HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CAMBRIDGE LEVEL 3 TECHNICALS EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

Well done for choosing Health and Social Care! It shows that you already have an interest in getting more practical, ‘real life’ experience of this sector, and that you are someone who is keen to apply their knowledge in a hands-on way. We are very much looking forward to embarking on this journey with you. The chances are very high that you have not studied the subject before and will therefore have a lot of questions: below we try to answer some of them for you.

1. Who will teach me?

There are four staff in the Social Science department, all of whom teach Health and Social Care (though not necessarily in any given year). Ms Williams and Ms Zoil are both full time; Mr Dougherty works on Thursdays and Fridays and Mrs Harris has a limited timetable as she is Deputy Head. Our office is very conveniently located opposite Sixth Form Central.

2. What will I learn?

The course is made up of four mandatory (in bold below) and two optional topics. More details on individual units can be found here: https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/260585-cambridge-technicals-health-and-social-care-summary-brochure.pdf

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<td><strong>Unit 22</strong>: Psychology for health and social care*</td>
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<td><strong>Unit 23</strong>: Sociology for health and social care*</td>
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*Please note: we have no current plans to change the optional listed above; but if results suggest you might do better on a different topic, we may change the options that we teach.

You should note that, unlike A Levels, work produced in Year 12 will contribute towards your final grade. Heath and Social Care is graded D* (starred distinction - equivalent to an A* at A Level); D (distinction - equivalent to an A); M (merit - equivalent to a C) and P (pass - equivalent to an E). We will of course be going beyond the specification to extend your learning and to give you the deep insights needed for top grades.

2. How can I get a good head start in H&SC?

Use the A Level Mindset in Health and Social Care form for ideas about extended reading, watching and habits to get you off to a good start. The NHS website (https://www.nhs.uk/) is a very valuable source of information and you should make sure you familiarise yourself with it early on. The BBC also has a useful section on health (https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health)
As a vocational course, you will find it very helpful to get experience in the sector. This can include volunteering in a Health and Social Care setting and talking to professionals. There are also opportunities in school (e.g., helping out with primary school taster days) which will give you relevant experience.

You should read over your notes after each lesson, making sure you fully understand what we have covered and noting any questions you may have for next lesson. Keep a glossary from the outset—there is a lot of technical terminology in this subject and you need to master this vocabulary to do well!

The internally assessed modules that you cover in Year 12 require lots of independent work and research, so it is vital that you make good use of study time from the outset. You will also need to pay careful attention to deadlines, so make sure you have a planner or diary and that you are working steadily on your portfolios and not leaving them to the last minute.

The Library is well stocked with books in our subjects, so make sure that you check out what it has to offer at an early stage. Lots of extra reading and links (e.g., to useful articles, MOOCs and Ted talks) will also be suggested on the Google Classroom (see 7 below).

3. How am I assessed in Health and Social Care?

In Year 12, topics are internally assessed in tasks that are set and marked by your teachers. You will get feedback on a draft, which you should note carefully and take appropriate action. Staff are only allowed to feedback once on draft material so it is vital that your first draft is as complete as possible.

In Year 13, you will have three written exams: Units 2 and 3 are 1.5 hours; Unit 4 is 2 hours. These exams typically contain a mixture of short and longer questions requiring you to both display and apply your knowledge. You will have regular tests in Y13 to check your progress.

4. How do I know how well I am doing?

You should keep a clear log of all comments and feedback you are given by teachers. Please make sure that this is kept in the front of your folders. You are also very welcome to discuss your progress with your teachers.

5. How do I organise my folders?

It is up to you to find a way to manage your notes—they are your notes, after all—but you need to ensure that you are bringing to lessons notes from the current topic and that you have a separate section for marked work, your progress record and other general documents. Because much of your work is independent, you will also need to organise your Google drive in a sensible way so that you don’t lose research.

You may sometimes be asked to produce at short notice all your work for a work scrutiny, so you need to make sure that it is easy to assemble all your notes in one place.
You should keep all marked work, even if the grade you get is disappointing. Revisiting old mistakes is an important part of learning!

6. What do I need to bring to lessons?

You should always come fully prepared for lessons. That means you need to bring your own stationery, textbook, and your notes/folders.

7. What other resources are there?

You will be invited to join Google ‘Classroom’, our online learning system. There will be a classroom for general Health and Social Care interest, and your teachers may set one up for their particular parts of the course. Please make sure that you leave notifications switched on, and that you regularly check these sites.

8. I have missed a lesson. What should I do?

Catch up by borrowing notes from someone who is in the same class as you, checking Classroom where appropriate and doing any necessary reading. If you still are not sure about topics covered, see the relevant member of staff. Please do not expect staff to e-mail you details of missed work as a matter of course.

If you miss an assessment, you will need to arrange with your teacher to catch up under timed conditions during a free period in school.

9. I don’t understand something. What should I do?

You should always feel comfortable asking for help in lessons, and speaking to your teacher(s) afterwards. If you think you need help beyond what is feasible in the classroom, then you should come along to surgery, which is held on Mondays in B006 at 2pm. If we feel that you need extra help or clarification, we may invite you to attend.

10. I want to do Health and Social Care or a related course at University, or to do an appropriate apprenticeship.

Great! Please let staff know what your plans are. We are always interested in learning more about what different universities offer on their courses, so it would be really helpful to get your views after you have been on visits and open days.

Ms Williams
September 2019