



Courses and entry requirements for admission in September 2026

Course offer and Pathways

Please find below our current curriculum offer. Sometimes a course may be withdrawn if it is not viable to run as a result of low application or enrolment numbers or because of national changes to the curriculum. Should there be any changes to our curriculum offer, this will be communicated with prospective students and further advice and guidance will be offered.

A Levels <i>(students typically study 3 A-Levels or in combination with Extended Certificates)</i>	Extended Certificates <i>(these are each equivalent to 1 A-Level and studied in combination with A-Levels)</i>
Accounting Art & Design – 3D Design & Technology Art & Design – Fine Art Art & Design – Graphic Design Art & Design – Photography Art & Design – Textiles Biology Business Chemistry Computer Science Drama & Theatre Economics English Language English Literature Film Studies Further Mathematics (This counts as 2 A-Levels) Geography Geology History Law Mathematics Media Studies Philosophy, Ethics & Religion Physics Politics Psychology Sociology Spanish	Applied Science Business Criminology Dance Performance Digital Games Production Early Childhood Development Health & Social Care IT Law Medical Science Music Performance Music Technology PE (Sport & Exercise Science or Sport Studies) Public Services
	Vocational <i>(equivalent to 3 A-Levels and studied as a standalone qualification)</i>
	T Levels Education - Early Years Health – Adult Nursing Extended Diplomas Business Public Services Occupational entry in Social Care Sport Coaching & Development Sport Coaching & Development (Football) - in partnership with Manchester City FC
	Additional qualifications
	Core Maths This is an extra qualification (equivalent to 1 AS Level) and would be studied alongside an A-Level/Mixed Study Programme in your first year. This qualification would suit students choosing to study Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Applied Science, Accounting, Economics and Business (or any course with a Maths element except A-level Maths/Further Maths).

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

A LEVEL PROGRAMME (3 A-Levels)

- 2 GCSEs at grade 6 and 4 GCSEs at grade 4.
- Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths
- Subject specific entry requirements must also be met

MIXED STUDY PROGRAMME

2 A Levels & 1 Extended Certificate

- 2 GCSEs at grade 6 and 4 GCSEs at grade 4.
- Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths
- Subject specific entry requirements must also be met

1 A Level & 2 Extended Certificates

- 2 GCSEs at grade 5 and 3 GCSEs at grade 4.
- Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths
- Subject specific entry requirements must also be met

VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME (equivalent to 3 A-Levels and studied as a standalone qualification)

T Levels

- 4 GCSEs* at grade 4.
- Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language **and** GCSE Maths
- Subject specific entry requirements must also be met

Extended Diplomas

- 5 GCSEs* at grade 4.
- Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a minimum of a grade 3** in GCSE Maths for the following course:
 - Business
- 4 GCSEs* at grade 4.
- Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a minimum of a grade 3** in GCSE Maths for the following courses:
 - Occupational Entry in Social Care
 - Public Services
 - Sports Coaching
 - Sports Coaching (Football with CITC)

Key:

* 1 GCSE can be replaced with a Level 2 BTEC qualification. This must be at a Merit/Distinction/Distinction*

** There are some courses which have specific entry requirements in GCSE Maths & English

XL ACADEMY PROGRAMME

- Students must achieve a minimum of 7 GCSEs at grade 7 including English Language or Maths (with no lower than a 5 in the other)

COURSE SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A-LEVELS

Subject	Qual type	Exam board	Assessment	Additional course requirements	Notes
Accounting	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	Grade 5 in GCSE Maths	
Art and Design 3D Design	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% coursework and practical exam	No additional requirements	GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential
Art and Design Fine Art	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% coursework and practical exam	No additional requirements	GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential
Art and Design Graphic Design	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% coursework and practical exam	No additional requirements	GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential
Art and Design Photography	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% coursework and practical exam	No additional requirements	GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential
Art and Design Textiles	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% coursework and practical exam	No additional requirements	GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential
Biology	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	Grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science (or from two single sciences one of which must be Biology). Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.	Students are advised to study another Science including: Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Geology Psychology, Geography, Sport may be appropriate for some students with specific career aims Students also advised to study Core Maths if A Level Maths not chosen
Business	A-Level	Edexcel	100% exam	Grade 5 in an essay based subject	

Chemistry	A-Level	OCR	100% exam	Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science (or from two single sciences one of which must be Chemistry). Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.	Students are advised to study another Science including: Biology, Computer Science, Geology, Physics or Maths at A-Level Students also advised to study Core Maths if A Level Maths not chosen
Computer Science	A-Level	OCR	80% exam 20% non-examined assessment	Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science/Separate Sciences and Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.	Students also advised to study Core Maths if A Level Maths not chosen
Drama & Theatre	A-Level	Pearson	40% exam 30% coursework 30% practical	No additional requirements	
Economics	A-Level	Pearson	100% exam	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths	
English Language	A-Level	EDUQAS	80% exam 20% coursework	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature	
English Literature	A-Level	Pearson	80% exam 20% coursework	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature	
Film Studies	A-Level	EDUQAS	70% exam 30% non-examined assessment	No additional requirements	
Further Maths	A-Level	Pearson	100% exam	Grade 8 in GCSE Maths	This course is equivalent to 2 A-Levels
Geography	A-Level	Pearson	80% exam 20% coursework	Grade 5 in an essay based subject	A minimum of a grade 4 in Geography is required if this has been taken at GCSE
Geology	A-Level	Eduqas	100% exam	Grade 55 in GCSE Combined Science/Separate Sciences and grade 5 in GCSE Maths	
History	A-Level	Pearson	80% exam 20% non-examined assessment	Grade 5 in an essay based subject	A minimum of a grade 4 in History is required if this has been taken at GCSE
Law	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	No additional requirements	
Maths	A-Level	Pearson	100% exam	Grade 7 in GCSE Maths	

Media Studies	A Level	EDUQAS	70% exam, 30% coursework	No additional requirements	
Physics	A-Level	OCR	100% exam	2 x grade 6's in: GCSE Maths and GCSE Science/GCSE Physics	Students must study A Level Maths or Core Maths alongside Physics. Students who wish to study A Level Maths must achieve a Grade 7 in GCSE Maths
Politics	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	Grade 5 in an essay based subject	
Philosophy, Ethics & Religion	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% exam	No additional requirements	
Psychology	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	GCSE grade 4 in Maths	
Sociology	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	Grade 5 in an essay based subject	
Spanish	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% exam	Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish or native speaker	

EXTENDED CERTIFICATES (equivalent to 1 A-Level)

Subject	Qual type	Exam board	Assessment	Additional course requirements	Notes
Applied Science	Level 3 AAQ BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	4 mandatory units, of which 3 are externally assessed.	Grade 4 in GCSE Maths plus Grade 44 in GCSE Science	This course cannot be studied alongside A-Level Science subjects
Business	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	58% exam 42% non-examined assessment	No additional requirements	
Criminology	Applied Diploma	Eduqas	50% exam 50% controlled assessment	No additional requirements	
Dance (Performance Dance)	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	Mix of internal and external assessment	Students will be invited to attend a dance audition and should demonstrate some dance experience/ability	

Digital Games Production	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	Mix of internal and external assessment	Grade 4 in Maths is desirable	
Early Childhood Development	Level 3 AAQ BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	There are 4 units on this course 2 mandatory and 2 external	No additional requirements	
Health & Social Care	Level 3 AAQ BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	There are 4 units on this course 2 mandatory and 2 external	No additional requirements	
Information Technology	Level 3 AAQ BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	There are 4 units of which 2 are mandatory and 2 are external.	Grade 4 in GCSE Maths	
Law	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	58% exam 42% non-examined assessment	No additional requirements	
Medical Science	Level 3 AAQ BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	4 mandatory units, of which 3 are externally assessed.	Grade 4 in GCSE Maths plus Grade 44 in GCSE Science	Students should choose A-Level Biology if taking A-Level Chemistry
Music Performance	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	Mix of internal and external assessment	GCSE or Level 2 BTEC music is NOT necessary to audition or enrol for this course. All musicians are welcome to audition	
Music Technology	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	33% exam 67% non-examined assessment	No additional requirements	
Public Services	Level 3 NCFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate	NCFE	100% internal assessment	No additional requirements	
Sport - Sport & Exercise Science	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	100% Internal assessment	Grade 54 in GCSE Science	
Sport - Sport Studies	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	100% Internal assessment	No additional requirements	

VOCATIONAL (equivalent to 3 A-Levels and studied as a standalone qualification)

Course	Course type	Exam board	Assessment	Additional course requirements
Business	Extended Diploma	Pearson	42% exam 58% non-examined assessment	5 GCSEs* at grade 4. Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a 3 in GCSE Maths
Education (Early Years)	T Level			4 GCSEs* at grade 4. Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths
Health (Adult nursing)	T Level			4 GCSEs* at grade 4. Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language, GCSE Maths and GCSE Science
Occupational entry in Social Care	CACHE Technical Diploma	NcFE		4 GCSEs* at grade 4. Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a 3 in GCSE Maths
Public Services	Extended Diploma	NcFE	100% Internal assessment	4 GCSEs* at grade 4. Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a 3 in GCSE Maths
Sports Coaching & Development	Extended Diploma	Pearson	100% Internal assessment	4 GCSEs* at grade 4. Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a 3 in GCSE Maths
Sports Coaching & Development (Football) - in partnership with CITC)	Extended Diploma	Pearson	100% Internal assessment	4 GCSEs* at grade 4. Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a 3 in GCSE Maths <i>Applicants will need to discuss this course with the CITC team to check suitability</i>

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Course	Course type	Exam board	Enrolment information
Core Maths	Level 3 Certificate	AQA	This is an extra qualification (equiv to 1 AS Level) and would be studied alongside your 3 x course choices. This qualification would suit students choosing to study Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Applied Science, Accounting, Economics and Business (or any course with a Maths element except A-level Maths/F Maths). Students must not have chosen to study A-Level Mathematics or Further Mathematics.
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	Level 3 EPQ	AQA	The EPQ is an additional qualification studied in the second year of study, equivalent to 1 AS Level, that allows you to develop your personal interest in a topic or area that interests you.