



CONNELL

CO-OP COLLEGE



# PROSPECTUS

## 2026-2027

VERSION TWO – DECEMBER 2025 UPDATE



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Scan the QR for the latest version of our prospectus (in case we've made any changes) or visit: [connell.ac.uk/prospectus](http://connell.ac.uk/prospectus)



# WELCOME

For me, being part of a young person's post-16 education is a real privilege. It's one of the most exciting times in your life when you figure out who you are and what you want to be. At Connell, it's our job to help you get there.

Supporting you through this crucial stage of your education is what we do best. We deliver excellent qualifications and a rich student experience. We do this through strong partnerships with a number of well known employers, charities and universities who are all committed to working directly with the young people we serve.

Qualifications combined with unique work related and community action experiences mean our students stand out from the crowd. Whether you want to study medicine, be a lawyer, start your own business or work in grassroots community sport; we have a career pathway supported by a strong employer partner. Many of our other courses benefit from these relationships too - check out our course pages to find out more.

When it comes to the DfE's progression score data (getting students to their destinations), Connell is ranked 'well above average' and outperforms all other sixth form colleges in Greater Manchester.



By choosing Connell you are saying yes to excellent advice and guidance from the moment you apply until the day you leave. Our job is to support you on your journey.

We work with students and their families in partnership to help them succeed. We welcome enquiries from students and parents alike because we know how important it is to find a place that feels right for the whole family.

As a community we embrace diversity and celebrate differences. We seek like minded students who are committed to social justice and want to have a positive impact on the world in which we live. We welcome applications from any student who meets our entry requirements.

**Emma Soper**  
Principal

# WHY CHOOSE CONNELL?

If you ask our students what they love about Connell, they usually mention things such as: how they are treated, the diversity of the college, and the many opportunities that they're presented with.

## PERSONAL TOUCH

Students really notice a difference in how they're treated at Connell. We value them, treat them with respect, and take the time to get to know them. This means we can tailor the level of challenge and support to help them be successful. They will be one of hundreds and not thousands, and so to us, every young person is an individual we can get to know and inspire.

## STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

Great opportunities come from strong partnerships. We are supported in educating our students by a number of local and national employers, and universities, who are committed to our college's vision and values. These organisations want to help us give our students the very best opportunities - no matter what their background or personal circumstances. We work in partnership to help every student fulfil their potential.

## INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE

Students feel part of a really diverse community and they love that. It allows them to be themselves. Everyone is welcome and everyone is supported. Our students are representative of the huge cultural diversity that we have in our city. This makes Connell a really vibrant place to learn and make friends.

## TEAM EFFORT

Everything we do is about strong co-operative partnerships that bring the best out of people. We believe that success is a team effort and so, at Connell, students, teachers and parents work together to ensure that the young people who come to us are able to achieve their aspirations.





Scan the QR for the latest version of our prospectus (in case we've made any changes) or visit: [connell.ac.uk/prospectus](http://connell.ac.uk/prospectus)



# CAREER PATHWAYS AND PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

We provide courses that lead to a broad range of career pathways. And we work closely with a range of partner organisations that provide our students with opportunities and support on their career pathway journeys.

Our partner organisations come from the worlds of sport, medical and allied health, health and social care, business, leisure and media/marketing/digital. They provide a mixture of both formal and informal support across a number of disciplines. They provide real world work experience opportunities, skill development and employer-led experiences that bring your learning to life.

Students will visit our partners' workplaces, work with their employees, experience mock interviews and see first hand how what they learn in the classroom translates to the world of work. Many of them also offer highly desirable work experience placements - including in medicine and law - exclusively to our students. All students have equal opportunity of access and support to apply.

## PARTNER EMPLOYERS:

- Aldermore Bank
- City in the Community
- Co-op Group
- Co-op Live
- GLL
- Manchester City Football Club
- Müller
- Nuffield Health
- Softcat

See pages 7-10 for more info about each of our partner employers.

## PARTNER UNIVERSITIES:

- University of Huddersfield
- University of Lancashire
- University of Law
- University of Manchester
- University of Salford



## ALDERMORE BANK

Aldermore Bank focus on providing straightforward lending and savings products to their customers, driven by their purpose of backing more people to go for it in life and business.

Aldermore was founded in 2009 when access to credit and finance had generally become more challenging, due to the financial crash in 2007-2008. Aldermore fought to challenge high street banks, doing more to address the needs of people who were being overlooked and underserved by mainstream providers.

Aldermore have an office presence in Manchester and Wilmslow. They run an active early careers strategy "Experience Aldermore," that delivers an annual cycle of events run across the academic year for schools, higher and further education institutions. They provide financial education, workplace experiences, and careers guidance for students looking for a career in banking and finance.

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[www.aldermore.co.uk](http://www.aldermore.co.uk)

## CITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Founded in 1986, City in the Community is Manchester City's official charity. Its purpose is to empower healthier lives with city youth through football. Programmes place physical and mental wellbeing at their core, whilst also creating healthy futures and healthy communities.

Programmes under its Healthy Futures pillar aim to build education and employability pathways.

Students on the BTEC pathway compete on a weekly basis and are able to participate in a wide range of sporting community activities and events.

Outside of this provision, they offer weekly training sessions to our wider student body as well as supporting us with curriculum enrichment and careers education.

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[www.mancity.com/city-in-the-community](http://www.mancity.com/city-in-the-community)



## CO-OP GROUP

One of the world's largest consumer co-operatives, owned by millions of members. They're the UK's fifth biggest food retailer; the UK's number one funeral services provider; a major general insurer and a growing legal services business.

They employ nearly 70,000 people and are a recognised leader for their social goals and community-led programmes.

With their headquarters in Manchester, Connell works in partnership with the Co-op Group to give our students workplace experiences.

Our students have the opportunity to apply for placements that give them the opportunity to work in a variety of areas including finance, marketing, communications, HR, customer services and legal.

Students get the opportunity to experience a selection process and a project management style of working as well as being able to experience working life in One Angel Square (Co-op HQ).

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[www.co-operative.coop](http://www.co-operative.coop)



## GLL

GLL is a not for profit charitable social enterprise committed to delivering a better quality of fitness, leisure, libraries and performing arts facilities for everyone. They are one of Manchester's biggest employers in the sport and leisure industry.

They manage over 258 facilities across the UK. In Manchester, this includes community and elite sporting venues such as the National Cycling Centre and National Basketball Performance Centre; and local leisure centres, such as East Manchester.

Connell works in partnership with GLL to provide our students studying BTEC courses in Sport, Coaching & Development, Sport & Exercise Science and Health and Social Care a guaranteed interview and employment trial.

Employment can run throughout your time at Connell and beyond into university or employment. They are a real living wage employer providing flexible working hours. They will provide you with training and qualifications, enabling you to progress in the sports industry.

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[www.gll.org](http://www.gll.org)



## MANCHESTER CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

Connell is built on land gifted by the club and so our relationship with Manchester City Football Club (MCFC) and its charitable foundation, City in the Community has always been strong.

Our students benefit from access to a wide range of professionals and work related experiences in sports science, nutrition, psychology and rehabilitation as well as broader areas of the business operations such as media, marketing, comms and legal.

Our students' curriculum experience is enhanced by access to a wide range of local and national businesses via the club's strong community links and business partnerships.

We've been working closely with the club since 2022 to help our students better understand employment opportunities in the green economy and the needs of businesses to move to net zero.

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[www.mancity.com](http://www.mancity.com)



## MÜLLER

Müller UK & Ireland is a family owned business which employs over 33,000 people throughout Europe.

They develop, manufacture and market a wide range of branded and private label dairy products made with milk from over 1,000 farmers in Britain, alongside a designated plant-based range. They have strategic partnerships throughout the UK, and export to over 60 countries internationally.

Müller is one of the ten most chosen FMCG brands in Great Britain, and the most popular dairy brand. It is ranked within the top 20 in The Grocer's Top 100 list of Britain's Biggest Brands and is picked from shelves millions of times each year.

Connell works in partnership with Müller to offer our students educational experiences focused on healthy lifestyles and sustainability. They also provide careers support, mock interviews, mentoring, site visits and work experience opportunities.

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[www.muller.co.uk](http://www.muller.co.uk)



## NUFFIELD HEALTH

Nuffield Health is the UK's largest healthcare charity. They exist to build a healthier nation through outstanding services in 37 award-winning hospitals, 114 fitness and wellbeing clubs, healthcare clinics and 200+ workplace services.

They are committed to delivering sustainable, inclusive and meaningful impact in their communities. They employ over 5,000 healthcare professionals and have a number of centres across Greater Manchester.

We work in partnership with Nuffield Health so that our students with career ambitions in medicine or allied health professions can access high quality work experience opportunities with healthcare professionals and visit their clinical settings such as the Manchester Institute of Health and Performance.

Our students benefit from medical professionals giving talks about their experiences and career pathways; work experience days with simulated healthcare scenarios with professional guidance; mock interviews and help with university applications.

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[www.nuffieldhealth.com](http://www.nuffieldhealth.com)



## SOFTCAT

Softcat is a FTSE 250 UK-based IT and services provider with ten offices across the UK&I, including Manchester. They support businesses and public sector organisations to optimise their technology.

The company offers a broad portfolio of services, including cloud solutions, cybersecurity, software licensing, and managed IT. They have strong partnerships with leading tech vendors like Microsoft, Dell, and Cisco. And they deliver tailored solutions to help their clients achieve their strategic goals through innovative and reliable technology.

Softcat is also widely recognised for its vibrant and inclusive company culture. It places a strong emphasis on employee well-being, collaboration, and personal development.

Connell works in partnership with Softcat to offer our students careers support, mock interviews, mentoring, site visits and work experience opportunities.

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[www.softcat.com](http://www.softcat.com)

# A LEVELS OR APPLIEDS?

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT COURSE...

Choosing the subjects for the next phase of your studies can be really difficult. Choose subjects that you enjoy, think you'll succeed in and will allow you to pursue the career path or university courses that you are interested in.

We can discuss your choices and help you select the best study programme for your future when we interview you or at one of our recruitment events.

All students must study the equivalent of three A Levels but this can be made up of a combination of traditional A Levels or Applieds (which include Applied Generals, BTECs and AAQs).

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

### A LEVELS

Single subject qualifications that are studied over two years and are assessed by a series of exams at the end. There are no resits. Some A Levels contain a coursework element worth up to 30%.

### APPLIEDS

Equivalent to A Levels, relate to a single subject area and can vary in size. They're based on continuous assessment, which means you take

exams and complete coursework throughout the two years of study. Each piece of work or exam can be re-taken once.

Both qualification types can lead to university, further study, training, or work. You can take a mixture of both qualifications if you want to.

## WHAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU?

To help you select your programme of study, all of our applied generals are classified as one of three categories:

- Single = one A Level
- Double = two A Levels
- Triple = three A Levels

If you meet the entry requirements you can study any combination of subjects as long as they equate to a total of three A Levels. For example, you could study one A Level and a Double subject.

To study a full A Level programme, you need at least two grade 5s in essay based subjects as part of your five grade 4-9s, including Maths, English Language and English Literature.

# HOW TO APPLY

## WHAT TO DO TO JOIN US IN SEPTEMBER 2026...

### SEPTEMBER 2025

Applications open on Monday 1st.

Apply online: [connell.applicaa.com](http://connell.applicaa.com)

We'll be visiting schools, presenting in Year 11 assemblies and attending careers fairs to tell you everything you need to know about Connell. Chat to us about our courses, entry requirements or anything else you'd like to know!

### OCTOBER

We have an open evening on Thursday 2nd, (register to attend online). Come and visit us, see our college and facilities, speak to our teachers/students about our courses and college life. Look out for us, we'll still be visiting schools.

### NOVEMBER

We have an open day on Saturday 15th which will be similar to our October evening one.

Our priority deadline is Monday 17th. Apply before this deadline and you may be invited to a pre-Christmas interview.

### DECEMBER

Priority interview evenings take place (w/c Monday 8th). Meet the priority deadline to be invited.

### JANUARY 2026

The application deadline is Friday 16th. Students applying before this date that meet our entry requirements may be invited in for a spring interview.

### MARCH

Our discover day takes place on a Saturday 28th. Successful applicants will be invited to come and try out sessions in their chosen subjects. Keep an eye on your emails as space is limited and it fills up fast!

### JULY

You'll be invited to attend a new starter induction on Friday 10th. This will give you a chance to visit us before the summer, meet your potential new classmates, and ask any final questions about joining us in September.

### AUGUST

We enrol on GCSE results day, Thursday 20th and the following day. We'll email you instructions during the summer. Please don't book a holiday over these days! Don't worry if you change your mind about what you want to study, we'll help you choose new subjects on the right path for your chosen career.

# KEY DATES

2025

**Monday 1 September** - Applications Open  
(apply online at: [connell.applicaa.com](http://connell.applicaa.com))

**September and October** - We attend Year 11  
Assemblies and Careers Fairs

**Thursday 2 October** - Open Evening (register to attend)

**Saturday 15 November** - Open Day (register to attend)

**Monday 17 November** - Priority Deadline

**December** - Priority Interview Evenings (w/c 8th)

2026

**Friday 16 January** - Application Deadline

**Saturday 28 March** - Discover Day

**Friday 10 July** - New Starter Induction

**Thursday 20 August** - GCSE Results Day + Enrolment

**W/C Monday 31 August** - Start at Connell (date TBC)



# A LEVELS

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for any of our courses, you must achieve a minimum of five GCSEs, grades 4-9, including English Language, English Literature and Maths. See each course's page for more info.

To study a full A Level programme, you need at least two grade 5s in essay based subjects as part of your five grade 4-9s, including Maths, English Language and English Literature.

Level 2 BTECs at Distinction level may be accepted for progression in the same subject area.

Alternative qualifications may be accepted, but students will need to purchase a UKENIC Statement of Comparability before we can make

an offer. Students must be aged 16 or 17 on September 1st of the year for which they are applying.

## GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF LEVEL 3 QUALIFICATIONS

Courses with a dot next to their name in the Applied section (p32-45) are either new or have been changed since the first edition of the 2026 prospectus went to print due to government reforms.

More information and advice will be available at your interview. Alternatively, see our website for more information, or email [admissions@connell.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@connell.ac.uk) and our team will be happy to help.

**Please note:** entry criteria for any of our courses is also subject to change due to this review.

# BIOLOGY

## A LEVEL

Are you interested in how living organisms operate? Do you want to find out more about the natural world that surrounds you? If so, biology may be the perfect subject for you and your future.

In the first year, you'll study the structure of different types of cells and learn how these interact to form functioning tissues, organs and systems. Learning is divided into topics. In the second year, you'll cultivate your knowledge of mammalian and plant physiology, genetics, gene technology and cloning. Throughout the course you will be making links to develop your understanding of the dynamic and interactive nature of biology.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

Through a range of activities, including required practical and group work. You'll participate in a number of field trips that develop these skills, such as the study of biodiversity in habitats. You'll be supported in developing your independent study skills in preparation for university. We run a Biomedical Society which involves guest speaker talks covering a range of biomedical science topics, and also includes project work and dissections.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

Biology can lead to a wide variety of higher education courses, such as pharmacology, medicine, zoology, conservation and biomedical sciences. Studying biology, you'll learn a range of practical and mathematical skills which will aid the study of other subjects. It compliments many other A Levels and can open up numerous study programmes and future career opportunities.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or 6/6 in Combined Science; and Grade 5 in Higher Tier GCSE Maths. Students with a Grade 6 in GCSE Maths will be prioritised
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 3 x exams (practical work doesn't contribute to your final grade but a practical skills endorsement is essential for those wanting to study a science subject at university)
- Exam board - OCR
- Employer partner organisation - Nuffield Health

# BUSINESS

## A LEVEL

This course will help you to understand and engage with the increasingly complex business world in which we live and to enable you to become an informed and confident consumer, employee and entrepreneur.

You will develop a broader understanding of the legal, political, social, economic and environmental context of business. The external business environment is rapidly changing. Our intention is to develop confident and adaptable individuals, ready to tackle the challenges ahead whether in further education or the world of work. We aim to give you the opportunity to explore real business issues and how businesses work.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

A diverse range of teaching strategies will be used with a consistent link to businesses, so that you can see how what we learn in college is used in the real world. With a combination of independent research, teamwork, competition and presentation activities we hope to complement the employability skills that students are developing across the college.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

There are a vast range of business-related degrees and apprenticeships: from accountancy to creative roles. Throughout your time on the course, you will develop a broad understanding of business and you may decide you want to study one area in more detail at university. A good proportion of our students go into the business field but it is also an excellent supporting subject for other career pathways.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - none
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 3 x exams
- Exam board - Edexcel
- Employer partner organisations - MCFC, Co-op Group, Nuffield Health and GLL

# CHEMISTRY

## A LEVEL

Do you want to explore the world of atoms, molecules, compounds and ions? Are you interested in medical discoveries and attempting to explain the origin and the fate of the universe? If so, then chemistry will really suit you.

We have state-of-the-art laboratories with top class facilities and equipment. You will study topics such as: atoms, compounds, molecules and equations; enthalpy, entropy and free energy; redox and electrode potentials; group 2 and the halogens; organic synthesis; reaction rates and equilibrium; analytical techniques (IR and MS); pH and buffers; chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR).

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

There will be opportunities to attend talks - at both Connell and at local universities - from chemistry professionals such as doctors and research scientists. There will also be enrichment opportunities for those budding scientists who wish to pursue their interests outside the classroom.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

Many students continue into higher education. A chemistry qualification opens access to university courses in areas such as chemical engineering, environmental science, food science, materials science and biochemistry. Chemistry is the only science compulsory for the study of medicine and dentistry. Chemistry degrees can lead to a wide variety of careers in areas such as water treatment, drug design, pharmacy, teaching and renewable energy.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - Grade 6 in GCSE chemistry or 6/6 in Combined Science, and Grade 5 in Higher Tier GCSE Maths. Grade 6 GCSE Maths will be prioritised
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 3 x exams (practical work doesn't contribute to your final grade but a practical skills endorsement is essential for those wanting to study a science subject at university)
- Exam board - OCR

# ECONOMICS

## A LEVEL

Every aspect of your life is affected by economics, from the price of the milk you put on your cereal in the morning to the stories you see on the news in the evening...

You will study two aspects of economics. Macroeconomics looks at the “big” picture (unemployment and inflation, for example) while microeconomics considers the markets for specific goods or services and how well these markets work. You also study how businesses operate and global economics.

There are four themes throughout the two years of study:

1. Introduction to markets and market failure
2. The UK economy - performance and policies
3. Business behaviour and the labour market
4. A global perspective

In a rapidly changing and uncertain world, studying economics helps you make sense of it all.

## HOW YOU’LL STUDY

There will be opportunities to attend talks - at Connell and outside of college by a number of business leaders, economists and financial institutions such as the Bank of England.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

There are many! Economists run or have senior posts in business and some have a major role in running the country. It’s seen as a rigorous academic subject and is highly valued by universities and a wide range of employers.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and GCSE English
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 3 x exams at the end of the second year covering: markets and business behaviour; the national and global economy; microeconomics and macroeconomics
- Exam board - Edexcel

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## A LEVEL

Language is up there with humanity's greatest achievements - and it surrounds us, every minute of every day. That means there's enormous power in understanding how it works...

In your first year, you'll explore how language is used to create meanings in a variety of texts, from journalism to political speeches to graphic novels and more. You'll examine the way different texts represent people, places, ideas and social groups. You'll enter the world of sociolinguistics and delve into the history of the English language.

In the second year, you will try to answer one of the most fascinating questions in language study: how do children learn to speak, read and write?

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

Students regularly benefit from guest lectures and workshops delivered by respected linguists working on the most cutting-edge language research. Trips and visits are also organised to allow students to observe language in action.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

An English Language A Level is hugely versatile, leading students to careers in online media, journalism, advertising, marketing, publishing, teaching, civil service and more. Universities and employers prize candidates with strong communication skills.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - none
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 2 x exams (each worth 40%), 1 x non-exam assessment (worth 20%)
- Exam board - AQA

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## A LEVEL

You will get to grips with some of the world's most important, controversial and fascinating texts. You'll have an inquisitive mind, a passion for writers' craft and you'll revel in pulling a text apart to uncover its deepest meanings. You'll refine your analytical, essay-writing and debating skills whilst achieving a highly respected and versatile qualification.

In your first year, you'll learn about pre-1900 drama and poetry, studying the work of Christina Rossetti, Henrik Ibsen and William Shakespeare. In the second year, you will focus on the dark, deviant and uncanny world of gothic literature, studying Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber*, amongst others.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

Students in recent years have attended live productions of *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *A Doll's House* for a sense of how drama works on the stage. Meanwhile, guest speakers are regularly invited to deliver specialist workshops for a flavour of degree-level literary analysis.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

An English Literature A Level opens up all kinds of doors; universities and employers place extremely high value on the critical nature of the subject. The majority of students go on to higher education, studying a diverse range of subjects such as English, linguistics, film, journalism, marketing, politics, law, and more.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 5 in GCSE English literature
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 2 x exams (each worth 40%), 1 x non-exam assessment (worth 20%)
- Exam board - OCR

# FILM STUDIES

## A LEVEL

You will study a wide range of films across a variety of cultures, time periods and genres. You'll discover how high-quality narratives are developed and showcased using visual techniques and theory.

The course involves investigations of how cinema has developed from its inception in the 1800s through to the present day. Throughout the course you will study a selection of films which will help you to explore the ways in which directors have created meaning for their audiences.

If you are interested in film-making, photography or even creative writing, then Film Studies is the course for you.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

You'll develop practical production skills and work towards creating your own piece of film, building on knowledge and understanding developed through your study. Alongside this you will develop long-form written analysis of famous directors and auteurs to find out how they became so iconic.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

Students who study Film Studies at A Level usually go to university to study Media Studies, Film, TV Production or English. There are also options in degree-level apprenticeships in the creative industries. Film Studies students typically wish to work in industries such as film, TV or journalism.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - none
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 2 x exams (70%) and 1 x non-exam assessment (30%)
- Exam board - Eduqas

# FURTHER MATHEMATICS

## A LEVEL

You will broaden and deepen your mathematical knowledge and skills. It's particularly useful if you're intending to take a degree course or apprenticeship involving higher level maths, such as a STEM subject.

The course will challenge and provide you with the chance to explore new and more sophisticated mathematical concepts.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

All Further Mathematics courses have the same 50% pure maths content. Topic areas include: complex numbers, which allow the solution of a range of equations, by introducing 'imaginary' numbers; matrices, which consist of grids of numbers that can be used to represent transformations and are used to solve simultaneous equations; polar coordinates; differential equations; and hyperbolic functions.

Each of these build on earlier topics and develop your understanding of the ways in which mathematical topics are interconnected. You will also study further applications of mathematics in mechanics, statistics and decision mathematics.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

A Level Further Mathematics is particularly beneficial for students considering taking a mathematically demanding degree or apprenticeship programme.

Many leading universities ask for it in their entry requirements for mathematics degrees. Students who have studied it often find the transition to university easier. Around a third of Mathematics BSc degree courses mention it in their entry requirements, including it in their A Level offers or encouraging students to take it if possible. This proportion is much higher for Russell Group universities.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics. Further Maths can only be chosen alongside A Level Maths
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 4 x exams (2 x pure maths topics; 2 x applied topics)
- Exam board - Edexcel
- Maths Excellence Programme - see page 48 for more info

# GEOGRAPHY

## A LEVEL

Are you interested in the world around you? Do you want to know how the human and physical environment is changing? If so, A Level geography is for you!

You'll study a wide range of topics that integrate human and physical geography.

Unit 1- tectonic processes and hazards; glaciated or coastal landscapes; the water cycle and water insecurity; the carbon cycle and energy insecurity.

Unit 2 - globalisation; diverse places; superpowers; development and human rights.

Unit 3 - place-based geographical investigation.

Unit 4 - a 3,000-4,000-word independent fieldwork investigation on a topic of your choice from the course.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

You will undertake a minimum of four days of course-related field work in the Lake District, Fylde coastline and Manchester. There are also opportunities to attend university study days, Manchester Geographical Association lectures, lectures at local universities and listen to talks from NGOs, such as Refugee Action.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

Geography A Level graduates develop a wide range of transferable skills: report writing, numeracy, IT, decision-making, independent research and problem solving. These skills help graduates have one of the highest employment rates. Geography bridges the arts and sciences, giving flexibility for higher education courses, such as those in planning and environmental management; as well as into areas such as business, law, development work and human rights.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - ideally studied GCSE geography
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 3 x exams and coursework
- Exam board - Edexcel
- Employer partner organisations - MCFC and Co-op Group

# HISTORY

## A LEVEL

**Over two years we follow two nations at pivotal moments, with the trauma of civil wars forcing significant change that still ripples through societies today.**

Our British unit follows the Stuart dynasty when in just 100 years England went from the absolute Tudor monarchs to a transformed constitutional monarchy.

For our world history, you'll study the Cold War from 1945 to 1991. You will see how the rivalry between the USA and USSR impacted countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Central and South America, and how this impact is still being felt today. For your independent study you will look at the African American civil rights movement in the USA across a 100 year period.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

We study both exam units across the two years. Our British history unit has a focus on historical debates, whilst our Cold War unit has primary sources as a core aspect.

You'll be taught in seminar-style lessons with readings set and discussions. You'll be supported to write academically.

We offer opportunities to get involved with essay and debating competitions, guest lectures, trips to the People's History Museum and abroad to a European capital.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

History A Level offers lots of transferable skills such as logical argumentation, strong communication skills, processing and analysis, which sets candidates apart for university or apprenticeship applications. It's a common misconception that history graduates don't earn as much as their STEM counterparts. They often go into management or law, earning substantial salaries and have high job satisfaction. It's also a great route into journalism, business, politics, media and international relations.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - none
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 2 x exams; 1 x coursework essay (3500 words)
- Exam board - AQA

# LAW

## A LEVEL

Are you interested in our legal system? Drawn to stories about crime and justice? If so, law may be the perfect subject for you.

You'll find out where laws come from and how they're made. You'll study the courts, the people involved in the legal system and the legal responsibility in both criminal and civil law.

We focus on criminal law, looking at a range of offences such as murder, GBH and burglary, as well as a number of defences. You'll also learn about the English legal system, tort law and contract law. You'll have the opportunity to think deeply about the relationship between the law, morality, society and justice.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

There are trips to the UK Parliament, a magistrates court and a crown court, as well as opportunities to attend talks from solicitors, barristers and magistrates. Students will have the opportunity to set up a law society, and also take part in mock trials against other colleges.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

Many students go on to higher education, studying subjects such as law or criminology; or they do a legal services apprenticeship. However, the skills that you gain during the two years will be transferable to a number of subjects at undergraduate level, as well as a number of different career pathways.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - Grade 5 in a supporting essay-based subject
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 3 x exams
- Exam board - OCR
- Employer partner organisations - Co-op Group and MCFC

# MATHEMATICS

## A LEVEL

Mathematics is the most popular A Level studied nationally. This ancient subject has an ever increasing relevance in our modern world. It's central to understanding our changing climate, predicting and mitigating the spread of diseases, and ensuring security of online trade. It's highly regarded due to the skills and resilience that are developed in mastering it.

On the pure side, a large part of the course is algebra. You'll learn calculus and extend your knowledge in equations and algebraic expressions. On the applied side, you'll learn mechanics (the forces and equations that govern motion) and statistics, developing an understanding of risk and drawing conclusions from data.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

Maths is one of the best subjects to develop your analytical and problem-solving skills.

You'll pick up the knowledge and language to understand science, engineering, coding and abstract problems. You also develop skills in logical thinking, including proof and recognising incorrect reasoning. In previous years our students have benefited from

guest speakers from industry, a trip to PwC in Manchester and problem-solving sessions at the University of Manchester.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

Mathematics is highly regarded by employers and universities. By choosing mathematics you will develop a sought-after skill set that will enable you to go on to do whatever you want. Some courses and careers that A Level mathematics students go on to, include: engineering, mathematics, computer science, medicine, accountancy and actuarial sciences.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - Grade 7 in GCSE Maths
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 3 x exams (2 x pure maths topics; 1 x applied topics)
- Exam board - Edexcel
- Maths Excellence Programme - see page 48 for more info

# MEDIA STUDIES

## A LEVEL

You'll develop research, analysis and critical thinking skills. You will focus on all forms of media, from influencers to classic 1950s advertisements, discovering how the media communicates messages to the audience and how those messages have changed over the years.

You'll learn how platforms such as TikTok and X target audiences by creating profiles and analysing stereotypes.

If you're interested in technology, video games, film, TV, podcasts or any other form of media, then media studies is the subject that will turn that interest into a passion!

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

You'll spend a lot of time analysing various media products throughout the course, learning how to critically analyse why creators make certain decisions to appeal to audiences. You will undertake a large piece of coursework covering both print and audio/visual media forms.

You'll have many opportunities to develop your media career, from screenwriting workshops to work experience at creative hubs such as Salford's Dock 10 and MediaCity.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

Many students go on to higher education, studying rewarding subjects such as English, sociology, journalism, marketing, publishing and film.

There are also exciting degree pathways in the creative industries including roles in: design, film and television production and radio broadcasting.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 2 x exams (70%) and coursework (30%)
- Exam board - Eduqas
- Employer partner organisations - MCFC, Co-op Group, Nuffield Health and GLL

# PHYSICS

## A LEVEL

Physics is a stimulating and challenging subject which will help you to understand and explain things that go on in the world around you. The course covers everything from the weird and nanoscopic science of quantum mechanics and particle physics to the vastness of our observable universe in astrophysics.

We also cover: waves, learning how sound and light travel throughout the universe; mechanics and materials, including explosions, collisions and projectiles; electricity, where you will discover how the modern world functions; gravitational and magnetic fields, what keeps us going round the sun, and the technology needed to keep your phone running all day; and nuclear physics - how can we use nuclear energy for carbon-free power?

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

Learning is accomplished by building on your existing maths and science knowledge, along with consistent practice with exam-style questions and regular practicals.

We also run trips to the Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre and the Daresbury Scientific Research Laboratory.

Students are also invited to visit the University of Manchester Department of Physics and Astronomy and take part in lectures.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

The majority of physics students go on to higher education studying subjects such as physics, engineering and maths. The skills gained by studying physics are also really useful for a whole range of careers, such as in: meteorology, climatology, environmental science, astronomy, radiography, medical physics, research, nanotechnology, photonics, computer science, financial analyst, corporate finance and many, many more.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - Grade 6 in GCSE Physics or 6/6 in Combined Science and Grade 6 in GCSE Maths
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 3 x exams and 12 x practical investigations
- Exam board - AQA

# PSYCHOLOGY

## A LEVEL

Psychology is a popular subject due to the appeal of being able to explain human thoughts, feelings and behaviours. The appeal is further enhanced by the vast and varied applications that psychology encompasses, from mental health treatments to improving the accuracy of eyewitness testimonies.

You'll study the range of explanations offered by five different psychological perspectives. You'll learn the crucial skills required to conduct valid and reliable psychological research. You'll focus on specific behaviours in-depth, including criminal and schizophrenic. And finally, you'll analyse various controversies, such as whether using animals in psychological research can ever be justified.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

You'll learn by applying your knowledge to real world behaviours, scenarios and interventions, including a range of therapies, such as cognitive behavioural therapy and a range of contemporary debates, such as 'should mothers be the primary caregiver of children?'

You'll conduct two research projects and this provides a vital

opportunity for you to develop and perfect your understanding of research methods.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

Studying A Level psychology enables students to develop important skills in writing, analysis and evaluation. It is valued as a rigorous academic subject by universities and is also relevant to career paths involving interaction with people. Examples include: journalism, medicine and sports management. Students may also decide to follow a career in a field of psychology, such as clinical or educational. We organise guest lecturers from psychologists and trips to university psychology faculties.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - Grade 5/5 in Combined Science and Grade 6 in a supporting subject
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 3 x exams
- Exam board - Eduqas (WJEC)
- Employer partner organisations - Nuffield Health, MCFC and CITC

# SOCIOLOGY

## A LEVEL

Do you find yourself questioning the way in which members of society behave, and what influences them? Are you interested in the dark sides of society that we often don't like to talk about such as poverty, racism and sexism? If so, sociology is the subject for you.

In the first year, we study the sociology of education, families and households. We ask questions such as: what's the point of the education system? And who benefits most from family life?

In the second year, we study the sociology of crime, deviance and beliefs. We ask questions such as: where are the real criminals in our society found - the street or boardroom? We explore the function of religion and whether science is the dominant belief system.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

There will be opportunities to attend a criminology conference, to access a wide range of contemporary sociology books and visit university sociology departments.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

The majority of sociology students go on to higher education, studying subjects such as sociology, criminology, law and social policy. Studying A Level sociology means you'll gain a broad understanding of society. It will provide you with a range of knowledge and skills that can be transferred to a variety of professions, including education, social work, government and counselling.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - Grade 5 English Language
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 3 x exams
- Exam board - AQA

# STATISTICS

## A LEVEL

Statistics allow us to put claims to the test, make informed decisions and draw measurably valid conclusions. In law, a misunderstanding of statistics could mean sending an innocent person to jail, or letting a guilty person walk free. In medicine, an understanding of statistics enables doctors to plan clinical trials, allowing us to measure the effectiveness of a treatment.

You'll be familiar with some probability and data handling topics from your GCSE maths studies. A-level statistics takes this a step further to develop the ability to draw conclusions from data. You will learn what it means for two events to be independent and what conditional probability means. You will learn how to form a hypothesis and put it to a statistical test.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

The modern world generates a vast amount of data in large datasets. You will gain practical experience working with a large dataset and you'll develop skills in using spreadsheets and databases, transferable to any future career.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

This course goes well with psychology, biology or geography A Levels. All sciences depend on being able to plan an experiment to collect data, from which valid conclusions can be drawn. There's a huge demand for young people with advanced level skills in handling data. This course will give candidates a distinct competitive advantage when applying for any science at university.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Extra entry requirements - Grade 5 in Higher Tier GCSE Maths and Grade 5 in English Language or other supporting subject. Students with a Grade 6 in GCSE Maths will be prioritised
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 3 x exams
- Exam board - Edexcel
- Maths Excellence Programme - see page 48 for more info



# APPLIEDs

(AAQs / Applied Generals / BTECs)

## GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF LEVEL 3 QUALIFICATIONS

Courses with a large dot next to their name in the Applied section are either new or have been changed since the first edition of the 2026 prospectus went to print due to government reforms.

More information and advice will be available at your interview. Alternatively, see our website for more information, or email [admissions@connell.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@connell.ac.uk) and our team will be happy to help.

**Please note:** entry criteria for any of our courses is also subject to change due to this ongoing review.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for any of our courses, you must achieve a

minimum of five GCSEs, grades 4-9, including English Language, English Literature and Maths. See each course's page for more info.

To study a full A Level programme, you need at least two grade 5s in essay based subjects as part of your five grade 4-9s, including Maths, English Language and English Literature.

Level 2 BTECs at Distinction level may be accepted for progression in the same subject area.

Alternative qualifications may be accepted, but students will need to purchase a UKENIC Statement of Comparability before we can make an offer. Students must be aged 16 or 17 on September 1st of the year for which they are applying.

# QUALIFICATION REFORM INFORMATION

In November 2025, the government confirmed that students could no longer study large BTECs in Applied Science and Health & Social Care, and instead needed to study smaller qualifications called AAQs.

As a result, we will no longer be able to offer triple Applied Science, or double/triple Health & Social Care in September 2026. See some alternative pathways for these courses below.

## APPLIED SCIENCE

### Biomedical Science pathway recommendations:

- NEW AAQ Applied Science
- NEW AAQ Medical Science
- Any third course of your choice

### Pharmacy and NHS pathway recommendations:

- NEW AAQ Applied Science
- NEW Medical Science
- Any third course of your choice

Suggested third courses for Applied Science: A Level Statistics; BTEC Applied Psychology; BTEC Sport & Exercise Science; NEW AAQ Health & Social Care; or anything else you enjoy!

### SIX NEW COURSES:

AAQ Applied Science

AAQ Early Childhood Development

AAQ Health & Social Care

AAQ Medical Science

AAQ Mental Health: Individuals and Society

Sport & Exercise Science

## HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

### Nursing and Midwifery pathway recommendations:

- NEW AAQ Health & Social Care
- NEW AAQ Medical Science

Any third course of your choice, such as: NEW AAQ Early Childhood Development; NEW AAQ Mental Health: Individuals and Society; BTEC Applied Psychology; NEW BTEC Sport & Exercise Science (single); A Level Sociology; A Level Psychology; or anything else you enjoy!

### Non-NHS pathway recommendations:

- NEW AAQ Early Childhood Development
- NEW AAQ Mental Health: Individuals and Society

Any third course of your choice, such as: Criminology; A Level English Language; A Level Sociology; or anything else you enjoy!

# APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

## ● EQUIVALENT TO ONE A LEVEL

Psychology is a popular A Level which we're excited to offer as a modular BTEC qualification. It's popular as people find psychological questions interesting: why do I behave / feel / think like this?

In your first year, you will look at approaches and applications of psychology. You'll learn about psychology's many explanations of behaviour, from the cognitive to the biological. In the second year, you will answer questions such as: how is stress linked to illness; why do people become addicted to behaviours or substances; and which factors influence whether people engage in healthy or unhealthy behaviours.

### HOW YOU'LL STUDY

You will have the opportunity to apply the knowledge you learn during extracurricular trips and visits. In previous years, students have visited Berlin, been on trips to university psychology departments and had the opportunity to attend talks from forensic, educational and clinical psychologists.

### CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

This qualification gives you the knowledge, understanding and skills for higher education courses in Psychology, Criminology, or for joint honours degrees in Psychology and Health & Social Care. It will also help you to progress to employment in a healthcare profession, such as nursing or social care, or to a role that supports the motivation of others, such as teacher, life coach or sports coach. It is relevant to any career path that involves interaction with people.

### ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Qualification type - BTEC
- Extra entry requirements - Grade 4/4 in Combined Science
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 1 x exam and 1 x coursework each year (worth 50% each year)
- Exam board - Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate
- Employer partner organisations - Nuffield Health, MCFC and CITC

# APPLIED SCIENCE



● EQUIVALENT TO ONE A LEVEL

Do you want to study biology, chemistry and physics? Do you want a more coursework-based subject?

Science-based AAQs are widely recognised by higher education and industry as the vocational qualification of choice at Level 3.

The core units: Principles and Applications of Biology; Principles and Applications of Chemistry; Principles and Applications of Physics; Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques and Science Investigation Skills or Contemporary Issues in Science.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

You will have the opportunity to visit a range of science-based institutions and organisations, as well as hearing about a variety of careers from professionals who will be invited to speak to you to support different units of your studies. A real highlight of the course is the opportunity to complete work experience in an area of Applied Science that is of interest to you.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

Applied Science could lead to a range of scientific careers, including Biomedical Sciences, Pharmacy, Pharmacology, Nursing, Forensic Science, and Criminology. Although these are the most popular choices that previous students have chosen, some have also gone on to study other specialist courses such as Engineering and Cybersecurity.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Qualification type - AAQ
- Extra entry requirements - Grade 4/4 in Combined Science
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - exams and a coursework portfolio each year
- Exam board - Pearson
- Employer partner organisations - Nuffield Health

# BUSINESS



EQUIVALENT TO ONE,  
TWO OR THREE A LEVELS

Throughout the two year course, you will study all elements of business which will provide you with the skills and knowledge to progress into the industry. You will have the opportunity to enhance your business knowledge through a variety of trips and hearing guest speakers. In previous years, this has included businesses such as Deloitte, HSBC and Co-op.

You will also develop skills in finance and accountancy which is a route that many of our learners progress into. In the second year of study, you can apply to be selected onto our Co-op Young Business Leaders placement, a unique and prolonged work experience opportunity at the Co-op's Angel Square HQ in Manchester (see page 47 for more info).

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

Throughout the course there are different forms of assessment, including internally assessed coursework (extended writing, presentations, excel spreadsheets or website design). The course also includes written exams and synoptic assessments to cover finance, marketing and business management. You will achieve a grade for each individual unit and they will add together to form your

final grade which is equivalent to three A Levels.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

The course provides the perfect foundation to start a career in business or to continue your studying at university in courses such as: business management, law, accounting, construction management and marketing. This course is also ideal for progression onto a higher level apprenticeship in accounting, business administration or similar.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Qualification type - BTEC
- Extra entry requirements - ideally studied GCSE or BTEC (Level 2) Business
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - mix of internal and external exams/synoptic assessments
- Exam board - Pearson BTEC Extended Diploma
- Employer partner organisations - MCFC, Co-op Group, Nuffield Health and GLL

# COMPUTING

## ● EQUIVALENT TO ONE A LEVEL

This qualification is for students seeking an in-depth study of the computing sector. It will equip you with the knowledge, skills and mindset required to thrive in the ever evolving field of technology.

Over the two year course four units will be taught, three are mandatory and one is optional.

The first year units: Fundamentals of Computer Systems and IT Systems Security & Encryption.

The second year units: Principles of Computer Science and the optional unit will be Website Development (this is subject to change, depending on the needs of students).

Studying at Connell means you'll have access to the latest computing equipment and you'll be taught by expert, passionate teachers.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

As well as the standard classroom learning experience, you will also have access to guest speakers and visits to industry leading businesses in the Manchester area and beyond. You will be assessed through a combination of internal and external assessments.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

Many students go on to study at university in fields such as: computer science, cyber security, artificial intelligence, software engineering, health informatics, project management and teaching.

The course also leads to a wide range of employment and apprenticeship options.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Qualification type - AAQ
- Extra entry requirements - Grade 5 in Maths
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - Mix of internal and external assessments
- Exam board - Pearson

# CRIMINOLOGY

## ● EQUIVALENT TO ONE A LEVEL

Intrigued by crime and criminal behaviour? Fascinated by the inner-workings of our criminal justice system? If so, this course is for you. Criminology draws from sociology, law and psychology to provide you with an understanding of crime, criminal behaviour and the criminal justice system.

In year one, you'll study the changing awareness of crime and you'll learn about the different criminological theories and how they influence the setting of public policy. In year two, you'll learn how to examine information in order to review the justice of criminal case verdicts. And you'll study how effective the process of social control is in turning criminal justice policy into practice.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

There are trips to the magistrates court and crown court, as well as opportunities to attend talks from a range of roles within the criminal justice system, including barristers, solicitors, prison officers, probation officers. Students will have the opportunity to take part in a mock crime scene and explore how to gather evidence to solve a crime.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

The course has been designed for students who want to access higher education degree courses, such as in criminology; criminology and criminal justice; criminology with law; and criminology and psychology.

Alternatively, the qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Qualification type - Applied General
- Extra entry requirements - none
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - 4 units: 2 assessed by exam, 2 assessed internally
- Exam board - WJEC Applied Diploma
- Employer partner organisations - Co-op Group and MCFC



# EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

## ● EQUIVALENT TO ONE A LEVEL

This AAQ qualification focuses on the essential knowledge and skills needed to support children's growth from birth up to eight years old. It integrates theoretical concepts with practical application.

You'll study four mandatory units in: Children's Development; Keeping Children Safe; Play and Learning; and Research and Reflective Practice.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

The course is assessed through a mix of external exams (50% - two units are assessed via written exams, each lasting one hour 45 minutes) and internal coursework (50% - these assignments involve applied knowledge, practical tasks, and research).

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

This course will open doors to lots of roles, like Teaching Assistant, Nursery Practitioner, and Early Years Educator, supporting children in play and structured learning. It also provides a foundation for apprenticeships (like Early Years Educator) and progression to higher education qualifications (Level 4/5 Diplomas) for management, special educational needs (SEN), or advanced support roles, leading to careers in health, social work, therapy, or becoming an Early Years Teacher.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Qualification type - AAQ
- Extra entry requirements - none
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - mix of external exams and internal coursework
- Exam board - Pearson
- Employer partner organisations - Nuffield Health



# HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

## ● EQUIVALENT TO ONE A LEVEL

Are you interested in a career in the Health and Social Care sector? Want a mix of practical learning and theory? Looking for a qualification that directly develops the applied skills required for university and the workplace?

This course provides a broad foundation of knowledge and skills, focusing on the core principles and practices of the health and social care sector. Units cover a combination of human biology, human development, and professional care principles.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

The AAQ structure is balanced to develop a range of skills, assessed through both external and internal methods.

External assessment (approx 50%): formal exams or externally set tasks, assessing your core knowledge and understanding (e.g. Human Lifespan, Anatomy and Physiology).

Internal assessment (approx 50%): coursework, including assignments, case studies, research projects, and skills demonstrations.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

The course is designed to equip you with the transferable skills valued by both universities and employers in the health and social care field and beyond.

Some potential career pathways include: Nursing (Adult, Child, Mental Health, Learning Disability), Social Work, Midwifery, Occupational Therapy, Paramedic Science, Public Health, Teaching/ Education, and Care Management.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Qualification type - AAQ
- Extra entry requirements - none
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - mix of coursework and exams
- Exam board - Pearson
- Employer partner organisations - Nuffield Health and GLL

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## ● EQUIVALENT TO ONE A LEVEL

This qualification is for students seeking an in-depth study of the information technology sector. It will equip you with the knowledge, skills and mindset required to thrive in the ever evolving field of technology.

Over the two year course, four units will be taught, two will be examination based and two will be assignment based, all of which are mandatory.

The first year units: Information Technology Systems and Website Development. The second year units: Cyber Security & Incident Management and Relational Database Development.

Studying at Connell means you'll have access to the latest computing equipment and you'll be taught by expert, passionate teachers.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

As well as the standard classroom learning experience, you will also have access to guest speakers and visits to industry leading businesses in the Manchester area and beyond. You will be assessed through a combination of internal and external assessments.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

Many students go on to study at university in fields such as: computer science, cyber security, artificial intelligence, software engineering, health informatics, project management and teaching. The course also leads to a wide range of employment and apprenticeship options.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Qualification type - AAQ
- Extra entry requirements - none
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - mix of internal and external assessments
- Exam board - Pearson

# MEDICAL SCIENCE

## ● EQUIVALENT TO ONE A LEVEL

You will learn about the principles and applications of medical science, and you'll develop practical and investigative skills built on fundamental knowledge.

Science-based AAQs are widely recognised by higher education and industry as the vocational qualification of choice at Level 3.

## WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

### Unit 1 - Principles of Human Physiology, Anatomy and Pathology:

You will learn how the human body works, be able to assess if it is in good or poor health, whilst learning how you can make a difference to others in the field of medical sciences.

### Unit 2 - Health Issues and Scientific Reporting:

You will develop your understanding of medical science through learning about contemporary health issues, alongside developing knowledge about scientific analysis, evaluation and reporting.

### Unit 3 - Practical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases:

You'll investigate the effect of antimicrobial agents on the growth of microorganisms, by selecting and applying

knowledge of microorganisms and infectious diseases.

**Unit 4 - Diseases, Disorders, Treatments and Therapies (Pharmacy)** or **Unit 5 - Biomedical Science** (unit to be confirmed).

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

This course provides a strong academic foundation for university entry into many health-related degrees or a stepping stone into technical and assistant roles in the science and healthcare sectors.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Qualification type - AAQ
- Extra entry requirements - Grade 4/4 in Combined Science
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - mix of coursework and exams
- Exam board - Pearson
- Employer partner organisations - GLL and Nuffield Health



# MENTAL HEALTH: INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETY

## ● EQUIVALENT TO ONE A LEVEL

This qualification provides a thorough understanding of mental health and wellbeing, looking at it from both an individual and a societal perspective.

This course is assessed through a blend of external exams and internal assignments.

## WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

**Fundamentals of Mental Health and the Individual:** You'll focus on defining mental health and wellbeing, exploring different models of mental health, common mental disorders, and wellbeing strategies.

**Mental Health, Wellbeing and Society:** You'll learn how societal views on mental health have changed over time, how attitudes and approaches to care have evolved, and how mental health and wellbeing are measured and influenced by modern society.

**Supporting and Promoting Mental Health in Organisations:** You'll explore how workplaces support the mental health of employees, identifying factors that impact wellbeing at work, and how to

communicate and implement mental health campaigns.

### **Community-based Support:**

You'll learn about the importance of social connectedness and social prescribing.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

This qualification provides the knowledge and skills for various support roles in the healthcare and social care sectors, e.g. Mental Health Support Worker or Youth Worker. It's also recognised by universities and further study at degree level could lead to professional careers, in Mental Health Nursing or Social Work.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Qualification type - AAQ
- Extra entry requirements - none
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - mix of coursework and exams
- Exam board - OCR

# SPORT

●●● EQUIVALENT TO THREE A LEVELS

The course is assessed internally via coursework and externally via exams. It includes sports participation and it can be taken alongside the CITC Football Pathway or as a stand alone course.

There are four examination units: Anatomy and Physiology; Fitness Training and Programming for Health; Sport; and Wellbeing.

The internally assessed units, include many of the practical elements: Application of Fitness Testing; Coaching for Performance; and Practical Sports Performance. Practical elements are supported by class tasks, presentations and written assessments to demonstrate your knowledge of the unit. There are also career related learning units to enhance your knowledge of a career in the sports industry.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

The majority of the assessments are coursework based and are assessed via practical performance analysis, presentations and reports. Some are completed as classroom based examinations. All of the course's units include visits to industry institutions such as Manchester Institute of Health and Performance (MIHP), Manchester City Football Club and

some regional universities. We also host guest speakers to deliver workshops and presentations.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

We have an exciting opportunity running alongside our sports courses through our GLL partnership. GLL provide volunteering and placement opportunities, so that students can gain work experience and employment skills. We'll support you to achieve your future goals, whether you're looking to gain employment, find an apprenticeship or progress to university. There are also scholarship opportunities with external organisations.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Qualification type - BTEC
- Extra entry requirements - M or D in BTEC L2 Sport
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - internally and externally assessed
- Exam board - BTEC Pearson
- Employer partner organisations - GLL, Nuffield Health, MCFC and CITC



# SPORT & EXERCISE SCIENCE

● ●●● EQUIVALENT TO ONE AND THREE A LEVELS

Do you have an interest in sport, exercise and physical activity? Are you curious about how science can enhance human performance? If so, this course could be for you.

You'll study an innovative and research-led curriculum in a range of world-class facilities. You'll have access to some of the world's best sporting facilities including: the Manchester Institute of Health and Performance, the National Squash Centre, the National Cycling Centre, Etihad Campus, and the East Manchester Leisure Centre.

Units include: functional anatomy; sports nutrition; applied sport and exercise psychology; field and laboratory fitness testing; and sports coaching.

## HOW YOU'LL STUDY

Through engaging lessons, sport science laboratory visits and conducting your own exercise research and performance analysis. You will gain skills to prepare for exercise testing, data handling and analysis of assessment methods in sport and exercise. You will also explore all components of consultation, assessment and sports massage, in order to safely and effectively plan

and conduct a treatment plan for sports performers.

## CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

The majority of students go onto higher education studying subjects such as Sport Science, Sports Rehabilitation, Sports Therapy and Sports Psychology. You'll gain transferable skills which will open up a lot of subjects at undergraduate level, as well as a number of career pathways.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Qualification type - BTEC
- Extra entry requirements - Grade 4/4 in Combined Science and at least one Grade 5 or above in an essay based subject
- Course length - 2 years
- Assessment - internal assessments, exams, practical observations and video analysis
- Exam board - Pearson BTEC Extended Diploma
- Employer partner organisations - GLL, Nuffield Health, MCFC and CITC

# LEVEL 2 CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY PATHWAY + GCSE RESIT

A one-year full-time programme of study for students who need to resit their GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths in order to access a Level 3 course or employment in September 2027.

Students will resit their Maths and English GCSEs to improve their grades alongside completing a BTEC Level 2 Technical Certificate in Business Enterprise (the equivalent of an additional GCSE).

You'll learn about developing innovative concepts, understanding consumer needs, crafting effective communication strategies, and managing finances. It'll help you to transform your creative ideas into real world projects through hands-on activities. You'll develop practical skills to support further studies or to enter the world of work.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- You must be aged 16 or 17 on September 1st for the year you're applying.
- You need to have achieved a Grade 3 or above in English Literature, English language, Maths and at least two other subjects or have been in the UK for less than 2 years.\*

## VOLUNTEERING AND WORK EXPERIENCE

You will also get the opportunity to take part in volunteering and work experience with some of our link employers:

- Manchester City Football Group
- The Co-op Group
- City in the Community
- Manchester Institute of Health & Performance
- East Manchester Leisure Centre

There will be an offer of work experience/interviews for employment for students who are performing well on this course as well as the option to transition to a Level 3 course at Connell in September 2027\*\* if this is your preferred route.

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\* No GCSE in English/Maths? You'll need to take a baseline assessment prior to admission.

\*\* To progress to a Level 3 course at Connell you'll need to meet our minimum entry requirements, and have a good attendance and conduct record.

# EXTRAS EXTRAS EXTRAS

## CITC FOOTBALL PROGRAMME

A specialist football training and development programme delivered by our partner's City In The Community (CITC). It's for students studying either of our triple sport BTECs.

Students take part in football training and matches as part of their timetable to enhance their BTEC learning experience focussing on football.

## CO-OP YOUNG BUSINESS LEADERS

Students studying triple BTEC Business apply in Year 13 to join the programme via an application, interview and assessment day process. If successful, they take part in a unique and prolonged work experience opportunity, hosted by Co-op Business Services at Co-op HQ in Manchester that runs alongside their course.

Students get work experience in a business environment, such as customer services, recruitment, HR, finance, communications and marketing; develop co-operative leadership skills and behaviours; and gain key employability skills through meaningful experiences. And could even get a job or an apprenticeship with the Co-op after graduating from Connell.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH (DofE)

If you fancy a challenge and want a taste of adventurous activities, why not take part in the DofE Award whilst studying at Connell?

Anyone can do it - it's a great way to increase your resilience, discover new interests, and develop teamworking skills. It also gives you a chance to develop essential life skills that can help you get a job. It's a recognised mark of achievement which is greatly respected by employers and universities, who want to see evidence of "soft skills" developed through extracurricular activities.

You will have the opportunity to take part in an expedition, which consists of hiking, camping, outdoor cooking, and more. There are other sections of the award which you can complete, which include volunteering within the local community, physical enhancement and skill development.

## EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

EPQs are standalone qualifications, equivalent to half an A Level in UCAS points, where students undertake an independent research project.

# EXTRAS EXTRAS EXTRAS

Passionate about environmental change? We run the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) and Pearson Sustainability EPQ.

You'll dive deep into a sustainability topic of your choice and develop crucial research, critical thinking, and project management skills. Skills that are all highly valued by universities and employers.

If sustainability isn't your thing, we'll support you to do an EPQ on any topic of your choice. Any student can do an EPQ.

## MATHS EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

We play a key role in the Maths Excellence Programme, which aims to drive maths attainment across the Co-op Academies Trust.

Our students mentor younger students from other Trust primary and secondary schools, helping to inspire them to study maths at GCSE and beyond.

Connell students get access to mentoring and tutoring support from our dedicated maths tutor. They also get access to a range of other experiences to help encourage them to pursue maths-related degrees.

## SPORT IN THE COMMUNITY

Students studying either of our full-time sport BTECs can apply to this programme.

You will be given a guaranteed interview and an employment trial with GLL - one of Manchester's biggest employers in the sport and leisure industry. Your employment with them can run throughout your time at Connell and beyond into university or full-time employment. As a national company you will have the opportunity to work for them wherever you choose to go in the future too.

## STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Student ambassadors help the college at recruitment events such as open days, interview evenings and when schools visit for careers fairs. Any student can apply for the role and the successful ones complete a specially designed training programme. After completing training and volunteering at their induction events, they can earn the Co-op Young Leaders Award. The programme provides a great way to build confidence, employability skills, and volunteering experience.



# CAREERS SUPPORT

When you apply to Connell the first thing we'll ask you is "what do you want to do in the future?".

It's our job to help you make the right choices to get you onto your chosen career path.

Everything we do is about supporting you to succeed in your future. Every student leaves us with a career pathway to follow.

## HOW DO WE SUPPORT YOU?

### EXPERT GUIDANCE

Our dedicated careers team - assisted by independent advisors - are available every day to answer your questions and support you.

When you start, we'll ask you about your career interests and we'll enrol you into a planned programme of 'career ready' experiences.

We notify you of any opportunities in your chosen areas. If you're not sure what you want to do in the future, we'll work with you to help narrow down your interests so that you're ready to apply for the best next steps in Year 13.

## UNIVERSITY

One of the key benefits of coming to Connell is our close partnerships with universities across the North West and beyond (see page 6 for more info). You'll have the chance to visit some to get a taste of university life. We'll help you with your career choices, support your university applications and interview preparation.

You'll be introduced to university widening participation programmes. They help students with the ability to benefit from higher education to have the opportunity to do so regardless of their background. Some offer scholarships.

## APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships are work-based experiences that include an element of study. There are two types:

- A degree level apprenticeship - paid work in a real job whilst studying a university degree and not building up any debt.
- An employer based apprenticeship - paid work in a role (or multiple roles) building up experience and gaining professional qualifications, e.g. a paralegal or a financial advisor.

Connell has close working relationships with some of Manchester's major apprenticeship providers who offer opportunities in areas such as law, finance, construction, etc. Some students opt for an apprenticeship as their

next step along their chosen pathway.

## PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Our aim is to support all students in the planning of their career, so that they leave Connell well informed and equipped for the next step of their career. We support students to:

- Research their career ideas and higher education goals (e.g. visit at least two universities; meet some employers and apprenticeship providers in their subject areas; etc).
- Develop self-awareness of their skills, strengths and interests in relation to higher education and career options (e.g. attend 121 with the careers team; get feedback on your CV, personal statement/letter of application and UCAS application; etc).
- Identify and develop key employability skills so that they have the confidence to demonstrate these during the recruitment process (e.g. take part in mock interviews, voluntary work and work experience; etc).

## CEIAG

We're proud to have been awarded the quality in careers award. Our CEIAG programme - carefully planned careers education, information, advice and guidance - was described as 'an example of outstanding practice' and the 'quality and breadth' of our careers provision was commended.

# CONNELL CURRICULUM

The Connell Curriculum is designed to help you be ready for your future.

All students study **qualifications** equivalent to three A Levels, our **CORE** curriculum (see the opposite page for more information) and take part in weekly enrichment/ volunteering **experiences** (options include sports, subject/career related sessions, volunteering and more...).



# CORE

Everything we do at Connell is aimed at helping you prepare for your next steps. It's not enough for us to get you good qualifications. We want to make sure that you're equipped to succeed in a competitive world and that you stand out from the crowd.

## OUR CORE PROVISION

We work hard to make sure that we develop your skills and knowledge in lessons and beyond in:

- Relationship and Sex Education
- Health and Wellbeing
- Staying Safe Online and Off
- Rights, Responsibilities and British Values
- Diversity and Equality
- Life Beyond College

## CORE LESSONS

You cover everything from staying safe to finance; oracy skills to succeed at interviews; and academic writing so that you're ready for university or employment.

## CORE ASSEMBLIES

We come together to learn about and reflect on many of the big issues facing our world today and young people in particular.

We have guest speakers and we celebrate your successes and inspire you to be ambitious and achieve all that you can.

## CORE DEVELOPMENT

We help you develop skills to be a reflective, self motivated professional who is able to manage their time, reflect on their experiences and take charge of their learning and progress.

## CORE EXPERIENCES

We help you choose the right career path - supported by our employer partners - and equip you to succeed, e.g. work experience opportunities, mock interviews, etc. Your learning experience is enhanced by excellent IT, social and sporting facilities to help you study effectively and stay fit, healthy and happy.

## CORE SUPPORT

We care about your well-being and our experienced staff are there to help you get the support and guidance to achieve your aspirations. Specialist help is available to meet your specific needs. You can request additional support any time.

# PARENT + CARERS INFO

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU

We believe our students succeed best and reach their career goals if we all work in partnership - students, teachers and parents/carers.

## PARENT/CARER PROMISE

We want to work with you to help your child achieve their career aspirations. We will let you know if your child's not succeeding and how you can help. You'll have access to live information about attendance and grades through an app called Arbor.

## GETTING READY FOR THEIR NEXT STEPS

Our careers advice and guidance starts as soon as your child applies to us. We will give you the information to help them make the right choices from day one.

## PARENT PROGRAMME

We organise regular events to help you learn how to support your child. We provide information and advice about a wide variety of topics, including:

- Understanding your child's progress
- Understanding college life and what we expect
- University applications, including finance
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Online safety
- How to support with revision and exam anxiety





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Scan the QR code for the latest version of our prospectus (in case we've made any changes) or visit:

[www.connell.ac.uk/prospectus](http://www.connell.ac.uk/prospectus)



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