

Sixth Form Information Booklet



SHERBORNE

A DIFFERENT KIND OF CO-EDUCATION AGES 3-18

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SHERBORNE

Welcome from the Headmaster

It is an extraordinarily exciting time to be a pupil at Sherborne, and I hope that through the stories you hear and the people you meet, you will gain a real sense of the energy, ambition and breadth of opportunity that exists here, both inside and outside the classroom.

Our vision for the Sixth Form is to develop every pupil's character, fulfil their potential, and guide them towards their own path. At Sherborne, we offer the best of both worlds: an outstanding single-sex education within a wider, shared community. Boys and girls increasingly come together as one Sixth Form, learning, leading and collaborating alongside one another in an environment that reflects the world beyond school, while retaining the strong pastoral support and sense of belonging that characterise a Sherborne education.

Our pupils benefit from an exceptional team of teaching and support staff, fully committed to developing the whole person. Character sits at the heart of everything we do - resilience, empathy, integrity, curiosity, service and respect - giving boys and girls the confidence and perspective to flourish in an increasingly competitive and fast-changing world. Alongside this, our growing focus on entrepreneurship and digital innovation



encourages pupils to think creatively, take initiative, and engage seriously with the technologies shaping their futures.

If you are considering Sherborne for Sixth Form, we would be delighted to welcome you to visit, meet our pupils and staff, and discover what makes a Sherborne education so distinctive.

Simon Heard
Headmaster



Sixth Form Admissions Process

Registrations to join the Sixth Form should be received by mid October of Year 11. Candidates will then be invited to join us for assessment at Sherborne in November. Although we recommend attending in person, online assessment and interview can be arranged for candidates applying from abroad.

Our general entry assessment process involves a CAT4 online cognitive test, general paper, two interviews and a supportive reference from the boy's current school.

Sherborne Boys also invites talented and enthusiastic boys to apply for up to two of our Sixth Form scholarships (Sport, Music or Academic).

Please note that owing to the levels of commitment required of successful candidates, boys are not able to apply for both a Music and a Sports Scholarship.

Place decisions are announced on 1 December, with place offers to be accepted a week later by payment of a non- refundable deposit and a signed parent contract. After this date, unaccepted offers will be released to those on the waiting list.

Applications after the November Assessment Day are subject to places being available. We understand you may be considering Sixth Form options if your son is currently in Year 10, and welcome you to visit us at any stage by booking onto one of our Tour Mornings or an individual visit.

For further information about the admissions process, please contact admissions@sherborneboys.group or call the Admissions Team on **01935 810403**.

Year 11 Timeline for Sixth Form Admissions Process

SEPTEMBER

Sixth Form Open Event

OCTOBER

Registration deadline

NOVEMBER

Sixth Form Assessments and Scholarships

1 DECEMBER

Place decisions

(offers to be accepted within 7 days)

FEBRUARY

Subject choices confirmed

APRIL

House Allocations confirmed

JUNE

New Boys' Lunch & Webinar

(for those unable to attend New Boys' Lunch)

AUGUST

GCSE results

(forward to Sherborne for verification)



Sport at Sherborne

Sport at Sherborne

Sport plays a central role in Sixth Form life at Sherborne, with opportunities available for boys of all abilities, from elite athletes to those simply looking to enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle. The School's philosophy is that sporting success comes from finding activities that foster a lifelong commitment to exercise and wellbeing.

Outstanding Facilities

The outstanding Sports Centre, opened in 2023, features a refurbished swimming pool, climbing centre, sports halls, squash courts, fitness and performance gyms, a golf simulator and dedicated physiotherapy facilities, supporting both recreational participation and high-performance development.

Performance pathways

At Sherborne Boys, we foster strong partnerships with external providers, allowing our high-performance pupils the opportunity to train and compete at a level beyond the School environment. We have built strong relationships with numerous partners including Bath and Exeter Rugby, Dorset and Somerset Cricket, Dorset Football, Bath Buccaneers Hockey Academy and Dorset Athletics.

Our comprehensive High-Performance Programme, combining personalised strength and conditioning with expert guidance on areas such as nutrition, psychology, leadership, recovery and performance analysis is compulsory for those who have received a sport scholarship and open to those who demonstrate exceptional talent and dedication to achieve the highest standards in their respective sports.





Music

Music is at the heart of Sherborne, supported by outstanding facilities including state-of-the-art technology, spacious practice rooms, performance studios linked to a recording studio, and dedicated composing workstations. The School offers A Levels in both Music and Music Technology, reflecting the subject's high profile and popularity.

Sixth Form pupils receive instrumental and vocal lessons during free periods, and the Music School is open from 7.30am to 10.00pm on weekdays, providing ample opportunity for practice and rehearsal.

There is a wealth of musical opportunities for all abilities, from the 109-member Choir, which sings regularly in Sherborne Abbey, to orchestras, chamber ensembles, wind bands, and the renowned auditioned Swing Band. Joint orchestras with Sherborne Girls and The Gryphon School perform at a high level, while pupil-led Rock and Pop groups showcase their talents at events such as CourtsFest and regular Unplugged concerts. Advanced musicians also benefit from weekly public performances, masterclasses, competitions, and workshops.

Music Scholarships are available to students of approximately Grade 7 standard on two instruments. Scholars receive individual mentoring, access to the School's leading ensembles and choirs, and support towards prestigious performance diplomas, alongside a wide range of exceptional performance opportunities



COURTSFEST



Activities

We offer boys the chance to participate in all sorts of activities, including debating, archive club, campanology, radio broadcasting, philosophical discussion, charity work and volunteering. Examples of the opportunities available include:

- AI in Education
- Art Club
- Art Society Sundays
- Barbell Club
- Basics of Jewellery Making
- Beginners' Arabic
- Bell Ringing
- Biology Society
- Board Games
- Cecil Society
- Chess
- Chinese Philosophy
- Classical Music Appreciation Society
- Clay Club
- Coding Club
- Creative Writing
- Crossfire
- Debating Society
- DJ Practice Club
- Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Workshop
- Electronic Music Club
- Environmental Action Group
- Fencing
- Football - Goalkeeping Club
- Football - Monday Night Football Club
- Gaming and Creative Coding Club
- Gardening Club
- Golf Club
- High-Intensity Interval Training (HIIT)
- History of Art
- International Society
- Joint Badminton Club
- Joint Francophone Club
- Joint Japanese Club
- Joint Life Sciences Society
- Joint Schools' Caledonian Society
- Joint Schools' Debating Society
- Joint Thinkers
- Languages Society
- Meditation - Freeing Your Mind
- Model United Nations Club
- Medics Vets Dentists Club
- Philosophy Symposium
- Physics Olympiad Club
- Poker Club
- PsychSoc
- Pupil Librarians
- Radio Sherborne
- Reeling Society
- Screen Print Club
- Social Squash
- Turing Virtual Reality Club



"I took advantage of a lot of the different extracurricular opportunities in sports, in drama, everything I did before, but I just notched it up a level."

Charity and Outreach

The Charity and Community Outreach programme is a central part of the Sixth Form offer. Boys participate in numerous events including, non-uniform days, sleep outs and concerts raising money for causes such as Save the Children, the DEC Turkey Earthquake Appeal, a number of Ukraine appeals, Papyrus, a men's mental health charity and 'Help and Care'.

It is through time and not money that we aim to focus our attention. The boys work alongside local groups such as Yeovil Pen Mill Football Club, the Yeatman Hospital, the Fire Service and Sherborne Community Kitchen. There are many Sixth Formers involved in the Schools Community Hub. Every school in Sherborne is represented, and the boys share ideas and interact with primary school children, Sherborne Girls, and pupils from The Gryphon.

"The one big piece of advice I would give to anyone joining in the Sixth Form is to throw yourself into everything and take advantage of every opportunity. These next two years for you will go so quickly - it feels like yesterday since I joined. So really maximize the time that you spend here."

CCF

CCF offers pupils in the Sixth Form opportunities to develop their leadership skills. Character education is at the heart of CCF and the skills our pupils develop are of great utility, no matter what direction life takes them. Sixth Form pupils deliver large chunks of the CCF training and are supported by a Senior Cadet and experienced staff members. Sherborne CCF is a joint endeavour with Sherborne Girls and our Sixth Form cadets really thrive as part of the leadership group.

We have three sections in the CCF: Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Army. Each section does something different whether sailing, field craft and tactics, military knowledge, or handling a weapon safely. Our Sixth Form cadets receive leadership training and on a weekly basis Sixth Form cadets instruct and support our younger cadets. Arguably, CCF provides leadership opportunities that are not on offer in other areas of school life. The training leads towards termly Field Trips which are considered by many cadets to be the highlight of the CCF year. These trips involve visits to military training areas such as Salisbury Plain, HMS Raleigh and Scraesdon Fort where cadets run through tunnels and fire blank ammunition!

We enter national competitions such as the Rifles Cadet Cup, the Pringle Trophy and the CCF Sailing Regatta. Sixth Form cadets also experience an annual Black Tie military dinner, as well as parading for Remembrance Sunday and the Biennial Inspection, where a high-ranking officer watches a parade of the cadets. We offer lots of camps and courses in the holidays and we have been adventure training in Norway and Transylvania in recent years. We also have an annual parachuting trip for the more intrepid cadets!



Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Entrepreneurship

We believe every pupil's ideas can become reality, and that a Sherborne education should equip young people to think and act as entrepreneurs, wherever their futures take them. From September 2026, a newly appointed Director of Enterprise and Entrepreneurship will lead the development of a programme from Prep to Sixth Form, with the ambition that Sixth Formers will one day incorporate and trade real companies, raise seed capital, and pitch to an external investor panel. We look forward to sharing more as this exciting programme takes shape.

Innovation

Inspired by Alan Turing, who studied at Sherborne Boys, our innovative ambitions celebrate the kind of original, curious thinking that shapes the future. In October 2026, we are proud to host the inaugural Turing Conference, bringing together leading figures from industry, academia and technology to explore AI, cyber security and digital innovation - an event we hope will become a permanent fixture in the Sherborne calendar. A newly appointed Director of Digital Innovation will begin building an AI and digital literacy programme for pupils from Prep through to Year 13, alongside longer-term plans for a dedicated innovation space on our estate.



Outdoor Education



Outdoor Education at Sherborne encourages pupils to challenge themselves beyond their comfort zones through activities that develop navigation, campcraft, resilience and teamwork. Key opportunities include the Ten Tors Challenge, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) and Climbing.

Working alongside Sherborne Girls, pupils can take part in the demanding Ten Tors Challenge, a 45-mile self-sufficient expedition across Dartmoor that tests endurance, navigation and determination. Pupils aged 16 and over may also pursue the Gold DofE Award, completing volunteering, physical, skills, expedition and residential sections, with expeditions organised by the School.

Climbing is offered throughout the year in the School's state-of-the-art climbing centre, with opportunities to compete locally and nationally and to develop outdoor climbing skills on the cliffs of Portland during the summer months.

"Sixth Form was by far the favourite part of my time at Sherborne, it allowed me the freedom to grow and pursue the things I most cared about alongside my academic and other commitments."

**"I'm amazed by everything
the school provides to me,
and to all the boys."**



Boarding Life at Sherborne

Boarding at Sherborne enables our boys to live within a close, supportive community and make the most of the opportunities on offer in our full boarding environment.

By living alongside our boys and watching them grow together, we are able to provide unrivalled pastoral care. We work closely with parents to give every boy the best possible chance to thrive. Boys understand that they represent Sherborne in the local community, that membership of the School confers certain privileges and certain responsibilities. Each individual knows that they play a role in helping the whole community to thrive, and acquire habits of kindness, compassion and thoughtfulness that set them up for life.

Boys form strong bonds across year groups, underpinned by mentoring between the junior and senior boys. With the Boarding House at the heart of their experience, it quickly becomes a place to call home - somewhere they are encouraged to be themselves and relish the fellowship of their friends.

As a Sixth Form pupil there is an expectation of positive leadership, whether you are in the Upper or Lower Sixth. You are role-models to the junior years, which comes with a good deal of responsibility. We ask all boys to take initiative, contribute ideas and lead by example, through purposeful action to create a supportive and welcoming atmosphere within Houses and across the whole School community.

Many Sixth Form entrants become House and School Prefects and a number have been Head of School in

recent years as we recognise the talents and contribution of all individuals, regardless of how long they have been in the School.

The Boarding Houses are busy places both during the week and at weekends. A typical weekend will start with Saturday morning lessons, usually followed by a whole School Lecture often delivered by someone outside the School – we've had explorers, mountaineers, athletes, academics and businesspeople in recent years. Saturday afternoons are given over to the School's extensive sports programme, in which every boy has a chance to participate, before they gather in Houses for Assembly in the evening. Supper is followed by a programme of social activities, together with Sherborne Girls.

On Sunday mornings, breakfast is followed by quiet time in Houses, during which boys catch up with work and prepare for the week ahead. Various trips take place on Sundays, including outdoor activities for example, paintballing, go-karting, zorbing or visits to watch professional sports matches or perhaps the cinema. Inter-House competitions are regularly scheduled for Sunday afternoons as well as during the week, in activities as diverse as Debating, Football and Dodgeball. Most weeks, the whole School comes together on Sunday evening for a service in the Abbey.

Above all, as a result of the encompassing nature of boarding life, Shirburnians know that they are cared for and that the whole community is looking out for them; celebrating their highs and supporting them during the challenges of teenage years.

"The boys in my house immediately accepted me as if I was one of their own since day one, as if I'd been here since Third Form, and I've made amazing connections with a lot of them."

"I went to a local co-ed school and then for Sixth Form, I thought now is the perfect time to join - I'm ready. So, I took a leap of faith, joined Sherborne and it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I was a bit apprehensive about boarding at first, but all the boys in my house have really made me feel part of the team and the tribe."



The Sixth Form Curriculum and Entry Criteria

The Sixth Form programme centres around three main subject choices. Occasionally, and by individual agreement, we are able to arrange for a boy to take a fourth subject off-timetable (e.g. if a boy is fluent in a second language), or for a pupil to take fewer than three subjects, but the overall curriculum is built around three choices. In this regard, BTECs and A Levels are completely interchangeable – i.e. you can take up to three of either course. Supplementing your three options, everyone also studies PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) and one or more enrichment subject.

The overall structure is as follows:

- 1st choice A Level*
- 2nd choice A Level*
- 3rd choice A Level*
- Wellbeing (PSHEE)
- Enrichment option(s)
- Study Periods

* One or more of these A Level options may be replaced with a BTEC alternative.

There is one exception to this pattern which applies only if you want to take Further Mathematics A Level. Further Mathematicians may take FM as a fourth A Level on two conditions:

- a) That you pick Mathematics as one of your three main A Level choices;
- b) That you accept that you will be able to choose from a more limited range of enrichment options. This is because FM sits within the enrichment structure and not in the main curriculum blocks.

Entry Criteria:

In order to be eligible to study in the Sixth Form you need to:

- Achieve an average of a 4 (a C grade) across all of your (I)GCSEs
- In order to transfer automatically to a subject at A Level you need to achieve at least a grade 7 (an A grade) in the subject at (I)GCSE
- No additional criteria are required to gain a place on a BTEC course.

In the case of subjects which have not been taken at (I)GCSE, we will take into consideration your performance in other relevant supporting subjects. For example, if you wish to study Business at A Level and have 7s or above in supporting subjects like English or Maths, that would certainly serve as a 'green light' for you to take Business at A Level.

Grades 1-4 (C grades or lower) are not a viable basis from which to start an A Level course. If you have a 4 or anything less you will need to reconsider your options and choose a different course.

If you have a 5 or 6 at (I)GCSE (a B grade) and wish to study that subject at A Level, we will discuss this possibility with the relevant Head of Department to determine whether or not you have a strong enough foundation to be successful on that A Level course. In many cases (but not all) this will be deemed to be the case. However, for heavily factual subjects like the Sciences it is unlikely that you will be allowed to continue with the subject at A Level unless you have a solid A grade in either the supporting (I)GCSE or in that specific subject component if you have completed the Dual Award Science (I)GCSE.

A further exception is Mathematics, for which you must have an A* or A, or a 7, 8 or 9, in Mathematics (I)GCSE to progress onto the A Level course. Indeed, because you can achieve an A grade in Maths (I)GCSE with as little as 60%, boys who have a relatively weak A grade in (I)GCSE Maths are advised to seek specific advice about whether continuing onto A Level is a sensible option for them.



Courses on offer:

A Level or BTEC

You can study two different types of qualification in the Sixth Form: BTECs and A Levels. All Shirburnians choose three options for their Sixth Form studies and you can pick either a programme that contains only A Levels, one that just incorporates BTECs, or a combination of both types of course. A Levels offer the 'traditional' route into university and, from that respect, are tried and tested. However, as with A Levels, BTECs have been extensively reformed over recent years and are now a very popular and well-respected alternative to A Level study. Where A Levels tend to focus on the academic subject itself, BTECs are much more applied, focusing more on actually doing that subject in a work environment. As such, they emphasise skills, especially those needed for work, or to progress to university: indeed, UCAS highlights that over a third of pupils enrolling on undergraduate courses in September 2021 had studied either BTECs only, or a mixture of BTECs and A Levels in the Sixth Form. Because of this focus on applied knowledge, a number of employers have begun to express keen support for BTECs (e.g. the Army) and their popularity has grown rapidly.

Similar to the EPQ, BTECs can be studied at different 'levels'. However, we are only offering BTECs at level 3 national extended certificate level because this is exactly equivalent to A Level, both in terms of the time required to complete the course and the 'value' of the grade achieved at the end.

Key elements of the A Level and BTEC courses are listed below:

A Level

- Terminally examined – i.e. all of your exams happen at the end of your Upper Sixth
- Graded A* - U
- No re-takes available
- Large syllabus content
- Emphasis on comprehension, and theoretical application of concepts
- Assessment is predominantly through written examination/s, although practical subjects have some internally assessed components
- Accepted by all universities
- 360hrs of teaching per year

BTEC

- Exams available in Lower and Upper Sixth and some units are available both in winter and summer exam seasons
- Graded Pass, Merit or Distinction
- Re-takes available
- Smaller syllabus content
- Emphasis on skills and practical applications of concepts
- Assessment is a mixture of written examination/s, and internally assessed components, including coursework, presentations etc
- Accepted by the majority of universities
- 360hrs of teaching per year.

**Example Sixth Form Subjects:**

Art and Design
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Design and Technology: Product
Design
Drama and Theatre
Economics
English Literature

BTEC Enterprise and
Entrepreneurship
French
Geography
History
History of Art
Mathematics
Further Mathematics
CTEC Media TV and Film Pathway

Music
Music Technology
Physical Education
Physics
Politics & International Relations
Psychology
Religious Studies
Spanish
BTEC Sport



Examined Enrichment

Though enrichment is not mandatory, all pupils are strongly encouraged to consider taking either an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or one of the examined courses below. The option you pick is up to you. Most boys choose to pick one enrichment course though, where the timetable allows it, you may be able to pick two. You'll be asked to choose your enrichment option/s alongside your subject choices in February. However, you can change your mind at the start of September.

Options include:

- Art
- Core Maths AS
- Modern Foreign Languages

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

It is possible to take an EPQ and an examined course, so please don't worry if you would like to do both. The EPQ project is a fantastic opportunity to research something you are interested in: your EPQ can literally be about anything you like. Doing the EPQ also helps you to develop project management, communication, and analytical and evaluative research skills that are essential for success at university and in most forms of employment.

The EPQ is a stand-alone qualification completed during the Lower Sixth. It is worth more than half an A Level and you'll finish up with a grade somewhere between A*-E (hopefully the former). The EPQ project itself usually takes the form of a 5000-word essay exploring a question of your choosing, but could also be an experiment, writing a piece of music, or producing some other artefact. That's exciting because it means you can base your EPQ on any topic you like (as long as it is suitably different from something you've been taught in lessons).

Post-18 Prep

In the Upper Sixth, pupils receive lectures covering a range of topics, with a primary focus on preparing pupils for the next stage of their lives. We recognise that the academic demands will intensify significantly, whether pupils are studying A Levels, BTEC qualifications, or a hybrid of both courses.

Post-18 Applications and Support

Pupils will be completing their Post-18 applications during this crucial year and will receive comprehensive support from multiple sources:

- Their Housemaster
- Their Matron
- Their Tutor
- The Careers and Pathways team
- All subject teachers

We are committed to ensuring that pupils have absolute clarity about the entry requirements for their chosen Post-18 pathway, and that they receive the appropriate level of support to achieve these requirements.

At this level and age range, it is essential that pupils take ownership of their learning journey. While comprehensive support surrounds them, the work must ultimately be completed by the pupils themselves. They need to be leading themselves towards meeting their entry requirements.

Embracing School Life and Independence

We want our pupils to fully enjoy their final year at school - participating in clubs, societies, music, and sport, while maintaining an active social life. This includes interactions with pupils from Sherborne Girls, going to the gym, trips into town, and enjoying coffees with friends.

Our Commitment as a School

We aim to provide our Sixth Form pupils with:

1. **Accountability** - Ensuring pupils remain on track through regular monitoring and check-ins
2. **Self-Regulation Skills** - Developing the ability to manage their own learning and progress independently
3. **Self-Belief** - Fostering confidence in their abilities and potential
4. **Peer Support** - Encouraging pupils to support one another, creating a collaborative environment where they help their friends and peers make good choices and hold themselves accountable to deliver on those choices
5. **Independence and Future-Facing Skills** - Helping pupils develop the independence and skills they need to thrive in the world beyond, preparing them for the demands and opportunities of the mid-21st century

This holistic approach ensures that our Sixth Form pupils are not only academically prepared but also equipped with the personal skills, independence, and well-rounded experiences necessary for success in their chosen Post-18 pathways and beyond.

Post-18 Pathway Destinations

As well as choosing a range of courses at UK colleges and universities as their Post-18 pathways, many Shirburnians also experience exciting gap year opportunities, apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships and higher education courses overseas. Global universities currently attended by Old Shirburnians include the following institutions:

- Boston University, USA
- Berklee College of Music, USA
- McGill University, Canada
- Stanford University, USA
- University of Toronto, Canada

"I think the good thing about the Careers Department is that no matter what your goal is, they'll support you in that. So be proactive and try to seek that help because all the opportunities and support are here for you."

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS



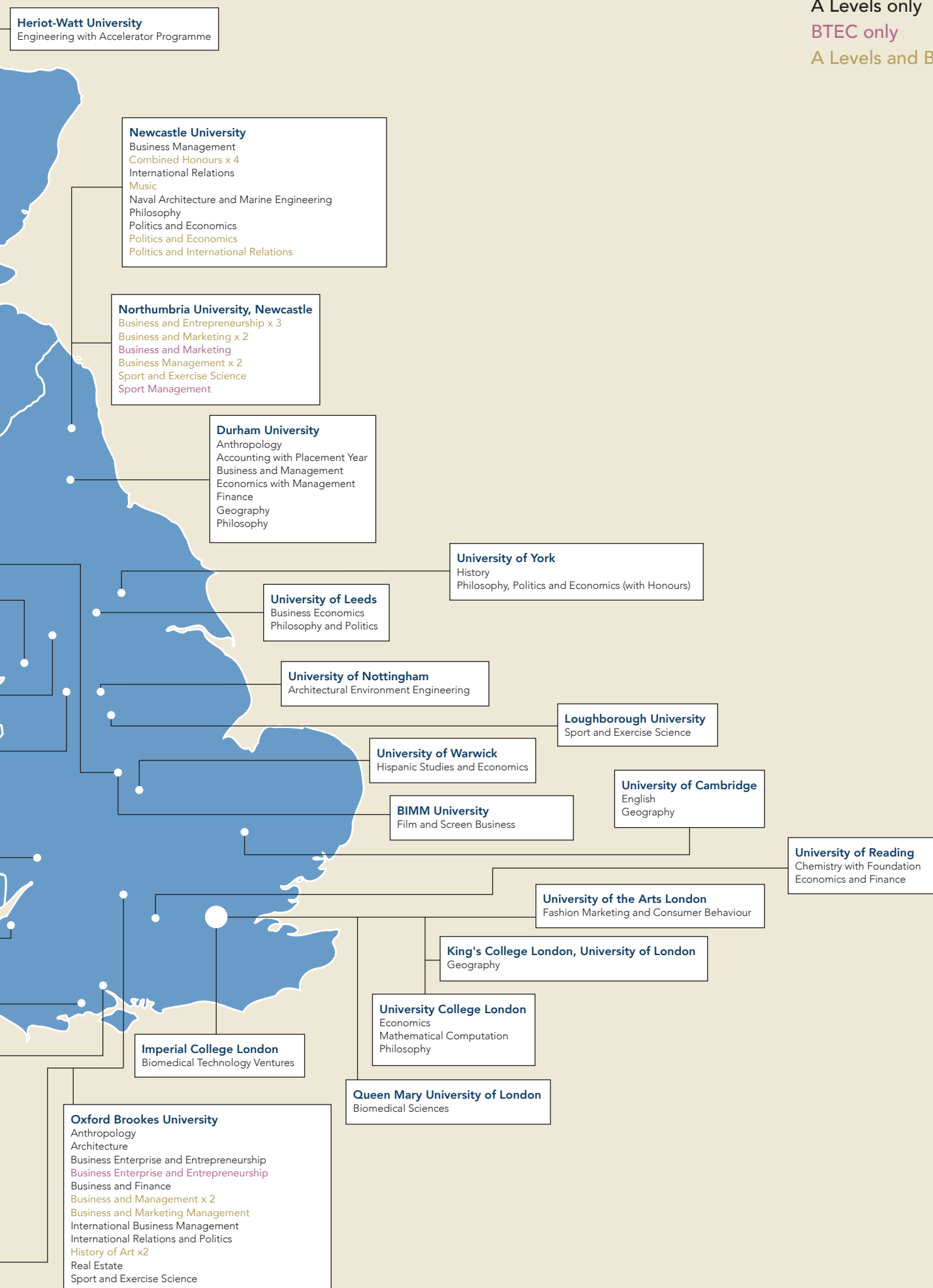
SHERBORNE



A Levels only

BTEC only

A Levels and BTEC









SHERBORNE

Sherborne Boys

Abbey Road
Sherborne
Dorset DT9 3LF
United Kingdom

admissions@sherborneboys.group
+44 (0)1935 810403

sherborneboys.group

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