

**INSPIRING
INTELLIGENT
INCLUSIVE**

PETROC™

**GUIDE TO TIVERTON CAMPUS
SIXTH FORM 2012/2013**





Cover model - Petroc student Ashley Knight

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

Qualifications. Inspiration. Opportunities.

Leaving school is a big step and Petroc's Tiverton Campus Sixth Form is the perfect place to get ready for university, develop your academic skills and discover different perspectives on life.

From A Level courses to a world of opportunities beyond the classroom

WHATEVER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, THE ADVENTURE STARTS HERE.



WELCOME TO THE TIVERTON CAMPUS SIXTH FORM



Petroc's Tiverton Campus is part of Devon's leading provider of education for school leavers.

We used to be East Devon College, but a merger with North Devon College brought with it a whole load of changes for the better, including a renewed focus on providing high quality A Levels.

The Tiverton Campus Sixth Form was created in 2010, in partnership with colleagues from the High School next door, to ensure that our academic courses meet the needs of our students and exceed their expectations.

And that's where you come in.

If you're ready to work hard, we can take you from average to excellence in two years flat. Alternatively, if you're already one of the brightest and best, with your sights set on a top university, we'll make sure you get there.

On top of all that, it's a great place to be. The Campus sits alongside the River Exe, on the edge of Devon's rolling hills. Tiverton offers fewer distractions than bigger towns and cities, which means you can focus on your studies in a calm, caring and supportive environment. Our buildings are modern, bright and welcoming and our facilities are second to none.

We're smaller than most colleges and we consider that a distinct advantage. It means that you'll never get lost in the crowd. Our group sizes are small and our dedicated team of lecturers can spend more time with you, to help you achieve the results you need.

See you soon.



Donna Townsend
Head of Tiverton Campus Sixth Form

**WHEREVER YOU
WE'LL GET YOU**



**I WANT TO GO
THERE**



HIGHER EDUCATION

A LEVELS

**BTEC SUBSIDIARY & EXTENDED DIPLOMAS
ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIPS
AND/OR NVQ 3
ACCESS**

**GCSES
CERTIFICATES & DIPLOMAS
FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS AND/OR NVQ 2**

**DIPLOMA
FOUNDATION LEARNING TIER
NATIONAL VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (NVQ 1)**

A LEVELS EXPLAINED

A Levels are academic qualifications that focus on traditional study skills. They sit at Level 3 on the National Qualifications Framework - see the 'learning ladder', opposite, which shows how different types of qualifications compare, in terms of the demands they place on learners.

A (Advanced) Levels normally take two years to complete, full time. They are split into the AS (Advanced Subsidiary – a qualification in its own right) and A2, which each make up 50% of the overall A Level grade.

Most students choose four subjects to study in their first year, then concentrate on three subjects in their second year, achieving three A Levels and an AS Level. But you can take as many as five A Levels, if you're up to the challenge.

At Petroc, we recommend that you have achieved at least five GCSEs at grade C or above to embark on an A Level programme.

Grades

AS and A Level results are graded A* - E. The results are announced in August and March. You can find our results on page 50 of this guide.

UCAS points

If you're applying to university or college for a Higher Education course, A and AS Levels earn the following points in the 'UCAS Tariff':

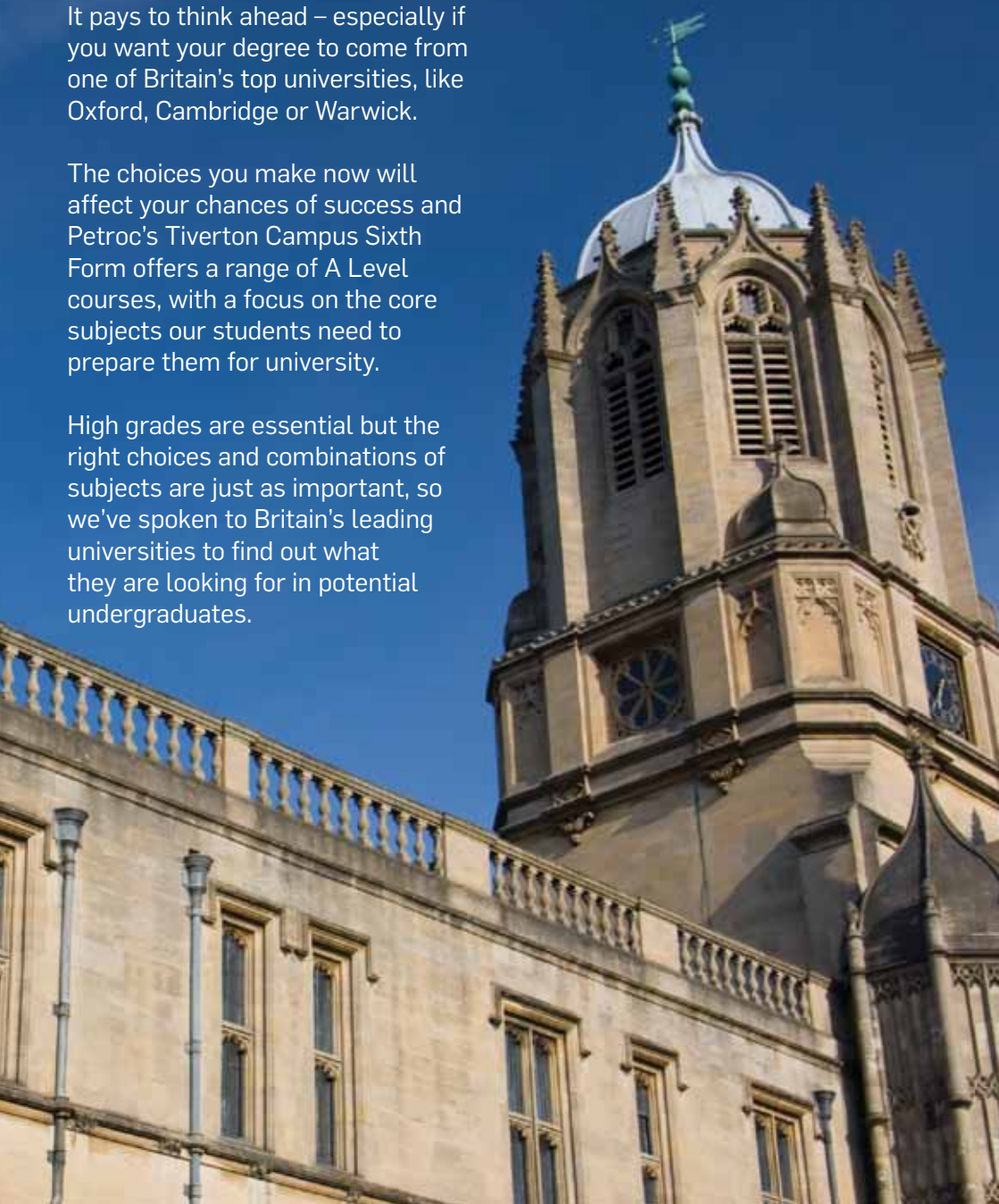
GRADE	A LEVEL	AS LEVEL
A*	140	N/A
A	120	60
B	100	50
C	80	40
D	60	30
E	40	20

YOUR GUIDE TO GETTING INTO THE BEST UNIVERSITIES

It pays to think ahead – especially if you want your degree to come from one of Britain's top universities, like Oxford, Cambridge or Warwick.

The choices you make now will affect your chances of success and Petroc's Tiverton Campus Sixth Form offers a range of A Level courses, with a focus on the core subjects our students need to prepare them for university.

High grades are essential but the right choices and combinations of subjects are just as important, so we've spoken to Britain's leading universities to find out what they are looking for in potential undergraduates.



WHICH A LEVEL SUBJECTS SHOULD I CHOOSE?

Universities broadly group their degree courses into two groups: Arts (including Humanities and Social Sciences) and Sciences (including Mathematics).

If you don't know which route you want to take, choose a combination of AS and A2 subjects that keep your options open. We offer the eight A Levels considered core subjects by top universities:

English Literature/Language
Mathematics
Further Mathematics
History
French
Chemistry
Physics
Biology

We also offer a number of other A and AS Level subjects – some of which are essential for specialist courses or may be useful to your future career.

As well as choosing subjects that you enjoy and are good at, check university prospectuses and websites to see the subjects they're looking for.

If you're focusing on the arts, Petroc's Geography, Law and Psychology A Levels are considered good choices for many degree courses, alongside core subjects such as English, History, French and Mathematics.

For the sciences, our Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths A Levels are the core, with Further Mathematics also essential for some degrees. You should choose at least two, or ideally three of these A Level subjects and bear in mind that top universities often expect candidates to have studied four of them.

FIND OUT MORE

University prospectuses and websites give further information on degree courses, entry requirements and recommended A Level choices. Everything you need can be found in the Learning Resources Centre at Petroc's Tiverton Campus.

An impartial guide to Britain's top universities is published by The Guardian every year and the latest league tables can be viewed on the newspaper's website:
www.guardian.co.uk

ARTS



Art & Design
Business Studies
Communication & Cultural Studies
Critical Thinking
Drama & Theatre Studies
English Literature/Language
French
Geography
History
Law
Photography
Sociology

ARTS

ART & DESIGN (UNENDORSED) A LEVEL

FTT037

This course is designed to ensure that students develop their creative talents alongside practical vocational skills. Through a variety of set assignments and briefs, you will explore and experiment with ideas using a range of materials, techniques and processes.

Learners are encouraged to explore a wide range of materials and techniques based on a given theme. Through workshops and self directed exploratory studies, you will gain the skills needed to develop your own unique responses to the exam brief provided. Study is tutorial led; group discussion will help you develop your own abilities to look critically at your work and the work of others as well as developing a critical vocabulary.

This course aims to prepare and provide students with the skills and knowledge needed to work in the creative industries. It also gives students both the qualifications and portfolio of work necessary for entry into Higher Education or to go onto a one year Diploma in Foundation Studies.

You may need to buy some basic equipment such as A4/A3 sketchbooks, fabric and specialist materials. This will cost about £40. There is also a studio fee to cover the cost of basic materials.



Meet your lecturer

Sam Bray

"The best thing about my subject is that it offers the freedom to explore ideas and concepts using a wide variety of materials and techniques. As a team, we encourage and support imaginative and innovative personal responses to broaden your learning experience.

"This exciting creative subject offers you the opportunity to produce a unique portfolio of work. You will be inspired by studying the work of historical and contemporary artists and informed of specialist art and design practices through workshops which will allow you to work independently.

An A Level in art and design will enable you to fully consider your subject matter and develop a distinctive artistic approach."

ARTS

BUSINESS STUDIES A LEVEL

FTT039

One of the challenges and pleasures of studying business studies is that it is a contemporary and ever changing subject as new business problems and solutions arise. This syllabus is suitable for students with a particular concern for social, environmental and ethical issues so you will have a natural advantage if you are interested in current affairs. Students are expected to develop research skills and are required to read a quality newspaper.

In year one you will cover planning, financing and managing a business. In year two you will study strategies for success, the business environment and managing change.

The business programme is ideal preparation for any candidate wishing to study business and management at degree level but also subjects as diverse as politics, sociology, law, accounting & finance and the social sciences.

Students are required to purchase a course textbook which will cost approximately £20. Students are also advised to read a quality newspaper and can, if they wish, subscribe to the Business Review magazine which will cost approximately £12.



Meet your lecturer

Marcus Fox

“Fancy yourself at the head of a successful business? Got some great ideas for new products or services? Or maybe you want to work for a large company by working in marketing or management.

“The A level in business gives you that start to becoming a successful business person. Whether your interest is in accounting & finance, production, or people as a resource, all the key topics of starting and running a business are covered.

Armed with this knowledge I'm sure you will be giving Lord Sugar a run for his money in a few years' time.”

ARTS

COMMUNICATION AND CULTURAL STUDIES AS LEVEL

FTT041

This is a fascinating course which seeks to develop an understanding of communication and culture theories plus a greater understanding of how our culture influences the way we think and act.

The course is split into two units. Unit 1 explores the theory and practices of communication and culture and how it is applied to everyday life situations. This unit is examined in the Summer term and is worth 50% of the total marks.

Unit 2 is coursework based and requires the student to develop a portfolio, responding to a series of questions set by the exam board and directly related to current cultural and communication issues. This allows you to explore areas that are of interest to you. The portfolio makes up the other 50% of the total marks.

You will find this a useful qualification for a range of Higher Education courses including cultural studies, business studies, media, psychology and many more.

Students will be expected to purchase the course textbook costing approximately £16.



Meet your lecturer

Rachel Jasinska

Communication and Cultural Studies

"Off-beat and creative, communication and culture explores the ideas about what make you. What do my possessions tell others about me? Why do I always wear trousers? What and who have been the greatest influences in my life? For me, this subject is a fascinating journey of discovery about our culture and our place within it."

Critical Thinking

"This is a fun way of exploring what is happening in the world and learning how to argue the rights and wrongs of all kinds of topical issues, from urban riots to animal experimentation. The real pleasure I get out of teaching critical thinking is seeing students become more passionate about the world they live in and at the same time learn how to present their own views in a way that is well reasoned and persuasive."

CRITICAL THINKING AS LEVEL

FTT042

The course introduces students to the skills of thinking and arguing in a critical and logical way. Critical thinking provides you with a framework which can be applied in a practical manner to a range of materials, situations, problems and issues. It will help you develop skills in reasoning, the ability to assess arguments and understand the credibility of sources and resolution of dilemmas.

Critical thinking provides an excellent support for many other subjects and students will always be able to construct a sound argument; a very useful transferable skill in all types of employment.

The subject tests skills similar to those required by a variety of university entrance tests; it can therefore enhance your skills in these areas and increase chances of success.

Critical thinking is useful for a wide range of degree courses, because it cultivates clear thinking and focused report writing. A wide range of employers also value the ability to present a clear argument and assess evidence intelligently.

Students will be expected to purchase the course textbook costing approximately £18.



ARTS

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES A LEVEL

FTT043

This course gives you creative opportunities to experience theatre as a performer, designer and audience member; allowing freedom of expression with drama as an art form whilst also acknowledging influential practitioners and the work of professional theatre companies.

The focus is on practical performance skills, the art of production, the role of director and the study of play texts throughout the history of theatre. The course will provide a lifelong appreciation of live theatre.

The AS and A2 Level course can lead to further study in drama, theatre studies and performing arts in Higher Education, at Degree or HND Level. This may lead on to a career in the performing arts industries. The course also compliments a range of subjects and is useful in building confidence and improving presentation skills in a range of careers.

There will be a charge of approximately £100 for theatre trips, visits and practical workshops with professional actors theatre companies.



Meet your lecturer Pip Cartmell

"The fantastic thing about studying drama is that it can equip you with skills for life. It is also a fun subject that gives you the satisfaction of being involved in productions – acting, directing or providing technical support.

"Hey, hang on though, what did I mean by 'it can equip you with skills for life'?"

"Being involved in drama studies and activities can develop and improve your self-confidence, concentration, communication skills, problem solving skills, your ability to work as part of a team, your social awareness (and how you present yourself to the outside world) and there is another...

"Umm... oh yeah; it can also improve your memory."



ARTS

ENGLISH LITERATURE/ LANGUAGE A LEVEL

FTT044

During this course, you will explore both literary and linguistic aspects of language, looking not only at poetry, drama and the novel but also at a wide range of non literary texts, both written and spoken.

Students then use their knowledge and understanding in the production of their own original writing.

The AS Level examined unit has two sections; an anthology of pre 1900s poetry and a comparison of *In Cold Blood* and *The True History of the Kelly Gang*. The coursework will require two creative pieces and an analytical commentary based on the study of a variety of texts in the genres of Travel Writing and Monologues.

At A2, for the coursework unit, you will study two plays to complete an analytical essay. These texts will then help inform your completion of two creative pieces designed to be performed and an analytical commentary. For the exam you will study *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte, together with a variety of non literary and spoken texts.

For both the AS and A2 Level, you will be required to buy the studied texts and this can be expected to cost approximately £20.



Meet your lecturer

Ben Watkins

“At its core, English is the study of ideas and how they are communicated. Whether it’s through poetry or prose, whether it’s spoken, in print or any number of different media, the subject explores how attitudes can be formed and conveyed effectively. In an interesting way, it encompasses both the abstract and the literal, exploring who we are and how we interact.

“The integration of English language and literature within the syllabus allows you to take a more thorough approach to your analysis and your own writing.

“Ultimately, this subject is far from didactic; it allows you to explore your own personal responses and interpretations whilst developing your own voice. It is what you bring to it. It’s as interesting as your ideas, and just as important.”

'I have really enjoyed my first year at Petroc.'

ASHLEY KNIGHT

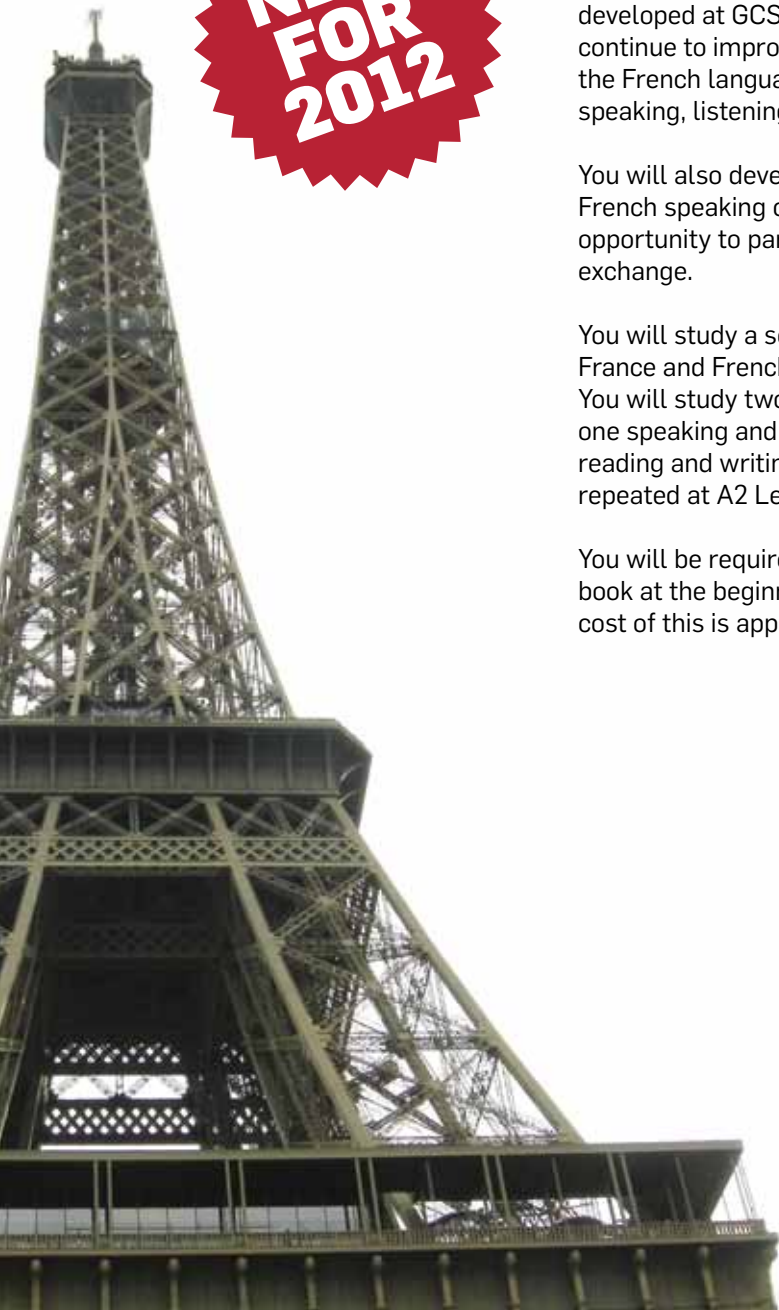
It's much better than school because you can concentrate on the subjects that interest you.'



ARTS

FRENCH A LEVEL

FTT046



This course will build on the skills you developed at GCSE level and you will continue to improve your knowledge of the French language in the key areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

You will also develop your knowledge of French speaking countries and have the opportunity to participate in a French exchange.

You will study a series of topics about France and French speaking countries. You will study two units at AS Level, one speaking and the other on listening, reading and writing skills. This format is repeated at A2 Level.

You will be required to buy a French text book at the beginning of the course. The cost of this is approximately £20.

ARTS

GEOGRAPHY A LEVEL

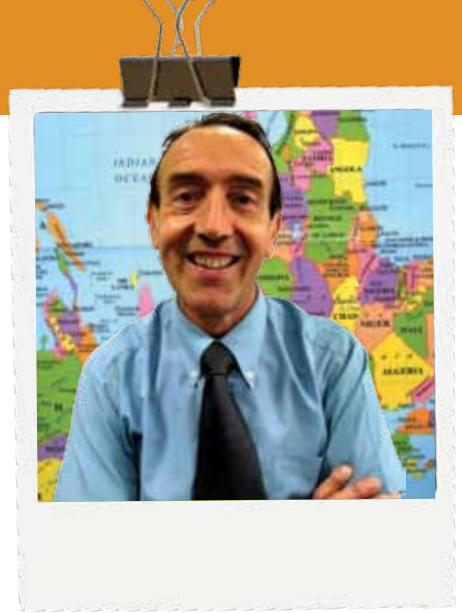
FTT047

Geography appeals to students who have an interest in the environment and current affairs, or anyone who enjoys studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences.

The course covers a diverse range of relevant, contemporary topics including climate change; globalisation; energy security; biodiversity under threat; cultural diversity; pollution and consuming the rural landscape; leisure and tourism.

Geographers have access to a wide range of possible career and Higher Education opportunities, as their skills are of great value and in much demand by employers and universities alike.

Students will be expected to purchase the course textbook costing approximately £30. There will also be a small charge for fieldwork visits.



Meet your lecturer

Pete Whitby

“With geography you really get your teeth into topical issues covering the sheer diversity of the subject; anything from the dynamism of global economy to the challenges and opportunities provided by varied landscapes.

“Are you interested in the workings of the world around us? Geography is key to this study of people and places. As both an art and a science, it will appeal to anyone who wants both sides of their brain stretched, calling on analytical and creative skills.

“Geographers are always in demand for their transferable skills, practically in the laboratory or out and about putting your learning into practice.”

ARTS

HISTORY A LEVEL

FTT048



Meet your lecturer Russell North

"History, not only involves the study of the truly interesting - fascinating people, gripping tales and weird and wonderful ideas - but arms students with the much in demand tools of argument and expression.

"Take a course in History. You will impress people with your deeper understanding of the world around you and how well you can explain it.

You will also impress employers with a qualification that demonstrates the much sought after skills of evaluation and analysis."

This course provides a programme of study which involves a wide and stimulating choice of content areas including British, European and world history. You will be involved in discussions, debates, presentations, controversy, problem solving and group work.

At AS Level, students will study a historical theme in breadth (most likely, the development of civil rights in the USA between 1945 and 1968) as well as politics and society in the USA from 1968 to 2001. You will also study British history in depth; Britain 1860-1930: the changing position of women and the suffrage question.

At A2, students will study a controversial historical period (Germany from Kaiser to Führer 1900 to 1945) and a coursework based historical enquiry (The making of modern Russia, 1856 to 1964).

History is a very acceptable subject for most university courses and many of our students progress to university degree courses in history or as joint degrees with another subject. The skills you will have developed are valued in many careers and disciplines. The specific areas of study for which it prepares students are: history, archaeology, law, teaching, librarianship/information science.

There may be some costs for educational trips and visits.

ARTS

LAW A LEVEL

FTT050

The AS Level course provides a grounding in the main principles of English law and their development, enabling you to develop knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of the structure, personnel and functions of our legal system. It covers the courts, judiciary, penal system and legal professions, as well as sources of English law.

At A2 Level your studies will cover general principles of criminal law, including offences such as murder, manslaughter, wounding and grievous bodily harm, theft, deception, burglary, robbery and criminal damage.

Most A Level law students progress to university; often to study Law in greater depth. Even those who do not go on to study Law say that this was a useful A Level to have.

Some A Level law students enter the legal profession as trainee legal executives without attending university.

Students will be expected to purchase recommended textbooks costing between £12 and £20. You will be advised of these at the start of your course.



Meet your lecturer

Chris Bowen

“The best thing about my subject is that it is constantly evolving and a shift in politics or society can have an immediate impact.

“With the Law A Level course you will learn how the law is created and administered. The study of law – fundamental to the smooth running of society – is a challenging but rewarding field. The law is highly complex and far reaching, governing our behaviour and the ways we interact with institutions and each other in ways we may not even be aware of.

“Studying law is a way to learn how to analyse situations and apply legal rules and principles to make sense of the world. A Level Law is a stepping stone for careers in law and in many other fields which require a knowledge of the law.”



ARTS

PHOTOGRAPHY A LEVEL

FTT053

Work in photography must form a means of personal enquiry and expression, in which the selection and manipulation of images produce different meanings.

On this course, emphasis is placed on a creative approach which goes beyond mere observation and recording as well as developing practical photographic skills.

The course includes using 35mm and digital SLR cameras, darkroom printing, digital manipulation, image composition and an introduction to the more critical analysis of images. You will also explore the expressive potential of photography.

Through workshops and self directed exploratory studies learners will gain the skills needed to develop their own unique responses to the exam brief given to them. Your study is tutorial led. Group discussion will help you develop your own abilities to look critically at your work and the work of others.

You will need to buy some basic equipment such as a memory stick and A4/A3 sketchbooks, plus glue sticks. This will cost about £40. There will also be a studio fee to cover the cost of basic materials. You will also have the opportunity to attend various trips.



Meet your lecturer

Sharon Hawkins

"The most exciting thing about my subject is the opportunity to develop knowledge and explore critical understanding in all aspects of photography. The content of the course is designed to be a journey of discovery and inspire students with encouragement, awareness and support that broadens their visual language skills.

"This visual subject offers you freedom to explore specialist photographic processes in traditional methods in the darkroom as well as image manipulation techniques.

"An A Level in photography will give you the opportunity to create a unique portfolio of work and a stepping stone onto a creative pathways for future careers in the industry."



**'I had a positive
experience at
Petroc.**

CHARLOTTE AUSTIN

**I have met some
very friendly
people and
actually like my
teachers!'**

ARTS

SOCIOLOGY A LEVEL

FTT056

On this course you will cover many aspects that underpin the workings of society and acquire essential knowledge and understanding of sociological thought and methods.

Analytical and evaluative skills will be developed that provide a sound basis for any courses in Higher Education.

AS Level learners will complete two modules containing the topics families and households; education and sociological methods. At A2 Level the modules will focus on power and politics, crime, deviance, sociological theory and research methods.

Sociology is particularly useful for those of you who are considering teaching, the law, journalism, medicine, social work or nursing. Indeed it teaches transferable skills of analysis and evaluation which are applicable to all career paths. Even some serving police officers have degrees in sociology.

Students will be expected to purchase text books.



Meet your lecturer

Russell North

“Everything, from the way we are brought up, how we’re educated and our political attitudes, to what we watch and wear, defines our self image and other people’s perceptions of us – both as individuals and as members of society.

“Sociology is the study of groups within our society. It’s about our families and communities, the clubs and organisations we choose to be part of and the labels others attach to us, whether we like it or not.

“We look at different answers and ideas to explain what’s going on all around us and why things are the way they are.

What other subject tells us so much about our world and ourselves?”





SCIENCES



Biology
Chemistry
Environmental Studies
**Information & Communication
Technology (ICT)**
Mathematics
Further Mathematics
Physics
Psychology

SCIENCES

BIOLOGY A LEVEL

FTT038



Meet your lecturer

Dr Lynda Broomhead

"The huge diversity in the biological world ensures that there is still much to discover and understand about the organisms around us. In fact there are still organisms to discover. Sowing seeds of interest in young enthusiastic minds to ask questions and seek answers is what makes teaching A Level a real pleasure.

"From the microscopic world, DNA technology and studying epidemiology and population dynamics ensures there are interests for all and a vast array of careers to pursue. A Level biology is your stepping stone into this world of discovery."

This course will develop your understanding of biological principles through studying a wide range of topics. Investigative skills are emphasised and recent developments in biology are considered, together with their social and ethical implications.

AS Unit 1 biology and disease uses diseases (eg cholera) to understand body physiology as well as explaining the symptoms and interpreting data. Unit 2 the variety of living organisms, considers genetic and environmental factors as well as the impact of human activity on the environment. Unit 3 brings together the practical skills and knowledge from Units 1 and 2 to complete a practical exercise.

A2 Unit 4 populations and the environment examines the role of humans in the environment considering the conflict between human needs and conservation. Unit 5 control in cells and in organisms considers how cells, tissues and organs respond to external and internal stimuli. Unit 6 brings together the practical skills and knowledge of all AS/A2 units to complete a practical exercise.

Students will be expected to purchase text books costing approximately £20 per year. There will be an ecology field trip (£5 to cover transport)and optional enrichment trips, eg National Science Week and Exeter University.

SCIENCES

CHEMISTRY A LEVEL

FTT040

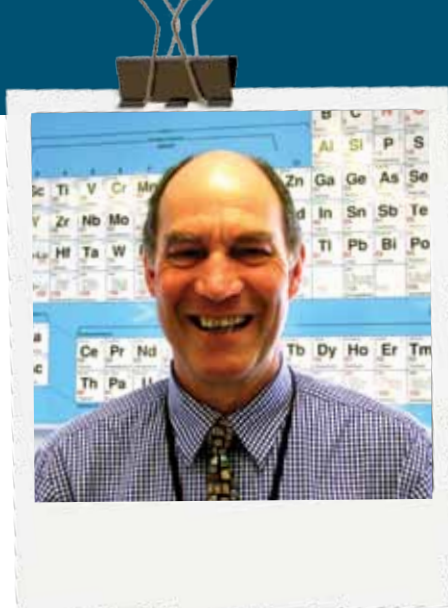
This is a stimulating, practical based course that revises and builds upon the topics that you have covered at GCSE, as well as exploring many new topics.

At AS Level, we take familiar topics such as atomic structure and bonding, the periodic table, rates of reaction and study them in more depth. You find out 'how' and 'why' and discover explanations for the chemistry you learnt at GCSE. Approximately a third of the course looks at organic (carbon based) chemistry and this links very well with biology. You also study interesting new topics such as mass spectrometry and green issues, such as the destruction of the ozone layer and what we can do to prevent this.

You will study three more units in year two to complete the full A Level.

Chemistry is essential for university courses in medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, biochemistry, chemical engineering and many more. It is also extremely useful if you want to study other sciences; especially biology and physics.

We strongly recommend you buy the course text books (one for AS and one for A2). We also sell exam paper packs for approximately £3. We may organise educational visits and you will be asked to contribute to the cost of these.



Meet your lecturer

Tony Barnett

"Chemistry is the central science and impacts on all facets of our lives. The world we live in has been shaped by chemistry.

"Realise it or not, deep down we are all chemists. Every time we light a match, boil an egg or simply breath in or out, we perform a chemical reaction. Our bodies grow, develop and function entirely as a result of the chemical process that go on within them.

"Chemistry lies near the heart of many matters of public concern: improvement of health care, conservation of natural resources, protection of the environment, and provision of our everyday needs for food, clothing and shelter."

SCIENCES

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES A LEVEL

FTT045

This is a stimulating course that will develop your skills in the analysis and solution of complex real world problems, as you study the interaction of humans and the environment.

At AS Level there are two modules. Module 1 looks at how the other living things on the planet are threatened by human activities and how they can be protected. Module 2 looks at the issues around global warming.

Year two has a further two modules. Module 1 looks at the global effects of energy supply and at how farming, fishing and forestry supply our growing needs and cause us problems. Module 2 looks at the origin, movement and effects of pollutants and waste.

There are many Environmental Science degrees and HNDs. People with degrees in this subject often go on to work for The Environment Agency, nature conservation organisations, local government, education and private industry. Typically, people start their careers working on hands-on projects before moving on to work in a more managerial role.

There are field trips throughout the two years which are not compulsory but are highly recommended. They cost less than £5 each. You must buy a copy of the text book at a cost of £24.



Meet your lecturer

Pete Whitby

"This subject is for those interested in saving the planet upon which we live!

"Take a topic like the use of energy resources - how does it tie in with wildlife conservation, pollution, agriculture, water resources etc?"

Examples come from the real world, factually interesting enough to bring learning to life and you'll be able to demonstrate that you are a competent environmental scientist."



SCIENCES

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) A LEVEL

FTT049

On this course students develop a wide range of ICT skills together with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the subject. You are encouraged to become discerning users of ICT. Practical elements inspire and challenge, providing a sound base for further study and life in general.

The AS Level year is made up of two units, each worth 50% of your AS grade. The examined unit is 'living in the digital world'. The coursework unit is 'practical problem solving', where the coursework solutions are also assessed through an exam that allows the learner to show their practical understanding of their solutions.

The A2 Level year adds a further two units. The examined unit is 'the use of ICT in the digital world', worth 30% of your overall A Level. The coursework unit, 'practical issues', is an extensive project developing a real world solution, worth 20% of your full A Level.

An A Level in ICT provides a sound basis for further studies in Higher Education or employment. Alternatively, it can provide employment using ICT specifically or with organisations that use ICT systems.

Students are expected to purchase the course textbook which is available for under £20.



Meet your lecturer

Phil Parker

"A Level ICT offers an insight into the world of Information Communication Technology, exploring a broad range of systems that we would find in the business world and in the world around us in our everyday lives.

"ICT is a really exciting subject area, as there are almost no bounds to where we will find technology or to where technology could go in the future.

I love to release students' imaginations, encouraging them to be creative in their ideas for new technologies and new applications of technology."

SCIENCES

MATHEMATICS A LEVEL

FTT051

This course encourages students to develop their understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment. It aims to develop your abilities to reason logically and recognise incorrect reasoning. The A Level will also extend your range of mathematical skills and techniques and use them in more difficult, unstructured problems.

First year core topics include algebra, co-ordinate geometry, sequences and series, an introduction to calculus and an introduction to exponentials and logarithms.

Your second year of study builds on topics studied during the first year to increase understanding and add to problem solving techniques.

AS and A2 Level Mathematics are valuable, well recognised qualifications for future life as they show you have problem solving skills and logical ordered thinking. On completion you can progress onto a Mathematics related degree course. A Level Maths is a necessary qualification to study Physics or Engineering at university.

Students are required to purchase textbooks at a cost of approximately £35 per year. We strongly recommend you buy a revision guide for each module.



Meet your lecturer

Linda Hinds

"The best things about my subject is its challenge, its clarity, and the fact that you know when you are right. The solution to a problem has an excitement and a satisfaction.

"Maths is such a widely important subject. It opens up opportunities in business, engineering, architecture, psychology, the list is endless!

"Did you know maths can make you rich? A recent report said that that young people with A Level Maths earn 10 per cent more than their mathematically challenged counterparts."

SCIENCES

FURTHER MATHEMATICS A LEVEL

FTT052

The course is aimed at students who enjoy mathematics, gained A or A* at GCSE and intend to study courses at a higher level with a great deal of mathematical content (eg engineering, astronomy, mathematics, actuarial science, mathematical physics).

AS Level further mathematics enables students to obtain a deeper understanding of the subject by studying the compulsory module further pure mathematics 1. This module covers topics such as series, complex numbers, and matrix algebra. You will gain a broader understanding of the range of mathematical subjects through the two extra applied units, decision mathematics covering topics such as algorithms, critical path analysis; linear programming; statistics module one. In the second year, further pure mathematics modules two and three are studied, together with an additional applied module.

Students will be responsible for the costs of textbooks associated with the course.



Meet your lecturer

Donna Townsend

"There isn't enough space in the entirety of this guide for me to explain why I love maths. The shortest reason is that mathematics is interconnected in ways that surprise and delight the curious mind.

"The study of further maths is an adventure from simply getting an answer to presenting one with style and elegance. During the course of this journey you'll learn the mathematics required to study several subjects at the next level. Of course, having spent the time getting an idea of what real mathematics is like, it's one of the subjects you're sure to consider.

"Are you ready for the quest?"

SCIENCES

PHYSICS A LEVEL

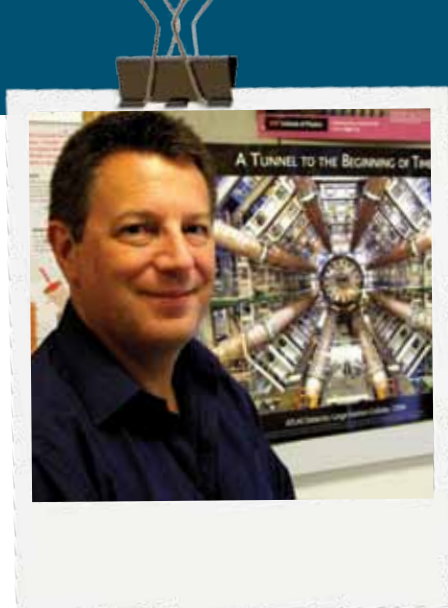
FTT054

In this course you will receive a solid foundation in classical physics, sometimes known as the Newtonian world; extending your learning from GCSE in topics such as Newton's laws and momentum, circular motion and oscillations and thermal physics.

You will also encounter modern physics (fields, particles and frontiers of physics) including, electric and magnetic fields, capacitors and exponential decay, nuclear physics, medical imaging and modelling the universe. These topics will be explored through experimentation, discussion and problem solving exercises. You are encouraged to think about the application of your subject knowledge beyond the classroom and to take an interest in current developments in the field.

If you are considering going to university, physics is essential for any engineering course and well regarded in applications for medicine. There is a wide variety of courses in which physics is desirable and a range of courses from theoretical physics to experimental physics with many combined degrees such as physics and finance.

Physics graduates are in great demand in industry and commerce; they have excellent problem solving skills and are good with numbers.



Meet your lecturer

Simon Shipley

"For me physics is a way of interacting with the universe more than anything. Everything we experience can provide an opportunity to seek explanation and understanding.

"John F Kennedy said on starting the Apollo Moon missions: "We do this not because it is easy, but because it's hard." If you have the opportunity to master a difficult skill such as A Level Physics, you will find it enormously rewarding and you will prove to yourself and the world that you possess an exceptional problem solving mind.

"So if you want to know how to build a universe or just an atom, or maybe something more practical like a bridge or motorway, what you need is physics!"

SCIENCES

PSYCHOLOGY A LEVEL

FTT055

This course examines many theories that try to explain human behaviour. During the course, you will be involved in discussions, debates, presentations, problem solving and group work.

At AS Level, you will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the core areas of psychology such as cognitive psychology (focusing on memory); developmental psychology (focusing on attachment in infants); individual differences (focusing on abnormal behaviour); biological psychology (focusing on stress) and social psychology (focusing on social influence).

At A2 Level, students cover a range of topic based options including perception, relationships, sleep, schizophrenia and media psychology, which bring together explanations from different psychological approaches and engage students in issues and debates. An understanding of research methodology will be developed throughout AS and A2 Level.

Textbooks will be needed, costing approximately £18 at AS Level and £25 at A2 Level. Revision guides are also recommended (costs range from £5 to £15).

There is usually at least one visit to Exeter or Plymouth University's Psychology Department.



Meet your lecturer

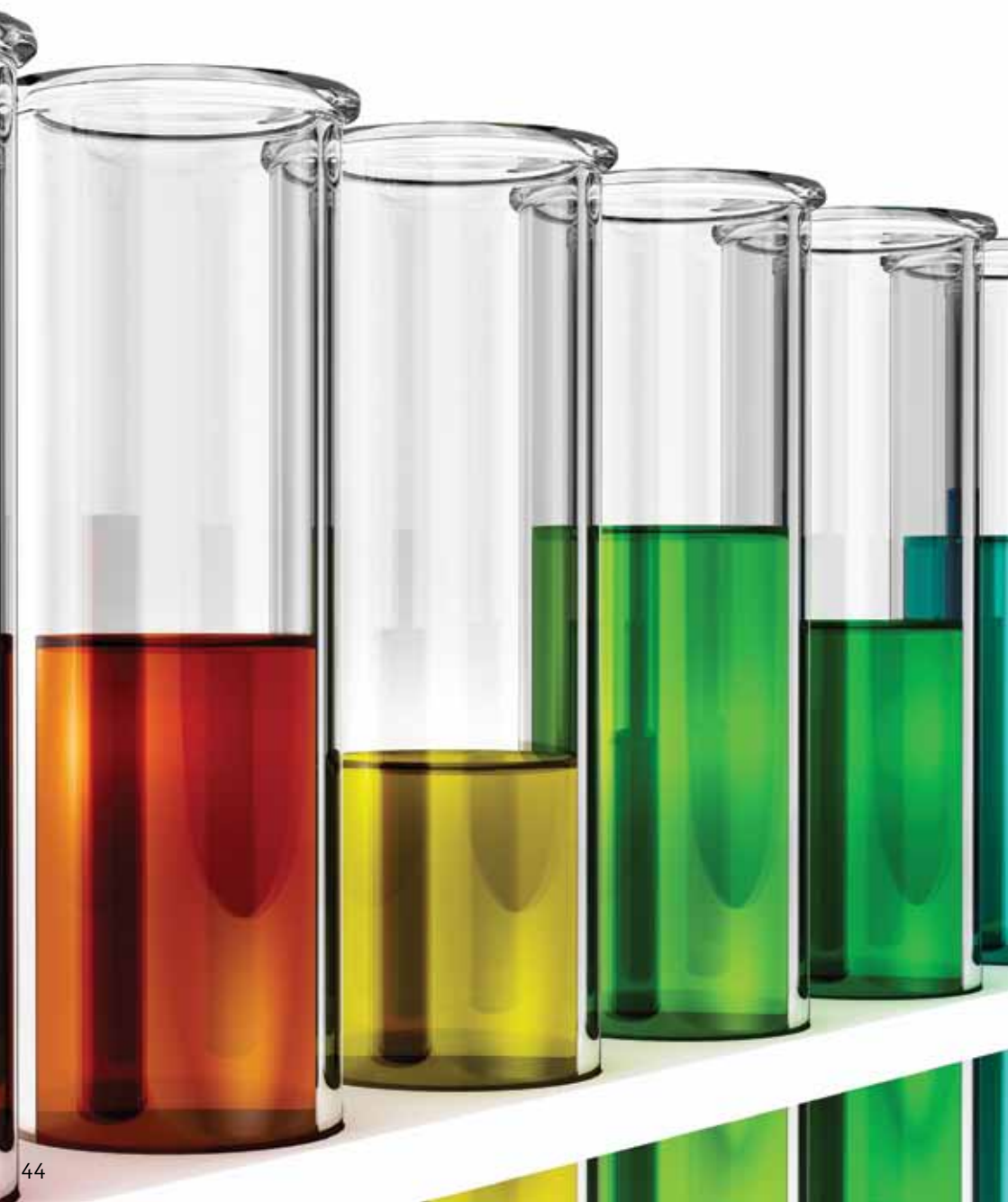
Catherine Kay

"This subject is one that everyone talks about; in the common room, at home, and with their friends. Not because it's hard (although there's lots to cover in class) but because it's so fascinating. And you find out so many amazing things – that you sort of knew but you didn't know why. Such as:

- Why some researchers say teenagers shouldn't have to start school/college before about 11 in the morning
- What attracted you to your girl/boyfriend
- Why you shouldn't revise when you've been drinking
- Why gossiping is important

So come along and find out why we behave the way we do."





STEM

Petroc is proud to be the Government's lead college for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects in the South West region.

We are recognised as a centre of excellence by the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS).

STEM is all about making the UK world leaders in research and development, maintaining our country's competitiveness and providing businesses with the skilled workforce they need.

The College hosts regular events in Tiverton and around the region, which draw academics from the country's top universities and professionals from major businesses.

These exciting events include inspirational lectures, practical demonstrations and hands-on experiments. They provide teachers and students – often including pupils from schools close to Petroc – with the opportunity to experience the cutting edge of these vital subjects.

With its state of the art laboratories, modern facilities and outstanding teachers, Petroc's Tiverton Campus is a great place to study STEM subjects.



THE RIGHT COURSE FOR YOU

Everything we do is aimed at giving you the best possible learning and life experience, with the highest quality teaching, resources and facilities.

To find out more about Petroc, call us on 01884 235330, visit our website: www.petroc.ac.uk or come and see what we offer at one of our information, advice and guidance events at our Tiverton Campus, where you can meet the team and have a look around the College.

INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE EVENTS:

**Wednesday November 9 2011,
3.30 to 7.30pm**

**Wednesday January 11 2012,
3.30 to 7.30pm**

Once you're happy that you've found out everything you need to know, you're ready to apply.

APPLICATION

You can apply online at **www.petroc.ac.uk** from October 2011* and you'll receive confirmation of your application via email. If you need any help with your application, come in and see us, or call The Guidance Centre on 01884 235330. We always encourage students to apply by the end of January to guarantee places on the courses you want but if you haven't made a final decision by then, you can apply at a later date.

INTERVIEW

Soon after we confirm your application, we'll send you a letter inviting you to interview. It's nothing to worry about; just a chance for us to get to know more about you and your learning needs, and a chance for you to find out more about life at Petroc and your chosen course. If you can't make the date or time we ask you to come in for your interview, let us know and we'll arrange a more convenient appointment.

OFFER

Following your interview, you will receive a letter offering you a place at Petroc. It'll specify any agreed conditions, such as the exam grades you need and the subjects required (eg five GCSEs at grade C or above, including English and Maths, for most A Level courses.)

UPDATES

Once you've accepted your offer of a place at college, we'll send you regular updates and reminders, by email and in the post; from book lists and summer homework (for some subjects) to newsletters and details of your induction days. You can also keep track of what's going on at Petroc online, via our website **www.petroc.ac.uk**, Facebook page (search for 'Petroc Official'), Twitter and YouTube.

INDUCTION

You'll learn even more about Petroc and what we have to offer at your induction days when you start college in September 2012. As well as meeting your personal tutor and tutor group, you'll find your way around and start settling in.

INTERACTION

Interact with us, tell us what you think, ask us questions, browse your courses, find out more...

Scan this with your smartphone:



*Paper copies of our application form are available if you don't have internet access.

SUPPORTING YOUR STUDIES

THE ACADEMIC ACADEMY

A specialised tutor group for students who achieve seven or more GCSEs at grade A or A*. The Academic Academy has been designed to provide you with the opportunity to enhance your analytical and evaluative skills, both written and oral. Tutors encourage and support you with applications into top universities, such as Oxford and Cambridge, and highly competitive courses, such as medicine, veterinary science, law and psychology. Activities include the **Senior Maths Challenge** and **Science Olympiad**.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Petroc has many extra activities to choose from, including:

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
Petroc Creative – a magazine celebrating our students' creativity,

as well as the talents of pupils from our local secondary schools

Enterprise at Petroc – for budding entrepreneurs, this Young Enterprise option is for anyone who fancies the idea of entering the Dragons' Den or trying to become The next Apprentice.

Environmental Twinning – we're working with the energy company EDF to build links with a college in France, including exchange visits.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Petroc's Tiverton Campus has a Learning Resource Centre with materials, equipment and staff to help you. Our library offers a wide ranging stock of books, periodicals and CD/ROM facilities, as well as a team of helpful staff.

THE GUIDANCE CENTRE

If you need help with anything, from finances and transport to advice on health or personal issues, our support team are here for you. The Guidance Centre is your first point of call for any queries and you can call them on 01884 235330. All of our student support services are confidential and free of charge.

CAREERS

During your time at Petroc, we will encourage you to think about your future. Your tutor will guide you through an individual action plan and regular reviews.

The Guidance Centre has a very large stock of books, prospectuses and computer based materials to help you plan your next steps. There is also a comprehensive programme of visiting speakers and careers events. Petroc also works closely with Careers South West (formerly Connexions) and advisors are available for one to one interviews.

'I found there is a lot of help from lecturers, especially near exam period.'

SOPHIE GREENWAY

It's a friendly environment where the lecturers go above and beyond to help you succeed.'



EXAM RESULTS

A Levels

Subject	% Pass
Biology	93%
Business Studies	100%
Chemistry	100%
Communication & Culture	100%
Critical Thinking	100%
Drama & Theatre Studies	100%
English Language & Literature	100%
Further Mathematics	67%
Geography	100%
History	100%
ICT	100%
Law	100%
Mathematics	86%
Photography	100%
Physics	80%
Psychology	100%
Sociology	100%
Overall Pass Rate	96.49%



www.petroc.ac.uk

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17	Critical Thinking AS Level
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24	History A Level
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Tiverton Campus Sixth Form is delivered by Petroc, working in partnership with Tiverton High School

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