



**THE CASTLE ROCK
SCHOOL**
SIXTH FORM
Lionheart Educational Trust

**YOUR
FUTURE
STARTS
HERE!**



PROSPECTUS

KEY INFORMATION

WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING AND WHEN?

APPLY USING PS16.CO.UK

September 2026—January 2027

APPLICATION DEADLINE

31st January 2027

STUDENTS INVITED TO ATTEND AN INTERVIEW

February/March 2027

PLACES OFFERED TO STUDENTS

March 2027

STUDENTS NEED TO HAVE ACCEPTED THEIR PLACE

March 2027

GCSE EXAMINATIONS

May/June 2027

YEAR 12 INDUCTION DAY

July 2027

RESULTS DAY

19th August 2027

START YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE CASTLE ROCK SIXTH FORM

September 2027



CONTENTS

INTRODUCING OUR ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	4
WELCOME FROM OUR HEAD OF SIXTH FORM	5
LEVEL 3 ADVANCED STUDY OPTIONS	6
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.....	7
PATHWAYS	8
COURSES	9
SUPER & EXTRA-CURRICULAR	22
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT.....	23
ADMISSIONS.....	24
ALUMNI	25
PARTNERSHIPS.....	26
STUDENT PLEDGE	27
OUR TRUST	29

INTRODUCING

OUR ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL OF THE CASTLE ROCK SCHOOL

I am excited to welcome you to The Castle Rock Sixth Form. The Sixth Form is an exciting part of our school where we have the privilege of developing our young people in the subjects that most interest them.

We take this responsibility very seriously, which is why we not only invest in students' academic abilities but also develop them holistically through a thorough PDC programme and extra-curricular opportunities.

Our core aim is to ensure we provide the stepping stones for success once students leave The Castle Rock School. This means that we teach challenging lessons whilst supporting our young people so that they can confidently take their next steps, whether at University or through an apprenticeship. I am proud to say that 75% of our Sixth Form students decided to continue their education at University level last year and that their time at Castle Rock had instilled in them this love of learning. The rest went on to high quality work placements or apprenticeships which allow them to enter the workplace whilst being offered training.

Our staff are dedicated to student success and constantly working to improve. As part of our community we look forward to working with you in taking The Castle Rock School from strength to strength.



Roma Dhameja
Associate Principal of
The Castle Rock School



WELCOME

TO OUR VIBRANT AND SUCCESSFUL SIXTH FORM

We are delighted that you are considering joining us. Located on The Castle Rock School campus, the Sixth Form community comprises students from a number of schools within the local area. We pride ourselves on our inclusive provision and nurturing environment, which encourages all students to succeed. At The Castle Rock Sixth Form, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum covering an impressive range of academic and vocational subjects.

We are very proud of our results. In 2026, students maintained an impressive record of achievement across the curriculum, from Sport, Media Production, Chemistry, Biology and Maths. Students receive unrivalled support from our supportive and highly qualified team of specialist teachers. Students at The Castle Rock Sixth Form benefit from a dedicated Sixth Form study centre and pastoral mentor. The centre is equipped with the latest ICT equipment and access to support throughout the school day. Every student is offered an individual programme of support, and a personal tutor, in addition to the Sixth Form support team.

We make every effort to ensure that students are stretched academically and strive for excellence within the security of our supportive pastoral system. Students are guided to make well-informed decisions about their future goals, aspirations and careers. This year, we have seen a record number of students apply for university and degree level apprenticeships across a wide variety of career pathways including Medicine, Dentistry, Neuroscience, Psychology and Law. This year our students have gone on to study at universities such as Cambridge, Durham, York and Nottingham.

As well as academic success, students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, for both personal development and to contribute to the wider school community. Sixth Form students are given opportunities to become positive role models and mentors to younger students.

Inevitably, this prospectus can only give you a glimpse of life in our Sixth Form and we would encourage you to visit us for a tour around the campus. We look forward to welcoming you and supporting you in the next phase of your education.



Emma Parker
Head of
The Castle Rock Sixth Form

LEVEL 3

ADVANCED STUDY OPTIONS

Basic entry requirements: minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above (including either English Language / Literature and Maths). However individual subjects may have further requirements which you can see in the adjacent table and following subject pages.

The Sixth Form curriculum has been developed to offer maximum flexibility at Level 3, for students intending to progress to higher education, advanced apprenticeships or employment. A diverse range of A Level subjects are offered, together with a comprehensive suite of vocational qualifications including the Level 3 BTEC qualification. The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is also available to supplement the curriculum, as is the LIBF Level 3 Certificate in Financial Studies (equivalent to an AS level) for all students as part of their enrichment.

SIXTH FORM PROGRAMMES TO ENRICH, EXTEND AND DEVELOP CRUCIAL EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS...

We offer a wide range of activities and courses to build resilience in our students. Students are obliged to commit to at least one enrichment activity, as an essential component of their programme of study.

They will also need to undertake a meaningful work experience during their time with us and will be supported to ensure that this not only benefits their future career aspirations, but allows them to explore different areas of industry.

THE CORE TUTORIAL PROGRAMME (PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Every student is allocated a tutor group with a personal tutor. The tutor delivers our bespoke Personal Development programme (personal, social, health and economic) that covers a range of issues from relationships, to extremism, careers advice and preparation for the next stage whether that be the UCAS or advanced apprenticeship application process.

The tutor monitors individual student progress and identifies strengths and areas in which they need to improve. A student's tutor is their first port of call for issues regarding pastoral concerns, attendance, academic progress and attainment.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

FOR OUR WIDE-RANGING CURRICULUM OFFER.

SUBJECTS	SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Applied Science (BTEC Level 3)	General entry plus grade 5-5 in Combined Science or two grade 5s in separate sciences.
Art, Craft and Design (A Level)	General entry plus a grade 5 in a Design subject or portfolio submission
Biology (A Level)	General entry plus a grade 6-6 in Combined Science, or grade 6 in Biology. Plus a grade 5 in English Literature or Language
Business Studies (A Level)	General entry plus a grade 5 in Maths and English Literature or Language.
Chemistry (A Level)	General entry plus a grade 6-6 in Combined Science, or grade 6 in Chemistry. Plus a grade 6 in Maths and a grade 5 in English Literature or Language
English Literature (A Level)	General entry plus a grade 5 in English Literature and Language
French (A Level)	General entry plus a grade 5 in French and a grade 5 in English Literature or Language
Geography (A Level)	General entry plus a grade 5 in English Literature or Language. Plus a grade 5 in a Humanities subject
Ladies Hairdressing (VTCT Level 2 Diploma)*	Hairdressing may be offered as a bespoke programme - please contact the school directly if you wish to express an interest. Students should have passed GCSE English and Maths with a grade 4 to access this course.
History (A Level)	General entry plus a grade 5 in English Literature or Language. Plus a grade 5 in a Humanities subject
Health and Social Care (CTEC)	General entry requirements
Mathematics (A Level)	General entry plus a grade 6 in Mathematics
Media Production (BTEC Level 3)	General entry requirements
Performing Arts (CTEC)	General entry requirements
Physics (A Level)	General entry requirements plus a grade 6 in Physics, grade 6 in Mathematics and a grade 5 in English Literature or Language
Psychology (A Level)	General entry requirements plus a grade 4 in Mathematics and a grade 5 in English Literature or Language
Sociology (A Level)	General entry requirements plus a grade 5 in English Literature or Language
Sport (CTEC)	General entry requirements

PATHWAYS

TARGETED PATHWAYS FOR SPECIFIC SECTORS

All Pathways will include an Extended Project Qualification undertaken in Year 12 where a grade 6 has been achieved in English Literature or Language.

Students do not have to take a pathway, they can select their three chosen courses - but these provide some advice for those looking into sectors such as Business, Economics, Law, Engineering (Chemical or Mechanical) and Criminology.

Are you considering a future in Criminology or Law? - Explore the fascinating world of crime and society with A Levels in:

- English Literature
- Sociology
- Psychology

Inspired by Innovation and Design? - If you're considering a future in Engineering, why not take A Levels in:

- Physics
- Maths
- Chemistry

Are you considering a future in Business or Economics? - Step into the business world with A Levels in:

- Business
- Mathematics
- Psychology.

Are you considering a future in Sports Science or Performance? - Unlock your potential with A Levels in:

- Biology
- Sport
- Media

“WE ENJOY OUR LESSONS AND OUR TEACHER IS ALWAYS THERE TO LISTEN TO OUR CONCERNS.”
JAMES



COURSES

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

A Level Art, Craft & Design is an exciting and highly personalised course that encourages students to explore the world through creativity, curiosity and independent thinking. Students investigate how artists, designers and makers respond to social, cultural and technological influences while developing their own artistic voice through research, experimentation, refinement and making. Creative journeys rarely follow a straight path, and students are encouraged to embrace risk-taking, innovation and discovery as they transform ideas into meaningful outcomes.

What Will You Study?

Students can specialise in areas that genuinely inspire them, including **Fine Art, Photography, Textile Design, Three-Dimensional Design and Graphic Communication**. This may include **drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, installation art, fashion design, garment construction, surface pattern, textile printing, photography, digital editing, moving image, product design, architecture, interior design, jewellery design, theatre and film set design, branding, illustration, advertising, packaging design, typography and digital media**.

Why Choose This Course?

This course is ideal for students who are **creative, inquisitive and independent**. It develops highly transferable skills including **creative thinking, critical analysis, research, problem-solving, project management, communication, presentation, reflection, resilience, innovation and independent learning**. Students take increasing ownership of their projects, selecting themes, researching practitioners and producing highly personal outcomes that reflect their interests and ambitions.

Facilities

Students benefit from exceptional specialist facilities including a **dedicated Sixth Form Art & Design studio, independent study spaces, photography studio, DSLR cameras, textile workshops, sewing and embellishment equipment, textile printing facilities, laser-cutting technology, prototyping equipment and specialist workshop resources for architecture, interiors, product design, jewellery and set design**.

Future Pathways

The course provides an excellent foundation for degrees and careers in **Fine Art, Illustration, Graphic Design, Photography, Fashion, Textile Design, Interior Design, Architecture, Product Design, Jewellery Design, Theatre and Production Design, Animation, Visual Effects, Creative Media, Advertising, Branding and Art Foundation programmes**. The transferable skills developed are equally valued within **business, marketing, education, psychology, engineering, entrepreneurship, project management, product development and digital industries**.

BIOLOGY

Explore the science of life with A Level Biology—a fascinating subject that helps you understand how living organisms function, adapt, and evolve. From cells to ecosystems, this course is perfect for curious minds who want to make sense of the natural world and its complex systems.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

Year 1:

- Biological Molecules
- Cells
- Exchange of Substances in Organisms
- Genetic Information, Variation, and Relationships

Year 2:

- Energy Transfers in and Between Organisms
- Responses to Internal and External Changes
- Genetics, Populations, Evolution, and Ecosystems
- Control of Gene Expression

Why choose this course?

Biology is ideal if you're interested in health, the environment, or how life works at every level. It combines theory with practical lab work and builds skills in analysis, problem-solving, and research—perfect preparation for science-based careers or further study.

Potential future pathways

Biology opens doors to a wide range of degrees and careers, including:

- Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry
- Nursing, Midwifery, Physiotherapy
- Sports Science, Forensic Science, Ecology
- Even non-science fields like Law, Journalism, and Accountancy

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

- Apply for a Nuffield Bursary and gain real-world lab experience
- Take part in university visits and science enrichment activities



BUSINESS STUDIES

Get to grips with the real world of business—from boardroom decisions to marketing campaigns. A Level Business Studies gives you the tools to understand how businesses operate, grow, and adapt in a fast-changing world.

Topics studied in the syllabus include

- Unit 1: What is business? Managing marketing and finance
- Unit 2: Managing people and operations
- Unit 3: Business and society, business and the external environment, and business strategy

Why choose this course?

If you're interested in entrepreneurship, management, or how companies succeed, this course is for you. You'll explore real-life case studies, develop critical thinking, and gain insight into the challenges and opportunities businesses face today.

Potential future pathways

This course is a great foundation for:

- Business, Marketing, or Management degrees
- Apprenticeships in finance, retail, or HR
- Careers in banking, administration, or starting your own business

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

- Business competitions and enterprise challenges
- Guest speakers and trips to local businesses

CHEMISTRY

Unlock the secrets of matter and reactions with A Level Chemistry. This challenging and rewarding course explores the building blocks of the universe and how they interact—from the chemistry of life to the materials that shape our world.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

- Organic Chemistry: The chemistry of carbon-based compounds, including pharmaceuticals, plastics, and perfumes
- Inorganic Chemistry: The study of elements and compounds beyond carbon, including transition metals and periodic trends
- Physical Chemistry: The principles behind chemical reactions, including kinetics, thermodynamics, and spectroscopy

Why choose this course?

Chemistry is essential for many science and healthcare careers. It develops your analytical thinking, problem-solving, and practical lab skills—making it one of the most respected and versatile A Levels.

Potential future pathways

A Level Chemistry is a gateway to:

- Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science
- Chemistry, Biochemistry, Forensic Science
- Environmental Science, Engineering, and more

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

- University taster days and lectures
- Practical workshops and enrichment sessions

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Step into the world of powerful stories, unforgettable characters, and big ideas. A Level English Literature invites you to explore classic and contemporary texts through your own lens—encouraging independent thought, creativity, and critical analysis.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

- Aspects of Tragedy – Explore timeless themes like ambition, pride, and downfall through iconic tragic characters.
- Elements of Crime Writing – Dive into the world of mystery, morality, and justice in this modern, thought-provoking genre.
- Independent Study (NEA) – Choose your own poetry and prose texts to explore from a critical perspective, using approaches like feminism, Marxism, or eco-criticism.

Why choose this course?

If you love reading, debating, and thinking deeply about human experiences, this course is for you. You'll have the freedom to explore texts that interest you, develop your own interpretations, and grow as a confident, independent thinker and writer.

Potential future pathways

English Literature is highly respected by universities and employers. It's a great foundation for degrees and careers in:

- English, Journalism, Law, and Creative Writing
- Speech and Language Therapy, Education, and even Science-based degrees
- Any field that values communication, analysis, and empathy

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

- Theatre trips to The Globe, National Theatre, and RSC
- Visits to the Cheltenham Literature Festival
- Opportunities to explore literature beyond the classroom



FRENCH

A Level French is your passport to the wider world. This course goes beyond grammar and vocabulary—it's about understanding French-speaking cultures, discussing global issues, and expressing yourself with confidence and flair.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

- Social Issues and Trends – Explore topics like family, education, and multiculturalism in French-speaking societies.
- Political and Artistic Culture – Discover French cinema, music, and political life.
- Literary Texts and Films – Study a novel and a film (or two texts) in depth.
- Independent Research Project – Choose a topic that interests you and present it in French as part of your speaking exam.

Why choose this course?

French is a facilitating subject that opens doors to top universities and global careers. You'll develop communication, research, and critical thinking skills—all while becoming fluent in one of the world's most widely spoken languages.

Potential future pathways:

A Level French is highly valued in fields such as:

- Teaching, Translation, and International Business
- Journalism, Marketing, and Media
- Government, Travel, and the Charity Sector

Extra-Curricular Opportunities:

- Practice everyday French with your teachers
- Support younger students learning French
- Run or attend lunchtime clubs focused on French culture
- Enrichment activities linked to your personal interests

GEOGRAPHY

Explore the world around you—its landscapes, people, and power structures. A Level Geography is a dynamic and thought-provoking subject that helps you understand the forces shaping our planet and the challenges facing future generations.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

Year 1:

- Dynamic Landscapes: Tectonic hazards, coasts, and glacial systems
- Dynamic Places: Globalisation and shaping places (Diverse Places or Regeneration)

Year 2:

- Physical Systems & Sustainability: Water and carbon cycles, energy security, climate change
- Human Systems & Geopolitics: Superpowers and global development

Why choose this course?

If you're curious about the world, enjoy fieldwork, and want to make sense of global issues like climate change, inequality, and urbanisation—Geography is for you. It combines science, politics, and economics, and develops skills in analysis, research, and communication.

Potential future pathways:

Geography is a highly respected subject that leads to a wide range of degrees and careers, including:

- Environmental Management, Urban Planning, Meteorology
- Law, Finance, Marketing, Education, and International Development

Extra-Curricular Opportunities:

- Residential fieldwork trips to locations like Norfolk, Dorset, and North Wales
- Hands-on investigations and real-world data collection
- Opportunities to explore geography beyond the classroom

LADIES HAIRDRESSING

Turn your passion for style into a professional skill with the VTCT Level 2 Diploma in Ladies Hairdressing. This hands-on course is perfect for creative, people-focused students who want to start a career in the hair and beauty industry.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

- Client consultation and communication
- Blow-drying, styling, and setting hair
- Cutting, colouring, and lightening techniques
- Health, safety, and industry regulations
- Anatomy and physiology relevant to hairdressing

Why choose this course?

If you love working with people, enjoy being creative, and want to learn practical skills that lead directly to employment, this course is for you. You'll train in a real salon environment, build confidence, and gain the experience employers are looking for.

Potential future pathways:

This qualification prepares you for:

- Employment as a junior stylist in salons or mobile/home-based settings
- Progression to Level 3 Diplomas in Hairdressing or Barbering
- Becoming a State Registered Hairdresser (SRH)

Extra-Curricular Opportunities:

- Weekly salon work placements for real-world experience
- Opportunities to build a client base using friends and family as models
- Develop commercial awareness, customer service, and sustainability skills

HISTORY

A Level History is a varied and exciting course which enables students to develop their knowledge of both British History (through a breadth study of the Tudors) and international History (through a depth study of Weimar and Nazi Germany), as well as their own research skills through the coursework component of Civil Rights in the USA. It is assessed through both examination and coursework.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

Tudors (Breadth Study) 1485-1603

- Government of England, relations with foreign powers, and economic policies and their impact.
- Social and cultural history including poverty, law and order, and the divide between different geographical areas.
- The history of ideas such as the Renaissance and Humanism as well as religious conflict and co-operation.
- In-depth and comparative studies of all monarchs from Henry VII to Elizabeth I.

Democracy & Nazism (Depth Study) 1918-1945

- Impact of World War One and the German Revolution.
- The instability of Weimar, the impact of the 1920s and the Great Depression.
- The rise of the Nazi Party and life in Nazi Germany and World War Two.
- In-depth study and primary source analysis.
- Non-examined assessment (4,500 words maximum)
- Self-researched project incorporating knowledge, primary source analysis and interpretations on an important historical concept e.g. causation or significance.

Why choose this course?

If you enjoyed History or Combined Humanities at GCSE and are curious about both modern and medieval worlds, this course could be your ideal next step. It's designed for students who love uncovering the past, debating different perspectives, and drawing connections across time. If you're fascinated by stories of people, power, and change—and you're interested in subjects like English, other humanities, or social sciences—this course will deepen your understanding and keep your curiosity alive.

Potential future pathways:

History develops a range of skills which are highly valued by employers and universities alike such as analysis, essay-writing, research, empathy, and cultural literacy. Many history students go on to enjoy careers in education, law, government and social policy, and management.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

If you're passionate about helping others and want to make a real difference in people's lives, Health and Social Care is the course for you. This Level 3 CTEC Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A Level) blends theory with practical skills to prepare you for a future in the healthcare or social care sectors.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

- Human Lifespan Development – Explore how people grow and change from birth to later adulthood
- Working in Health and Social Care – Learn about key roles, responsibilities, and legislation in the sector
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs – Understand how to provide personalised care
- Psychological Perspectives – Discover how psychology helps explain human behaviour and development

Why choose this course?

This course is ideal if you're considering a career in nursing, social work, or any caring profession. You'll gain real-world knowledge, develop essential communication and research skills, and apply what you learn to real-life scenarios. Work experience opportunities help bring your learning to life.

Potential future pathways:

This qualification leads to a wide range of degrees and careers, including:

- Nursing, Midwifery, Paramedic Science
- Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy
- Radiography, Podiatry, and NHS Practitioner Training

Extra-Curricular Opportunities:

- Work experience placements in health and social care settings
- Opportunities to apply theory in practical, real-world contexts
- Support with university applications and career planning

MEDIA PRODUCTION

Step behind the scenes of the creative industries with the BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media Production. This course is perfect for students who want to explore storytelling, design, and digital creativity in a hands-on, practical way.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

- Media Representations – Analyse how media portrays people, places, and events(exam)
- Pre-Production Portfolio – Plan and prepare for a media project (coursework)
- Responding to a Commission – Create a media product based on a real-world brief
- Optional Unit – Chosen by the Head of Media to suit student interests

Why choose this course?

If you're creative, tech-savvy, and interested in how media shapes the world, this course is for you. You'll build a portfolio of work, develop industry-relevant skills, and gain experience in everything from planning to production.

Potential future pathways

This course is a great foundation for careers and degrees in:

- Film & TV Production, Journalism, and Broadcasting
- Animation, Scriptwriting, and Game Design
- Advertising, Marketing, and Digital Media

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

- Access to industry-standard software and equipment
- Opportunities to work on real commissions and creative briefs
- Media trips, guest speakers, and creative showcases





MATHEMATICS

A Level Mathematics is all about solving problems, spotting patterns, and making sense of the world through numbers. Whether you're aiming for a career in science, business, or technology, this course gives you the tools to think logically and work confidently with data and equations.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

- Algebra, functions, and coordinate geometry
- Trigonometry, exponentials, and logarithms
- Differentiation and integration
- Vectors and mathematical proof
- Probability, statistics, and hypothesis testing
- Mechanics: forces, motion, and Newton's laws

Why choose this course?

Maths is one of the most respected and versatile A Levels. It sharpens your problem-solving skills and supports subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Economics, and Psychology. If you enjoy working with numbers and thinking analytically, this course is a great fit.

Potential future pathways

A Level Maths is essential or highly recommended for degrees in

- Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, and Computer Science
- Economics, Actuarial Science, and Architecture
- It's also a strong foundation for careers in finance, data analysis, and beyond

Extra-Curricular Opportunities:

- Academic mentoring and peer support
- UK Senior Mathematics Challenge
- Problem-solving workshops and competitions

PERFORMING ARTS

Whether you're a performer, creator, or behind-the-scenes visionary, the OCR Cambridge Technical Diploma in Performing Arts lets you explore your passion and develop real-world skills. Students can apply each of the core units to their preferred art form including dance, acting or theatre production.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

Core Units (all students):

- Prepare to Work in the Performing Arts Sector
- Proposal for a Commissioning Brief
- Influential Performance Practice
- Combined Arts
- Performance Repertoire

Pathway Options:

- Acting: Acting Technique, Classical Theatre, Script Writing
- Dance: Dance Technique, Performance, Choreography
- Music: Create Music to Perform, Instrumental Technique, Music Technology
- Theatre Production: Stage Management, Lighting/Sound Design, Set Design

Why choose this course?

This course is perfect for students who want to express themselves, work collaboratively, and gain experience in the creative industries. You'll build confidence, develop performance and production skills, and learn how to thrive in a competitive, exciting sector.

Potential future pathways:

This qualification supports progression into:

- Performing Arts degrees and vocational training
- Careers in theatre, dance, music, media, and production
- Roles in teaching, events, marketing, and creative industries

Extra-Curricular Opportunities:

- Take part in live performances and showcases
- Collaborate on productions as part of your assessment
- Gain experience in real-world performance settings

PHYSICS

From black holes to quantum particles, A Level Physics helps you understand the universe at every scale. This course is ideal for curious minds who love solving problems and want to explore how the world works through science and maths.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

Year 1:

- Practical Skills in Physics
- Foundations of Physics
- Forces and Motion
- Electrons, Waves, and Photons

Year 2:

- Newtonian World and Astrophysics
- Particles and Medical Physics

Why choose this course?

Physics is a challenging and rewarding subject that develops your analytical, mathematical, and practical skills. It's essential for many STEM careers and gives you a deeper understanding of the physical world.

Potential future pathways

Physics is a gateway to degrees and careers in:

- Physics, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Architecture, Medicine, and Computer Science
- Research, Data Science, and Aerospace

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

- Visits to CERN and the National Space Centre
- Engineering Education Scheme participation
- Links with Leicester and Loughborough universities



PSYCHOLOGY

Explore the science of the mind and behaviour with A Level Psychology. This fascinating subject helps you understand why people think, feel, and act the way they do—perfect for anyone curious about human nature and real-world issues.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

- Psychology Past to Present – Discover five key psychological approaches including biological, cognitive, and psychodynamic, and explore classic studies and debates
- Investigating Behaviour – Learn how to design and carry out your own psychological research
- Implications in the Real World – Apply psychology to areas like criminal behaviour, addiction, and stress

Why choose this course?

If you're interested in people, enjoy asking big questions, and want to explore how psychology applies to everyday life, this course is for you. You'll develop research, analytical, and critical thinking skills that are valuable in many careers.

Potential future pathways

Psychology is a versatile subject that can lead to careers in:

- Forensic Psychology, Mental Health, and Education
- Marketing, Social Work, and Human Resources
- Sport Psychology, Counselling, and Research

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

- Design and run your own research projects
- Collaborate with local universities
- Join revision workshops and psychology discussion groups

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology helps you make sense of the world around you. This thought-provoking A Level explores how society works, how people interact, and how social structures shape our lives—from education and family to crime and the media.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

Year 1:

- Families and Households
- Education and Research Methods

Year 2:

- Crime and Deviance
- The Media and Social Inequality
- Theoretical Perspectives: Marxism, Functionalism, Postmodernism

Why choose this course?

If you're curious about society, enjoy debate, and want to understand the forces that shape human behaviour, Sociology is for you. It develops your ability to think critically, analyse data, and engage with current affairs.

Potential future pathways

Sociology supports a wide range of careers, including:

- Law, Journalism, and Criminology
- Social Work, Education, and Public Policy
- Marketing, Human Resources, and Civil Service

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

- Take part in real-world research projects
- Attend university taster lectures in Criminology
- Explore current social issues through debate and discussion

SPORT

Turn your passion for sport into a qualification with the Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Sport. This course blends theory with practical experience and is ideal for students who want to pursue a career in sport, fitness, or coaching.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

- Practical Sport and Sports Coaching
- Body Systems and the Effects of Exercise
- Nutrition and Diet for Sport
- Sports Injuries and Rehabilitation
- Performance Analysis and Sports Development
- The Business of Sport

Why choose this course?

If you love sport and want to understand how the body works, how to coach others, and how the sports industry operates, this course is for you. It's a great mix of classroom learning and hands-on experience.

Potential future pathways

This qualification supports progression into:

- Sports Science, Coaching, and Physiotherapy
- Teaching, Fitness Training, and Sports Management
- Apprenticeships and university degrees in sport-related fields

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

- Lead and assist with sports sessions in school and the community
- Gain experience in coaching and performance analysis
- Take part in enrichment activities and sports events



APPLIED SCIENCE

This course reflects the demands of a truly modern and evolving applied science environment, giving you the skills to succeed in your chosen pathway. The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Applied Science (Extended Certificate) enables you to study the principles and applications of biology, chemistry and physics, as well as practical scientific procedures and techniques. You will also have the opportunity to explore contemporary issues in science.

Topics studied in the syllabus include:

- **Principles and Applications of Biology** – Structure and function of cells and tissues, biological molecules, enzymes and their role in organisms.
- **Principles and Applications of Chemistry** – Structure of the Periodic Table and its implications on physical and chemical properties of substances, through analysis of different bonding methods.
- **Principles and Applications of Physics** – Waves and their applications; force principles and their application in transportation and construction of electrical circuits.
- **Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques** – Practical applications across the sciences, including chromatography, colorimetry and electrical circuits.
- **Contemporary Issues in Science** – Contemporary scientific issues including the reliability of sources of scientific information and their associated validity.

Why choose this course?

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Applied Science (Extended Certificate) is an Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) designed for post-16 students with an interest in science and aiming to progress to higher education as a route to graduate level employment.

Equivalent to one A Level in size, it is suitable for students looking to develop their applied knowledge and skills in science alongside two A Levels. This course is particularly complementary to Psychology, Sociology and Geography A Levels.

Potential future pathways:

This qualification can lead to progression to the following degrees:

- BSc (Hons) Applied Sport and Exercise Sciences
- BSc (Hons) Nursing
- BSc (Hons) Secondary Science Education

Extra-Curricular Opportunities:

- Work experience placements in a range of science related settings
- Opportunities to apply theory in practical, real-world contexts
- Support with university applications and career planning

The AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an exciting opportunity for Year 12 students to explore an area of personal interest in depth. The qualification develops independent learning, research, critical thinking, project management, and presentation skills which are highly valued by universities and employers.

Students select a topic that inspires them, carry out detailed research, manage their own project, and produce a final outcome such as a dissertation, artefact, performance, investigation, or event, supported by a production log and presentation.

The EPQ offers students the freedom to pursue their passions while developing the academic and professional skills needed for success beyond Sixth Form.

Topics Studied in the Qualification

As part of the EPQ process, students will develop skills in:

- Choosing and refining a research question or project focus
- Academic research and source evaluation
- Project planning and time management
- Critical analysis and problem solving
- Referencing and academic writing
- Presentation and communication skills
- Reflecting on the development of the project

Students may choose projects linked to subjects they currently study or explore an entirely new area of interest.

Project Options

Students can produce a wide range of outcomes including:

- A research-based dissertation
- A performance or creative project
- A practical artefact or product
- An investigation or field study
- A community or charity project
- An event or exhibition

The qualification encourages creativity, innovation, and independent thinking across all disciplines.

Why Choose This Course?

The EPQ is ideal for students who are curious, motivated, and eager to develop independent learning skills. It allows students to explore a topic they are genuinely passionate about while gaining valuable experience in research, planning, and communication.

Students will:

- Develop skills that support success in A Level study
- Enhance university and apprenticeship applications
- Build confidence in independent learning
- Improve critical thinking and problem-solving abilities
- Demonstrate initiative and intellectual curiosity
- Strengthen written and verbal communication skills

Many universities recognise the value of the EPQ and may make alternative offers to students who successfully complete the qualification.

Potential Future Pathways

The skills gained through the EPQ support progression into a wide variety of routes, including:

- Higher education across all subject areas
- Degree apprenticeships and apprenticeships
- Professional and vocational training programmes
- Research-based careers
- Creative industries and entrepreneurship
- Leadership and management roles

The qualification is particularly beneficial for students considering competitive university courses, as it demonstrates academic independence and commitment to wider study.

SUPER + EXTRA-CURRICULAR

EXTEND YOUR KNOWLEDGE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

SUPER CURRICULAR

Super curricular activities are those that extend your knowledge of the curriculum outside of the traditional learning environment. They take the subjects you study in the classroom beyond those which your teacher has taught you or what you've done for home learning. For example, you may go into more depth on something you picked up in the classroom or learn about a new topic altogether. The super curriculum encourages a love of learning and develops a thirst for knowledge. It allows you to make complex connections between aspects of your studied subjects and utilise your cultural capital to understand new areas. For example, your understanding of Tsarist Russia may provide further context to the development of the Imperial Russian Ballet in Dance history. Without this extra exposure to learning, we simply cannot fully understand our chosen course.

In the future, employers or universities will be interested to hear about what super curricular activities you have engaged in; they will be interested in what you have learnt.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

We are very proud of the number of extra-curricular activities on offer. There really is something for everyone! Students have been known to set up and run their own societies such as Cookery, Photographic, Social Sport, Performance, Debating and Medical, as well as getting involved in other initiatives. These include: Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, Academic ambassadors, reading schemes with primary schools, peer mentoring in Maths and English, music maestros, wellbeing ambassadors, student council, running for Head Student positions and our fantastic Performing Arts productions.



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

SUPPORTING YOU THROUGH YOUR SIXTH FORM JOURNEY

Each student will have a tutor who they will meet on a daily basis. Tutors are the first line of support for each young person, helping them to settle into life at The Castle Rock Sixth Form and prepare them for their next steps. Students have access to a dedicated Student Support Officer where they can access mentoring, counselling, careers guidance, attendance support and health related support.

There is a dedicated resource base for students with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities (SEND) which is staffed by a team of specialist practitioners. We are committed to working in partnership with our students and their families to develop a detailed understanding of how to provide the best support.

Our Pastoral Manager is available throughout each school day for immediate support and guidance.

POST-16 BURSARY

We provide a bursary for young people in vulnerable groups as well as an enhanced discretionary bursary. Financial support can be used for travel, education resources and activities. Students will be required to provide evidence of status. This bursary is provided for young people who are:

- In care and care leavers.
- Receiving income support, or Universal Credit.
- Receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in their own right.

We also provide an enhanced discretionary bursary for young people who are; eligible for Free School Meals or eligible for Pupil Premium in Year 11.

These students will be awarded money to support travel, education resources and activities. Funds will be awarded on the basis of need and subject to students meeting the conditions of the Sixth Form study contract. Students will be required to provide evidence of status.

ADMISSIONS

APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED THROUGH PS16

HOW DO I APPLY?

All Post-16 applications will need to be processed through an online system called PS16, which can be accessed via the following link:

www.ps16.co.uk

If you're applying independently, you will need to create an account and fill in all the relevant sections. You will also need to provide us with contact details for your current school, so we can obtain confirmation of your predicted grades. To avoid disappointment, please check our entry requirements to ensure you're applying for courses that fall in line with your predicted grades.

For an instant update on your application, please log into your PS16 account and you'll be provided with confirmation of the status of your application. If at any point you require further clarification, please contact us.

Contact the Sixth Form Team at **info@castlerock.org.uk** or visit our website **sixthform.castlerock.org.uk/contact**



ALUMNI

THIS MAP SHOWS JUST A SELECTION OF THE WIDE RANGE OF UNIVERSITIES AND COURSES, WHERE OUR STUDENTS CONTINUED THEIR EDUCATION

BIMM INSTITUTE MANCHESTER

Music and Sound Production

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

Computing
Fine Art
French Studies
Law with Criminology
Mathematics

UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

English
History
Psychology
Sociology

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Neuroscience

NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

Animal Biology with FY
Forensic Science
Health and Social Care
History
Physics and Mathematics
Visual Effects Production Technology

UNIVERSITY OF DERBY

Computer Science
Forensic Psychology
Forensic Science with Criminology
Mechanical Engineering
Nursing (Child)
Psychology
Sport and Exercise Science

BANGOR UNIVERSITY

Psychology & Forensic Psychology

KEELE UNIVERSITY

Forensic Psychology

COVENTRY UNIVERSITY

Paramedic Science

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY

English Literature
Law with Criminal Justice
Popular Music
Psychology

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Biochemistry with Professional Placement

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON

Midwifery

GUILDFORD SCHOOL OF ACTING

Theatre Production

BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Design Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

Marine Biology and Coastal Ecology

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

English and Film & Television Studies

UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH

Biomedical Science

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

Media, Communications and Cultural Studies

DURHAM UNIVERSITY

Biological Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Biochemistry

LEEDS TRINITY UNIVERSITY

Criminology & Police Studies with Foundation Year
Primary Education (5-11 years) with QTS

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Arts and Humanities (*Foundation Year - Liberal Arts progression*)

SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY

Ancient History and History
Engineering with Foundation Year
Fashion Management
Interior Architecture with Design
Midwifery with leadership

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY

Chemical Engineering

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY

Architecture
Arts and Humanities (*Foundation Year - Liberal Arts progression*)
Computer Science
Criminology
Fashion Design
Forensic Science
Health & Wellbeing in Society
Marketing
Mechanical Engineering
Nursing (Adult)
Paramedic Science
Psychology
Psychology with Criminology
Social Work

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

Ancient History and History
Archaeology
Engineering with Foundation Year
Midwifery with leadership
Physics with FY

UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA

English Literature

ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY

Musical Theatre

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Mechanical Engineering
Medicine

EMIL DALE ACADEMY

Musical Theatre Performance

KINGSTON UNIVERSITY

Psychology including Foundation Year

UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON

Biomedical Science

UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER

Physical Education and Sports Coaching

PARTNERSHIPS

OUR PARTNERSHIPS GIVE OUR STUDENTS ACCESS TO THE MOST EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES.

Our targeted programmes to guide students through the UCAS process start from as early as Year 12, helping students make the best possible application. We have a range of pathways, including tailored support for students wishing to apply for medicine, dentistry and care sectors with our Medical Society. Oxbridge and Russell Group university applicants are supported with the intensive application and interview process.

Our UCAS team supports students with personal statements, references, interview preparation and application support.

Students who decide to enter other training packages, including apprenticeships and employment opportunities, benefit from our Level 6 and 7 career advisors. They deliver a one-to-one service and provide a range of services that will benefit students considering these pathways. The Sixth Form team organise work experience opportunities, careers fairs, along with application and interview support.

In Year 12, all students benefit from a week's work experience. This will give our students a taste of the world of work and build on their applications to universities, apprenticeships and employment opportunities.

Our partnership with local Universities is strong and we continue to work closely with them throughout the two years of Level 3 study. In addition to this, we work closely with The ASK Programme who support apprenticeships and employment.

Each year, we have a number of students who access Higher Education programmes. These subject specific programmes allow students to experience this level of education as well as often being given reduced offers to top universities. These include:

- Pathways to Law
- Pathways to Medicine
- Pathways to Engineering
- Pathways to Consulting
- Pathways to Banking and Finance
- Sutton Trust programmes
- Summer schools with Russell Group Universities



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER



**DE MONTFORT
UNIVERSITY**
LEICESTER



STUDENT PLEDGE

AT THE CASTLE ROCK SIXTH FORM, WE ASK
THAT ALL STUDENTS ADOPT THIS PLEDGE



Working hard to acquire knowledge of the world, gain necessary skills and engage in a range of experiences; will allow me to find my true, full potential.



Taking personal responsibility for my learning will help build resilience and confidence.



Persevering with academic challenges will grow my mind and curiosity.



Persevering with personal and interpersonal challenges, by **being kind and respectful** to myself and others, will develop my independence and sense of self.



As a result of this.....
I will find my passion. I will fulfil my dreams.
I will find my future.

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OUR TRUST

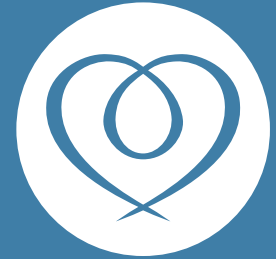
THE LIONHEART EDUCATIONAL TRUST WAS FOUNDED IN APRIL 2014 IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A FOUNDATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROVISION IN THE EAST MIDLANDS.

Our aim is to provide a range of educational experiences that are challenging, equitable, enjoyable and are able to break down any barriers so that all can succeed. This involves seeking to create lifelong learners and offer outstanding provision for our 4-19 year olds.

Our educational mission is simple; To empower every person from every background to unlock their future and thrive in a competitive world.

We pledge this commitment through limitless enthusiasm and optimism to provide a platform for each young person's light to shine brightly. To fulfil our pledge, we commit to the 3Ps: Pupil-Centred, Positive and Professional. We know that promoting this positive and proactive approach that celebrates success unites school communities and breaks down barriers to learning.

As our journey continues, we believe that it is our moral imperative to continue to work closely with a range of educational providers so that as many young people can benefit from the high educational standards we set ourselves. For more information, please visit our Trust website at www.lionhearttrust.org.uk



**LIONHEART
EDUCATIONAL
TRUST**



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**THE CASTLE ROCK
SCHOOL**
SIXTH FORM

Lionheart Educational Trust



**LIONHEART
EDUCATIONAL
TRUST**