APPLIED SCIENCE

SIXTH FORM

COURSE TITLE

Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification in Applied Science – Extended Certificate

Exam Board: OCR

AIMS OF THE COURSE

This course aims to provide a robust foundation in the principles of applied science, blending theoretical knowledge with practical skills. It is designed to prepare students for progression to higher education or professional sectors by offering insight into biology, chemistry, physics, and specialised areas like medical physics and forensic biology. Students will engage with current scientific developments and learn to apply this knowledge in real-world contexts.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The curriculum includes a balance of biology, chemistry, and physics with in-depth modules on topics like:

- Cell Biology and Microscopy
- Atomic Structure and Quantitative Chemistry
- Medical Physics
- Forensic Techniques
- Ecological Fieldwork

The Extended Certificate offers flexibility with 50% examined and 50% non-examined elements where success is based on effort during the course as well as the knowledge tested during exams.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Two examined units: Fundamentals of Science and Science in Society. Examinations can be resat up to 2 more times throughout the during of the course with the highest score counting towards the final grade.

Three non-examined assessment (NEA) units, including Investigating Science and two optional units (e.g., Forensic Biology or Medical Physics). NEA's are coursework based and are marked by the teacher with a sample moderated by the exam board. Assessments combine written exams and practical assignments, supporting a broad and applied understanding of the subject.

WHAT WIDER SKILLS WILL YOU DEVELOP?

- Practical expertise: Planning and conducting experiments, fieldwork, and lab techniques.
- Analytical thinking: Data interpretation, evaluation, and problem-solving in applied contexts.
- Communication: Presenting scientific findings to different audiences.
- Transferable skills: Researching, critical thinking, and organisation, applicable in higher education and employment.

WHAT ARE THE FUTURE OPTIONS FROM THE COURSE?

This course opens pathways to degrees in:

- Biomedical Sciences
- Forensic Science
- Allied Health and Nursing
- Environmental Science
- Life Sciences

It also equips students with skills relevant to careers in scientific research, healthcare, environmental management, and technical roles in industry.