



P16 Subject Guide



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Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

Thank you for taking the time to read through this Sixth Form Subject Guide. This booklet is designed to support students in making informed decisions about their course choices as they prepare to apply to Sixth Form.

The entry requirements for each subject are clearly detailed at the bottom of each page. However, as a general guide, the requirements for A-Level and BTEC qualifications are as follows:

- **A-Level Courses:** Students must achieve 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 to 9, including English Literature or Language and Maths. Additionally, they must secure at least a Grade 6 in the subject they wish to study (or an equivalent qualification).
- **Vocational Level 3 Courses:** Students must achieve 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 to 9, including English and Maths.

We hope students find the Open Evening both informative and inspiring. We look forward to receiving their applications and welcoming them to our Sixth Form community.

Kind regards,

Ms C Loj
Head of Sixth Form

Brakenhale Sixth Form Subject Guide (2025-2027)

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ART A-LEVEL

Exam Board: AQA A-Level Art and Design - Fine Art

What are the benefits of the course?

The Art department is strongly committed to creating an interesting, fun but challenging curriculum grounded in art history and with strong links to the wider world. We offer an innovative approach to producing work through courses that involve both traditional and experimental exploration of materials and concepts.

Each student is encouraged to fulfil their potential, building key skills such as creativity, communication, cultural awareness and problem solving; skills useful for a wide range of pathways.

What will I study?

The course continues to build on skills and techniques gained at GCSE, pushing students to refine their own practice, as well as considering context and the wider art community. Students are given much more control over their study and encouraged to pursue their individual strengths and interests.

We aim not only to gain success at A-Level, but to create confident, independent learners with a passion for art.

Year 12 students explore a range of shorter projects, and workshops where they are able to gain skills in a variety of media and experience a range of genres. Students will explore different techniques and ways of looking at artists' work to inspire their own creative investigations and responses. Students will then be guided through the process of evaluating strengths, areas for improvement and identifying where their areas of interest lie, in order to generate the best possible starting point for their sustained study in Year 13.

How will I be assessed?

The A-Level grade is 60% coursework and 40% externally set assignment. The A-Level course consists of one personal investigation chosen by the student, a written assignment of between 1000-3000 words and an externally set assignment. Students are challenged to lead their education, learning from each other through group critiques as well as from the teacher. Students are given one to one support in and outside of lesson time.

Students are encouraged to use the department in their free time and trips to galleries in London are used to expand learning and ground the course in the context of the wider art community. Many of our students continue to further education and are supported in developing a portfolio.

What does it lead to?

Throughout the course students build a wide range of skills; not only artist skills but also creative thinking, IT knowledge, communication, cultural awareness and problem solving; skills useful for a wide range of pathways.

There is often a misconception that 'you can't get a job with art' but this simply isn't true, and the creative industries are one of the UK's fastest growing employment sectors, worth £71.4bn a year and make up 5.65% of the workforce.

The flexibility and versatility of studying an arts course means that students have the lion's share of choices when it comes to which industry they can enter. Arts graduates typically find work in business, sales, management, media, hospitality and government agencies. In other words, the possibilities are endless and it's really up to you where you choose to take your studies and apply your skills.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Art, GCSE 3D Design and/or GCSE Photography.

Staff Contact:

Miss T Wilhelmy, Head of Creative Arts

twilhelmy@brakenhale.co.uk

BIOLOGY A-LEVEL

Exam Board: OCR A-Level Biology.

What are the benefits of the course?

You will develop essential knowledge and understanding of concepts of biology, and the skills needed for the use of these in new and changing situations. In addition, you will develop an understanding of scientific methods, gain an understanding of the importance of advances in technology, and recognise the value and responsible use of biology in society, thus sustaining your enjoyment of, and interest in the subject. There is a large focus on practical skills which will be utilised in lessons throughout the course.

The A-Level specification encourages students to show knowledge and understanding of facts, principles and concepts from different areas of biology and to make connections between them.

What will I study?

Year 12	Module 1 – Development of practical skills in biology Practical activities will be used to develop and assess competency in practical skills and to review key content, transitioning from GCSE to Key Stage 5. The skills developed in this module will be utilised throughout the course. Module 2 – Foundations in Biology Module 3 – Exchange and Transport
Year 13	Module 4 – Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease Module 5 – Communications, Homeostasis and Energy Module 6 – Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems

How will I be assessed?

The course follows the OCR syllabus. Studying the A-Level, you will sit three written exams at the end of the second year. Paper 1 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5. Paper 2 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6. Paper 3 assesses content from modules 1 to 6.

Additionally, you will complete a set of practical investigations throughout the course which will be teacher-assessed and lead to an additional practical skills grade, separate from your overall GCE grade.

What does it lead to?

Biology is an important subject in its own right with many applications and implications within modern society. This course is a broad-based course with terminal exams, suited to candidates who wish to study a range of subjects at Higher Education. The practical skills will prepare you for a future studying and practising sciences and science-related subjects at a higher level.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or 6 or more in GCSE Biology and a minimum of a 5 in English and Maths.

Staff Contact:

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BUSINESS STUDIES A-LEVEL

Exam Board: AQA A-Level Business.

What are the benefits of the course?

A-Level Business Studies helps students develop a critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value. It enables students to be aware that business behaviour can be studied from the perspectives of a range of stakeholders and will help them to acquire a range of skills including decision-making and problem-solving.

In Business Studies you will need to be able to develop your own answers and analyse why your view point is the correct one. There is no right or wrong answer if you can justify your views. You are actively encouraged to disagree with other members of the class to create discussions and debates.

What will I study?

Year 12

- 1 What is business?
- 2 Managers, leadership and decision making
- 3 Decision making to improve marketing performance
- 4 Decision making to improve operational performance
- 5 Decision making to improve financial performance
- 6 Decision making to improve human resource performance

Year 13

- 7 Analysing the strategic position of a business
- 8 Choosing strategic direction
- 9 Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- 10 Managing strategic change

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by three external exams at the end of the second year.

Paper 1,2 and 3 are all synoptic and will assess all content from throughout the course. Each paper is 2 hours in length and will contain a maximum of 100 marks. Students will be graded out of a total of 300 marks across the papers.

What does it lead to?

Business A-Level can lead to degrees in finance, accounting, management, economics and marketing which are among the most popular fields of study at universities worldwide, particularly at graduate level.

Business A-level can also lead to multiple apprenticeships in finance, marketing, human resources and operations within companies.

Entry Requirements:

A GCSE in Business Studies at grade 6 is preferred, but candidates will be accepted with a 5 in GCSE English Language or Maths.

Staff Contact:

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CHEMISTRY A-LEVEL

Exam Board: OCR Chemistry A

What are the benefits of the course?

This A-Level course will develop essential knowledge and understanding of the key concepts in chemistry, and the skills needed for the application of in new and challenging situations. Students will discover how the simplified models studied previously have more nuance and complexity. The course is underpinned by the practical skills and approaches, called 'How Science Works', which embeds context and the principles of science as a methodology. You will appreciate how chemists have greatly impacted the quality of life of generations before and will do for generations to come. You will also find out how chemists are real innovators, designing solutions to the problems that affect modern life. Students will develop strong analytical and problem-solving skills which can be applied to other courses of study. Chemistry is an important subject in its own right with many applications and implications within modern society. This course is a broad-based modular course that is suited to candidates who wish to study a range of subjects at Higher Education.

What will I study?

Physical Chemistry: Students will study atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria and redox reactions.

Inorganic Chemistry: Students will study periodicity, the alkaline earth metals and the halogens.

Organic Chemistry: Students will study introduction to organic chemistry, the alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alcohols and organic analysis.

How will I be assessed?

The course follows the OCR Chemistry A syllabus. If you study this qualification, you will sit three written exams at the end of the second year.

Paper 1 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Paper 2 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Paper 3 assesses content from modules 1-6.

Additionally, you will complete a set of practical investigations throughout the course, which will be teacher assessed and lead to an additional practical skills grade, separate from your overall GCE grade.

What does it lead to?

A-Level Chemistry is essential if you are looking to study medicine, veterinary sciences or pursue a career in the chemical industry; be it pharmaceuticals, material sciences or chemical engineering. It is also a preferred qualification to have when looking to train in a vast number of other careers in the health, clinical or many engineering professions. Its analytical nature and focus on concise and effective communication of ideas makes it a very well-respected course among many other fields, such as accounting and journalism.

Entry Requirements:

A minimum of grade 6-6 in GCSE Science. Additionally, a grade 5 in GCSE English and Maths, grade 6 preferred.

Staff Contact:

Mr J Swynford-Lain, Chemistry Teacher

jlain@brakenhale.co.uk

Mrs G Powell, Assistant Headteacher, Chemistry Teacher

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COMPUTER SCIENCE A-LEVEL

Exam Board: OCR A-Level Computer Science.

What are the benefits of the course?

The course encourages learners to develop an understanding of, and the ability to apply, the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science with an emphasis on the importance of computational thinking. There is an extended maths focus, much of which is embedded within the course. The aim is to help students to develop their skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence. It is a practical based subject which allows students to apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems in an exciting and engaging manner. It also gives a clear progression into Higher Education.

What will I study?

- Computer systems 01
- Algorithms and programming 02
- Programming project 03

How will I be assessed?

There are two written papers: Computer systems worth 40% and Algorithms and programming worth 40% and a practical assessment based on the Programming project worth 20%.

What does it lead to?

The project approach is a vital component of 'post-school' life and is of particular relevance to Further Education, Higher Education and the workplace. Each learner can tailor their project to fit their individual needs, choices and aspirations. OCR offers a rigorous assessment structure that ensures the integrity of the project. This course will offer an invaluable experience into the world of work or support applications to university.

Entry Requirements:

A minimum grade 6 at GCSE Computer Science with a grade 6 in Maths is the minimum entry requirement.

Staff Contact:

Mr A George, Assistant Headteacher
ageorge@brakenhale.co.uk

CRIMINOLOGY DIPLOMA

Exam Board: WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Criminology.

What are the benefits of the course?

The WJEC Level 3 Criminology course offers a unique blend of academic and practical learning, providing students with a deep understanding of crime, criminal behaviour, and the criminal justice system. This course equips students with valuable skills such as critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and problem-solving, all of which are highly transferable to further education, or employment. By exploring topics like the causes of crime, criminological theories, and the effectiveness of social control, students gain insights into the real-world application of criminology. This course is an ideal choice for those interested in careers in law, policing, forensics, social work, or related fields.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Introduction to Criminological Theories

Unit 2: Realities and Perceptions of Crime

Unit 3: Changing Awareness of Crime

Unit 4: Crime Scene to Courtroom

How will I be assessed?

Units 1 and 3 are assessed through controlled assessments (which are internally assessed and externally moderated).

Units 2 and 4 are assessed through formal examinations (which include a mixture of short answer questions and case studies).

What does it lead to?

The Diploma in Criminology is the equivalent of an A-Level. It will provide excellent preparation for students who wish to pursue careers into the police force, forensic services, the legal profession and other related criminology fields.

Entry Requirements:

A minimum grade 5 in English Language GCSE and at least four grade 9 to 4 passes at GCSE or equivalent.

Staff Contact:

Miss D Bunkell, Head of Humanities

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DANCE BTEC

Exam Board: Edexcel BTEC.

The BTEC Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (Dance) is the equivalent of one A-Level.

What are the benefits of the course?

The BTEC Dance course allows students to experience Dance in a vocational setting mirroring a professional environment. You will be required to work as a professional dancer, choreographer and teacher through classes, workshops and independent practice. You will have the opportunity to participate in a range of enrichment classes, workshops with professionals and attend different theatre trips. This course will provide you with a foundation for progression in Dance or the Performing Arts or simply enable you to further explore your passion for the subject.

What will I study?

Each year the curriculum will be adapted to the needs and requirements of the student group enabling you to have the best experience and opportunity to achieve. You will study core units that will involve performing, choreographing, and analysing dance. You will also study units that have been selected for the class based on your interests, this will be discussed and selected during your induction to the course. This may include contrasting dance techniques such as Contemporary, Jazz or Street depending on the strengths of individuals in the class. You will be responsible for choreography projects such as solo and/or group work. You will be encouraged to explore and research your own interests within Dance and the wider Performing Arts. You will collaborate with external choreographers over different rehearsal periods as a professional dancer would and focus on the process and performance of contrasting dance works.

Core Units:

1. Group Performance Workshop
2. Developing Skills and Techniques for Performance
3. Investigating practitioners' work

Optional Unit Examples: *(two selected by class)*

1. Contemporary Dance Technique
2. Jazz Dance Technique
3. Street Dance Technique
4. Classical Ballet Technique
5. Choreography for Live Performance
6. Improvisation
7. Movement in Performance

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through a range of methods over the two-year period including practical assessments, written and theory work, performances, and practical examinations. This will include an external exam that you will prepare for throughout the second year of study - this will be completed over several ICT sessions in controlled conditions, students are permitted to take in supporting notes and information.

What does it lead to?

The BTEC is an excellent grounding for those who wish to study Dance/Performing Arts at University or a vocational institute or for those who wish to find employment within the industry.

Entry Requirements:

Students will have achieved a grade 4 or above at GCSE Dance or achieved a Merit or above in BTEC Dance. Alternatively, students can attend an audition which will take place with other students as a Dance workshop, you do not need to prepare anything.

Staff Contact:

Mrs G Millard, Head of Performing Arts
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DRAMA BTEC

Exam Board: Edexcel BTEC.

Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (Drama). This is the equivalent of one A-Level.

What are the benefits of the course?

The BTEC Drama course allows students to experience Drama in a vocational setting mirroring a professional environment. You will be required to work as a professional actor and director would through classes, workshops and independent practice. This course will provide you with a foundation for progression in Drama or the Performing Arts or simply enable you to further explore your passion for the subject.

What will I study?

Each year the curriculum will be adapted to the needs and requirements of the student group enabling you to have the best experience and opportunity to achieve. You will study core units that will involve performing, directing and analysing theatre. You will also study units that have been selected for you based on your interests, this will be discussed and selected during your induction on the course.

<p>Core Units:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigating Practitioners Work 2. Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance 3. Group Performance Workshop 	<p>Optional Unit Examples: <i>One/two units to be selected by class and tutor</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Musical Theatre Techniques 2. Theatre Directing 3. Writing for Performance 4. Acting Styles 5. Developing the Voice 6. Improvisation 7. Physical Theatre Techniques 8. Storytelling
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How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through a range of methods over the two-year period including practical assessments, written and theory work, performances and practical examinations. This will include an external exam that you will prepare for throughout the second year of study - this will be completed over several ICT sessions in controlled conditions, students are permitted to take in supporting notes and information.

What does it lead to?

The BTEC is an excellent grounding for those who wish to study Drama/Performing Arts at University or a vocational institute or for those who wish to find employment within the industry.

Entry Requirements:

Students will have achieved a grade 4 or above at GCSE Drama or a Merit or above in BTEC Drama. Alternatively, students can attend an audition.

Staff Contact:

Mrs G Millard, Head of Performing Arts
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ENGLISH LITERATURE A-LEVEL

Exam Board: AQA English Literature (Specification B).

What are the benefits of the course?

Students who decide to study English Literature at A-Level will develop an interest in, and enjoyment of reading and discussing literary texts. They will develop the knowledge and understanding of a wide range of literary texts and the skills of literary analysis.

Students gain a solid understanding of how texts can be connected and how they can be interpreted in multiple ways so that students can arrive at their own interpretations and become confident autonomous readers. Students experience a rich, challenging, and coherent approach to English literature that provides an excellent basis for studying the subject at university.

What will I study?

Genre study is at the heart of English Literature B and, of the four broad genres available for study, we focus on Aspects of Tragedy and Elements of Political and Social Protest writing. Just as meanings of texts are not fixed, neither are definitions of genre, which frequently change and become blurred.

Working with genre involves looking at ways in which authors shape meanings within their texts. It also involves thinking about a wide range of relevant contexts, some of them to do with the production of the text at the time of its writing, some (where possible) to do with how the text has been received over time and, most of all in this specification, contexts to do with how the text can be interpreted by readers now. Looking at texts as generic works involves connecting individual texts with others, as the whole idea of genre is a connective one. And finally, because genres and their qualities are not fixed, this means that interpretation is not fixed, and that multiple interpretations are possible.

The texts we study include: King Lear by Shakespeare; Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Hardy; Death of a Salesman by Miller, Kite Runner by Khalid Hosseini and The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood thus covering a breadth of ages, genres and writing styles. In addition, students will study an anthology of poetry in order to fulfil the criteria of the non - exam assessment (NEA), using a critical approach of their own choice to evaluate two different literary texts, one prose and one poetry text.

How will I be assessed?

A-Level is assessed by two examined components AND one coursework component.

Paper 1 Aspects of Tragedy - 40%. Two questions based on King Lear: one question pertaining to literary genres and referencing Tess and Death of a Salesman.

Paper 2 Elements of Political and Social Protest- 40%. One unseen extract; one question based on The Handmaid's Tale, and one based on Kite Runner

NEA- 20%. Students apply one of the following theories to a study of two texts -narrative, feminist, Marxist, eco-critical theory, post-colonial theory, literary value, and the canon.

What does it lead to?

English Literature opens doors to a range of career opportunities, including, teaching, publishing, editing, journalism and the media. English might also be combined with courses such as Law, Politics, Philosophy, or modern languages.

Entry Requirements:

Students should have achieved a minimum grade 6 in GCSE English Literature, although grade 7 or higher is desirable.

Staff Contact:

Mrs D Lewis, Acting Head of English
dlewis@brakenhale.co.uk

FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION LEVEL 3

Exam Board: WJEC

What are the benefits of the course?

The WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Food Science and Nutrition equips learners with a deep understanding of food science and its applications within the hospitality and nutrition industries. It fosters practical skills and theoretical knowledge that are essential for roles in food production, nutrition consulting, catering, and hospitality management.

Students will develop: An understanding of nutritional science and food safety, combined with practical abilities in creating quality dishes tailored to varied dietary needs, equips individuals with essential skills to address real-world challenges in the hospitality sector. This course emphasises independent research, problem-solving, and project-based learning, preparing learners for progression to higher education or roles in related industries.

What will I study?

The course is designed around mandatory and optional units that ensure learners gain both breadth and depth of knowledge. Key topics include: Learners delve into the nutritional needs of specific groups, gaining insights into dietary requirements, food preparation techniques, and safety standards. They also study food safety protocols, ensuring a thorough understanding of how to analyse potential risks and maintain high safety standards. Additionally, learners have the option to explore creative problem-solving in food production by experimenting with innovative approaches to address challenges. Another optional area of study involves examining current issues in food science and nutrition, investigating trends and innovations shaping the industry. Practical sessions play a crucial role, enabling students to apply their learning in vocational settings and develop proficiency in preparing nutritious, high-quality meals

How will I be assessed?

The qualification comprises a mix of internal and external assessments, weighted equally at 50% each. The assessment structure consists of two key components. The Internal Assessment is a controlled evaluation where learners complete summative tasks based on real-world scenarios, conducted under regulated conditions to ensure fairness. The External Assessment involves a 90-minute exam comprising short and extended questions, along with a case study designed to test the application of knowledge and analytical skills. Both components ensure students demonstrate their understanding across multiple learning outcomes, from food safety to planning tailored nutrition plans.

What does it lead to?

This course is perfect for learners who aspire to enter the food science, hospitality, or nutrition industries, or those seeking to pursue higher education in related fields, such as BSc (Hons) Human Nutrition, BSc (Hons) Food Science and Technology, or Public Health Nutrition. The skills developed throughout the course are highly transferable, providing opportunities for careers in hotel and restaurant management, catering and food production, nutrition consulting, and fitness industries.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Hospitality and Catering, Food Technology, or equivalent qualifications.

Alternatively, a grade 4 in GCSE English and Maths, and a demonstrated interest in hospitality will be considered.

Staff Contact:

Miss T Wilhelmy, Head of Creative Arts

twilhelmy@brakenhale.co.uk

FRENCH A-LEVEL

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel.

What are the benefits of the course?

This is a motivating course of study that will enable students to develop an advanced level knowledge and understanding of the French language, the culture of France and other francophone countries, as well as practical and valuable language and transferable study skills. This specification will help to prepare students for Higher Education and enhance their employability profile.

What will I study?

Papers 1 and 2 will be based on content from themes which address a range of social issues and trends, as well as aspects of the political and artistic culture of France and French-speaking countries.

- Theme 1 deals with aspects of French society: Les changements dans la société française, Les changements dans les structures familiales, L'éducation, Le monde du travail.
- Theme 2 requires students to broaden their knowledge across francophone countries and communities: La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones, La musique, Les medias, Les festivals et les traditions.

Paper 2 involves a translation exercise and two essays, one on the literary text (No et Moi) studied in Year 12 and the other on a film (La Haine) studied in Year 13.

Paper 3 requires students to read and respond to texts based on the theme 'Les changements dans la société française' and 'La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones'.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation into English, written examination: 2 hours - 40% of the qualification, 64 marks.

Paper 2: Written response to work, grammar and translation, written examination: 2 hours and 40 minutes - 30% of the qualification, 48 marks.

Paper 3: Speaking, internally conducted and externally assessed, 30% of the qualification, 48 marks.

Students will be assessed on their ability to communicate and interact effectively, summarise and understand written sources in speech, manipulate language accurately and show knowledge and understanding of the culture and society where the language is spoken.

What does it lead to?

This course can lead to a variety of Higher Education and career opportunities including: journalism, business, tourism, law, computing, fashion, advertising and media. Recent statistics show that those with a language qualification can increase their employability. Previous students have combined their language with a variety of subjects from different areas, including Maths and Drama.

Entry Requirements:

GCSE grade 6 or above in French.

Staff Contact:

Miss Appleton, Acting Head of Languages
dappleton@brakenhale.co.uk

MATHEMATICS, FURTHER A-LEVEL

Exam Board: Edexcel

What are the benefits of the course?

This course is suitable for students who enjoyed Mathematics at GCSE Level and having gained strong mathematical skills wish to study the subject in greater depth. The course mainly concerns itself with developing the more abstract and algebraic ideas introduced at GCSE, although it does include some applications of mathematics.

In simple terms, we put an emphasis on algebra, graphs, number patterns and trigonometry. You will be actively involved in developing mathematical ideas. The problems used arise from, and relate to, everyday life. You will develop skills using modern technology such as computers and graphical calculators.

This course is suitable for students who achieve an 8 or 9 in GCSE Mathematics, and particularly those who have studied the Further Mathematics Level 2 qualification at GCSE.

What will I study?

In Further Mathematics you will study Core Pure and Applied modules.

All students will have to complete Core Pure 1 which includes: Complex Numbers, Matrices, Calculus, Vectors, Series.

In addition to this, students take the following options.

Further Statistics: Linear regressions, Statistical Distributions (Discrete and Continuous), more hypothesis testing, Chi squared tests and sampling accuracy.

Decision Mathematics: Algorithms and graph theory, Algorithms on graphs, Critical Path Analysis and Linear programming.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: 1h30 – 75 Marks	Core Pure 1 –	Year 12 content only
Paper 2: 1h30 – 75 Marks	Core Pure 2 -	Year 12 and 13 content
Paper 3: 1h30 – 75 Marks	Option 1 -	Further Statistics
Paper 4: 1h30 – 75 Marks	Option 2 -	Decision Maths

What does it lead to?

An A-Level in Further Mathematics enables access to a wide range of careers and Higher Education opportunities. It is particularly valued by top universities for Mathematics, Computer Science and Science courses.

Entry Requirements:

Students wishing to study Further Mathematics will need to study this alongside the standard Mathematics A-Level.

Grade 8 or 9 in GCSE Mathematics.

Staff Contact:

Ms C Naker, Head of Maths
cnaker@brakenhale.co.uk

GEOGRAPHY A-LEVEL

Exam Board: AQA A-Level Geography

What are the benefits of the course?

This specification allows students to develop:

- Their understanding of geographical concepts and processes to understand and interpret our changing world;
- Connections between the different aspects of geography;
- Intellectual skills, such as critically evaluating theories and judging evidence in order to make informed decisions and to develop reasoned arguments;
- Research skills, such as using a range of technical methods for the collection and analysis of spatial and environmental data, and undertaking fieldwork;
- Transferable skills, such as teamwork, problem solving, IT skills, communication skills

What will I study?

The following units will be studied at A-Level:

- Coastal Systems and Landscapes
- Changing Places
- Natural Hazards
- Contemporary Urban Environments
- Water and Carbon Cycles
- Global Systems and Global Governance
- Non-Examination Assessment: 4 days spent collecting fieldwork data and following this the completion of the write-up.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 focuses on the physical geography taught, lasts 2 hours 30 minutes and consists of a mixture of short answer questions and a 20-mark question per topic. It is worth 40% of the A-Level grade.

Paper 2 focuses on the human geography taught, lasts 2 hours 30 minutes and consists of a mixture of short answer questions and a 20-mark question per topic. It is worth 40% of the A-Level grade.

The final component is an *individual investigation* that requires the student to complete an individual piece of fieldwork. The final piece is a 3,000—4,000 word write up, is marked by teachers and is worth 20% of the A-Level grade.

What does it lead to?

Geography develops a wide range of skills that can be used in almost any career. Employment opportunities are extensive, with careers in journalism and the media, the business world, the travel and tourism industry as well as in typical geographical careers such as meteorology. Employers are keen to make use of the intellectual, research and transferable skills that are developed through this course.

Geography is also a beneficial A-Level to have for applications to university, due to its broad base of knowledge and skills that are transferable to a large selection of courses.

Potential Careers include Town Planner, Tourist Officer, Environmental Consultant, Landscape Architect, Commercial Surveyor.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 at GCSE Geography and a grade 5 in English.

Staff Contact:

Miss M Sandhu, Head of Geography
msandhu@brakenhale.co.uk

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BTEC LEVEL 3

Exam Board: BTEC Level 3 Edexcel/Pearson Health and Social Care Extended Certificate.

What are the benefits of the course?

This course will give a broad overview of the Health and Social Care sector, highlighting how practitioners develop their knowledge while working with people in every stage of their lives. The course will also educate on how important it is to use the key principles behind providing quality care and support, as well as knowing what it is like to work for an organisation in this sector and how to carry out important responsibilities.

What will I study?

The qualification is structured into 3 mandatory units and 1 optional unit.

The mandatory units are:

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development

Students will cover physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the human lifespan and the factors affecting and the effects of ageing.

Unit 2: Human Health and Biology

Students will examine the biological organisation of the human body into cells and tissues. You will explore the structure and normal physiological functioning of key body systems and their organs. You will also examine how a range of disorders can affect various body systems.

Unit 3: Principles of Health and Social Care Practice

Students will focus on the principles and practicalities that underpin meeting individuals' care and support needs, which are the foundation of all the care disciplines.

Some of the optional units are: Health Policy and Wellbeing, Promoting Health Education, Safe Environments in Health and Social Care, or Health Science

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development - External 1.5-hour exam, 80 marks (25%)

Units 2: Human Health and Biology – External 1.5-hour exam, 80 marks (25%)

Unit 3 and the optional unit are coursework based.

What does this lead to?

This course can lead to progression to Higher Education: Working with Children, Young people and families, Health and Social Care, Social Work, Autism Studies, Global Health and Social Care Medicine, Health and Social studies, Healthcare Science (cardiovascular) and many more.

It can also lead to a career in the following: Health Visitor, Psychologist, Physiotherapy, Pharmacist, Nursery Nurse, Care Worker, Social Worker, Teacher, Counsellor, Speech and language therapist and many other areas.

Entry Requirements

If Health and Social Care has been completed at Level 2, you would require Merit or above in the exam. Minimum 5 in English plus any 4 GCSE grades 9-5.

Staff Contact:

Mrs N Lazarczuk, Head of PE and Health and Social Care
nlazarczuk@brakenhale.co.uk

HISTORY A-LEVEL

Exam Board: AQA A-Level History

What are the benefits of the course?

The AQA History A-Level is a well- designed and structured course, focused on two clear topics which enable students to get a breadth and depth of knowledge.

- The choice of options allows students to understand how change occurs, degrees of change, and significance of change; with an understanding of how individuals and groups bring about and react to broader social, economic, religious and cultural changes.
- The content of the specification is popular, exciting and emotive, which will appeal to and engage students in their studies.

What will I study?

In Year 12

- The Tudors: Part one: Consolidation of the Tudor Dynasty: England, 1485-1547.
- The American Dream: Part one: Prosperity, inequality and Superpower status, 1945-1963.
- Historical investigation: Witchcraft in the 16th and 17th Centuries.

In Year 13

- The Tudors: Part two: England: turmoil and triumph, 1547-1603.
- The American Dream: Part two: Challenges to the American Dream, 1963-1980.
- Historical investigation: Witchcraft in the 16th and 17th Centuries.

How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1: The Tudors- 2 hours 30 minutes (40%)
- Paper 2: The American Dream- 2 hours 30 minutes (40%)
- NEA: Historical investigation on Witchcraft in Europe: Internally assessed and externally moderated. (20%)

What does it lead to?

A-Level History offers students the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills that can be used in the real world. Students advance their analysis and enquiry abilities alongside their source analysis skills. They are also supported to strengthen their ability to engage in independent research.

History A-Level is well sought after by universities as it demonstrates a multitude of skills and abilities that are widely applicable. The essay skills taught in history A-Level will aid students in any further education or future career. The great thing about studying history is that it keeps your options open.

History also directly links to the following careers: Academic researcher, Archivist, Business manager, Conservation officer, Museum/gallery curator, Teacher, Journalist, Editor/author, Public relations, Solicitor/lawyer, Human resources manager, Marketing, Archaeologist and Politics.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE History (or English, if History is not taken at GCSE).

Staff Contact:

Miss D Bunkell, Head of Humanities
dbunkell@brakenhale.co.uk

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BTEC

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel, Level 3 National Extended Certificate.

What are the benefits of the course?

This qualification is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information, alongside others fields of study with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT.

What will I study?

Students study a variety of topics including:

- Unit 1 Information Technology Systems
- Unit 2 Creating Systems to Manage Information
- Unit 3 Using Social Media in Business
- Unit 6 Website Development

How will I be assessed?

This course comprises 360 guided learning hours (GLH) and is equivalent in size to one A-Level.

There are four units which are assessed through a range of written assignments and practical tasks.

Unit 1 is assessed by written examination (2 hours) set and marked by Pearson.

Unit 2 is assessed via a set task that is completed over two days by creating a complex database solution.

What does it lead to?

Employment opportunities: With the international recognition of BTEC courses such as this, you can progress straight into employment. If successful there are a wide variety of potential careers that you can explore, within sectors such as the growing computer games industry, product development, technical support, technical sales, telecommunications and hardware engineering. Jobs that are commonly taken after completion of the qualification are: systems analyst, computer service technician and computer operator.

Further vocational and academic qualifications: The BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Information Technology has the equivalence of 1 GCE A-Level, and it is possible for you to progress further into Higher Education, as successful BTEC National qualifications give UCAS points for university applications.

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Computer Science at grade 4, or a Merit at OCR Cambridge Nationals. A strong understanding in developing the world of IT and technical knowledge in databases is desirable.

Staff Contact:

Mr A George, Assistant Headteacher

ageorge@brakenhale.co.uk

MATHEMATICS A-LEVEL

Exam Board: Edexcel

What are the benefits of the course?

This course is suitable for students who enjoyed Mathematics at GCSE Level and having gained strong mathematical skills wish to study the subject in greater depth. The course mainly concerns itself with developing the more abstract and algebraic ideas introduced at GCSE, although it does include some applications of mathematics.

In simple terms, we put an emphasis on algebra, graphs, number patterns and trigonometry. You will be actively involved in developing mathematical ideas. The problems used arise from, and relate to, everyday life. You will develop skills using modern technology such as computers and graphical calculators.

What will I study?

In Year 12 you will study Pure and Applied Maths.

In Pure Maths you will cover: Proof, Algebra and Functions, Coordinate Geometry in the Cartesian plane, Sequences and Series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and Logarithms, Differentiation, Integration and Vectors.

In Applied Maths you will cover both Statistics and Mechanics. The Statistics element consists of: Statistical Sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions and Statistical hypothesis testing. The Mechanics element consists of: Quantities and units in Mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's laws.

In Year 13 you will study more Pure and Applied Maths.

In Pure Maths you will cover the same topics listed in Year 12 but in more depth as well as Numerical Methods.

In Applied Maths you will cover the same topics as above but, in more depth, further to this you will study Moments which is additional to the Mechanics element.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 – 2 hours

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 – 2 hours

Paper 3: Statistics & Mechanics – 2 hours

What does it lead to?

An A-Level in Mathematics enables access to a wide range of career and Higher Education opportunities. Possible further career paths include those in science and technology, computing, engineering, medicine, business and management, finance and accountancy, architecture, law and teaching.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 7, 8 or 9 in GCSE Mathematics.

We offer a place to students who achieve a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics; but only if they are very close to a grade 7.

Staff Contact:

Mrs C Naker, Head of Maths

cnaker@brakenhale.co.uk

PHILOSOPHY A-LEVEL

Exam Board: AQA

What are the benefits of the course?

This specification allows students to:

- Understand the main philosophical arguments within topics, through the works of philosophers, and articulate those arguments in appropriate forms, correctly, clearly and precisely.
- Understand the philosophical claims which are made within each topic and be able to articulate those claims correctly, clearly and precisely. Students must also articulate how those claims might relate to other topic areas.
- Generate responses using appropriate philosophical formats, to a range of philosophical questions. These responses must include: articulating definitions; articulating arguments and counter-arguments; and selecting, applying and evaluating appropriate material to generate their own arguments.

What will I study?

We study four units across the two years. These are:

- Epistemology
- Moral Philosophy
- Metaphysics of God
- Metaphysics of Mind

How will I be assessed?

At the end of Year 13 students take their A-Level examination, they will sit two exam papers. Each exam paper lasts for 3 hours. Students will need to answer five questions, one 3 marker, two 5 markers and a 12 and 25 marker per paper. Questions are made up of topics from the full course.

What does it lead to?

Like any other academic subject, Philosophy and Ethics is valued by universities as it is seen as a critical thinking subject. Like other A-Level subjects it proves to universities and future employers that a person is capable of attaining a certain standard of education. The logical nature of this subject makes it ideal if a student is considering working in the area of ICT, Law, Politics or Journalism. Often a qualification in this subject is helpful for those students considering embarking on a career which is associated with people. It also provides numerous transferable skills.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE Religious Studies and a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature.

Staff Contact:

Miss D Bunkell, Head of Humanities
dbunkell@brakenhale.co.uk

Miss M Kaur, Second in Humanities
mkaur@brakenhale.co.uk

PHYSICAL EDUCATION A-LEVEL

Exam Board: AQA

What are the benefits of the course?

This course will appeal to you if you wish to develop your interest in sport and physical education. It provides you with the knowledge and understanding of the scientific, psychological and social factors involved within modern day sport. The A-level Physical Education qualification allows students to play to their strengths and gain dynamic theoretical and practical skills for further education or work.

What will I study?

7 Units over 2 years:

1. Applied anatomy and physiology
2. Skill acquisition
3. Sport and society
4. Exercise physiology
5. Biomechanical movement
6. Sport psychology
7. Sport and society and the role of technology in physical activity and sport.

How will I be assessed?

Two externally assessed (exams) – 70%

NEA – Coursework – 15%

Students are required to analyse and evaluate, using appropriate theoretical content a performance as either player/performer or coach, in one activity from the specification. Students can analyse and evaluate their own performance or the performance of another person, as long as it is in an activity that is from the specification. Section 1

Pupils will need to complete a technical analysis of one performance weakness when compared to a perfect model. **(20 marks)** Section 2 Students will need to use theory from the course to identify causes for the weakness in performance and then recommend strategies to improve. **(25 marks)**

NEA – Practical – 15%

Students will need to select 1 sporting activity to be assessed as either a performer or a coach. All sporting activities are assessed in 3 aspects and will vary depending on the sport. Games players for example will be assessed in the following areas: Area of Assessment 1: Attacking skills (15 marks) Area of Assessment 2: Defensive skills (15 marks) Area of Assessment 3: Application of strategies and tactics (15 marks)

What does it lead to?

This qualification can lead to progression to Higher Education, Sports Scientist, Personal Training, Sports Medicine, Physiotherapy, Sports Therapist, Sports Nutrition, Sports Coach, PE Teacher, Sports Psychologist, Sports Lawyer, Sports Masseuse

Entry Requirements:

You will need to achieve at least grade 4 Science. Achievement of a grade 6 in GCSE PE would also be beneficial but not essential.

Staff Contact:

Mrs N Lazarczuk, Head of PE and Health and Social Care
nlazarczuk@brakenhale.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHY A-LEVEL

Exam Board: AQA A-Level Art and Design – Photography

What are the benefits of the course?

Photography is about looking, learning, thinking, and exploring ideas and using the camera to capture the world as you see it. Our course offers students the freedom to explore a wide range of ideas through the development of camera skills, photographic techniques, media and processes. The Photography A Level prepares students for producing and working with images, both digitally and physically and is a great way to develop general design skills. Students will develop their ability to appreciate the world around them, responding in a visual, personal and creative manner. Learners will broaden their knowledge of digital and analogue methods of photography, learning how to be successful in a studio or location environment, and working in a traditional photography darkroom.

What will I study?

Students will explore, investigate and respond to a range of technical, creative, contemporary and traditional photographic styles, genres and traditions. In Year 12, students will initially study 'the exposure triangle', enabling a true understanding of how a camera can be used effectively, with practical shoots using Shutter Speed and Aperture controls, as well as exploring concepts of pastiche and inspiration. Following this, students will undertake a 'Visual Elements' project, exploring the formal elements of Line, Form, Shape, Colour, Pattern and Texture which introduces students to a range of photographers, the use of the darkroom and digital experimentation. This places students in the ideal position to begin their Personal Investigation project, a sustained project that starts at the end of Year 12 and continues through to the January of Year 13. The course ends with a final project, responding to the themes set in the Externally Set Assignment (ESA).

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed against 4 Assessment Objectives which are used to mark the 2 projects in a holistic manner. Students will be assessed on 2 components:

Component 1: The Personal Investigation project (60% of the A Level grade) based on a theme chosen by the student, accompanied with a written assignment of between 1000 - 3000 words;

Component 2: The Externally Set Assignment (40% of the A Level grade); this is finished in a 15-hour supervised period.

What does it lead to?

Students will learn transferable knowledge and skills that will prepare them for either progression to university or other higher study, as well as preparing them for Apprenticeships. Skills that are developed are relevant to both a career in the art, design and photography industries, or any industry that requires critical thinking and creative problem solving.

A significant proportion of recruitment in the creative sector is at graduate level and learners may wish to progress to further learning which will support entry to a further range of careers in the sector.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Photography.

Alternatively grade 5 or above in GCSE English with strong IT skills and a portfolio of photographs

You will need a DSLR or Bridge camera.

(Financial support may be provided for students who are from low income backgrounds)

Staff Contact:

Miss T Wilhelmy, Head of Creative Arts

twilhelmy@brakenhale.co.uk

PHYSICS A-LEVEL

Exam Board: OCR A Level Physics A.

What are the benefits of the course?

You will develop essential knowledge and understanding of concepts in physics and, where appropriate, the applications of physics, and the skills needed for the use of this in new and changing situations. In addition, you will develop an understanding of the link between theory and experiment, appreciating how physics has developed and is used in present day society.

Students will learn the importance of physics as a human endeavour which interacts with social, philosophical, economic and industrial matters, whilst sustaining and developing their enjoyment of, and interest in, physics.

You will recognise the quantitative nature of physics and understand how mathematical expressions relate to physical principles.

What will I study?

There are six modules in total:

- Module 1: Development of practical skills
- Module 2: Foundations of physics
- Module 3: Forces and motion
- Module 4: Electrons, waves and photons
- Module 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics
- Module 6: Particles and medical physics

How will I be assessed?

The course follows the OCR Physics A syllabus, you will sit three written exams at the end of the second year. Paper 1 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5. Paper 2 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6. Paper 3 assesses content from modules 1-6.

Additionally, you will complete a set of practical investigations throughout the course (both Year 1 and Year 2), which will be teacher assessed and lead to an additional practical skills grade, separate from your overall GCE grade.

What does it lead to?

Physics is an important subject in its own right with many applications and implications within modern society. This course is a broad-based modular course that is suited to candidates who wish to study a range of subjects at Higher Education.

Entry Requirements:

A minimum of grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science/Grade 6 in GCSE Physics. Additionally Grade 5 in GCSE English and Maths. Students will find it beneficial to take Maths AS-Level.

Staff Contact:

Mr J Swynford-Lain - Lead Teacher for A-Level Physics and Chemistry

jlain@brakenhale.co.uk

PSYCHOLOGY A-LEVEL

Exam Board: AQA A-Level Psychology

What are the benefits of the course?

A-Level Psychology will give students an understanding of the way human beings think and why they may behave in certain manners. Students will learn a variety of skills including the ability to think critically, analyse research, problem solve, and communicate thoughts and opinions effectively. Additionally, they will learn how to structure arguments and understand different viewpoints. These skills are useful in the workplace, where you will need to share ideas and work in groups.

What will I study?

Year 12 Topics

- Introductory Topics in Psychology: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, and Psychopathology
- Psychology in Context: Approaches to Psychology, Biopsychology, and Research Methods

Year 13 Topics

- Issues and debates in Psychology
- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology

How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology- 2 hours (33.3%)
- Paper 2: Psychology in Context- 2 hours (33.3%)
- Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology- 2 hours (33.3%)

What does it lead to?

Psychology can help your career either directly or indirectly. Of course, if you wish to become a psychologist, therapist or mental health worker, this A-Level is of direct value. It is also great for those looking for careers in law, public services, education and the medical sectors. If students study psychology in further education it can also lead to roles such as: Social worker, Child development specialist, Human Resources administrator, Research analyst, Counsellor, Criminal investigator, Speech and language specialist, and Sports psychologist.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in Science and a grade 5 in English and Maths.

Staff Contact:

Miss D Bunkell, Head of Humanities

dbunkell@brakenhale.co.uk

SOCIOLOGY A-LEVEL

Exam Board: AQA A-Level Sociology

What are the benefits of the course?

Studying sociology offers insights into social and cultural issues. It helps you develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issues around culture, identity, religion, crime, families and social power. This course will help you to make sense of the society we live in and identity issues which affect us all. The course will help you to develop a range of skills including the use of evidence to support your arguments, how to investigate facts and use deduction, and critical thinking.

What will I study?

In Year 12

- Education with Theory and Methods: the role and functions of the Education system, differential educational achievement of social groups, relationships and the processes within schools, the significance of educational policies; applied to sociological research methods.
- Topics in Sociology: Families and Households: the relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separations, divorce, childbearing, gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family, the nature of childhood and changes in the status of children in the family, demographic trends in the UK since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population and migration and globalisation.

In Year 13

- Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods: crime, deviance, social order and social control, the social distribution of crime, globalisation and crime in contemporary society, crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims and the role of the criminal justice system.
- Topic in Sociology: The Media: the new media and their significance for an understanding of the role of the media in contemporary society, the relationship between ownership and control of the media, the media, globalisation and popular culture, the process of selection and presentation of the content of the news, media representations of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability, the relationship between the media, their content and presentation and audiences.

How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods- 2 hours (33.33%)
- Paper 2: Topics in Sociology- 2 hours (33.33%)
- Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods- 2 hours (33.33%)

What does it lead to?

Sociology is an excellent choice of subject for people who want a career in social work, nursing or medicine. Nonetheless, the subject is also useful in a number of other careers, like marketing, advertising, PR, Journalism, law, or teaching.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE English or History

Staff Contact:

Miss D Bunkell, Head of Humanities
dbunkell@brakenhale.co.uk

TRAVEL AND TOURISM BTEC

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel, Level 3 National Extended Certificate.

What are the benefits of the course?

The travel and tourism industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the UK. The value of tourism to the UK economy is approximately £209 billion, and the sector employs around 4 million people. It is ideal for you if you are interested in learning about the fundamentals of the sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a degree programme related to travel and tourism or to one of a wide range of other higher education courses.

This qualification gives a broad introduction to the travel and tourism industry, with an emphasis on core knowledge and fundamental skills that are transferable across other sectors.

What will I study?

Students study a variety of topics including:

- Unit 1: The world of travel and tourism
- Unit 2: Global destinations
- Unit 3: Principles of marketing in travel and tourism
- Unit 9: Visitor attractions or Unit 11: events, conferences and exhibitions

How will I be assessed?

This course comprises 360 guided learning hours (GLH) and is equivalent in size to one A-Level. There are four units which are assessed through a range of written assignments and practical tasks. Unit 1 and Unit 2 are assessed by written examination and marked by Pearson. Unit 3 and 9 / 11 are coursework based and marked internally by your teacher.

What does it lead to?

Employment opportunities: With the international recognition of BTEC courses such as this, you can progress straight into employment. If successful there are a wide variety of potential careers that you can explore, within sectors such as the travel industry (air, sea and land), tourism, hotels, theme parks and other entertainment industries. Jobs that are commonly taken after completion of the qualification are: air cabin crew, hotel manager, theme park manager, tour operator, tourism officer or travel agency manager.

Further vocational and academic qualifications: The BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Travel and Tourism has the equivalence of 1 GCE A-Level, and it is possible for you to progress further into Higher Education, as successful BTEC National qualifications give UCAS points for university applications.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Geography, or equivalent qualifications.

Alternatively, a grade 4 in GCSE English and Maths, and a demonstrated interest in travel will be considered.

Staff Contact:

Miss M Sandhu, Head of Geography
msandhu@brakenhale.co.uk

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2025-2027