

A Level FAQ's

How many subjects can I study / should I study?

Most students study 3 A levels although some students choose to study 4 subjects. If a student studies a BTEC subject as part of the blended offer, they will probably only study 2 or 3 A levels.

Can I study subjects that are not offered at my home base school?

Students can study subjects in the other schools if they are not offered at the home base school or if the options grid means that they would otherwise not be able to study their preferred combination of subjects.

Do I have to have studied a subject at GCSE to take it as an A level?

You do not have to have studied a subject at GCSE to be able to study it at A level but if you were going to choose to study either music or a modern foreign language, you would need to demonstrate some degree of proficiency before undertaking the course.

Do I have to study GCSE Maths and English if I do not get a grade 5 in year 11?

Students who don't achieve a grade 4 in either maths or English in year 11 have to study the subject at GCSE level until they gain a grade 4. Students who don't gain a grade 5, are advised to study the GCSE but it is not compulsory.

Can I join the Abingdon Consortium if I do not live in Abingdon or go to a school in Abingdon?

Yes, every year we have between 30 and 50 students joining the consortium for their A level studies.

What opportunities are there beyond academic study?

Regardless of the homebase, students can involve themselves in a wide range of activities including Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, EPQ as well as educational visits and trips. There are also opportunities to carry out work experience or volunteering placements. There are also social events such as balls twice a year (in non-Covid times).

Will I still have a tutor and access to pastoral care?

All students will have a personal tutor who is responsible for their personal development and welfare. Other support networks such as the school nurse are also available for students to access.

What do students typically do after studying A levels?

Many students move into higher education or higher level apprenticeships. Other students may move into further education or local employment.

If I have extra time or other access arrangements for my GCSE exams, will I still get these in the sixth form?

If you have had access arrangements in the past it is most likely that these will continue. The exams officers and SENCOs work together to ensure paperwork is up-to-date so that access arrangements are maintained.

If I study subjects in more than one school, will I have time to get to my lessons?

Yes, the three schools and Abingdon & Witney College create timetables that ensure students can travel between lessons successfully.

What support is offered to students to help them prepare for Oxbridge university applications?

All institutions have rigorous procedures to help students apply for all universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

What support is there if I don't wish to go to university after my A levels?

Students can attend several career events if they are considering apprenticeships or other employment opportunities.

What is the 'blended offer'?

The blended offer allows students to study either 2 or 3 A levels alongside a BTec course that gives students the opportunity to learn in a more vocational style alongside traditional A level qualifications.

How do I apply for the blended offer?

Students apply for the blended offer through their homebase school in the same way that they apply for A level courses.

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