

**HELLO
FUTURE**

boston:college 

A LEVEL

Course Guide 2023/2024

Welcome...



Thank you for considering Boston College: SIXTH for your progression route after GCSEs. No matter where you've studied before, know that the College prides itself on offering a highly academic education in a positive and diverse environment where learners are encouraged to thrive.

As the Government has reformed A Levels to ensure a more rigorous academic foundation for learners, the SIXTH has evolved to reflect this. Our staff are trained teachers with at least a Bachelor's degree, with many having higher degrees such as Masters in Arts and Science. Several also work as examiners for their subjects, giving them a real insight into what's needed for you to do well in your exams. We are increasing the emphasis on exam skills in lessons; not only are we giving extra time for mock exams, each learner will have an extra session a week with their subject specialist tutor to concentrate on how to apply their learning in an assessment setting.

We are very proud that so many of our learners have progressed to university. Over recent academic years this has included Russell Group Universities: The University of Edinburgh, Durham University, University of Nottingham, University of Warwick, Queen Mary University of London, University of Sheffield, University of Birmingham and The University of Manchester.

When our learners are asked about the things that make Boston College: SIXTH different to school they discuss the individual attention they receive, the dedication of the staff and how the independent learning skills they acquire prepare them for Higher Education. The introduction of the Duke of Edinburgh Award and Extended Project further enhances the learner experience.

It's a very rewarding job to watch learners grow in confidence over their time at Boston College. I hope to be able to share that journey with you.

Rachel Hunn

Curriculum Leader - Access to Higher Education, A Levels and EFL



LEARNER SUPPORT

You will find a wide range of support services available at Boston College to give you the best advice and guidance throughout your course, including: an Information Officer, a Learner Involvement Co-ordinator, an Inclusive Learning Team, Careers Advisers, a Bursary Administrator, Counsellors and a Safeguarding Team.

THE LEARNER EXPERIENCE

Studying A Levels at Boston College is more than just attending lessons. Over the two years of study, you can expect to get involved in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities, previous educational visits include Warner Bros. Studios, The Imperial War Museum North, The Old Bailey, Westminster and University Open Days. Being a student at Boston College also gives you the chance to get involved in the Debate Club, Film Club, Sports Clubs, National Maths Challenge and Enterprise Projects.

Other benefits include joining the National Union of Students, discounted gym memberships, on-site hair and beauty salon, on-site restaurants, and coffee shops.

CAREERS ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Boston College provides a FREE, impartial, quality careers service that is available to prospective and current students, and the general public too. Our Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) trained advisers are available by appointment. Call our Information Line on 01205 313218 to make an appointment.

The Matrix Quality Standard recognises the high quality careers advice provided by the College's Careers Team.



APPLYING FOR UNIVERSITY

During tutorials in your second year of study, you will be given the opportunity to apply for university through the UCAS process. Our tutors have many years' of experience in helping learners get through the application process

As part of preparing learners for Higher Education and employment we run an Enterprise Project which helps develop team work and presentation skills.

STUDY YOUR DEGREE WITH US

Through our academic partnership with University of Derby, and additional Pearson HNDs, Boston College is pleased to provide a range of excellent, high quality courses up to degree and PGCE level locally.



Biology

The principles of Biology underpin your very existence. A Level Biology takes you on a journey from the genetic code locked away within your cells, and the chemical reactions that keep you alive, to the behaviours of entire species and ecosystems.

Which career/vocational areas can this subject lead to?

Coupled with other appropriate A Levels, an A Level in Biology can lead to a vast range of careers, including but not limited to, biomedical science, nursing and midwifery, paramedic science, physiotherapy, public health, ecology, pharmaceutical science, optometry, clinical psychology and sport science.

Course content

Year One (AS Level):

In your first year, you will study content covering Paper One, including six mandatory practical investigations; enzyme rate of reaction, root tip squash, water potential/producing a dilution series, cell membrane permeability, dissection and aseptic technique and antimicrobial effectiveness.

Year Two (A Level):

During your second year, you will study content covering Paper Two, including a further six mandatory practical investigations, chromatography, dehydrogenase activity, rate of respiration in single celled organism cultures, choice chambers/mazes, glucose calibration curves and species distribution.

Assessments

Paper One:

This paper covers the first four units covered in Year One (AS Level), Biological Molecules, Cells, Organisms Exchange Substances with their Environment and Genetic Information, Variation and Relationships between Organisms.

Paper Two:

This paper covers the second four units covered in Year Two (A Level), Energy Transfers in and between Organisms, Organisms Respond to Changes in their Internal and External Environments, Genetics, Populations, Evolution and Ecosystems and The Control of Gene Expression.

Paper Three:

This paper will cover all eight units, including an essay question.



Course	Duration	Location
A Level in Biology	2 Years	Boston

Business

Without a strong business sector, most people would not have a job! Understanding how business works, and the role it has in shaping our society will help to equip you with the skills you need for the future.

Which career/vocational areas can this subject lead to?

Whether you would like to study Business, Finance or Management at university or with Boston College, move directly to employment or even start your own business, A Level Business provides an excellent foundation.

You will learn skills such as analysing complex situations and recommending practical solutions which are transferable across a broad range of subjects and careers. Whatever you choose to do in the future, you will find the units you study on this course will help.

Course content

Year One (AS Level):

In your first year, you will focus on

decision making in business. You will take two 90-minute papers, both of which draw on material from all of the units you have studied with a mixture of shorter knowledge-based questions and longer case-study type questions where you will apply theory in real business situations.

Year Two (A Level):

During your second year, your focus will shift to business strategy and how modern businesses interact with wider society, including issues such as the competitive environment, globalisation, emerging technologies and the challenges of economic change.

Assessments

You will take three, two-hour long papers and draw on materials studied across all the units over both years.

Paper One:

This paper has four compulsory sections, with multiple-choice and short-answer questions and two essays.

Paper Two:

This paper has three compulsory data response questions each of which are made up of three or four individual questions. One of these data-response questions will have mainly numerical or graphical data.

Paper Three:

This paper consists of a case study and approximately six compulsory questions.

Your lecturer

Andrew Cocks has an MSc, a BSc (Hons), a PGCE and over 25 years of industry experience in banking.

Course	Duration	Location
A Level in Business	2 Years	Boston



English Language

The English language is all around us – in adverts, publications, subtitles and web pages. This course will explore the English language from different perspectives.

Which career/vocational areas can this subject lead to?

An A Level in English Language can lead to a wide range of careers as it gives you a good grounding in grammar and writing for specific audiences. This subject can lead to careers in journalism, teaching, law, and the media.

Course content

Year One (AS Level):

In your first year, you will cover linguistic frameworks (grammar, lexis, phonology, graphology) and how to use them in text analysis. You will also study how we use language to create different identities and how language varies according to region, gender, social group and occupation.

Year Two (A Level):

During your second year, you will study how children learn language and the theories that explain language development. You will also study the history of the English language, looking at how it has developed from Anglo-Saxon (early English) to modern English. Your study of language variation will expand to cover international varieties of English and how ethnicity affects language use.

Assessments

Paper One:

This paper focuses on text analysis. The A Level paper will also include a question on child language development.

Paper Two:

This paper has two questions, an academic essay and an opinion article. These focus on varieties of English. The A Level paper expands to include international varieties of English and ethnicity and language use.

Coursework (non-exam assessment):

During your second year (A Level), you will produce a piece of original writing and conduct a language investigation in an area that interests you.

Course	Duration	Location
A Level in English Language	2 Years	Boston



English Literature

A Level English Literature is for those who enjoy reading and who wish to explore a wider range of texts and literary genres. There is also the opportunity for you to make your own choice of texts for coursework in the second year.

Which career/vocational areas can this subject lead to?

An A Level in English Literature can lead to a wide range of careers such as, journalism, creative writing, publishing, teaching and broadcasting.

Course content

Year One (AS Level):

In your first year, you will study four texts – two plays, a novel and poetry, under the title, Aspects of Comedy. You will undertake two exams in May.

Year Two (A Level):

During your second year, you will revise three of the AS texts and study novels and poetry in the crime writing genre. You will also learn to analyse unseen extracts from crime writing.

Assessments

AS Level Exams:

AQA English Literature B, 7716

Paper One:

Aspects of Comedy;
Paper 1B – Drama

Paper Two:

Aspects of Comedy; Paper 2B –
Prose and Poetry

A Level Exams:

AQA English Literature B, 7717

Paper One:

Aspects of Comedy; Paper 1B

Paper Two:

Elements of Crime Writing; Paper 2A

Paper Three/Coursework

(non-exam assessment):

Two essays - one on a prose text and one on poetry, examined in relation to the AQA Critical Anthology.

“The lecturers are amazing – they get to know you and understand you more as an individual.”

Summer Andrews

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Course	Duration	Location
A Level in English Literature	2 Years	Boston



Film Studies

Film Studies is about deepening your understanding of film as a visual medium, art form and cultural production. This course explores the language of film, film industries and movements from around the world and allows you to develop your own creative ideas.

Which career/vocational areas can this subject lead to?

An A Level in Film Studies can lead to a wide range of careers such as film director, film producer, editor, location manager, researcher, and cinematographer.

Course content

Year One (AS Level):

In your first year, you will study Hollywood 1930 – 1990, comparing Casablanca (Michael Curtiz, 1942) with Blade Runner (Ridley Scott, 1982), a contemporary American independent film, Winter's Bone (Debra Granik, 2010), British film, comparing Trainspotting (Danny Boyle, 1996) and This is England (Shane Meadows, 2006) and one non-English language European film, Pan's Labyrinth (Guillermo Del Toro, 2006).

Year Two (A Level):

During your second year, you will revise the first year films and study new topics: mainstream American film since 2005, focussing on Inception (Christopher Nolan, 2010), a global film from Brazil, City of God (Lund and Meirelles, 2002), documentary film, including Amy (Asif Kapadia, 2015), silent film, including Sunrise (FW Murnau, 1927) and experimental film, including Pulp Fiction (Quentin Tarantino, 1994).

Assessments

Paper One:

This paper covers American and British film. You will examine films from American and British film history, comparing old and new movies. Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes (35% of qualification).

Paper Two:

This paper covers Varieties of Film. You will look at different types of film, such as documentaries and films from around the world. Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes (35% of qualification).

Coursework (non-exam assessment):

The production element of the course changes over the two years. In the first year you will produce a screenplay extract, storyboard and reflective evaluation. In year two you will produce a short film script, storyboard and reflective evaluation.



Course	Duration	Location
A Level in Film Studies	2 Years	Boston

History

As a History Student, you have to build up a picture from the available evidence, argue your case well and use evidence to draw conclusions and make judgements.

Which career/vocational areas can this subject lead to?

The skills you will learn on the A Level History course are highly desirable in many different careers. As a History Student you are not just limited to history related jobs; many careers require skills from studying history, such as: law, business, finance, tourism, politics, journalism and research.

Course content

Year One (AS Level):

In your first year, you will study two topics; Challenge and Transformation in Britain, 1851-1964 and The Cold War, 1945-1991. You will also cover the first part of; Victorian and Edwardian Britain, c1851-1914 and To the Brink of Nuclear War: International relations, c1945-1963.

Year Two (A Level):

During your second year, you will continue to study the second part of the topics: The World Wars and their legacies: Britain, 1914-1964 and The Cold War, 1945-1991: From Détente to the End of the Cold War, c1963-1991.

Assessments

AS Level

Paper One:

Challenge and Transformation in Britain, 1851-1964 (Part One – 1851-1914). This paper is split in to two questions (Section A – one compulsory question linked to sources (25 marks), Section B – one essay question from choice of two (25 marks)). You will have one hour and 30 minutes to complete the paper and it is worth 50% of your total AS mark.

Paper Two:

The Cold War, 1945-1991 (Part One – 1945-1963). This paper is the same

format as Paper One, you will have one hour 30 minutes to complete the paper and it is worth 50% of your total AS mark.

A Level

Paper One:

Challenge and Transformation in Britain, 1851-1964. This paper is split in to three questions (Section A – one compulsory question linked to sources (30 marks), Section B – two essay questions from choice of three (25 marks each)). You will have two hours and 30 minutes to complete the paper and it is worth 40% of your total A Level mark.

Paper Two:

The Cold War, 1945-1991. This paper is the same format as Paper One, you will have two hours and 30 minutes to complete the paper and it is worth 40% of your total A Level mark.

Coursework (non-exam assessment):

You will produce a 3500-4500 word essay to answer a question on the topic; The Witch Hunts in Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century Europe. The essay is worth 20% of your total A Level mark.

Course	Duration	Location
A Level in History	2 Years	Boston



Law

A robust legal system is the foundation of a fair society. If you feel strongly about concepts like justice and equality, then this course could be very rewarding for you.

Which career/vocational areas can this subject lead to?

You might see yourself as a barrister, a solicitor, a legal executive or a legal secretary. Whichever aspect of law you are interested in, A Level Law gives you a strong foundation in the subject.

Course content

Year One (AS Level):

In your first year, you will take two written papers - The Legal System and Criminal Law, and Law Making and the Law of Tort. These will be assessed again in Year Two with a third paper on Contract Law.

Year Two (A Level):

During your second year, you will recover the topics learnt in the AS year and develop your understanding further through exploration of either contract law or human rights.

Contract law will cover the key elements of any contract as well as remedies available for breach of contract. Human rights will cover rules and theories of human rights laws as well as human rights in an international setting.

Assessments

You will undertake three written papers in total each accounting for 33.3% of your final mark.

Paper One:

The Nature of Law and the English Legal System and Criminal Law

Paper Two:

The Nature of Law and the English Legal System and Tort Law

Paper Three:

Contract Law or Human Rights Law

“I am so happy with the A*, A*, A grades that I have achieved as they have secured my place at the University of Greenwich.”

Vanessa Butucel

Maths

The A Level in Maths is designed for those who wish to extend the maths they learnt at school and continue to progress on to higher education at University or at Boston College.

Which career/vocational areas can this subject lead to?

A variety of subjects make use of maths, so if you are thinking of studying any of the following subjects further, maths is great qualification to have alongside. A Level Maths can support biology, chemistry, business studies, economics, computing, physics and psychology in particular.

Course content

Year One (AS Level):

In your first year, you will study Pure Maths 1 (algebraic methods, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, binomial expansion, differentiation, integration, vectors, exponential and logarithms), Statistics (data, correlation, probability, statistical distribution and hypothesis testing) and Mechanics (kinematics, constant and variable acceleration, forces and motions).

Year Two (A Level):

During your second year, you will study Pure Maths 1 and 2 (proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry, differentiation, integration, exponentials and logarithms, numerical methods, vectors), Statistics (statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, statistical hypothesis testing) and Mechanics (quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's Laws and moments).

Assessments

AS Level

Consists of two papers – one paper for 100 marks on Pure Maths and one paper for 60 marks on Statistics and Mechanics.

A Level

Consists of three papers for 100 marks each on Pure Maths 1, Pure Maths 2 and Statistics and Mechanics.

“The learning style at college is more independent than at school, which is a great stepping-stone for university.”

Maciej Rosik

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Course	Duration	Location
A Level in Law	2 Years	Boston

Course	Duration	Location
A Level in Maths	2 Years	Boston

Media Studies

The media plays an increasingly important role in our lives, shaping our identities, political views and lifestyles. Media Studies explores the role the media has in our lives and how different media products are designed and consumed.

Which career/vocational areas can this subject lead to?

An A Level in Media Studies can lead to a wide range of careers such as journalism, media buying, media planner, researcher, public relations officer, social media manager, TV producer and web content manager.

Course content

Year One (AS Level):

In your first year, you will study Media Language and Representation and Media Forms and Products. Media forms studied include advertising and marketing, newspapers, music video, film marketing, video games, TV crime drama, magazines and online media.

Year Two (A Level):

During your second year, you will revisit the topics from Year One with new theories and texts. This will include theories such as postmodernism, feminist theories, theories of gender performativity, postcolonial theory, fandom and end of audience theories.

Assessments

Paper One:

This paper covers Media Products, Industries and Audiences. The paper has two sections: Section A - Analysing Media Language and Representation, Section B - Understanding Media Industries and Audiences. Written examination: two hours 15 minutes. 35% of qualification.

Paper Two:

This paper covers Media Forms and Products. The paper has three sections: Section A - TV in the Global Age, Section B – Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media and Section C – Media in the Digital Age. Written Examination: two hours 30 minutes. 35% of qualification.

Coursework (non-exam assessment):

You will produce coursework consisting of an individual cross-media production based on two media forms in response to a choice of briefs. In the past this has included designing media materials in both print and online forms. 30% of qualification.

Course	Duration	Location
A Level in Media Studies	2 Years	Boston



Psychology

A Level Psychology aims to give you a broad understanding as to why we think and behave in the way we do. Today, psychology is seen as a science and you will be undertaking a scientific study of the brain and behaviour.

Which career/vocational areas can this subject lead to?

Psychology A Level and further degree study can lead to careers including: psychologist, advertising agent, case manager, child care worker, laboratory assistant, market researcher, psychiatric technician, probation and parole officer, teaching, and report writer.

Course content

You will learn to demonstrate the ability to analyse and evaluate psychological theories and findings and how to apply this knowledge.

The course involves you acquiring knowledge and understanding of psychological theories. This will be achieved by group discussions/debates, practical experiments, and written work. You will learn the 'language' of 'how science works', which is

invaluable in psychology where evidence is paramount if a theory is to be taken seriously.

Year One (AS Level):

In your first year, you will study cognitive psychology (memory), developmental psychology (early social development), social influence, approaches in psychology, research methods and psychopathology (abnormality).

Year Two (A Level):

During your second year, you will study biopsychology, schizophrenia, research methods, relationships, issues and debates, approaches in psychology, and you can choose your own topic between addiction, aggression or forensic psychology.

Assessments

AS Level

You will sit two 90 minutes exams.

A Level

You will sit three, 2 hour exams.

“The lecturers have been brilliant – they are friendly and supportive, and have always encouraged us to be the best that we can be.”

Ferdinand Albelda

Course	Duration	Location
A Level in Psychology	2 Years	Boston



Sociology

Sociology is a subject which lends itself to healthy debate and discussion and you are encouraged to use your own life experiences as a starting point to understand our own society and the effects of others upon us.

Which career/vocational areas can this subject lead to?

Sociology A Level and further degree study can lead to a career in police and probation services, local and central government, social and market research, charitable, counselling and voluntary organisations, public relations, journalism and communications, media and marketing, law and the criminal justice system, teaching and education.

Course content

You will study topics such as families and households, education and sociological methods, mass media and crime and deviance. The course involves you actively participating in the learning process to gain

understanding and insight into contemporary issues.

The subject content has been arranged so that you must study a core of theory and methods plus a selection of substantive topics.

Year One (AS Level):

In your first year, you will study families and households – education and sociological methods.

Year Two (A Level):

During your second year, you will study media, crime and deviance and theory and methods.

Assessments

This is an intensive course and you must recognise that a lot of reading and essay writing needs to be done at home in preparation for two

predominantly essay-based papers. Each paper involves you presenting and assessing a range of sociology theories.

AS Level

You will sit two 90 minutes exams.

A Level

You will sit three, 2 hour exams which will cover both first and second year content.

Your lecturer:

Geraldine Brazil is an AQA examiner for psychology and sociology and has been recognised by the Association of Colleges for A Level subject excellence in both subjects.

Course	Duration	Location
A Level in Sociology	2 Years	Boston



Students at Boston College have achieved a **100% pass rate** for seven consecutive years.

TIMETABLE

AS Level subject choice grid

AS Level Columns	A	B	C	D
Sciences	Maths		Biology	
Humanities	Film Studies	English Literature	English Language	Media Studies
Social Sciences	History	Sociology		Psychology
Business and Law		Business	Law	

Learners are required to select three subjects from different columns. There is an opportunity to retake GCSE English Language or GCSE Maths (if applicable).

Draft Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.00 - 10.30	D	A	A	D	GCSE/IGCSE
10.45 - 12.15	D	A	A	D	GCSE/IGCSE
1.15 - 2.45	C	B	C	B	—
3.00 - 4.30	C	B	C	B	—

ENTRY Criteria

All learners require five GCSE grades 9-5 to study A Levels with the following additional grades needed for specific subjects:

Business:

Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.

Biology:

Grade 6 in GCSE Maths or Science, and English Literature or Language.

Psychology:

Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature or Language, and Maths.

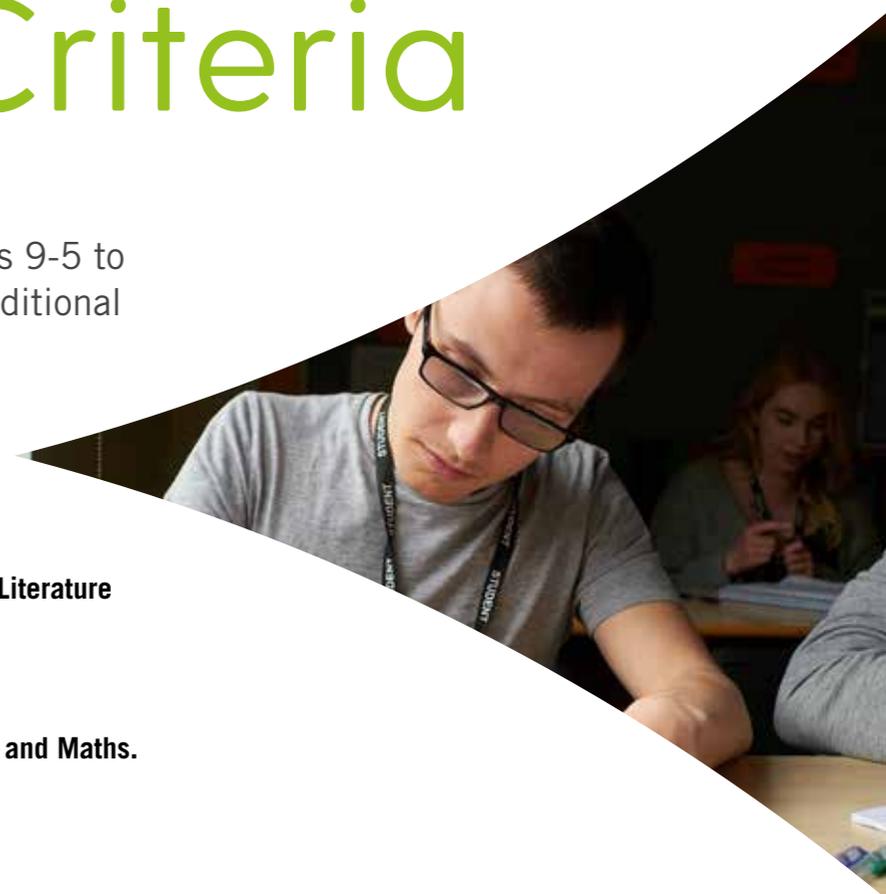
Maths:

Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.

English Literature and English Language:

Grade 6 in GCSE English Language, English Literature or a Humanities subject.

We may consider accepting learners with different grade profiles e.g. international qualifications on a case-by-case basis.



HOW TO APPLY

1. Submit Application Form

To apply for a course, simply submit an application form.

- Apply online at www.boston.ac.uk

Your application will be processed by the Admissions Team.

2. Application Review

After your application has been received and processed, you will have the chance to discuss your course in more detail. The 'Application Review' will take place with a member of staff from the A Level Department, and it's a great way of getting to know the College and staff.

3. Your Place

Following your Application Review, you will be sent a letter stating one of the following:

- A conditional offer
- Offer of a guidance session

4. Enrolment

Once you have accepted an offer, you will receive a letter in August inviting you to enrol on a certain date and time. It will provide you with all the information you need to be able to enrol at college.

Enrolment usually takes place at the end of August onwards, at the Boston Campus (Rochford), with the overall process taking around two hours.

Once enrolment has been completed and you have your ID badge, you are an official Boston College Student!

Careers Advice

If you are unsure which course, level or career is right for you, make an appointment with one of our Careers Advisers for impartial advice.

Contact our Information Line on 01205 313218, or email info@boston.ac.uk

Did you know?

We have campuses in Boston, Spalding and Horncastle offering many different types of courses including Traineeships, Apprenticeships, Technical Training and University Level courses up to Level 7.

See our main course guide for the full course list, or visit our website, www.boston.ac.uk

CAMPUS ADDRESS



Boston College

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OPEN EVENTS

BOSTON

Thursday 13th October 2022
5.00pm-8.00pm

Thursday 17th November 2022
5.00pm-8.00pm

Thursday 2nd February 2023
5.00pm-8.00pm

Results Day Open Event

Thursday 24th August 2023
9:30am-12:30pm

At our Open Events you can explore our facilities, speak to lecturers, meet current students, find out all you need to know about the courses you are interested in, apply on the night, and talk to our Learner Services Team for anything from impartial careers advice to finance support. Our Open Events really are the best way to do it all!

Register your place on our website using the QR code below, or at www.boston.ac.uk/open-events



**YOUR FUTURE
YOUR CHOICE
YOUR JOURNEY
YOUR CAREER**

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