



Notice for Fifth Form Parents

The GCSE results will be released to the Stoics via their School email as soon as possible on the morning of Thursday 22 August. It is important that all pupils check to make sure that their email passwords have not expired during the holiday and, if necessary, contact the ICT department at Stowe prior to the publication of results to help avoid any technical delays in your ability to access results.

We very much hope that this summer's exams have gone as well as possible, and that success in GCSE results will allow a smooth transition to the Sixth Form. Please refer closely to the table confirming the GCSE grades required for acceptance on to the A Level courses. Help and advice will be available at Stowe on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 August by telephone, email, or in person, for any Stoic whose GCSE results mean that they will need to make a change in their A Level programme. It is important that any Stoic who finds themselves in this position contacts the School as soon as possible to discuss alternative courses so that arrangements are put in place before the start of the new term.

Stoics who may find it difficult to access three A Levels of their choice may wish to choose one of our new BTEC courses in Business, Sport, Creative and Digital Media Production, and Engineering. These courses, offered within our column structure, carry the same weighting as a full A Level in terms of UCAS points, and are studied over two years. Business and Sport BTECs are also available as 'AS level' equivalents, or electives, studied for six periods a week over one year and in addition to three A Levels. Please refer to the brief synopsis of these BTEC courses, together with their availability within our curriculum column structure, in the attached documents.

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Required Minimum GCSE Grades for Study at A Level

Subject	Minimum grade requirement
Art	Art 6
Biology	Biology 7 or Dual Award Science 7-7
Business	Mathematics 5
Chemistry	Chemistry 7 or Dual Award Science 7-7
Classics	WJEC Level 2 Latin A or Greek 7
Computer Science	Computer Science 7 but those with Mathematics 7 will also be considered
Design	Design 6 or other design related discipline 6
Drama & Theatre Studies	Drama 6 or other drama related discipline 6
Economics	English 6, Mathematics 6
English Literature	English Literature 6, English Language 5
Film Studies	English Language 5 or English Literature 6
French	French 7
Geography	Geography 6
German	German 7
History	History 6 or other essay writing subject 6
History of Art	English Language 6 or other essay writing subject 6
Mathematics	Mathematics 7
Further Mathematics	Mathematics 8
Music	Grade 7 on one instrument, Grade 5 Theory
Physics	Physics 7, Maths 7 or Dual Award 7-7
Politics	English 6 or other essay writing subject 6
Religious Studies	Religious Studies 6 or other essay writing subject 6
Spanish	Spanish 7
Sports Science	Sports Science/PE 6. Those without PE GCSE, will be Accepted with a Grade 7 in Science (Dual or Biology).

Stowe School's Sixth Form Curriculum 2019 - 21

All Pupils are expected to study **three** A Levels, with only one subject selected from each of the columns within our curriculum structure below.

Please note that the BTECs in Creative Digital Media and Engineering can only be studied as Extended Level 3 qualifications, equivalent to a full A Level. The BTECs in Business and Sport are offered both as a one year AS equivalent course, taken as an Elective in addition to three A Levels, and as the full A Level equivalent over two years.

Please see the additional information provided about our BTECs and some Elective courses. Full details of all our A Level and Elective courses is provided in the Sixth Form Courses Guide, available on the School website and VLE.

1	2	3	4	Elective
Biology	Art	Art	Business	EPQ
Business	Business	Biology	Drama	Core Maths
Design	Chemistry	Chemistry	Further Mathematics	AS Maths
Economics	Drama	Computer Science	Geography	AS Further Maths
English Literature	Economics	Design	History (Early Modern)	AS Film Studies
History (Modern)	English Literature	Economics	History (Modern)	AS Music Technology
History of Art	German	Film Studies	Mathematics	AS/A Levels in Additional Foreign Languages
Latin	Physics	French	Music	AS Psychology
Mathematics	Politics	Geography	Politics	iELTs
Physics	Religious Studies	Politics	Religious Studies	BTEC in Engineering
Sports Science	Spanish	Sports Science	EPQ	LAMDA
BTEC in Creative Digital Media	BTEC in Business	BTEC in Sport		PALM (available to musicians working towards their grade 7 or higher)
EPQ	EPQ	EPQ		ILM (available only to those in the CCF)

Business BTEC

This Level 3 National BTEC course is offered in column 2 in our curriculum structure. There are two options: the BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Business, equivalent to an AS course, is offered as an Elective and taken in addition to three A Levels; this course is taught in six periods a week for one year. Alternatively, pupils who have not achieved the entry grade for Business A Level may wish to consider the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business which is taught for six periods a week over two years and is equivalent to an A Level in terms of UCAS points. Both courses allow pupils to build their practical skills in business and to gain a qualification that is welcomed by universities. The finance and marketing units of the course have numeracy within them, where pupils will need to be able to manipulate and interpret data; extended writing is also part of the assessment criteria for all parts of the course. Priority for places will be given to those wishing to choose this as an alternative to A Level Business, alongside two other A Levels/BTECs.

Sport BTEC

This Level 3 BTEC course is offered in column 3 in our curriculum structure. It includes practical and coursework based elements, alongside theory units assessed through examination and is equivalent to a full AS or A Level depending on the number of units taken. As with the Business BTEC, the Level 3 course is offered as an Elective, whilst the Extended Level 3 certificate offers an alternative to Sports Science A Level. It is well regarded by universities for those seeking entry on to a broad range of sport-related degree courses. This course offers effective training in the theoretical, practical and biological aspects of sporting performance and coaching and will be delivered in six periods a week for either one or two years depending on the course chosen. Priority for places will be given to those wishing to choose this as an alternative to A Level Sports Science, alongside two other A Levels/BTECs

Engineering BTEC

This Extended Level 3 BTEC course is only to be offered as a full A Level equivalent. It will be delivered through Stowe's partnership with the UTC in Silverstone on Wednesday afternoons, in addition to teaching periods at Stowe during the Elective column. It is a largely practical and coursework based course and is well regarded by universities for those seeking entry on to a broad range of engineering degree courses. The BTEC is likely to be attractive to pupils who wish to gain this engineering qualification in addition to their programme of three A Levels, but may also be very helpful to those who have a keen interest in engineering but who struggle to access the entry grades required for Maths and Physics A Levels. Pupils should be aware that they need to commit fully to the Wednesday programme at the UTC in Silverstone over two years and will not, therefore, be able to represent the School in sporting fixtures on Wednesday afternoons. This should not preclude them from match play on Saturdays or other occasions. Priority for places will be given to those who are struggling to pursue their study of engineering through the more traditional A Level route.

Creative Digital Media Production BTEC

This Extended Level 3 course is offered in column 1 in our curriculum structure. It will be taught as an A Level equivalent only, over two years, on six lessons a week. This exciting course consists of three mandatory modules, including two externally assessed units on Media Representations and Responding to a Commission, and an internally assessed Pre-Production portfolio. Pupils will also study one optional unit e.g. Radio or Film production (fiction); Website design, Digital magazine production; or Digital games production. This A Level equivalent would work well taken alongside two other A Levels, in subjects such as Film Studies or other creative subjects.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

This is an essential course for those pupils for whom English is their second language and who have not studied in the UK and taken English Language as a GCSE, as most UK universities will require a high IELTS pass score from these students as part of their admissions offer. The course will prepare

you for the IELTS test, which assesses all of your English skills - reading, writing, listening and speaking and provides additional support with English to further A Level studies more generally. There is an additional charge for these lessons, with the number of lessons required to be determined by our International Department following a rigorous assessment.

AS/A Levels in Additional Foreign Languages

International pupils who are bi-lingual and who wish to study German, French or Spanish will need to choose their language as one of their three, or four, A Levels within the curriculum. Pupils wishing to take examinations in other native languages may be supported in preparing for exams which can be taken at the end of the Upper Sixth year and private tuition can also be provided (at a cost). Taught lessons are not provided within the curriculum although our Modern Languages department may be able to provide non-specific support in preparation for the topics examined in the written papers during 'language club' in extra-curricular time.