Bacc. They must also complete enrichment or voluntary activities such as Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

### ***What is the Core Curriculum?***

The core curriculum in the Sixth Form is a group of accredited courses that students can opt to take. Several like Cope L3 and Extended project provide additional UCAS points.

Other courses in Core include the Community Sports Leader Award, AS Citizenship, AS Critical Thinking and Food, Nutrition and Health (see course description sheets).

It is an element of joining the Sixth Form and compulsory for all students. Exceptions are made for students studying x5 AS Levels.

The majority of students start with x4 AS Levels and a core option.

# University Pathway

**Requirements – 5 GCSEs (A\*-B) (B+ chosen subject)**

**Courses – AQA Bacc, 4 AS Levels, Extended Project, Citizenship, Enrichment/ Voluntary Activities**

Support – UCAS support/ Business placement/ Leadership roles/ Connexions

Advice : The students in this pathway should choose a mix of 4 AS traditional and new A-Levels.

## ***Do degrees require a specific A-Level requirement?***

Some popular degrees are often open to the student with a wide range of A-Levels; Accountancy, Anthropology, Archaeology, Business Studies, History of Art, Law, Management Studies, Media Studies, Philosophy, Politics, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, Surveying and Teacher Training.

See the information attached for a general guideline. Students should always check the University prospectuses/ websites to be completely sure.

# University/Vocational options Pathway

**Requirements – 5 GCSEs (A\*-C) (C+ chosen subject)**

**Courses – 3 AS Levels and/or Applied A Levels, Choose from COPE L3, Citizenship CSLA, Food, Nutrition and Health and/or GCSE resit/ Level 2 course.  
Enrichment/ Voluntary Activities**

Support – UCAS/ Employment/ Connexions/ Business Placement/ Guided Independent Learning/ Leadership roles

Advice – Students in this pathway may well apply to a recruiting University that requires UCAS points rather than grades e.g (A, A, B). Cope L3 provides 70 UCAS points (more than an A grade AS and would be a good choice). UCAS – course search is a useful website to search on.

However, students in this pathway may not be applying to UCAS and seeking employment.

New A-Levels may be more suitable for students in this pathway. If they do not achieve C grade in English, Maths and Science they should consider a resit instead of a core option.

Applied A-Levels are also more suitable but can be combined with AS levels/ Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) courses.

## **FAQ**

### ***What is the UCAS tariff?***

The UCAS Tariff is a points system used to report achievement for entry to higher education (HE) in a numerical format. It establishes agreed comparability between different types of qualifications and provides comparisons between applicants with different types and volumes of achievement.

The Tariff works in the following ways:

- Points can be aggregated from the different qualifications included in the Tariff.
- There is no ceiling to the number of points which can be accumulated.
- There is no double counting - applicants cannot count the same or similar qualifications twice
- Achievement at a lower level will be subsumed into the higher level, ie, AS points will be subsumed into the A level points for the same subject.

### ***What is an Applied A-Level?***

Some A-Levels have a work-related focus. These are called Applied A Levels and are available in single and double awards - the latter is equivalent to two A Levels. They include Health and Social Care, Business Studies, Travel and Tourism. These courses may well be suitable for Pathway 3 & 4 students.

### ***What is a BTEC?***

BTEC's give learners a more practical approach to subjects. At The Ridgeway School we offer Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE) and Level 3 (equivalent to A Level) BTEC courses, depending on the subject. They are particularly suitable for those who have strong inclinations towards a particular vocational career

## **Widening Career opportunity Pathway**

**Requirements – 4 A\*-C GCSEs (C+ grade in chosen subject)**

**Courses – 2 AS Levels or equivalent Applied A Levels and/or part time Swindon College courses.**

**Choose from COPE L3, CSLA, Food, Nutrition and Health or GCSE resit and/or Level 2 courses**

Support – Business Placement/ Employment/ Connexions/ Guided Independent Learning/ Leadership role

Advice – A reduced number of AS levels and new A- Levels e.g Film studies may be more suitable choices combined with a Swindon college course/ Level 2 combination.

## **Improving Qualifications Pathway**

**Requirements – 3 A\*-C GCSEs (C+ grade in chosen subject)**

**Courses – 1 AS Level\* or equivalent BTEC or Applied A Level course and/ or part time Swindon College courses plus at least one level 2 / GCSE course (minimum of 10 guided learning hours per week on timetable)**

\* by agreement with subject leader

Choose from COPE L3, CSLA, Food, Nutrition and Health or GCSE resit and/or Level 2 courses

Support – Business Placement/ Employment/ Connexions / Guided Independent Learning

This pathway is more suitable for students who need to improve their qualifications before moving on to the job market. 5 GCSE's or Level 2 passes at A\*-C or equivalent are generally required in the workplace. If the student has not achieved a C grade in English, Maths or Science they should consider a resit as one option.

## **FAQ**

### ***What courses can be taken at Swindon College?***

We have a collaboration with Swindon College for several courses like Public Services that take place on a Wednesday. It is possible to take courses at Sixth Form and study a part time Swindon College course.

### ***Do we collaborate on other courses?***

Yes, we have a partnership with St Joseph's. They send their students here for Politics and Further Maths. We send students to study Performing Arts BTEC and photography AS. They take place on a Wednesday afternoon and transport there is provided.

### ***What are the entry requirements of Sixth Form?***

Acceptance on courses may not only be judged on GCSE grades but will be judged on an Individual basis. The pathways are used for choosing appropriate course combinations.

### ***What are the main considerations when considering where to study after Y11?***

- What subjects are offered at particular institutions?
- What results have been achieved in the respective institutions being compared?
- Between institutions are there different teaching styles and the relative levels of discipline / freedom?
- Do the social opportunities differ between Sixth Form and College