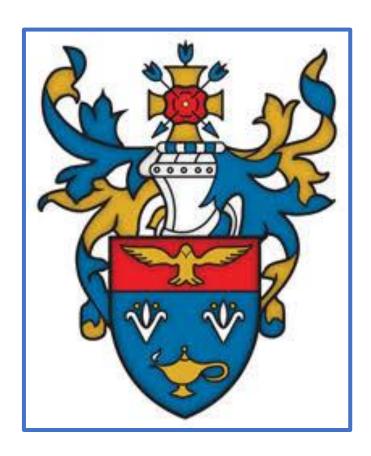
Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School



Sixth Form Subject Booklet



Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School Sixth Form Courses 2021 Entry

Our students in the Sixth Form follow one of two possible pathways. The

pathways are shown below:

Pathway One

Students choose to study 3
A Levels from the subjects available. Occasionally, students may be allowed to choose 4 A Levels.

Art	Biology
Chemistry	Economics
English Language &	English
English Literature	Literature
French	Further Mathematics
Geography	History
Mathematics	Music
Photography	Physics
Politics	Psychology
Religious Studies	Spanish
Textiles	EPQ (Completed in Y13)

Pathway Two

Students choose to study

1 BTEC Diploma and 1 A

Level from the options

available.

BTEC Business	+ 1 A Level
BTEC Sport	+ 1 A Level
BTEC Performing Arts	+ 1 A Level

Whilst every effort will be made to match A Level choice for BTEC students, not all combinations of subject will be possible.

Entry Requirements

For <u>Pathway 1</u>, students will need to achieve **48 points** from their **best 8 GCSE subjects**. You will also need to achieve the subject specific GCSE grade requirements for the A Level subjects.

For <u>Pathway 2</u>, students will need to achieve **25 points** from their GCSEs. You will also need to achieve the subject specific GCSE grade requirements for your chosen A Level subject

GCSE Grade	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Points	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Value									

Sixth Form Subjects

The following statements provide some information about each course and also some comments from students to help explain what they like about each subject.

Biology

In Biology, we cover a range of topics relating to organisation, ecosystems, and the ways in which biological processes are controlled; elements of the course focus on the impact of humans on our planet, linking to our ethos of sustainability. The course encourages students to develop practical and analytical skills through scientific investigation; key for those students interested in higher education courses related to Science.

'Throughout the Biology course I have been challenged and encouraged; guidance is always offered to ensure everyone reaches their academic potential. The study of each topic is developed with a focus on real-life links: I found the dissection of the heart in Year 12 to have been the most interesting practical, providing much enjoyment and a physical insight into the Transport in Animals section of the course.'

Eloise Shewring

Chemistry

A Level Chemistry focuses upon developing a wide range of topics and reactions to enhance both a student's knowledge and understanding of organic, inorganic and physical chemistry concepts. Time is also spent explaining mechanisms so student understand how and why reactions happen. All aspects of the course are supported with mathematical elements to ensure practical results can be compared and fully appreciated.

"This course has given me a deeper understanding of how important Chemistry is to our daily lives, by applying complex concepts such as transition metals chemistry to medical treatments and industrial processes. The teachers are constantly challenging us, to think scientifically and independently, but they frequently offer individual support to those students who need it, ensuring we all are capable of achieving to the highest level."

Yr 13 Student

Physics

In A Level Physics, you will build on the skills developed at GCSE and apply knowledge to real life scenarios. You will apply mathematical principles, including trigonometry, to solve mechanics problems. Through the Medical Physics optional unit, you will link knowledge from the topics of Waves, Electricity, Particles and Radioactivity to study how medical equipment can be used to make diagnoses. Additionally, you will develop your practical skills by completing the twelve required practicals in order to receive your Practical Endorsement component of the A Level.

"I believe that Physics A-Level is such a versatile and compelling subject due to its ability to broaden your perspective of the world around you. By studying the subject at A Level, I have been able to build on my fascination for topics such as Quantum phenomena, Gravitational fields and Mechanics. I constantly apply what we learn to the wider world and my other interests, for example, the aerodynamics in aeroplanes and F1 cars."

Keely Sullivan

Mathematics

In Maths, you will learn key processes which will support and enhance your understanding of the other Sciences at A level and beyond. As you complete the course, you will advance your reasoning skills and learn to think analytically and logically. These are highly prized attributes in many professions and particularly vital for any career in STEM or finance.

'Mathematics A level developed my knowledge and understanding of concepts learn at GCSE level, such as the discriminant which is derived from the quadratic formula. I've really loved, not only being able to deepen my understanding of previously taught concepts, but have also enjoyed learning new areas in maths such as calculus and as a result developed an aptitude for problem solving.'

Ella Keable

Further Mathematics

In Further Maths, you will extend the knowledge you have already gained through studying the A level course and encounter new and exciting areas of mathematics. Further Maths is highly desirable for top university applications for Maths, Science and Engineering, as it prepares you for the mathematical demands of these subjects, and will set you apart from other candidates.

'In Further Maths, I love learning about complex and imaginary numbers, because it is entirely new information. This means that every lesson is engaging due to the study being starkly different from GCSE. Further Maths has been able to broaden my perspective on mathematics in general and although it can be challenging, the start of the course allows you to settle into teaching new concepts.'

Willow Cracknell

English Literature

In English Literature, you will read a wide range of poetry, prose and drama texts including those produced by modern authors and those written in the past. The course encourages a critical approach towards writers' work and will be helpful to those students interested in higher education courses and also professions where analytical skills and writing are key. Also, the coursework element enables you to become more skilful in carrying out independent research and developing a critical perspective on views of texts over time.

'For me, English Literature is the most thought-provoking and interesting A Level that I study. Whilst lessons are challenging, they remain exciting due to both the more advanced discussions that we are able to have, and the friendly staff. In the course, I have particularly enjoyed studying 'The Supernatural', as it links well to content studied at GCSE. There is also the opportunity to do coursework, where you get to choose two texts to compare. This allows you to be more independent with your learning, and nurtures essential critical thinking skills. The skills learned in English Literature feed into other subjects, making it incredibly versatile and highly regarded.'

Scarlett Cracknell

English Language and English Literature

In English Language and Literature, you will both read poetry, prose and drama text as well as studying how language is used in a variety of contexts and genres. The course encourages a critical approach towards writers' work and will be helpful to those students interested in higher education courses and also professions where analytical skills and writing are key. Also, you will be writing creatively as part of your exam and this skill is useful if you want to develop your ability to adapt your language style in a variety of contexts.

This subject is new at BUCHS for September 2021 and students choosing this qualification will experience a diverse and interesting course. **Please note it is not possible for students to study A Level English Literature and this course too.**

Psychology

In Psychology, you will explore a wide range of theories, research and approaches in order to explain human behaviour such as prejudice, memory, aggression and mental health. The course combines elements of humanities and science; developing critical thinking and statistical analysis skills. It will be helpful to those students interested in pursuing careers related to health, sports, education, business, medicine and criminology.

'I didn't know much about Psychology before studying it in year 12 but I soon fell in love it! It combines elements of other subjects I have studied such as History, English, Biology and Mathematics and it helps me to relate to the world around me. It is a challenging subject but the diversity of the content has kept me motivated and wanting to understand as much as I can about human behaviour.'

Year 13 Student

Religious Studies

Religious Studies is an exciting and challenging course, which includes studying scholars from the Greek philosophers to modern ethical theorists. Students will develop higher order thinking skills as they engage with a range of philosophical and theological ideas. The course will prepare students for higher education courses and professions where the ability to give insightful critical analysis is central.

'Religious Studies has introduced me to a variety of interesting issues in theology, ethics, and philosophy, prompting me to think more deeply about my own morals and beliefs. I have gained several valuable transferable skills, such as the ability to think both critically and independently, which will hugely benefit me in university and future careers.'

Ella-Rose Vella

French

The course encourages you to develop critical thinking, independence and the confidence to speak in public in a foreign language. It will add an international dimension to your studies that many universities and employers are looking for. You will explore a wide range of topics: changes in French society, political and artistic culture in French-speaking countries, immigration and multi-cultural French society, the WWII Occupation and French Resistance through a film and a book analysis.

'Learning a language brings so many additional opportunities and is highly sought after. The in-depth study of the French language and culture has allowed me to identify areas of particular interest and helps in broadening understanding. This course offers the exploration of the language, culture and political nature of the French speaking world, allowing insight and confidence when discussing current affairs and when analysing French literature and cinematic works.'

Isabella Read

Spanish

In Spanish, you will explore the cultural, social and political background of Spanish-speaking countries, a contemporary film and a literary piece from the last century. The course encourages the development of critical and analytical skills and will be helpful to those students interested in higher education courses and also professions where analytical skills and cultural awareness are essential.

'I really enjoy discussing Spanish cinema and considering the ways that films represent cultures and genres. I also really like the amount of talking on the course, with the opportunity to engage with Spanish speakers.'

Yr 13 Student

Economics

Economics involves the study of two broad components – the operation of markets and market failure and the national economy in a global context. The course is suitable for anyone with a logical mind and a keen interest in understanding how modern economies function. The course represents one strand of the highly valued PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics).

'Studying Economics has provided me with a great insight into the workings of the world and how they may impact my day to day life. Economics has two main sections: microeconomics and macroeconomics, both are interesting and provide an understanding into various aspects of the economy. Microeconomics has allowed me to understand how I am personally involved in the economy, whilst macroeconomics has demonstrated reasoning behind the actions of the government. I have deeply enjoyed my time studying economics at Brentwood Ursuline and would highly recommend the subject to anyone interested in the world around them.'

Sinead Adams

Geography

The Geography course will excite students' minds, challenge perceptions and stimulate their investigative and analytical skills. The units covered reflect the world today and many of the topics are retained from GCSE, including hazards and population. All of this will help to provide students with the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm sought by higher education and employers.

'The Geography department here is always a fun place to be around. The Geography course is taught in such a way that we can relate each topic, human or physical, to current affairs which is a great feeling to be able to see what we have

learnt in the news or in everyday life. I have enjoyed expanding my knowledge extensively on GCSE topics as well as learning brand new topics that are unique to my A-Level studies.'

Ana Harcombe-Smee

History

A Level History is a challenging, academic course which is highly regarded by universities and employers. The subject allows students to achieve an understanding of British, American and European History. The units studied will allow students to examine topics in detail and to develop their historical skills of analysis and evaluation.

'History has been a fantastic preparation for university for me; I have loved engaging with all of the reading and learning more about the way that British politics has changed over time. The coursework module has also been particularly interesting for me to tackle.'

Year 12 Student

Politics

The course involves the study of four broad areas: UK politics, UK government, political ideologies, and US politics. The units are considered sequentially but also with opportunities to make comparisons between the UK and US systems. The course is suitable for anyone with a keen interest in current affairs, and a desire to find out more about how modern nation states are governed, how powers are used and how people are represented. The course represents one strand of the highly valued PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics).

'The Politics A Level involves learning about political ideologies, the UK and US Constitutions and institutions, as well as what goes along with the elections. My two favourite parts are debating and seeing the things I have just learnt about appearing on the news. I now actually understand it.'

Gracie O'Malley

Art and Design

As Einstein notes, 'Logic will get you from A – B. Imagination will take you everywhere.' Studying Art at A level encourages self-expression, creativity and builds confidence, in addition to, building a sense of individual identity. You will acquire new skills, knowledge of different forms of Art, media and techniques, gaining specialist skills in a multi discipline subject. Art gives you the opportunity to develop critical thinking and interpret the world around you. It

gives you freedom to express ideas, thoughts and work and think creatively. Students with a broad skill set have an advantage, in any career.

"Art is unique because I think there is no correct answer for how to express yourself but I think art provides endless ways to do this. As Kandinsky says, there is no 'must' in art because art is free."

Carina Rouse-Emeny

Photography

Photography provides students with opportunities to develop personal responses to ideas, observations, experiences, environments and cultures in practical, critical and contextual forms. It is made up of components which embrace a wide range of study, research and experimentation over a variety of disciplines within the Photography field. Students will develop skills, in camera control, Photoshop and how to respond independently and creatively to a theme. Students will utilise all the skills and knowledge learnt in the first year to produce sustained, intellectual and imaginative components that provide stretch, challenge and independence of mind at A-level.

'Photography A-Level has allowed me to show a different side of my creativity and experiment with different styles. Throughout year 12 we covered many different topics such as natural forms, landscapes, and portraiture, which built on our technical skills; from responding individually to a brief to using our cameras manually, editing in Photoshop and analysing our own and other Photographers work. All of which gave me the skills, confidence and creativity for my year 13 Independent Final Major Project. During my time as a Photography student I have realised that it is far more than just being able to take a good picture but being able to justify your creative decisions and enjoy the process and development that goes into creating an image.'

Lily Grimes

Textiles

Textiles is a very exciting course and involves so much variety and choice. Students are able to explore and develop many different ways of expressing their ideas through their personal textiles study. Each student is encouraged to work in an individual way and to develop their personal style through a wide range of textile materials and techniques. Inspiration is taken from history of textile techniques, culture, different designers including fashion and textile artists, both past and present.

'Textiles gives free space to unleash your creativity and to enhance your imagination.'

Music

In Music, you will study a wide range of different music, from different times and cultures, from classical and film music to popular and jazz music. You'll perform a short musical recital, and create new music of your own. The analytical and focused style of the course is beneficial to many pathways in higher education establishments.

'My favourite area of the course is composing; I get to explore and develop my own musical ideas. I quite like performing too, sharing my music with my classmates. Listening is a bit more difficult, but it's really helped me think how to write accurately and concisely; it's quite fun to pull-apart pieces in analysis and see how they work.'

Yr 12 Student

BTEC Business

Chosen by over 1 million learners every year, BTEC Business offers a range of professional qualifications for anyone taking their first steps into the world of work, progressing through their careers, or planning to enter university. BTEC Business allows you to gain insights into areas such as Events Management, Finance, Marketing, Customer Service and many more. Our Business department has an excellent track record of 100% of students gaining University places, apprenticeships or employment. In our most recent results 100% of students achieved their Minimum Target Grade and 52% exceeded their Minimum Target Grade.

'I chose to study for a BTEC National Diploma in Business because I find it really enjoyable and I am learning about how businesses work and are run. My favourite topic has been Personal and Business Finance (Unit 3). The course has taught me important information which I will use in my future career. My teachers have been excellent, very passionate, supportive and knowledgeable about their field.'

Ella Vanderhook

BTEC Performing Arts

This two A Level equivalent course is beneficial for students who wish to pursue an 'Arts' career. You will apply practical, interpersonal and thinking skills through a variety of project-based assessments; developing confidence, collaborative work and analytical study. Units are flexible across the disciplines of Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre and include exploration of practitioners, past and present and performance of challenging repertoire.

'BTEC inspires me to look beyond being a performer through its exciting and detailed view into the performing arts industry, I'm excited to see where it will take me. I've increased my confidence and learnt what it means to truly work as a team through group work and class performances. We study fascinating practitioners, performance and script writing techniques with trips to Pineapple Studios for technique classes and the Royal Opera House backstage tour.'

Lily O'Connor

BTEC Sport

BTEC Sport is a vocational course that teaches students the knowledge required to pursue a career in sport. The course embodies a learner centred approach with a flexible unit-based structure. BTEC Sport requires applied learning that brings together knowledge and understanding with practical and technical skills. Students will develop the skills for a range of sport-related pathways from sports coaching to gym management. Students can choose to study sport at university and many more possible routes, including employment in the sector.

'I enjoy Sport because it opens up the opportunity to progress to university and study for a degree. It also gives me the option to venture onto various different career pathways, such as a PE Teacher, Nutritionist, Sports Scientist, Personal Trainer or a Project Manager within the sporting industry. In my opinion, BTEC Sport is a great subject to study due to the variation in the content, and I have enjoyed the change from just having exams, to completing coursework throughout the two years which consisting of different learning aims and objectives.'

Cairo Johnson

Extended Project

This qualification is offered during Year 13 as an additional option to Sixth Form students. It allows them to develop their research and independent study skills in preparation for study at university.

Further information on the EPQ can be provided by Mrs Corless.

Suggested Combinations for Career Paths

We have tried to provide some direction on subjects that you should consider if planning to enter a particular career. The subject specific entry requirements are given below too.

Medicine and Dentistry			
Chemistry	Biology	Maths	
GCSE Chemistry/Combined	GCSE Biology/ Combined	GCSE Maths Grade 7 or above	
Sciences <u>and</u> Maths at Grade	Sciences <u>and</u> Maths at		
6 or above	Grade 6 or above		

	<u>Law</u>	
English Literature	History	Politics
GCSE English Literature and	GCSE History (or	GCSE History (or Humanities
English Language Grade 6 or	Humanities Subject) <u>and</u>	Subject) <u>and</u> GCSE English
above	GCSE English Grade 6 or	Literature Grade 5 or above
	above	

Accountancy and Investment Banking				
Mathematics	Economics	Psychology		
GCSE Maths Grade 7 or above	GCSE English at Grade 6 and Maths at Grade 7 or	GCSE English <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 5 or above		
	above			

Biological Science				
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		
GCSE Biology/ Combined	GCSE Chemistry/ Combined	GCSE English <u>and</u> Maths at		
Sciences <u>and</u> Maths at	Sciences <u>and</u> Maths at Grade	Grade 5 or above		
Grade 6 or above	6 or above			

<u>Veterinary Medicine</u>				
Chemistry	Biology	Physics		
GCSE Chemistry/ Combined	GCSE Biology/ Combined	GCSE Physics/ Combined		
Sciences <u>and</u> Maths at	Sciences <u>and</u> Maths at Grade	Sciences at Grade 6 or		
Grade 6 or above	6 or above	above <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 7		
		or above		

	<u>PPE</u>	
Politics	Religious Studies	Economics
GCSE History (or	GCSE Humanities Subject	GCSE English at Grade 6 <u>and</u>
Humanities Subject) <u>and</u>	(History or Geography) <u>and</u>	Maths at Grade 7 or above
GCSE English Literature	GCSE English Grade 6 or	
Grade 5 or above	above	

Mechanical or Civil Engineering				
Mathematics	Physics	Further Mathematics		
GCSE Maths Grade 7 or above	GCSE Physics/ Combined Sciences at Grade 6 or above and Maths at Grade 7 or above	GCSE Maths Grade 8 or above		

	I	
English Litoratura	<u>Journalism</u>	Dh ata gwarahy
English Literature GCSE English Literature and	Psychology CCSE English and Maths at	Photography GCSE Art and Design Grade 6
English Language Grade 6 or above	GCSE English <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 5 or above	or above
	<u>Architecture</u>	
Mathematics	Physics	Art
GCSE Maths at Grade 7 or above	GCSE Physics/ Combined Sciences at Grade 6 or above <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 7 or above	GCSE Art and Design Grade 6 or above
<u>Geol</u>	ogy and Environmental S	<u>science</u>
Geography	Biology	Chemistry
GCSE Geography (or Humanities Subject) <u>and</u> GCSE English Grade 6 or above	GCSE Biology/ Combined Sciences <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 6 or above	GCSE Chemistry/Combined Sciences <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 6 or above
	Nursing	
Biology	Psychology	Religious Studies
GCSE Biology/ Combined Sciences <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 6 or above	GCSE English <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 5 or above	GCSE Humanities Subject (History or Geography) <u>and</u> GCSE English Grade 6 or above
	Cound Engine oning	a doz z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z
Music	Sound Engineering Mathematics	Dhysias
Grade 6 in GCSE Music and	GCSE Maths at Grade 7 or	Physics GCSE Physics/ Combined
Grade 6 standard in one	above	Sciences at Grade 6 or above
instrument or voice		and Maths at Grade 7 or above
	International Relations	
Politics	French <u>or</u> Spanish	History
GCSE History (or	GCSE French/Spanish at	GCSE History (or Humanities
Humanities Subject) <u>and</u>	Grade 6 or above <u>and</u> GCSE	Subject) <u>and</u> GCSE English
GCSE English Literature Grade 5 or above	English Grade 5 or above	Grade 6 or above
Grade 5 or above	A Josephinia a Aut Diagram	
Asst	Advertising Art Directo	_
Art CCSE Art and Design Crade	English Literature GCSE English Literature	Religious Studies GCSE Humanities Subject
GCSE Art and Design Grade 6 or above	and English Language	(History or Geography) <u>and</u>
o or above	Grade 6 or above	GCSE English Grade 6 or above
	Teaching	
English Language & English Literature	Religious Studies	Psychology
GCSE English Language or English Literature at Grade 6 or above	GCSE Humanities Subject (History or Geography) <u>and</u> GCSE English Grade 6 or above	GCSE English <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 5 or above

Sports Coaching			
BTEC Sport	Psychology		
GCSE in a relevant subject at Grade 5 or above with GCSE	GCSE English <u>and</u> Maths at		
English <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 5 or above Grade 5 or above			
Events Management			

Events Management	
BTEC Business	Religious Studies
GCSE in a relevant subject at Grade 5 or above with GCSE	Grade 6 in Religious Studies or
English <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 5 or above	a Humanities subject plus
	Grade 6 in English

<u>Acting</u>	
BTEC Performing Arts	English Literature
GCSE in a relevant subject at Grade 5 or above with GCSE	GCSE English Language and
English <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 5 or above	English Literature at Grade 6
	or above

<u>Teaching</u>	
BTEC Business/Performing Arts/Sport	Psychology
GCSE in a relevant subject at Grade 5 or above with GCSE	GCSE English <u>and</u> Maths at
English <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 5 or above	Grade 5 or above

<u>Creative Design</u>	
BTEC Business	Photography
GCSE in a relevant subject at Grade 5 or above with GCSE	GCSE Art and Design Grade 6 or
English <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 5 or above	above

<u>Costume Design</u>	
BTEC Performing Arts	Textiles
GCSE in a relevant subject at Grade 5 or above with GCSE	GCSE Art and Design or GCSE
English <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 5 or above	Textiles at Grade 6 or above

<u>Sports Journalism</u>	
BTEC Sport	Photography
GCSE in a relevant subject at Grade 5 or above with GCSE	GCSE Art and Design Grade 6 or
English <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 5 or above	above

<u>Finance</u>	
BTEC Business	Religious Studies
GCSE in a relevant subject at Grade 5 or above with GCSE	Grade 6 in Religious Studies or
English <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 5 or above	a Humanities subject plus
	Grade 6 in English

<u>Set Design</u>	
BTEC Performing Arts	Art and Design
GCSE in a relevant subject at Grade 5 or above with GCSE	GCSE Art at Grade 6 or above
English <u>and</u> Maths at Grade 5 or above	



Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School Class of 2020 Progression

The majority of our Year 13 students progressed to **Higher Education** at the end of their studies at BUCHS. We now have students studying at **prestigious Russell Group universities**, including **Oxford**, **Imperial College London**, **Exeter**, **Glasgow**, **Leeds**, **Liverpool** and **Queen Mary University of London**.

In 2020, three students were successful for Medicine, one of the most competitive of all university courses, with places at King's College London, Newcastle University & Anglia Ruskin University.

Students continued to progress to **apprenticeships** in the work place too, with work being completed at companies such as **JP Morgan**, **Deloitte**, **Fieldfisher**, **Tiro Associates** and **Total Assist**.

Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School Sixth Form Exam Achievement

Due to the cancellation of exams in 2020 because of the pandemic, we have chosen to focus on our previous cohorts of exam results. We want to praise the class of 2020 for their hard work with us and coping well in the challenging times.

Our A Level results continue to reflect the **hard work, independence and resilience** of our students in the Sixth Form.

In 2019, over a quarter of all grades achieved in our A Levels were A* or A.83% of all grades were A* to C.

Eleven students achieved **all Grade** A*/A across their A Level subjects.

Outstanding results in STEM subjects, with 76% of Maths students achieving A* or A and 75% of Further Maths gaining A* or A. Over a quarter of Biology, Chemistry and Physics students achieved an A* or an A.

Our cohorts of BTEC students continue to be successful, with 100% of BTEC students achieving their Minimum Target Grades.

Exam performance over time

2017 Results

Overall A* Grades 5.7%

Overall A* to A Grades 18%

Overall A* to B Grades 48%

2018 Results

Overall A* Grades 6.2%

Overall A* to A Grades 24%

Overall A* to B Grades 51%

2019 Results

Overall A* Grades 10%

Overall A* to A Grades 28%

Overall A* to B Grades 53%