



Pioneer Secondary Academy

Post 16 Subject Booklet

Welcome to Pioneer Secondary Academy (PSA) Sixth Form! We are absolutely thrilled that you are considering us for your Post-16 education.

At PSA, our commitment is to provide an exceptional level of education, always keeping our students' best interests at the heart of everything we do.

We believe that the sixth form experience should be a time of inspiration, engagement, and personal growth, challenging students to push their boundaries and discover their true potential.

Here at PSA, we foster an environment where learning is not only engaging but also diverse and meticulously planned. Students actively share in the responsibility for their own education, preparing and contributing to their time in our Sixth Form, both academically and pastorally. We set high standards for ourselves, striving for excellence in all aspects of our work and attendance.

Our comprehensive curriculum offering includes a wide range of A-Level and vocational Level 3 courses, ensuring that we can cater to the diverse needs and preferences of our students. In addition to our curriculum, we provide numerous enrichment and extracurricular activities throughout the two-year course, offering students opportunities to gain experiences beyond the classroom.

Our goal is to ensure that they receive the necessary support to pursue their next steps, whether that's entering university, embarking on an apprenticeship, or starting their career.

We eagerly look forward to welcoming you to PSA's Sixth Form, where we are committed to nurturing your educational journey, unlocking your potential, and preparing you for a bright and successful future.

Mrs Kaur

[Head of Sixth Form](#)


2025 SUBJECT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS


For A Level subjects, students must achieve:


- 4 x GCSE grades 6+
- 7 x GCSE grades 4+
- Maths and English grade 5+ and meet the course requirements below.


For Vocational subjects, students are expected to obtain 5 x GCSE 4+ and meet the course requirements below.


Course	
A Level Courses	
Biology	Grade 6 in Science and Grade 5 in Maths
Chemistry	Grade 6 in Science and Grade 5 in Maths
Mathematics	Grade 6 in Mathematics
Punjabi	Grade 6 in Punjabi
Sociology	Grade 6 in English and Grade 5 in Maths
Vocational Level 3 Courses	
Applied Science	Grade 5-5 in Combined Science
BTEC Business Enterprise	Grade 4 in English or Business Studies
BTEC Health & Social Care	Grade 5 in English or Level 2 Pass in BTEC Health & Social Care
BTEC IT	Grade 5 in Computer Science or level 2 Pass in BTEC Digital Information Technology


Biology	
Exam board	OCR
Head of Department	Miss Chana
Entry requirement	Grade 6 in Science and Grade 5 in Maths
Introduction to the course OCR A Level Biology offers a holistic approach to the study of life sciences, equipping students with not only a deep understanding of biological concepts but also essential practical skills. It's a journey that fosters curiosity, scientific inquiry, and prepares students for the challenges and wonders of the biological world. Studying Biology at A level will enable you to gain an understanding of the dynamic and exciting nature of biology today, and an awareness of the ethical and technological developments.	
Course Structure	
Year 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 1: Development of practical skills in biology Module 2: Foundations in biology Module 3: Exchange and transport 	Year 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy Module 6: Genetics, evolution and ecosystems
Assessment breakdown Paper 1: Biological Processes Written examination: 37% of the qualification Paper 2 – Biological Diversity Written examination: 37% of the qualification Paper 3 – Unified paper Written examination: 26% of the qualification	
Links to careers Doctor, Nurse, Dentist, Pharmacist, Medical Researcher, Biomedical Scientist, Clinical Scientist, Genomic Technologist, Pharmaceutical Researcher, Drug Development Scientist, Environmental Scientist, Biology Teacher, Forensic scientist, Nutritionist, Veterinaria	
Pupil Quote	
 <i>A fascinating subject that allows to us to explore and challenge ourselves</i>	

Chemistry	
Exam board	OCR
Head of Department	Miss Chana
Entry requirement	Grade 6 in Science and Grade 5 in Maths
Introduction to the course A Level Chemistry, following the OCR specification, offers a structured and comprehensive exploration of the principles that govern matter and reactions. It equips students not only with theoretical knowledge but also with the practical skills and critical thinking abilities essential for success in the field of chemistry and related scientific disciplines.	
Course Structure	
Year 12	Year 13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry Module 3 – Periodic table and energy Module 4 – Core organic chemistry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis
Assessment breakdown Paper 1: Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry Written examination: 37% of the qualification Paper 2 – Synthesis and analytical techniques Written examination: 37% of the qualification Paper 3 – Unified paper Written examination: 26% of the qualification	
Links to careers Pharmacist, doctor, clinical researcher, environmental chemist, chemical engineer, research, education, pharmacologist, nanotechnologist, environmental consultant	
Pupil Quote	
 <i>Challenging, engaging and allows us to work to our full potential</i>	

Maths	
Exam board	Edexcel
Head of Department	Mr Crampton
Entry requirement	Grade 6 in Mathematics at GCSE
Introduction to the course	
<p>A Level Mathematics will build on your prior knowledge of algebraic, numerical and geometrical processes, further applying them in areas of statistics and mechanics. The pure maths element of the course covers mostly algebraic techniques, including trigonometry and calculus.</p>	
Course Structure	
Year 12	Year 13
Pure Mathematics 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Algebraic expressions - Quadratics - Equations and inequalities - Graphs and transformations - Straight line graphs - Circles - Algebraic methods Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statistical sampling - Data presentation and interpretation - Probability - Statistical distributions 	Pure Mathematics 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Algebraic methods - Functions and graphs - Sequences and series - Binomial expansion - Radians - Trigonometric functions - Trigonometry and modelling Mechanics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quantities and units in mechanics - Kinematics - Forces and Newton's laws - Moments
Assessment breakdown	
<p>Papers 1 and 2 - Pure mathematics (1) and (2) These are synoptic papers that could contain any topic from the pure Maths content.</p> <p>Paper 3 - Statistics and Mechanics Written examination: 26% of the qualification</p>	
Links to careers	
Engineering, business, economics, accountancy and the sciences.	
Pupil Quote	
 <i>enjoy the problem solving element of the course</i>	


Panjabi	
Exam board	OCR
Head of Department	Mrs Bajwa
Entry requirement	Grade 6 in Panjabi
Introduction to the course Students study technological and social change, looking at diversity and the benefits it brings. They will study highlights of Panjabi artistic culture, including music and cinema and learn about Panjabi politics including political engagement amongst the young. Throughout their studies, they will learn the language in the context of Panjabi-speaking countries.	
Course Structure	
Year 12	Year 13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 1: Social issues and trends Chapter 2: Aspect of Panjabi-speaking society: past and current trends Chapter 3: Political Chapter 4: Aspect of political life in the Panjabi speaking world: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper 2: Novel ("Noori") Paper 2: stories:" Ristian de Rang" and "Savee Pattar" Paper 2: Films ("Asan nu Maan Watna da" and "Jat and Juliet") Paper 3: Listening, Reading and Writing
Assessment breakdown Paper 1: Reading and Writing - 2 hours 30 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85 marks and 42.5% of A-Level Qualification Paper 2: Writing - 2 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80 marks and 20% of the A-Level Qualification Paper 3: Listening, Reading and Writing - 2 hours 30 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75 marks and 37.5% of A-Level Qualification 	
Links to careers Teacher, translator, interpreter, aid worker, TV presenter, Panjabi news host, care worker, immigration caseworker	
Pupil Quote  <i>I find A-Level Panjabi to be interesting as it allows me to connect with my culture, whilst improving my critical thinking skills'.</i>	


Sociology	
Exam board	AQA
Head of Department	Mrs Kaur
Entry requirement	Grade 6 in English
Introduction to the course A-Level Sociology explores how society shapes human behaviour and influences our identities, relationships, and institutions. The course covers key topics such as family, education, crime, and social inequality, equipping students with critical thinking skills to analyse social issues and patterns. It provides a deeper understanding of social structures and the forces driving change in modern society.	
Course Structure	
Year 12	Year 13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family and households • Education • Research methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beliefs in society • Crime and deviance • Theory and research methods
Assessment breakdown Paper 1: Education and research methods Paper 2: Topics in society (Family and households and Beliefs in society) Paper 3: Crime and deviance, theory and research methods.	
Links to careers Police and probation services . Local and central government. Social and market research, marketing, journalism, social work, counseling, teaching or public relations and communication.	
Pupil Quote  <i>an insight into human behavior and has the benefits of being methodical</i>	

Applied Science	
Exam board	Pearson
Head of Department	Miss Chana
Entry requirement	Grade 5-5 in Science at GCSE
Introduction to the course A career in science has almost unlimited possibilities. To start you off on this exciting journey, the BTEC National Diploma in Applied Science is an excellent choice, especially if you're not too keen on exams! Your coursework will be assessed. The BTEC Extended Diploma in Applied Science is for students seeking an A-level standard science qualification who wish to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education or apprenticeships	
Course Structure	
Year 12	Year 13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1: Principles and Application of Science I Unit 2: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills Unit 8: Physiology of Human Body Systems
Assessment breakdown Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I • Written examination set and marked by Pearson. 2 hours / 90 marks. May/June Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills • A task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions. • Part A and B are taken in a single session timetabled by Pearson. Learners will have 45 minutes to review Part A before they complete Part B. Part B will be one session lasting one hour and 30 minutes. • 60 marks May/June Unit 2 - internal coursework / Unit 8 - internal coursework	
Links to careers Psychology, Environmental Sciences, Food Science, Communication Industry, Satellite Communications and Materials Science. Lead to degrees and foundation degrees	
Pupil Quote	
 <i>Practical scientific techniques will help me pursue a career in medical research</i>	

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business Enterprise

Exam board	Pearson		
Head of Department	Miss Lallian		
Entry requirement	Grade 4 in English or Business Studies at GCSE		
Introduction to the course			
Enterprise BTEC Level 3 extended certificate is a suitable course for students interested in entrepreneurship, developing essential skills for the workplace and managing your own finances. This practical qualification will equip you with the knowledge and abilities needed to start your own business or succeed in a corporate environment. You'll learn about marketing, finance, innovation and business planning and more, all while gaining valuable experience through assignments.			
Course Structure			
Year 12		Year 13	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unit 1: Entrepreneurs and Entrepreneurship (Internal)Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance(External)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unit 2: Principles of Marketing (External)Unit 7: Social Enterprise (Internal)	
Assessment breakdown			
Unit 1: Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (90 GLH) Unit 2: Principles of Marketing (90 GLH) Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance (120 GLH) Unit 7: Social Enterprise (60 GLH)			
Links to careers			
Employment in areas such as finance, administration, marketing, public relations as well as management and apprenticeship schemes.			
Pupil Quote			
<div>“</div> <div>Business Enterprise had helped be understand the greater content of business finance and marketing</div>			

BTEC Health and Social Care	
Exam board	<u>Pearson</u>
Head of Department	Mrs Kaur
Entry requirement	Grade 5 in English or Level 2 Pass in BTEC Health & Social Care
Introduction to the course	
Learners will study mandatory units from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Lifespan Development • Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care • Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care • Principles of Effective Care • Principles and Safe Practice in Health and Social Care • Promoting Public Health • Infection Prevention and Control • Physiological Disorders and their Care 	
Course Structure	
Year 12	Year 13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development • Mandatory Set assignment • Unit 4 - Principles of Effective Care • Mandatory Internal assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 11 - Scientific Techniques for Health Science • Internal assignment • Unit 17 - Nutritional Health • Internal assignment
Assessment breakdown	
Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development Unit 4 - Principles of Effective Care Unit 11 - Scientific Techniques for Health Science Unit 17 - Nutritional Health 4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external.	
Links to careers	
Jobs available in these areas include: nursing, social care, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy and counseling	
Pupil Quote	
 <i>BTEC Health & Social Care has taught me about Human Development</i>	

BTEC IT	
Exam board	<u>Pearson</u>
Entry requirement	Grade 5 in Computer Science or level 2 Pass in BTEC Digital Information Technology
Introduction to the course	
<p>The content has been designed to develop students' knowledge and skills in data management and social media in business.</p> <p>This will enable students to progress to further study in the IT sector, or other sectors. Students will study two mandatory units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information (synoptic) Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business <p>Equivalent in size to one A Level.</p>	
Course Structure	
Year 12	Year 13
Unit 1: Information Technology Systems Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information	Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business Unit 5: Data modeling
Assessment breakdown	
Unit 1: Information Technology Systems Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business Unit 5: Data modeling 4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external. Mandatory content (83%). External assessment (58%)	
Links to careers	
trainee/entry-level roles, roles in administration, help desk support, help desk analysis, account management, customer service support, cyber security, computing and IT. Lead to degrees and foundation degrees	
Pupil Quote	
 <i>This has given me an insight into managing IT project work</i>	