

A C A D E M Y T I P T O N

F O R M





Welcome



Q3 Academy Tipton is a small but successful Sixth Form Centre that is designed around our students. The courses we offer are all highly performing, led by strong qualified specialist teachers in small class sizes.

The support you receive here will be second to none; you will not vanish into a large anonymous college or feel out of place. We ensure that you have a private study area and access to professionals that will help you realise your potential.

Our students engage in a range of enriching activities, that are not only fun, but community minded and provide excellent leadership experience for the next stage of your career, whether that is a top university, an apprenticeship, or another training opportunity or even paid employment. We have years of experience successfully getting students to where they want to be.

Most importantly, we will always be here for you and you will always be important to us because you truly matter. You may not have considered us a suitable centre before but we offer something very special and we have excellent public transport links. Please, come and talk to us and take a look at what we offer; you will not be disappointed.

Keziah Featherstone Headteacher



I am delighted that you have shown an interest in joining our popular and growing Sixth Form. Q3 Academy Tipton Sixth Form is a place where you can continue your learning and development; I am very proud to be leading the team that will support you through the next stage in your educational journey.

We are really proud of what we can offer in terms of the breadth of study, quality of teaching, small class sizes, dedicated facilities and staff that really do go the extra mile. However, life in our Sixth Form means so much more than just academic achievement although that will always be our priority.

Sixth Formers at Q3 Academy Tipton are challenged and supported every step of the way, both in the classroom and beyond. This is vital because your Sixth Form journey really will fly past in just twenty-two months, from your first day to your Leaver's Party.

These two years will be rightly challenging but we support our students every step of the way with a strong pastoral team. Our Sixth Form focuses on developing our students as individuals. We provide opportunities to develop social skills, build confidence and allow you to have a wider sense of responsibility as a young adult.

Our goal is to develop every student's academic and wider CV to help you to stand out from the crowd when as you take the next step.

Our relationships with parents and carers remain excellent. Although our young people are expected to take responsibility for their learning, attendance and conduct, parents are always kept informed of progress. Should any problems occur we will work closely with you to find positive solutions.

Thank you for considering Q3 Academy Tipton Sixth Form. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Laura WhitehouseDirector of Sixth Form



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Beyond the classroom

Student Leadership

We aim to provide a wide range of leadership roles for our students to take on in the Sixth Form to help build wider experiences and leadership skills. We elect five House Captains who work closely with the staff team of House Directors. These students represent the Sixth Form at a range of events and are also part of our School Council, leading younger students across the Academy and making a real difference to how we are run.

Sixth form students are also able to apply to become a Senior Prefect. Prefects play a vital role in the life of the school and work closely with the Director of Sixth Form organising various events and representing the Sixth Form at key events such as Open Day and parents evenings.

Sixth Form students play a leadership role in all our community work – such as sports leadership and representation, participating in the orchestra and playing at local events such as the Remembrance Day Service as well as charitable events. This year Sixth Form students led the appeal to deliver Christmas hampers for local families, helping to fundraise and distribute the boxes. A recent member of the sixth form was elected to Sandwell Council during his studies – the sky really has no limits!



Duke of Edinburgh

The benefits of achieving a Duke of Edinburgh Award at any level are endless. Duke of Edinburgh is about helping you along the path to a productive and prosperous future and, as many participants say, it is life-changing.

Achieving an Award will give you the skills, confidence and an edge over others when you apply for university, college, apprenticeships a job. Beyond your academic achievements, universities want to see evidence of so called 'soft skills' that you have developed through extra-curricular activities, such as communication, commitment, leadership and teamwork and your Duke of Edinburgh Award is a fantastic way to demonstrate and evidence these skills in practice.

You'll also make a difference to other people's lives and your community, be fitter and healthier, make new friends and have memories to last you a lifetime. Participants also say that doing their Duke of Edinburgh gives you character traits like confidence and resilience that can boost your mental health and wellbeing and help you face and overcome personal challenges.

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

The CCF (RAF) offers an exciting and challenging cadet experience, based around flying and aviation to inspire young people as they learn and develop new skills. We follow the CCF syllabus which involves map reading, airmanship, drill and the use of military style radios. Last year our cadets went flying!

As a more senior cadet you will be expected to take an active role in the leadership of the school contingent.

As a Sixth Form cadet, you will have the opportunity to work towards Level 3 qualifications in leadership as well as other nationally recognised qualifications in a range of subjects such as the use of radio's and first aid. You will also have the opportunity to visit camps both in the UK and overseas and get practical experience of gliders and a powered flight aircraft.



Aspirations

Every student will meet individually with our Careers and Aspirations Leader at least twice in their first year with opportunities for as many follow up meetings as are required depending on how much support you require. The Careers and Aspirations Centre is right next to the Sixth Form Centre.

Your bespoke advice may include applying for a top UK Russell Group university such as Oxford, Cambridge or University of Birmingham; international universities as well as university applications more generally; it might be that you choose to follow an apprenticeship path instead – we are here to help YOU as an individual rather than make any assumptions about you.

Furthermore, our Inspire Curriculum will advise students where to find both university and apprenticeship opportunities and how to act on these.

Work Experience

All Sixth Formers undertake at least one week's work experience during their course. If it is appropriate, many combine additional work experience with regular volunteering to develop their skills and CV.

The support our students receive includes:

- Independent and impartial careers guidance from our Careers and aspirations leader
- Collaborative work with employers and apprenticeship providers
- Annual visits to UCAS convention
- Workshops and seminars for students which shed light on the university and apprenticeship application process, students finance and alternative post-18 pathways
- Exploring Unifrog (a platform delivering information about Universities and Apprenticeships) in guided sessions to ensure students make informed choices about their future
- Seminars on how to use search platforms such as The National Careers Service and Gov.uk
- Partnership work with Universities
- Free visits to universities such as Oxford and more local universities
- When needed, one-to-one mentoring for you to prepare you for interviews
- UCAS, apprenticeship and employment application support; including mock interviews



Sixth form curriculum

All students study three A Level or equivalent qualifications, supported by a weekly Inspire programme to aid you to make a strong and successful transition into Key Stage 5 and beyond.

In order to study in our Sixth Form, you will need to achieve at least five GCSEs at Grade 4 to be able to study on the Vocational route and, for the A Level route, you must achieve a least 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 including English and Maths. Subject specific entry requirements can be found at the back of our prospectus.

The curriculum offer is reviewed each year and the school may need to remove qualifications from offer that are not viable due to low student uptake. The decision to remove subjects from the curriculum offer will be made as early as possible.

All courses run subject to student uptake. Courses with low student uptake may not run.





A Level courses

The vast majority of our A Levels are so called facilitating subjects. Facilitating subjects are a handful of A Level subjects commonly asked for in universities' entry requirements, regardless of the course you're applying to – this makes studying at least one a good choice to keep your degree options open. This is particularly the case at the top rated universities.

If there is a subject we don't offer, we are happy to work in partnership with another centre to help make this possible for you.



Biology

Why choose Biology?

The study of Biology, a facilitating subject, aims to develop the essential knowledge and understanding of biological concepts, which will allow a greater insight into many of the changing situations in the world. Issues such as the cloning of human embryos and genetic modification are studied in depth to enable informed decisions to be made about the ethics of these practices.

Next steps and career pathways

Biology A Level could be the opening to an exciting range of Biology careers or work and study in other Sciences, these may include: Biology, Biological sciences, Medicine and Dentistry at university. Careers in Politics, Media, food technology, Physiotherapy and Medicine Technology. Employers really value the skills that Biology students have in oral and written communication and analytical and critical reasoning.

Chemistry

Why choose Chemistry?

Chemistry is one of the most important sciences and a facilitating subject, often combining physics, biology, mathematics and medicine. A Level Chemistry covers the fundamentals of physical, organic and inorganic Chemistry and understand why leading chemists are changing the world, from finding new sustainable sources of energy or finding vaccines for new viruses.

Next steps and career pathways

Employers really value the skills that Chemistry students have in analytical thinking, data analysis, technical and practical skills, these include: Chemical Sciences, Medicine and Dentistry at University. Careers in Engineering, Medicine, Remediation Sciences, aand Technical Sciences.

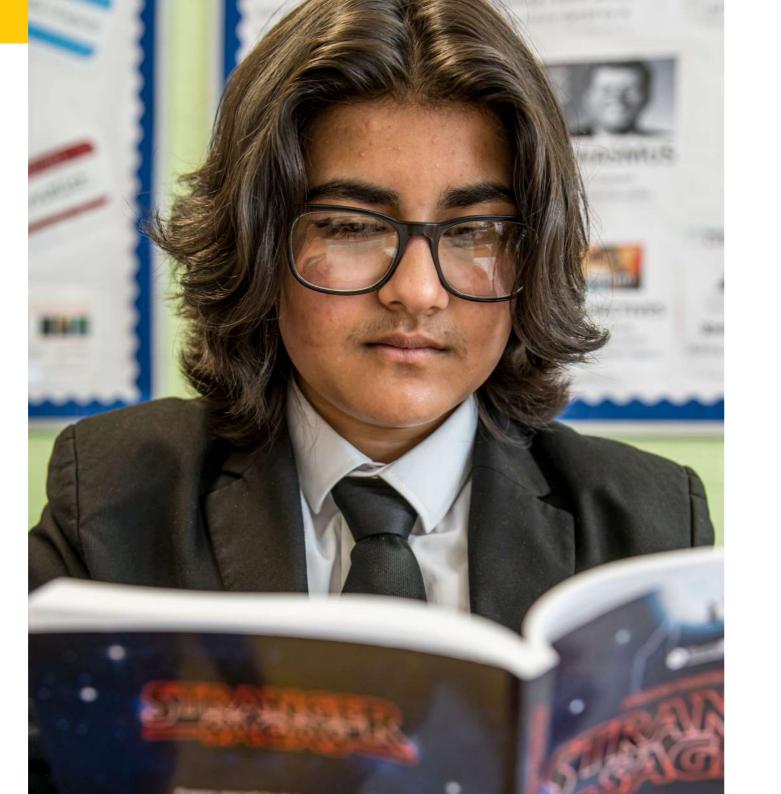
English Literature

Why choose English Literature?

English Literature at A Level is an engaging, challenging facilitating subject. Students are encouraged to think critically and analytically about their reading and will become immersed in the worlds of a wide range of texts, from classic to contemporary. The course gives you an insight into key literary influences on our culture and society. In addition, it is well considered by colleges and universities as the course requires you to develop as skilful, reflective readers, and concise exploratory writers.

Next steps and career pathways

A Level English opens gateways to degree studies in English, Law, Drama, and Journalism amongst others. Careers in Journalism, Teaching, writing, and marketing are common for students of A Level English Literature. Employers really value the skills that English Literature students have in oral and written communication, analysis of a range of texts as well as their heightened awareness of history, culture, philosophy and human nature.



Geography

Why choose Geography?

A Level Geography encourages you to gain and apply knowledge and understanding of physical and human processes through studying places and environments with an appreciation of the dynamic nature of geography. You will learn and understand how places, environments and issues can change and how the human population responds to this. Geography will help develop communication and teamwork skills and you will also develop your research and analytical skills through fieldwork.

Next steps and career pathways

Employers and universities see
Geography as a robust facilitating
academic subject rich in skills,
knowledge and understanding.
Candidates who achieve this
qualification may wish to study
Geography related courses at
University. This qualification will
support candidates working towards
careers in international development,
travel and tourism, local government,
business and sales.

History

Why choose History?

Everything happening around us today has been influenced by and is a result of what has happened in the past. History, another facilitating subject, can help us predict what could happen in the future. This rigorous course is an excellent way for you to develop highly sought after and transferable skills. These include being able to effectively communicate complex ideas, the ability to research, analyse and evaluate information, both orally and in writing.

Next steps and career pathways

Employers really value the skills that History students have in oral and written communication and analytical and critical reasoning. Law, Journalism, History or Politics at university. Careers in Politics, Journalism, Law, museums, archaeology, librarianship and media are common routes for students of History.

Maths

Why choose Maths?

A Level Mathematics is a stimulating and rewarding course as well as a facilitating subject.

Your studies at GCSE will have given you an insight into a mathematical world of pattern and logic; your Advanced-Level studies will continue and further expand this journey. It is a qualification that is highly respected by Higher Education institutions and future employers alike, demonstrating your skills of logic and deduction, as well as academic ability. The skills that you will acquire on the course are relevant to a wide range of subjects at both A Level and degree level, as well as providing you with transferable skills to numerous careers and vocations.

Next steps and career pathways

Access to a wide range of career and higher education opportunities. Possible further career paths include those in Science and Technology, Computing, Engineering, Medicine, Business and Management, Finance and Accountancy, Economics, Architecture, Law, the Sciences, research and Teaching.



■ Government and Politics

Why choose Politics?

Politics is all about how society manages differing opinions. It's as much about compromise and concession as it is about strength of conviction. It impacts at every level of daily life, irrespective of your chosen career path or skill base. Studying A Level Politics will provide insight into political beliefs central to an understanding of the modern world. It also develops analytical and evaluative skills in relation to interesting topics prevalent in the turbulent political climate of today.

Next steps and career pathways

Studying Government and Politics at A level opens up so many options to you. You can go on to study History, Social Sciences like Sociology and Psychology, Law, Accounting, Journalism, Science, and many other subjects. Employers also really value a Politics student, as it shows that you have an understanding of the world and the law and how it works, that you are hardworking and independent and are able to analyse and evaluate your own work and that of others.

Physics

Why choose Physics?

Studying A Level Physics doesn't restrict your options, it expands them. As well as being needed for many careers in science and engineering the skills and knowledge that you can develop by studying Physics keeps the door open to doing just about everything else. Physics is an exciting facilitating subject, providing insight into the world around us. Physics challenges our imaginations with concepts like relativity and string theory, and it leads to great discoveries, like computers and lasers, that lead to technologies which change our lives.

Next steps and career pathways

Employers really value the skills that Physics students have in analytical thinking, practical skills and logical thinking. Physical sciences, Radiography and Engineering at University. Careers in Engineering, Photography, Remediation Sciences, Technical Sciences, Aerospace Engineering, Electrical Sciences.

■ Philosophy and Ethics

Why choose Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies)?

This is a challenging and thought provoking A Level that develops our understanding of how religion has contributed to the lives of individuals. the community and the wider world. Your studies will develop your skills that will encourage reflection upon your own values, opinions and attitudes while adopting a critical and analytical approach to religion. You will explore the philosophy of religion from ancient thinkers such as Plato, to the guestion of the nature of God and the existence of evil. You will analyse and apply religious ethics to contemporary problems while debating the significant idea of a conscience. Furthermore, you will also deep dive into the developments in religious thought for one faith and their beliefs, values and teachings and how they impact society.

Next steps and career pathways

Employers value Philosophy and Ethics as the skills developed in studying religions are increasingly in demand in a complex, connected, global world. Examples of careers include Law, Politics, Education, Social and Medical worker, Journalism.



Psychology

Why choose Psychology?

In addition to providing you with an understanding of the causes of human behaviour, studying Psychology will allow you to develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods as well as competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills. An important skill you will learn is how to evaluate conflicting theories about the topics you cover, and the studies that support, or challenge, them.

Next steps and career pathways

Students who achieve this qualification may wish to go on to university to study Psychology in more depth or specialise in an area of Psychology. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

Sociology

Why choose Sociology?

How does society work? A Level Sociology offers you the opportunity to develop the essential knowledge and understanding of sociological thought and methods, together with a range of skills. It is a good foundation subject as the knowledge you learn can be applied to all aspects of society and it provides a variety of academic skills especially thinking critically about the world.

Next steps and career pathways

Students who achieve this qualification may wish to study Sociology or other Social Science subjects at university. This qualification will support candidates working towards careers such as: Community development worker, Family support worker, Further Education Teacher, International Aid/Development Worker, Social researcher, Social worker, Youth Worker, Politician, Police Officer and many more. Other career paths include; marketing and advertising, Law and working for a charity or not-for-profit.



Vocational courses

BTEC and Cache qualifications provide a different approach to learning, which enables a more inclusive educational path for you. BTEC and Cache courses are vocational and work-related courses that put the focus on practical activities.

These courses provide you with real life experience in your industry which is appealing for potential universities or prospective employers. Vocational courses can be an excellent way to progress into university and 95% of universities accept these courses, including those in the Russell Group.



BTEC Foundation Diploma Art and Design

Why choose Art?

A BTEC in Art and Design is a great choice for you, if you want to create imaginative work, exploring a range of specialisms in Art and Design including Fine Art, Fashion and Sculpture. This will provide you with plenty of opportunities to find your own style. Throughout the course, you will investigate a range of artists and designers, learning about associated professional practice. With a BTEC in Art and Design, you'll gain valuable hands-on experience which can take you straight into a career in the industry.

Next steps and career pathways

Students can look for places at universities and colleges and careers in the creative industries. You could progress onto degrees in Art and Design, Fashion, Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography and Animation. Alternatively, you could expect to be employed in the creative industries at junior level. You will have access to a range of career and further/higher education opportunities.

BTEC Business Studies

Why choose Business?

The Business course focuses on a problem solving approach to business designed to help you understand the nature and working of business organisations. Much of the learning is based around business case studies and focusing on how you can use your business knowledge to determine the success of a business. The aim is to encourage you to develop a critical understanding of different businesses, the context in which they operate, the markets they serve, and ultimately recommend actions that businesses should take to be successful.

Next steps and career pathways

There are many different career paths for those who wish to work within the business sector. These include management, HR, finance, marketing and business information management, with the opportunity to work both in the UK and internationally. The requirements of the qualification will mean students develop the transferable and higher order skills that are highly regarded by both HE and employers.

Cache Certificate Childcare and Education

Why choose Childcare?

This course enables you to gain the knowledge and experience which will allow you to work with children from birth to five years. This course teaches you the crucial knowledge necessary when working with children. The course covers a variety of information on the health and development of a child during the Early Years settings and the role of an Early Years Practitioner during this important stage in life.

Next steps and career pathways

The high level of skills required to achieve this qualification also enables learners to progress to Higher Education within early year's childcare and education or a different field of study. You can progress into various job roles in such as Early Years Educator, Practitioner in day nurseries or nursery schools, Practitioner in reception classes in primary schools and Pre-school worker.

BTEC Foundation Diploma Creative Digital Media

Why choose Creative Digital Media?

This practical course focuses on developing your communication, pre-production, production and post-production skills that are required for working in the film and television industry. You will develop knowledge and understanding of pre-production techniques, communication skills and research techniques. Creative Digital Media is an exciting and challenging course which encourages you to critically engage with and evaluate a broad range of moving image products.

Next steps and career pathways

The course is designed to provide an educational foundation for a range of careers in the media industry and allied sectors. This course will prepare students for working in the creative industries as well as preparing students for entry onto a practical degree at university. Possible future careers might include Journalist, Media Planner, Social Media Manager, Technician, Researcher, Digital Marketer and Advertising Officer.

WJEC Applied Diploma Criminology

Why choose Criminology?

This is an ideal course for anyone wanting to pursue a career in Criminology. The course examines in detail a range of criminal activity together with detection and prevention methods in common use. This is an ideal course for anyone wishing to improve knowledge of crime, its impact on society, and the ways in which justice is administered.

Next steps and career pathways

Candidates who achieve this qualification may wish to go on to university to study the subject in more depth. This qualification is useful in many careers e.g. The Police, social services, and youth services and teaching.

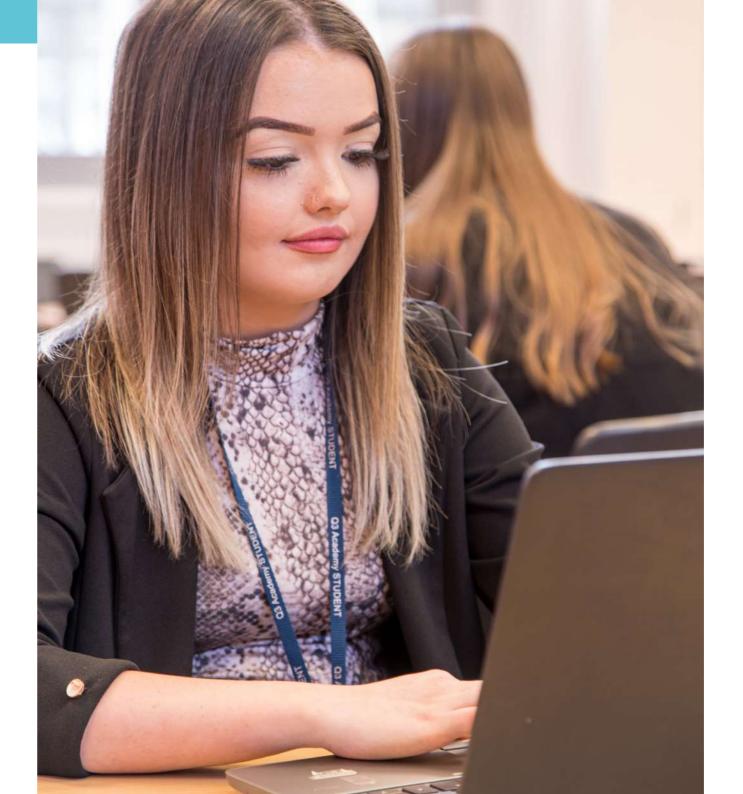
BTEC Applied Law

Why choose Applied Law?

Studying Law BTEC gives students many transferable skills such as problem solving, critical analysis and negotiation skills that will enable you to progress to university, apprenticeships and the world of work.

Next steps and career pathways

or a related course at university such as Criminology, International Relations, Public Services Management and Business. They also have the choice to use their work-based skills to seek employment in the legal or business world. Students may also choose to apply for related apprenticeship vacancies in broader sectors of the economy. Future careers where Law qualifications could be useful are Advice Worker, Chartered Accountant, Civil Service Administrator, Human Resources and Data Analyst



Cache Certificate Health and Social Care

Why choose Health and Social Care?

This course is specifically designed for people who are looking to work with people of any age and provide help and assistance in a care setting. You will acquire in-depth understanding of the role and responsibilities of a health and social care worker. The course will introduce you to key topics such as safeguarding individuals in a care setting, knowing signs and symptoms of behaviour that may cause concerns and protecting the welfare of individuals. The course will cover a wide range of issues but primarily focus on the care of people through a health and balanced service.

Next steps and career pathways

The high level of knowledge and skills required to achieve this qualification also enables you to progress to further learning at Level 4 and above as well as Higher Education. This course will provide you with a broad range of knowledge, understanding and skills to support progression into a wide range of supervised job roles in the health and social care sector: You can progress into various job roles such as Care Support Workers in adult residential settings, Healthcare Assistants in Community, Primary Care and Acute Health Environments.

BTEC Foundation Diploma in Performing Arts

Why choose Performing Arts?

Whilst studying BTEC performing Arts, you will encounter an exciting array of vastly differing acting styles. You will develop skills in acting and performing, and will play a crucial role in the organisation and development of performance pieces. The course is practical, involving performance, coursework, and many opportunities to take part in plays and productions. You will develop knowledge of the styles of practitioners and explore the ideas and themes of contemporary theatre, as well as devising and producing original work.

Next steps and career pathways

Students who achieve this qualification may wish to study Performing Arts related courses at University such as Acting and Performance, Media Studies, English with Theatre and Performance. This qualification will support candidates working towards careers in the Performing Arts industry by developing cognitive and problem solving skills, interpersonal skills, interpersonal skills.

BTEC Foundation Diploma in Sport

Why choose Sport?

The BTEC course is designed for students who have an interest in, and passion for, sport and PE. This course enables you to learn about the theory behind sport in great depth. You will have the opportunity to gain experience for use in the workplace or as a stepping stone to higher education. You will develop practical skills in your specialist areas. In addition, you will learn about the factors that contribute to improving physical performance.

Next steps and career pathways

Students who achieve this qualification may wish to study Sports Studies, Coaching and Exercise Science, Strength and Conditioning, Sports Development and Management, Sports Psychology and Physiotherapy. This qualification will support candidates working towards careers in the sport and leisure industry and those wishing to pursue a career in the health and fitness sector.

BTEC Travel and Tourism

Why choose Travel and Tourism?

A BTEC in Travel and Tourism will give you the skills and confidence you need to progress into a vibrant, exciting career in one of the world's largest industries. You will develop a range of skills required for a managerial career through a range of varied and interesting projects, tailored to match your interests and ambitions.

Next steps and career pathways

The qualification provides the knowledge, understanding and skills that will prepare you for further study or training in a range of different sectors including Business Management, Marketing, Hospitality and Leisure, in addition to Travel and Tourism. As well as careers as Cabin Crew and Holiday Reps, Travel and Tourism can lead to a wide range of other careers in the areas of event & hospitality management, wedding planning, travel agencies, public relations, travel journalism and tourism marketing.

BTEC Extended Certificate Music

Why choose Music?

Studying BTEC Level 3 Music gives you the opportunity to formalise and deepen your knowledge, experience and understanding of the contemporary music industry. You will analyse performance practice and incorporate current trends into your own music making in both solo and ensemble settings as well as strengthening your knowledge of the rudiments of music. This knowledge will then be put into practical use in vocational contexts to deepen your awareness of relationships within the organisations found in today's ever evolving music industry.

Next steps and career pathways

Students who achieve this qualification may wish to study Music related courses at University such as Music / Popular Music, Performing Arts, Music Industry Management, Music Business and Arts management. This qualification will support candidates working towards careers in the Music industry by developing cognitive and problem solving skills, interpersonal skills.



Entry requirements

	Entry requirements	English language grade	Maths grade	Subject specific grade
BTEC Art	5 GCSEs grade 4 and above	4	4	Grade 4 in Art
Biology	5 GCSEs grade 5 and above	5	5	Triple Biology 6 or Combined Science 77
BTEC Business Studies	5 GCSEs grade 4 and above	4	4	
A Level Chemistry	5 GCSEs grade 5 and above	5	6	Triple Chemistry 6 or Combined Science 77
Cache level 3 Childcare & Education	5 GCSEs grade 4 and above	4	4	
Creative Digital Media	5 GCSEs grade 4 and above	4	4	
BTEC Criminology	5 GCSEs grade 4 and above	4	4	
A Level English Literature	5 GCSEs grade 5 and above	5	5	Grade 6 in English literature
A Level Geography	5 GCSEs grade 5 and above	5	5	Grade 6 in Geography or English
Cache Health and Social Care	5 GCSEs grade 4 and above	4	4	
A Level History	5 GCSEs grade 5 and above	5	5	Grade 6 in History or English
BTEC Applied Law	5 GCSEs grade 4 and above	4	4	
A Level Maths	5 GCSEs grade 5 & above	5	7	
BTEC Performing Arts	5 GCSEs grade 4 and above	4	4	Level 2 Pass Performing Arts
A Level Physics	5 GCSEs grade 5 and above	5	6	Triple Physics 6 or combined Science 77
A Level Philosophy and Ethics	5 GCSEs grade 5 and above	5	5	Grade 6 in RS or English
A Level Government and Politics	5 GCSEs grade 5 and above	5	5	Grade 6 in English or History
A Level Psychology	5 GCSEs grade 5 and above	5	5	Grade 55 in Science
BTEC Sport	5 GCSEs grade 4 and above	4	4	Level 2 Merit Sport or grade 4 in GCSE PE
BTEC Travel and Tourism	5 GCSEs grade 4 and above	4	4	
BTEC Music	4 GCSEs grade 4 and above	4	4	Level 2 Pass in Music or grade 4 in an instrument
A Level Sociology	5 GCSEs grade 5 and above	5	5	Grade 6 in Sociology, English or History





How do I apply?

Application forms can be downloaded from www.q3tipton.org.uk.

Applications remain open throughout the academic year. However, if you wish to receive timely information and guidance, including the offer of a guidance meeting with a Director of Sixth Form, applications need to be submitted by 31st January.

For all enquiries, please contact l.whitehouse@q3tipton.org.uk



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