

# BTEC Extended Certificate in Applied Science

(Alternative Academic Qualification, equivalent to 1 A level)

## Why study Applied Science?

- The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science provides opportunities to learn in real, relatable and practical ways to ensure you develop the critical knowledge and transferable skills you need for the future.
- This will give you the confidence to progress to university, where the qualification is accepted and supported, having been developed in partnership with them to ensure you end up with the right combination of knowledge and skills for success in higher education.
- We use a combination of assessment styles to give you the confidence to apply your knowledge to succeed in the workplace and develop the study skills to continue learning throughout your career.
- If you're interested in learning about the science sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a range of higher education courses, but not necessarily in science, then this course is for you. It is taken as part of a programme of study including two other A Levels.
- There are internal and examined assessments of equal weighting across biology, chemistry and physics, which allow you to showcase your knowledge and skills to best effect when you take your next step, such as higher education, an apprenticeship or employment.
- 50% of the assessment is done by internal assessment, 50% by exams.



## Why study Applied Science at Solihull Sixth Form College?

- The course is delivered in a variety of ways to help you to develop a range of skills. There are laboratory-based practical assignments, supported by self-study, presentations, group work and discussion.
- Throughout your course you will be taught by specialist Biology, Chemistry and Physics teachers and supported by a team of technicians.
- Lessons are taught in specialist laboratories with access to equipment which enables you to develop your practical skills.
- Studying for the Extended Certificate allows you to choose two of a wide range of A level subjects alongside to support your interests and career ambitions.
- There is also an opportunity for learners to join our STEM Programme enrichment.

### Case Study

The AAQ is a new qualification, but a similar Applied Science course ran previously and among the successful students was **Nigah Bokhari**. She came from Yardleys School and achieved the top grade of Distinction\* in Applied Science, to progress to Brunel University London to study Biomedical Sciences.



***“My teachers really supported me throughout the course and did a great job. The resources available in College also helped a lot throughout my time here. The Learning Resource Centre and the library were excellent.”***

***- student Waqar Dad***



## Course Outline

An AAQ is a 2-year vocational course, equivalent to one A level. It is studied alongside two other A level courses. You will study a total of 5 units across two years which include:

**Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Biology** (Exam)

**Unit 2: Principles and Applications of Chemistry** (Exam)

**Unit 3: Principles and Applications of Physics** (Exam)

**Unit 4: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques** (Internal)

**Unit 5: Scientific Investigation Skills** (Internal)

## Assessment

50% of the course is externally assessed by exam; 50% is internally assessed by assignments.

Examining Board – Pearson.

This 5-unit qualification is the equivalent of one A Level. Grades are awarded from Distinction\* to Pass.

## Special Entry Requirements

Grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics and English Language and two grade 4s from Biology, Chemistry and Physics or grade 4-4 in Combined Science, in addition to standard entry requirements - see [www.solihullsf.ac.uk/courses/entry-requirements](http://www.solihullsf.ac.uk/courses/entry-requirements).

## Prohibited Options

Cannot be taken alongside A Level Biology, A Level Chemistry or A Level Physics.

## What do our learners go on to do?

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of learning, including, but not exclusively, those which are science-related. The qualification can be taken as part of a diverse programme, leaving progression options fully open. It can also give context to subjects which would benefit from some scientific background. This will depend on the combination of qualifications chosen.

The qualification can lead to progression to the following degrees, although there are many others:

BSc (Hons) Applied Sport and Exercise Science

BSc (Hons) Nursing

BSc (Hons) Secondary Science Education

## Cost Implications

Payment for transport for visits.

## Complementary Subjects or Enrichment Courses

The following subjects would be suitable to combine with this qualification: Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Sport, Health and Social Care.

### Examination Results

Although this is a new qualification, students have achieved well on a similar course in the past two years:

Year	Pass Rate %	Merit and above%
2023	100%	93%
2024	94%	94%

### Contact

Address: Solihull Sixth Form College  
Widney Manor Road, Solihull  
West Midlands B91 3WR

Tel: 0121 704 2581  
Email: [admissions@solihullsf.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@solihullsf.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.solihullsf.ac.uk](http://www.solihullsf.ac.uk)