ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL HARPENDEN

A non-denominational Christian day and boarding school

Sixth Form Prospectus

The Sixth Form at St George's School

Welcome

St George's is a distinctive community where the traditions of our rich history meet the energy and vibrancy of a diverse and forward-thinking School. Our curriculum is delivered by exceptional teachers who are experts in their subjects and committed to fostering both academic excellence and intellectual curiosity. Alongside this, our pastoral care and personal development is second to none, ensuring that every pupil feels supported, encouraged, and equipped to reach their full potential. At St George's, we take pride in combining outstanding teaching with a nurturing environment that prepares our pupils not just for exams, but for life.

Choosing your A-levels is an exciting step in your educational journey, and Sixth Form represents a unique opportunity to delve deeply into the subjects you love. A-levels are rigorous, respected qualifications that demand dedication, intellectual curiosity, and a commitment to stretch yourself academically. At St George's, we believe that this challenge is an opportunity to thrive — to uncover your potential and prepare for the exciting possibilities that lie ahead.

Beyond the classroom, we encourage you to seize the opportunities that make Sixth Form life truly rewarding. From leadership roles, to extra-curricular pursuits, this is a time to develop new skills, new friendships, pursue your passions, and make lasting memories. Our House System plays a central role in this, providing all our pupils, whether continuing from Year 11 at St George's, or joining us from elsewhere, with a strong pastoral network, a sense of belonging, and the chance to actively contribute to the wider life of the school.

The Sixth Form is led by Mr Cullis our Director of Learning for the Sixth and Mr Ellis, Deputy Director of Learning. They are supported by a dedicated team of staff including Sixth Form tutors and coordinator. From managing your studies to navigating your next steps, whether that is university, apprenticeships, or entering the world of work, they will be there to guide you with expertise and unwavering support, every step of the way.

We warmly invite you to join our remarkable Sixth Form community, where academic excellence and personal growth go hand in hand. Come and experience the energy, ambition, and camaraderie that make St George's a special place to learn. We look forward to welcoming you and helping you make your Sixth Form years enjoyable and unforgettable.

Andy Ford – Headteacher

Mr Cullis

Director of Sixth Form Learning

Mr J Ellis

Deputy Director of Sixth Form Learning

Applying to the Sixth Form

Admission to the Sixth Form

We encourage students who want to meet the challenge of A Levels at St George's to apply for Sixth Form. Gaining a place is conditional upon meeting the overall and subject specific entry requirements for the combination of chosen subjects .

For details about our admissions criteria, including our over-subscription criteria, please read the "St George's Determined Sixth Form Criteria for Day Admissions 2026" which can be found on the school website in the "Join Us > Join as a Student > Sixth Form Admissions" section: or by clicking here

Application Process

If you would like to apply, please complete your application form using the online portal (called Applicaa). Applications will be open mid-January following the 'Opportunities at 16 + Information Evening'.

Returning Students

Current students attending St George's must meet certain criteria in order to join the Sixth Form, including chapel attendance (in Years 10 and 11), exam attendance and meeting controlled assessment deadlines for their GCSE subjects. We welcome those who have shown their appreciation for what the school has to offer through their contribution to the community and commitment to their studies.

New Joiner Students

We welcome new joiners into our Sixth Form as they add a new dynamic to the year group, bring new characters, friendships and opportunities. Last year, approximately a quarter of Year 12 were students new to the school, many of whom quickly became part of our community, including becoming House Captains. Current students help new students settle in quickly by acting as buddies ensuring they get involved in House events, extra-curricular activities, social or study groups.

Boarding Application

Boarder applications for Sixth Form are welcomed. St George's will interview all boarder candidates and expect to meet their parents/carers. Early application for a boarding place is essential, and the School will assess each candidate's suitability as a boarder for Keswick (Girls) House and Crosthwaite (Boys) House.

Choosing your Subjects

Students must study three A Level subjects to qualify as full-time students. We do not offer part-time courses in Year 12 or 13.

(Prospective) students will need to confirm four A level subjects on the application form in Applicaa: three preferred subjects and a reserve. **If, for any reason, we cannot accommodate a current student's request, we will contact that student to discuss a replacement subject which combines well with the subjects that can be timetabled.**

- Students wishing to study Mathematics and Further Mathematics **must** request to study two further subjects, constituting four A Level subjects in total. Some universities view these Mathematics A Levels as too similar to be separate subjects.
- Students with a very high overall GCSE score may request to study four A Level subjects for two years using the "Request for 4th Subject" box. However the workload of studying four A Levels concurrently is considerable and is neither required by the top universities nor recommended by us.

Higher education establishments will not ask for more than three A Levels (or equivalent) and high achievement in three subjects is more valuable than lower achievement in four A Levels.

Students are expected to spend at least 12 hours study on each subject per week. This consists of four hours of taught lessons and a minimum of eight hours of independent study per subject per week, completing work set, consolidating their understanding and preparing for the next lesson (during study periods and at home). This level of independent work is an essential part of preparation for study beyond Sixth Form. Students requiring more staff input can attend drop-in sessions with staff or form study groups, where peer interaction can improve the skills of all concerned.

Students who feel they have further capacity can take on other challenges beyond taught subjects, which will provide evidence of their independence through extra-curricular activities, leadership roles or extended learning opportunities, e.g., DofE, EPQ and MOOCS. In some cases, it is possible for students to study a subject privately, and to sit these exams through the school, e.g. Chinese for EAL students, accumulating extra qualifications.

“A Level Prep/Transition work”

All courses will set **pre-course work**: reading, skill building, revisiting higher GCSE knowledge or gathering materials and acquiring knowledge. This allows students to become more informed on their subject and make a more effective start to their courses. The pre- course work will be distributed to students in the summer term.

Being prepared for the start of Year 12 will help us to ensure that students are on the correct courses. To gauge the student’s aptitude, subject teachers will check the student’s skill set and knowledge in the first few weeks of Year 12. By week 3, we expect all students to be settled into their courses and we are unlikely to allow any changes of subject after this point since courses will progress rapidly.

Alternative Plans (“Plan B”)

Gaining a place in Sixth Form to study A Levels, may not be a default option. Deciding to study academic subjects needs careful consideration and, if performance in Year 11 indicates that a student may find further study at St George’s a challenge, then they should make plans for alternative progression routes. If a current student or parent wishes to have a discussion about these options, they should speak with subject staff, their form tutor or House staff. Independent, impartial advice and guidance can also be provided by Youth Council Hertfordshire staff, Services for Young People.

Summary of Sixth Form Entry Requirements for Entry in September 2026

All entrants must have a **minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which include both English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics, and with three of their passes at grade 6 or above**.

(Please note that the school will accept the following equivalent grade boundaries: IGCSE grade A = GCSE grade 7; IGCSE grade B = GCSE grade 6; IGCSE grade C = GCSE grade 5.)

In addition, there are specific entry requirements for each course, which are summarised below.

St George's Course (A Level)	**Minimum Specific GCSE Full Course or Other Entry Requirements**
Art and Design – Fine Art	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements as above*
Art and Design – Graphic Communication	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements as above*
Art and Design – Photography	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements as above*
Biology	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* Combined Science: Trilogy grade 6/6 (a double award) **and** Mathematics grade 6 **OR** Biology grade 6 (if studying separate sciences) **and** Mathematics grade 6 **AND** Students will also be required to take Biology with at least one subject that will help develop scientific thinking (Chemistry, Physics, Psychology or Mathematics) or with a subject that has a biological component (Geography or Physical Education).
Business	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* English (Language or Literature) grade 6 **and** Mathematics grade 6 **and** *(if studied)* Business **or** Economics grade 6
Chemistry	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* Combined Science: Trilogy grade 6/6 (a double award) **and** Mathematics grade 6 **OR** Chemistry grade 6 (if studying separate sciences) **and** Mathematics grade 6
Computer Science	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* Mathematics (Higher Level) grade 6 **and** English Language grade 5
Design and Technology: Product Design	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* Design and Technology grade 6 **and** Mathematics grade 5
Drama and Theatre	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements*

Economics	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* English (Language or Literature) grade 6 **and** Mathematics grade 6 **and** *(if studied)* Business **or** Economics grade 6
English Literature	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* English Language grade 6 **and** English Literature grade 6
French	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* French grade 6
Geography	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* Geography grade 6 **OR** *(if students have not studied Geography)* English (Language or Literature) grade 6 **and** Mathematics grade 6 **and** Science grade 6 *Given the Maths content of this course, we recommend you consider taking Core Maths to complement and enhance your studies.*
History	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* History grade 6 **OR** *(if students have not studied GCSE History)* English (Language or Literature) grade 7
Mathematics	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* Mathematics grade 7
Mathematics and Further Mathematics *(two separate A Levels)*	*Sixth Form Entry requirements including:* Mathematics grade 8 and can only be studied if taking two other A Level subjects
Core Maths (supplementary qualification)	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements* *Please note this is a supplementary qualification for those students who wish to continue studying maths but not at A Level*

Music	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements* Advisable to have taken GCSE Music* - Grade 5 An ability to play an instrument, or to sing, is essential Ongoing instrumental lessons, or membership to a school ensemble * Students without GCSE Music who have Grade 8 in an instrument will be considered

Physical Education	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* English (Language or Literature) grade 6 **and** Combined Science: Trilogy grade 6/6 (a double award) **and** *(if studied)* Physical Education grade 6 **OR** English (Language or Literature) grade 6 **and** Biology grade 6 (if studying separate sciences) **and** *(if studied)* Physical Education grade 6 **AND** all students must be participating in a sport at a good to high level. If GCSE Physical Education was undertaken, then this would be equivalent to a practical mark in band 4 or above.
Physics	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* Mathematics grade 6 **and** Combined Science: Trilogy grade 6/6 (a double award) **OR** Mathematics grade 6 **and** Physics grade 6 (if studying separate sciences) It is not essential that students take A Level Mathematics, but it is strongly recommended due to the highly mathematical nature of the subject, especially in the latter parts of the two-year course.
Politics	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* A minimum of five full GCSE's or equivalent at grades 9-5, which would include English Language, English Literature and Mathematics with passes at Grade 6 or above in at least TWO of English Language, English Literature or History.

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* English Language grade 6 **and** *(if studied)* Religious Studies grade 6

Psychology	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* English (Language or Literature) grade 6 **and** Mathematics grade 6 **and** Combined Science: Trilogy grade 6/6 (a double award) **OR** English (Language or Literature) grade 6 **and** Mathematics grade 6 **and** Biology grade 6 (if studying separate sciences) Given the Maths content of this course, we recommend you consider taking Core Maths to complement and enhance your studies.
Spanish	Sixth Form Entry Requirements including: Spanish grade 6

Harpenden Schools Consortium Courses	**<u>Minimum</u> Specific GCSE Full Course or Other Entry Requirements**
Food & Science Diploma *taught at Roundwood Park School*	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements*
German A Level *taught at Sir John Lawes*	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* German grade 6
Health & Social Care *BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate* *taught at Roundwood Park School*	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements*
Information Technology *BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate* *taught at Roundwood Park School*	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements*
Media Studies A Level *taught at Sir John Lawes*	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* Media or Film Studies grade 6 **<u>OR</u>** *(if Media or Film Studies have not previously been studied)* English grade 6
Performing Arts BTEC *taught at Katherine Warington School*	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* *English grade 4 or above*
Spanish A Level *taught at Roundwood Park School*	*Sixth Form Entry Requirements including:* Spanish grade 6

Meeting Entry Requirements – Results Day

On **Results Day**, the student must meet **both the overall entry requirement and the entry requirements for the three Level 3 qualifications that they have chosen.**

Students who do not meet the entry requirements for their course will need to request an alternative subject course for which they do meet the entry requirement. It may **not** be possible to accommodate the new subject request, and students may therefore lose their Sixth Form place and, if applicable, their Boarding place as well.

We are willing to consider any extenuating circumstances (of which we have been previously informed) that may affect a student's achievement at GCSE. Individual cases are given due consideration as to a student's chance of thriving on the two-year courses in light of such information provided.

External international students are required to have "equivalent, appropriate, transferable qualifications" for entry onto the subjects, including in English and Mathematics. International students who have not taken British GCSEs or International GCSEs **must** provide the necessary equivalence proof to verify their qualifications.

Returning (current) students

- Students will be able to collect their results in school from 08.30am on results day.
- Staff will be in school from 10am – 1pm to discuss in person any issues arising from the student's results.
- Students and/or their parents should be present (or arrange a suitable proxy) on Results Day, to resolve any issues which may arise from the student's results. If there are no issues, students will automatically be timetabled as per their subject offer letter.
- If a student decides not to take their Sixth Form place offered, they must notify the school via the Applicaa portal; the school has a legal duty to report the destinations of all St George's leavers.

New joiners

- Students are expected to upload a copy of their Statement of Results and accept their offer on Applicaa by Friday 21 August at 12 noon to guarantee their place.
- Staff will be in school from 2.00-4.00pm to discuss in person any issues arising from the student's results. If a student wishes to make a subject change this must be done in person, on results day
- If a student decides not to take the Sixth Form place offered, they must notify the school via the Applicaa portal.

Important Diary Dates and Deadlines

Returning (current) students

Tuesday 13 January 2026	**Opportunities at 16+ Evening (Sixth form information evening)** The evening comprises of an introductory talk about St George's Sixth Form, our expectations and the application process. There is also the opportunity to attend three subject-specific talks where staff will outline the key features of the Sixth Form courses.
Friday 6 February 2026 **Closes at 12 noon**	**Deadline for completing the sixth form application via Applicaa** **All** students who wish to apply to St George's Sixth Form **must complete** the online Sixth Form application form by **noon** on **Friday 6 February 2026**. If an internal student does not complete their application in Applicaa by the deadline, it will be assumed that they do not wish to continue their education in the Sixth Form at St George's. Any such internal students will be required to complete a form with details of their proposed Post-16 destination(s).
End of March 2026	Applicants are informed of the outcome of their Sixth Form application via Applicaa
Friday 17 April 2026	Deadline for students to accept conditional offer via Applicaa
Thursday 20 August 2026	**GCSE Results Day** Students must fulfil **all** of the entry criteria to enter St George's Sixth Form in September 2026. Entrants **must** have a minimum of five full GCSEs at grades 9-5, which would include both English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics, with three of their passes at grade 6 or above. Students must also meet the specific subject entry requirements for each course. All students **must study** at least three **recognised courses in the Sixth Form.** Please see results day section for more information
Friday 21 August 2026 **12 noon**	**Deadline to** **a) Accept place via Applicaa** **b) Return the Post 16 declaration (for Year 11 students not returning to the Sixth Form).** This is a Department of Education requirement.

New Joiners

Tuesday 13 January 2026	**Opportunities at 16+ Evening** The evening comprises of an introductory talk about St George's Sixth Form, our expectations and the application process. This is followed by the opportunity to attend three subject-specific talks where staff will outline the key features of the Sixth Form courses. Please note this is not an Open Evening, and it is not possible to tour the whole school.
Friday 6 February 2026	**Deadline for the Application process** **All new joining applicants** must fully complete the online application form in **Applicaa by 12 noon.** External students interested in boarding must also make contact with Boarding Admissions via boarding@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk.
Friday 27 March 2026	New joining applicants receive information via Applicaa regarding the outcome of their Sixth form application
Friday 17 April 2026	Deadline for students to accept conditional offer via Applicaa
May 2026	**Letter sent regarding External Applicant Induction Day** All new joining applicants who are offered and accept a conditional offer of a Sixth Form place at St George's school will be sent a letter with details of our New Joiner Applicant Induction Day to be held on **Thursday 25 June 2026**.
Thursday 25 June 2026	**New Joiner Induction Day – Compulsory Attendance** All new joiner applicants who are offered and accept a conditional offer of a Sixth Form place at St George's school are expected to attend our New Joiner Induction Day. This date has been set well in advance to ensure all new joining students can attend. New joining students should therefore not book holidays etc. which would preclude them from attending. Attendance is compulsory, with the exception of overseas boarders.
Thursday 20 August 2026	**GCSE Results Day** New Joiner offer holders must fulfil all of the entry criteria to enter St George's Sixth Form in September 2025. Entrants must have a minimum of five full GCSEs at grades 9-5, which would include both English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics, with three of their passes at grade 6 or above. Students must also meet the specific subject entry requirements for each course. All students **must study** at least three **recognised courses in the Sixth Form**. Please see the Results Day section in the prospectus for more information.
Friday 21 August 2026 **12 noon**	**Deadline to accept place/ subject change request** and to upload your **Statement of Results via Applicaa** All New joiner offer holders who are accepting their conditional offer must upload a copy of their official statement of results. Students wishing to change a subject should requesting a change of subject through Applicaa and come in to see the Sixth Form team between 2-4pm on **results day** or between 9-12 on Friday 21 August. Please note that if the school does not receive all of the required documentation by the deadline of 12 noon (UK time) on Friday 21 August 2026, the student will forfeit their conditional Sixth Form place and it may be offered to other eligible students.

Subject Curriculum

Art and Design – Fine Art
Art and Design – Graphic Communication
Art and Design – Photography
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Computer Science
Design and Technology: Product design
Drama and Theatre
Economics
English Literature
Food & Science (Consortium RWP)
French
Geography
German (Consortium SJL)
Health & Social Care BTEC(Consortium RWP)
History
Information Technology BTEC (Consortium RWP)
Mathematics
Mathematics and Further Mathematics
Core Maths – Supplementary qualification
Media Studies (Consortium SJL)
Music
Performing Arts BTEC (Consortium KWS)
Physical Education
Physics
Politics
Psychology
Religious Studies (Philosophy & Ethics)
Spanish (also taught as Consortium at RPS)

Please note:

1. Biology can only be taken if combined with at least one other subject that covers scientific ideas, environmental factors or elements of physiology.
2. Students who choose to follow one or more of the Sciences, and who do not opt for Mathematics A Level, should be prepared to study the Mathematics element of that course through extra independent study
3. In addition to the subjects listed above, all students participate in games and attend a programme of tutorial activities, Friday 5 enrichment sessions, personal development lessons and supervised study sessions. They also offer targeted in-class support to some of our younger students and attend a weekly House assembly and House chapel.
4. Any subjects available within our consortium at either Roundwood Park, Sir John Lawes or Katherine Warington may have a limited number of places available. Therefore, we cannot guarantee that a place will be available. Be aware that students attending consortium lessons must attend these even when St George's is closed or has suspended the timetable for an event.

Art and Design – Fine Art

Examination Board: Edexcel
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

This is a highly exciting, creative and successful course. Over the last number of years, on average over 85% of participants have gained an A* or A grade. It is therefore one of the most successful Fine Art A Level courses in the Country. This qualification is valid for Russell group or Oxbridge universities. Indeed, all Universities value the contrast it brings to other subjects and the inherent creative problem solving it develops. Students will develop practical skills as well as developing their knowledge and understanding of culture, Art history, social issues and the work and preoccupations of other artists. Projects and themes are often self-chosen and thus the course develops independent study skills and allows students to pursue their interests and passions.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include both English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics, with three of the passes at grade 6 or above. A GCSE in Art would be preferable.

Course Content

Throughout Fine Art, students will encounter a broad range of techniques, materials and processes. They will develop skills, explore ideas and make observations to support the creation of high-quality Fine Art outcomes. They will be introduced to a variety of areas within Fine Art including painting, printing, drawing, mixed media, sculpture, ceramics and installation. They will develop their visual skills and explore different ways of using materials and tools to develop their own ideas. Students will explore a variety of mark making techniques, experiment with collage and discover the properties of materials whilst exploring visual language through drawing. We place a strong emphasis on drawing, as it is crucial to innovation across all creative disciplines regardless of specialisms. As a Department, we support student progress through regular weekly feedback sessions offering a platform for discussion and development to ensure creative practice and acquisition of skills are constantly progressing and moving forward. Students can develop and work independently, often choosing their own themes of investigation and they will be supported throughout the 2-year course by staff who are experienced within a wide variety of disciplines, enabling them to develop their creative practice. The course culminates in an extensive and exuberant exhibition that is open to family and friends.

Assessment

Component 1: Coursework
Practical work and Personal study
60% of the total A Level
Internally assessed

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment
40% of the total A Level
Internally assessed

Who is this course suited to?

You will be well suited to this course if you are: creative and enjoy independent creative problem solving; keen to learn to develop practical skills such as painting, drawing and sculpture; keen to learn about and understand the work of other artists.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

Fine Art links well with all subjects as it encourages you to think creatively and to problem solve. It also offers a contrast and balance to other subjects. It pairs well with the sciences and complements the Humanities with its study of cultures, movements and artists.

Career Opportunities

The creative industries are one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK. There is predicted to be one million new jobs in the sector within the next five years (www.Gov.uk/creative industries) Careers include: Architect, Illustrator, animator, Story Board illustrator, Printmaker, Art Conservation, Gallery Curator, Cartoonist, Film Maker, Special effects maker, Book Illustrator, Museum Curator, Teacher, Art Director, Commercial Artist. Graphic Design and Communication, Advertising and Brand Development, 3D Animation and Gaming Design, Cinematography, Art Conservation, Gallery Curation, Post production, Film Production, Camera work and Direction, Prop Development and Set Design, Special FX development, Book Illustration, Art Direction, Events Planning and Management and many other roles requiring creativity. The late Steve Jobs, of Apple fame, was renowned for only employing graduates with a Visual Arts Degree, believing that they had the requisite imagination and creative problem- solving skills necessary for cutting edge industry. There is a huge plethora of jobs in the visual Arts industry.

Other Information

You will have an opportunity to extend your experiences of work first-hand by taking part in a number of visits to galleries and events. The course is anchored at the start of the autumn term with a trip to The Tate Britain and Modern Gallery, followed by a Greek meal on the South Bank. (Approximate cost £40.00). A highlight of the course is a 4-day spring trip to Florence. This acts as a catalyst for the understanding of the history of European art, culture and design, and as a springboard to students' own projects. The cost of this trip is approximately £740.

Over 80% gain a grade A or A* in Art subjects and 98% A*-B

In 2025, 56 Art students gained an A* or A

Results, as well as the experience, are exceptional!

Over 83% students gained an A or A* in Fine Art

"The teaching in the Art Department is outstanding.
They improve everyone's abilities, transforming students into artists"

Art and Design – Graphic Communication

Examination Board: Edexcel
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

This is a highly exciting, creative and successful course. Over the last number of years, on average over 90% of participants have gained an A* or A grade. It is therefore one of the most successful Graphics A Level courses in the Country. Many previous students have gained places at Russell group or Oxbridge Universities. Undergraduate courses value the contrast it brings to other subjects and the inherent creative problem solving it develops. Students will develop practical skills as well as developing knowledge and understanding of Graphic Design and Communication, Culture, Art history, social issues and the work and preoccupations of other designers, multidisciplinary artists and craftspeople. Projects, skills and themes are taught yet self-directed which allows students to develop their own creative voice and enables independent study and ownership of work. Projects are wide reaching and extend Cultural Capital knowledge, which is shared across the teaching group.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include both English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics, with three of the passes at grade 6 or above. A GCSE in Art would be preferable.

Course Content

Throughout Graphic Communication students will encounter a broad range of concepts, theories, techniques, materials and processes. They will develop skills, explore ideas and make observations to support the creation of high-quality site-specific outcomes. Students will be introduced to a variety of areas within Graphic Communication including computer aided design concepts, letterpress printing, printmaking, mixed media and hand rendering with some drawing and site-specific installation. Students will also develop visual skills and explore a variety of materials and tools to develop their own ideas. Students will initially learn to use a range of techniques and start to build a cohesive project journey, documenting progress and gaining ideas and knowledge. There will be a strong emphasis on acquiring skills, generating concepts and the development of ideas using appropriate methodology and process. As a Department, we support student progress through regular weekly feedback sessions offering a platform for discussion and development to ensure that creative practice and acquisition of skills are constantly progressing and moving forward. Work can be developed independently. Themes and areas of investigation are usually self-chosen, and you will be guided throughout the two-year course by staff who are experienced across a wide variety of disciplines, enabling you to develop your creative practice. The course culminates in an extensive and exuberant exhibition that is open to family and friends.

Assessment

Component 1: Coursework
Practical work and Personal study
60% of the total A Level
Internally assessed

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment
40% of the total A Level
Internally assessed

Who is this course suited to?

You will be well suited to this course if you are: creative and enjoy independent innovation and problem solving; keen to learn to develop conceptual and practical skills; eager to learn about and understand the work of other Designers, Artists and Multidisciplinary Creatives

What other subjects complement this A Level?

Graphic Communication connects easily to other A Levels, often providing a context within which to research and create a project linked to another area of study. It also develops the ability to problem solve and build a personal area of focus. Graphic Communication complements Sciences and other Arts and Humanities subjects, often enabling and culminating in a thematic project connected to a personal interest or A Level.

Career Opportunities

The creative industries are one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK. It is predicted that there will be one million new jobs in the sector within the next five years (www.Gov.uk/creative industries). Careers include Graphic Design and Communication, Advertising and Brand Development, Architecture, Illustration, Animation, 3D Animation and Gaming Design, Cinematography, Printmaking, Art Conservation, Gallery Curation, Post production, Film Production, Camera work and Direction, Prop Development and Set Design, Special FX development, Book Illustration, Teaching, Art Direction, Events Planning and Management and many other roles requiring creativity. The late Steve Jobs, of Apple fame, was renowned for only employing graduates with a Visual Arts Degree, believing that they had the requisite imagination and creative problem-solving skills necessary for this cutting- edge industry. There is a huge plethora of jobs in the visual Arts industry.

Other Information

You will have an opportunity to extend your experiences of work first-hand by taking part in a number of visits to galleries and events. The course is anchored at the start of the autumn term with a trip to The Tate Britain and Modern Gallery , followed by a Greek meal on the South Bank. (Approximate cost £40.00). A highlight of the course is a 4-day spring trip to Florence. This acts as a catalyst for the understanding of the history of European art, culture and design, and as a springboard to students' own projects. The cost of this trip is approximately £740.

Over 80% gain a grade A or A* in Graphics

"I absolutely love this subject. You get to express your own ideas and make it personal to you"

Art and Design – Photography

Examination Board: Edexcel
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

This is a highly exciting, creative and successful course. Over the last number of years on average over 80% of participants have gained an A* or A grade. It is therefore one of the most successful Photography A Level courses in the Country. This qualification is valid for Russell group or Oxbridge universities. Indeed, all Universities value the contrast it brings to other subjects and the inherent creative problem solving it develops. Students will develop practical skills as well as developing their knowledge and understanding of culture, Art history, social issues and the work and preoccupations of other artists. Projects and themes are often self-chosen and thus the course develops independent study skills and allows students to pursue their interests and passions. We have an enviable dark room with 15 enlargers that students can utilise at all points of the course.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include both English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics, with three of the passes at grade 6 or above. A GCSE in Art would be preferable.

Course Content

Throughout Photography, students will encounter a broad range of techniques, materials and processes. They will develop skills, explore ideas and make observations to support the creation of high-quality Photographic outcomes, including site-specific installations. They will be introduced to a variety of areas within Photography including dark room skills, photograms, digital and film camera use, pin hole photography, digital manipulation, photographic composition, mixed media photography and quite simply how to take an outstanding photograph! As a Department, we support student progress through regular weekly feedback sessions offering a platform for discussion and development to ensure creative practice and acquisition of skills are constantly progressing and moving forward. Students can develop and work independently, often choosing their own themes of investigation and they will be supported throughout the two-year course by staff who are experienced within a wide variety of disciplines, enabling them to develop their creative practice. The course culminates in an extensive and exuberant exhibition that is open to family and friends.

Assessment

Component 1: Coursework
Practical work and Personal study
60% of the total A Level
Internally assessed

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment
40% of the total A Level
Internally assessed

Who is this course suited to?

You will be well suited to this course if you are: creative and enjoy independent creative problem solving; keen to learn to develop practical skills such as painting, drawing and sculpture; keen to learn about and understand the work of other artists.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

Photography links well with all subjects as it encourages you to think creatively and to problem solve. It also offers a contrast and balance to other subjects. It pairs well with the sciences, as there is a strong technical element. Indeed, past students have gone on to study engineering with Photography as an A Level. It also complements the Humanities and Arts with its study of cultures, movements and artists.

Career Opportunities

The creative industries are one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK. There is predicted to be one million new jobs in the sector within the next five years (www.Gov.uk/creative industries) Careers include: Fashion photography, documentary photography, magazine editor, Architecture, animator, Story Board illustrator, Film Maker, Special effects maker, Teacher, Art Director, Commercial Artist. The late Steve Jobs, of Apple fame, was renowned for only employing graduates with a Visual Arts Degree, believing that they had the requisite imagination and creative problem-solving skills necessary for cutting edge industry. There is a huge plethora of jobs in the visual Arts industry.

Other Information

You will have an opportunity to extend your experiences of work first-hand by taking part in a number of visits to galleries and events. The course is anchored at the start of the autumn term with a trip to The Tate Britain and Modern Gallery, followed by a Greek meal on the South Bank. (Approximate cost £40.00). A highlight of the course is a 4-day spring trip to Florence. This acts as a catalyst for the understanding of the history of European art, culture and design, and as a springboard to students' own projects. The cost of this trip is approximately £740.

Over the last 3 years 80% gained a grade A or A* in Photography
Results, as well as the experience, are exceptional!

"I am really passionate about Photography because it allows me to implement my interests through the eyes of a camera lens"

Biology

Examination Board: AQA
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

Biology is a comprehensive study about life and all its forms. The importance of biology in everyday life is unquestionable as it allows us to know our body better and to understand the value of the earth's resources and potential threats in the environment. Genetics, immunology, physiology, zoology and ecology are but different branches of biology. Be it a smallest cell or large ecosystem, biology covers it all. Biology explores issues such as genetic engineering, stem cell research applications and global warming. The scope of biology is unlimited, and this is a subject that has the element of wonder.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include English (Language or Literature), and must include Mathematics at grade 6 or above **and either** Combined Science Trilogy at grade 6/6 **or** Biology grade 6 or above (if studying separate sciences).

Students will also be required to take Biology with at least one subject that will help develop scientific thinking (Chemistry, Design & Technology, Physics, Psychology or Mathematics), or with a subject that has a biological component (Geography or Physical Education).

Course Content

The course consists of eight topic areas that cover the major disciplines in Biology. The topics studied in the Year 1 course give you a deeper understanding of the key ideas introduced at GCSE, such as the study of biological molecules, cell structure, and cell replication. In Year 2, you will gain higher level of knowledge of important biological processes, such as photosynthesis, respiration, nutrient cycles and genetic inheritance. In the final year, there is also a focus on you developing your ability to understand and explain the important links between topic areas. You will complete a minimum of 12 required practicals, allowing you to develop a range of new technical skills and the ability to plan and carry out practical work with an increasing level of independence. You are encouraged to drive your own learning through the carrying out of independent learning tasks and by regularly being given the opportunity to evaluate your own progress. Students are fully supported by an experienced team of staff that will help you develop your subject knowledge, by providing regular feedback on assignments and end of topic tests, as well as encouraging and supporting you in developing your wider study skills.

Assessment

Paper 1 Topics 1–4 including practical techniques (Year 1 Topics) 35%
Paper 2 Topics 5–8 including practical techniques (Year2 Topic) 35%
Paper 3 Topics 1–8 30%

Practical assessment (pass/fail) – teacher assessed. A pass is essential for most science-based degree courses, but this does not directly contribute to the overall A Level grade. Students are assessed on both specific practical techniques and general scientific skills.

Who is this course suited to?

You will be well suited to this course if you are curious about the processes that lie behind the complexities of life on Earth, as well as the ethical issues around some aspects of biological studies. You should have good analytical skills and be willing to pay attention to detail. You will be confident in both your numeracy and literacy skills. You will be keen to develop your scientific practical skills and understanding of scientific processes.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

For students wishing to undertake a Biology degree post-18, they should consider taking Chemistry, D&T, Physics or Maths alongside their Biology A Level. A Level Biology content complements subjects with a biological element to the course such as Psychology and Physical Education.

To enhance your studies you may also like to consider taking Core Maths as an extra qualification in Yr12

Career Opportunities

There is a wide range of career pathways available to students with a biology qualification including academic, medical or industrial research and development, entry into health care related professions, forensic science and education. In addition, a scientific background can also be an important asset in other areas such as economics, politics and journalism.

Other Information

- Students are provided with access to an on-line copy of the text book but may prefer to buy their own copy to write on.
- Recommended textbook "AQA Biology A Level Second Edition Student Book" Oxford university press. Cost approximately £44.00 available via OUP website and good bookstores.
- Maths Skills and Practical Skill handbooks are provided by the school, to be returned at the completion of the A Level course.
- Amersham Field Studies - students visit the Amersham Field Centre to complete a required practical. Approximate cost £60.00
- Biological Science Review – it is recommended that students subscribe to this specially written journal for A Level Biologists, available through ParentPay. Last year the cost was £15.
- Rothamsted Research – visit the Bio-imaging Unit to see advanced microscopic techniques at work. Approximate cost £5.
- Students also have the opportunity to take part in Biology Olympiad – cost £5

77% of students achieved A*– B in 2025

Business

Examination Board: AQA
Qualification: A Level Business
Specification website click here

Introduction

With the pace of change ever increasing, Business offers the opportunity to acquire knowledge, apply it to real world situations and analyse causes and effects on an individual and global scale. In doing so, students will develop key skills in communication, organisation and evaluation to take forward into the modern world of commerce.

Entry Requirements

- A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9-5, with three of the passes at grade 6 or above in English (Language or Literature), Mathematics and one further subject.
- If either Business or Economics have been previously studied, a GCSE grade 6 or above in that subject.

Course Content

Students will develop a critical understanding of business organisations and business activity. In doing so an appreciation of business behaviour from a variety of stakeholder viewpoints will be gained.

As an introduction, students will learn why businesses exist and the reasons for choosing and changing business structure.

The four key functional areas in Business – Finance, Human Resources, Marketing and Operations - are studied in detail. Students will gain knowledge of how each sector operates in practice and develop the skills to evaluate the impact of decision-making within each and across functions.

In Year 13, work builds on that studied in Year 12 by analysing the strategic position of a business, considering challenges faced in a broader and longer-term context. Included here is the extension of study on an international scale with particular emphasis on such external influences as Politics, Economics, Sociology, Technology and the Environment in an increasingly competitive and globalised business arena.

Assessment

At the end of year 2, students will sit three papers each covering content covered over both years.

Paper 1

Section A – 15 multiple-choice questions
Section B – short answer questions
Section C & D – essay questions (two from four)

Paper 2
Three compulsory data response questions

Paper 3
One compulsory case study (unseen) comprising approximately six questions.

Each paper is 2 hours in duration and comprises 33.3% of the overall grade.

Who is this course suited to?

Creative thinkers who like to see theory and practice combine in the 'real world'. Core skills that are developed include communication, organisation and teamwork through such activities as presentations to the group and the encouragement of entrepreneurship. An understanding and interest in numeracy, IT and Finance is of benefit.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

Covering such a broad range of topics, Business combines well with a wide range of both Arts and Science subjects.

To enhance your studies you may also like to consider taking Core Maths as an extra qualification in Yr12

Career Opportunities

The study of Business is a good foundation for a wide variety of careers such as Accounting, Banking, Business Administration, Marketing, HR and Logistics. Many of the skills learnt are transferable between industries.

Other Information

Students are invited to participate in competitions such as 'Dragon's Apprentice', on a local school level, and 'BASE' on a national level.

In 2025 56% of students achieved A* to B
With 28% achieving A*/A

"In a world where the pace of change is ever increasing, Business enables me to engage with the real world like no other subject. Gaining a broader understanding of how Marketing, Finance, HR and Operations work on a local, national and international scale will prepare me for a wide variety of career options"

Chemistry

Examination Board: AQA
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

Chemistry is the study of matter—what it consists of, what its properties are, and how it changes. It provides a basis for the understanding of all scientific disciplines. Students studying chemistry will develop their powers of analysis, their problem solving and critical thinking skills and their ability to understand concepts and models. The practical component of the course will also develop crucial employability skills such as researching, teamwork and communication skills.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics grade 6 or above **and**

Either: Combined Science: Trilogy grade 6/6 (a double award) or above.

Or: Chemistry grade 6 or above (if studying separate sciences) and a further subject at grade 6 or above.

However, it is **strongly advised** that students should have attained an average **grade 7 or above in the Chemistry papers of the Combined Science: Trilogy component or in GCSE Chemistry (separate sciences)** to cope with the more challenging content at A Level. Students should also note that A Level Chemistry is a very numerate subject. Previous students with grade 6 in GCSE Maths have found many aspects of the course very challenging, so a grade 7 or above in GCSE Maths would be advantageous.

Course Content

The course builds on the key principles of GCSE Chemistry such as atomic structure, bonding, mole calculations, reaction rates and equilibria, although knowledge of the additional topics in the Separate science GCSE is not assumed. In Year 12, these topics are extended significantly and new topics such as energetics and basic organic chemistry are also covered. In Year 13, a wide range of organic chemistry is studied together with topics such as electrochemistry, thermodynamics and the chemistry of transition metals. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the wonders of the Periodic Table and learn how and why many reactions happen, together with the knowledge of how to synthesise a range of organic materials. Many topics have a mathematical component and students can expect to find some element of mathematics in at least half of all lessons. Students are required to complete 12 assessed practical experiments either individually or in pairs, which cover a range of practical techniques such as titration, calorimetry, refluxing, vacuum filtration and recrystallisation. There will be some practical component to an average one lesson per week, which enables students to develop a range of practical skills and gain a better understanding of scientific method.

Assessment

100% examination (3 exam papers) at the end of the two-year course covering all topics including the required practicals.

Practical assessment (pass/fail) – teacher assessed. Whilst this does not directly contribute to the overall A Level grade, a pass is essential for most science-based degree courses. Students are assessed on both specific practical techniques and general scientific skills.

Who is this course suited to?

You will be well suited to this course if you are: logical, analytical, numerate, can appreciate concepts and models and enjoy problem solving. You should have an interest in, and an enjoyment of, the study of Chemistry and be keen to learn and understand new chemical concepts and principles. You will be keen to develop your scientific practical skills with a range of equipment and techniques.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

Chemistry supports Biology well but also links well to Physics, Mathematics, Geography, Psychology, Food Technology and PE. Many students also pursue it as a means of broadening their curriculum when studying other subjects not normally associated with science such as Art, Business and the Humanities generally.

Career Opportunities

- Chemistry is a subject that can be studied in its own right in pursuit of worthwhile careers in the chemical, biochemical or pharmaceutical industries – such careers may be in a direct research or development environment or in other more business-related roles within these industries.
- Chemistry is mandatory for students wishing to be doctors, dentists, vets, pharmacists or forensic scientists.
- Chemistry also has direct application in a very wide range of areas including medical, biological, geographical and geological sciences, food technology, materials science, engineering, environmental science, teaching and scientific journalism.
- Chemistry is regarded as a strong academic A Level and as such is also highly regarded by universities or companies for non-scientific subjects including computer science, law and business, financial or management related courses.

Other Information

Competitions

- All students are given the opportunity to enter the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge (an Olympiad style competition for year 12 and below).
- The main RSC Chemistry Olympiad competition, held in January is open to year 13 chemists.
- These problem-solving exam-based competitions are cost-free and provide students with the opportunity to stretch themselves beyond A level, applying their knowledge and skill to interesting and challenging scenarios with the chance of gaining a certificate of great value for subsequent university applications.

Costs

- The textbook used is "AQA Chemistry A Level Second Edition Student Book" Oxford University Press. Students are provided with access to an online copy of the textbook, but may prefer to buy their own copy to write on.
- Chemistry Review – it is recommended that students subscribe to this specially written journal for A Level Chemists, available via ParentPay. Last year the cost was £15.
- The Chemistry Department has a limited stock of old laboratory coats and will provide safety goggles, although some students may choose to purchase their own.

54% of our students achieved A*–A in 2025

Computer Science

Examination Board: OCR
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

Computer science is a dynamic and rapidly growing area that has become an integral part of the world that we live in today. With the future challenges that computer scientists will have to unravel, this course has an emphasis on problem solving, programming and understanding how computers actually work.

The aims of this qualification are to enable learners to develop:

- An understanding and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science. This includes abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation.
- The ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so.
- The capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9-5, including English Language, with three of the passes at grade 6 or above in Mathematics (Higher level) and two other subjects.

If Computer Science has not been studied before at GCSE, then students will need to demonstrate a keen and active interest in programming.

Course Content

The content of this A Level in Computer Science is divided into three components.

Component 01 – Computer Systems

This component introduces learners to the characteristics of systems architecture, the exchange of data, software development, data types, data structures, legal issues, and ethical issues. Learners will draw on this underpinning content when studying component 02 and working on their programming project in component 03.

Component 02 – Algorithms and Programming

This component introduces learners to computational thinking, problem solving, programming, and algorithms. The topics explored in this component are those used to build solutions for real-world problems. This provides a roadmap for the learner to complete their programming project in component 03

Component 03 – Programming Project

Learners will choose a problem that they would like to solve. They will then analyse, design, develop, and evaluate their solution to the problem. This will include programming in a suitable text-based language. The underlying approach of the project is to apply the principles learnt in components 01 and 02 to a practical coding problem.

Assessment

Each component of the course is assessed as follows:

- Paper 1 is a written examination paper on Computer Systems (40%)
- Paper 2 is a written examination paper on Algorithms and Programming (40%)
- Programming Project (20%)

Students sit both written papers during the June sessions at the end of Year 13. Each paper is 2 hours 30 minutes long and is non-calculator. The teacher marks the programming project, and submits the student's work to the exam board for moderation in early May.

Who is this course suited to?

To succeed at A Level Computer Science, you must have a logical and analytical mind in order to understand how computers operate. Computer programming is an essential element of the course, so you must enjoy coding, have an eye for detail, and be able to use your imagination to create solutions to problems. To secure your computer science knowledge, you will also need the intellectual curiosity to investigate beyond the content of the A level course.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

Computer Science complements Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics and Economics.

Career Opportunities

Computer Science is currently the fastest growing degree subject and can also be paired with Data Science, Electrical Engineering, Mathematics, and Statistics.

Computing is a huge industry and offers many professional careers including Software Developer, Applications Programmer, Systems Programmer, Multimedia Programmer, Systems Analyst, Computer Sales Support, Database Administrator, IT Technical Support Officer, Computer Security Consultant, Games Developer, IT Consultant, and Web Designer. There are also many careers where computer science knowledge can be very advantageous.

Other Information

All students must do additional reading, outside of lesson time, to help develop a wider understanding of the applications of computers and the effects of their use. Students must also commit to independently developing their programming skills outside of lesson time.

"Computer Science has taught me fundamental skills in logical thinking that are applicable across all STEM subjects. We get to take part in lots of fun activities, from coding to ethical debates. I strongly recommend it to anyone, as learning the fundamentals of computer science and coding is useful in all sorts of jobs!"

Design and Technology: Product Design

Examination Board: AQA
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

Product Design is an A Level that aims to strengthen learners' critical thinking and problem-solving skills within a creative environment, enabling students to develop and make products that solve real world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values. Learners are openly encouraged to take design risks and develop products through an iterative design process. Using a mixture of traditional and emerging technology, students will respond to a given design context and be encouraged to explore this area in great detail. A major requirement for participation in this course is a commitment to and the enjoyment of designing and engineering quality prototypes. Product Design is a rigorous, challenging and academic subject that must not be seen as an opportunity to simply make artefacts, but as an opportunity to solve real world problems with innovation and creativity.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include English (Language or Literature), and must include Mathematics grade 5, Design & Technology grade 6 and two other passes at grade 6 or above.

Course Content

Throughout Product Design, you will engage with a wide range of materials and manufacturing technologies both traditional and disruptive. We will cover a wide range of topic areas from modern manufacturing systems to user centred design. All students will receive training in modern CAD software to support their design and manufacturing skills, as well as focused practical lessons to learn manufacturing techniques. A typical week within a Product Design lesson could include, researching existing products and engaging with design history; Investigating the context of a problem and generating ideas to solve it; engaging with new materials and technologies; learning and practicing new and traditional industrial processes; producing 3D drawings and 3D printouts of prototypes. Learners are given their own workshop and studio space to use as well as the support and expertise of staff from a wide range of disciplines.

Assessment

Component 1: NEA

Research, Design and Practical work 100 marks
50% of the total A Level
Internally assessed, externally moderated

Component 2: Technical Principles

Industrial Processes, materials and manufacturing systems 120 marks
25% of the total A Level
Externally examined

Component 3: Designing & Making Principles

Design history, design-based processes and study of products 80 marks
25% of the total A Level
Externally examined

Who is this course suited to?

This course is suited to students who are keen on making a positive impact in the wider world, through designing and engineering prototypes for real life users and situations. If you are skilled in creative thinking and want to learn more about prototyping through a wide range of materials, both traditional and modern, this is a subject for you. Design and Technology acts as a good balance between wholly academic subjects and vocational learning.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

Design and Technology complements a wide range of subjects including Mathematics, Physics, Geography, History and Art.

Career Opportunities

As a product designer, you could go into a wide range of careers including, but not limited to, industrial design, architecture, robotics, engineering, graphic design.

In 2025, 83% achieved A*–B with a third of Grades at A* - A
The departments results were in the top 1% for Value Added

Drama and Theatre

Examination Board: AQA
Qualification: A Level Drama and Theatre
Specification website click here

Introduction

Drama and Theatre is a rigorous and challenging A Level and should not just be considered by those wishing to pursue a career in the theatre. It is designed to inspire you to become creative thinkers, problem solvers and confident collaborators, as well as to equip you with the analytical and evaluative skills necessary to succeed at higher education, whether you continue to study Drama and Theatre or decide to pursue any other subject.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include both English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics.

It is not essential to have studied Drama at GCSE.

Course Content

Taking this course will encourage you to develop your interest in and enjoyment of drama and theatre, both through practical workshops, where you will hone your performance, or technical skills, as well as through experiencing Live Theatre as critical audience members. The course is not just for performers; we also cater for students who are interested in exploring the technical and design aspects of theatre. Practical work involves both scripted and devised drama, as well as exploring a range of theatrical styles and the works of different practitioners. Alongside the practical work, you will also study two set plays, and develop the ability to approach these from the perspectives of Director, Performer and Designer.

Assessment

Component 1: Drama and Theatre
3 hour written examination
Study of two set plays and analysis of live theatre production
Externally assessed
40% of A Level

Component 2: Creating Original Drama (practical)
Devised Performance work – acting, technical, or design
Accompanying Working Notebook
Internally assessed/externally moderated
30% of A Level

Component 3: Making Theatre (practical)
Scripted Performance work – acting, technical, or design
Accompanying Reflective Report
Visiting examiner/external assessment
30% of A Level

Who is this course suited to?

You will be well suited to this course if you are: creative, able to collaborate with others, and have an interest in the performing arts – particularly theatre, television and film. Lessons are dynamic and will frequently involve practical group work; you need to be prepared to be active!

What other subjects complement this A Level?

One of the best things about Drama and Theatre is its diversity, flexibility and broad appeal. It can be studied alongside a wide range of subjects – for example, some students also follow English, History, Geography, Politics, Music, or any Art/creative course. However, it has also been successfully combined with contrasting subjects, such as the Sciences and Maths, offering students the opportunity to move away from pure desk-based learning.

Career Opportunities

Drama and Theatre not only trains students in different theatre disciplines, but also provides them with a number of transferable skills in communications and team-building suitable for different career paths and opportunities. Career opportunities for students who study A Level Drama and Theatre include Arts/theatre administration, arts and other forms of journalism, director, actor, designer, playwright, stage management, theatre management, theatrical agent, technician, broadcasting, media presenting, education, business and human resource management, social work, law, drama therapy and scriptwriting.

Those considering careers where public speaking is important (e.g., politics, law, journalism and marketing) would find skills acquired through this course extremely useful.

Other Information

- Students are encouraged to purchase their own play texts which they can annotate; clean texts will be issued in the exam.
- In addition, students are encouraged to broaden their knowledge through background and wider reading.
- It is a requirement for students to attend school organised theatre trips, some of which are local and some of which will be in the West End. As Drama and Theatre students, we can often benefit from discounted tickets!

In 2025, 82% achieved A*–B grades

"Drama has given me so much confidence and belief in myself… it has taught me that Drama at St George's isn't just a subject, but also a family"

Economics

Examination Board: AQA
Qualification: A Level Economics
Specification website click here

Introduction

In an ever-changing world, Economics as a Social Science is an academically challenging subject providing an opportunity to study a range of crucial issues affecting the economy in an analytical and objective manner.

Entry Requirements

- A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, with 3 of the passes at grade 6 or above in English (Language or Literature), Mathematics and one further subject.
- If either Economics or Business have been previously studied, a GCSE grade 6 or above in that subject.

Course Content

Paper 1 Markets and market failure
An introduction to the basic economic problem of allocation of scarce resources considering infinite needs and wants. Students will gain an understanding of how markets work, causes and consequences of market failure and the role of governments in correcting these failures.

Paper 2 National and international economy
A development of the understanding of key macro-economic issues relating to the national and international economy. Students will learn about the UK economy with reference to measures of economic performance, aggregate demand and supply, national income and economic growth. A range of government policies will be considered as well as the international economy.

Paper 3 Economic principles and issues
This synoptic unit requires students to integrate modules 1 and 2, developing skills to think as economists. Such topics as poverty and inequality, emerging markets and developing economies enable an understanding on a global scale.

By developing analytical and quantitative skills through an understanding of our economic and social environment, students will be equipped with knowledge, abilities and attitudes required in the modern workplace.

Assessment

At the end of year 2 students will sit three papers covering content studied over both years.

Papers 1 and 2

Section A – case study response (unseen prior to exam)
– both papers include one question requiring an extended answer
Section B – one extended essay from a choice of three

Paper 3
Section A – 30 multiple-choice questions
Section B – case study response (unseen prior to exam)

Each paper is 2 hours in duration and comprises 33.3% of the overall grade.

To enhance your studies you may also like to consider taking Core Maths as an extra qualification in Yr12

Who is this course suited to?

Logical and critical thinkers are particularly suited to Economics with an interest in problem solving through the analysis of data. A knowledge of current affairs and commerce with a cultural awareness will extend learning opportunities.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

As a Social Science, Economics combines well with a wide range of both Arts and Science subjects.

To enhance your studies you may also like to consider taking Core Maths as an extra qualification in Yr12

Career Opportunities

The study of Economics is a good foundation for a wide variety of careers such as Law, Accounting, Finance, Industry & Commerce and Politics.

Other Information

Students are invited to attend public lectures to enrich their learning and attend Economics conferences to help them prepare for exams. An optional study tour to New York is included in the school calendar.

In 2025, 79% of our students achieved A*-B
With 51% achieving A*/A grades

"Economics is a great subject to study, not only because of the future doors it opens, but also because it offers the opportunity to see real world applications in ways unlike most other subjects. You learn to understand economic theory and see it in action on an international scale while also learning about decision making at the individual and producer level. Economics balances analytical techniques and essay writing skills in an engaging way for all students – including those who have not studied the subject at GCSE – giving transferable skills to a host of humanities and social sciences"

English Literature

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

This English Literature A Level is particularly stimulating allowing for an in-depth study of literature. From poetry to prose to drama, the course allows students to develop an understanding of texts across contexts, genres and form. Through a combination of open book examinations and NEA coursework, the specification is designed to allow students to explore aspects of the texts which most fascinate them.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include Mathematics, with three of the passes at grade 6 or above in English Language, English Literature and a further subject.

Course Content

Students study a broad range of texts. This will include two drama texts, which are likely to be Shakespeare's 'Othello' and John Webster's 'The Duchess of Malfi'. Students will also be expected to study an anthology of essays relating to Shakespeare to inform their analysis. Along with an anthology of modern poetry, students will also study a named poet, for example the works of Christina Rossetti. Our prose study for examination will be based on genre. For example, we may choose to study the genre of Crime and Detection with the novels selected as "the Cutting Season' by Attica Locke and 'Lady Audley's Secret' by Mary Elizabeth Braddon. The non-exam assessment is the most exciting part of the course offering the freedom to compare texts we know our students will love and permitting students to write about aspects of the texts, which particularly interest them. In lessons, students will be encouraged to discuss and debate their interpretations, while experiencing a full gamut of teaching styles, to aid them in moulding their own theories and interpretations. Those who enjoy literature, are captivated by the psychological workings of the human mind, or simply relish the "detective" work involved in deconstructing a piece of writing to discover a writer's hidden meaning, will all relish this course.

Assessment

Unit 1: Drama (open book – clean copy, written examination, 2 hours 15 minutes – 30% of A Level)
Unit 2: Prose (open book – clean copy, written examination – 1 hour 15 minutes – 20% of A Level)
Unit 3: Poetry (open book – clean copy, written examination, 2 hours and 15 minutes – 30% of A Level)
Unit 4: Prose Study (Non-exam assessment – 20% of A Level)

Who is this course suited to?

It is vital that students are very competent readers and writers. As writers, they should have acquired the ability to express themselves with precision and with accuracy in a variety of different ways.

Ideally, a candidate opting to study A Level English Literature should have developed a love of reading and a desire to read more widely and in more depth.

We are also a very discursive subject – we love to have students who get involved and share their interpretations to help further the critical discussion.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

English Literature combines well with History, Government and Politics, Theatre Studies, or Art, but it does not have to be taken in combination with other Art subjects. Indeed, it can provide a valuable balance to science and maths-based subjects.

Career Opportunities

English Literature at A Level is a cornerstone of any Art/Humanities degree course, providing a key foundation for courses in Law, Psychology, Media Studies and Philosophy – or any subject that demands high levels of literacy and analytical skills.

As a career qualification, A Level English Literature is invaluable for any profession which requires you to be articulate, imaginative and literate; therefore, it is relevant to the worlds of business, industry, education and the media.

Other information

All students are advised to purchase their own texts since annotating is an invaluable aid to study. Clean texts will be provided for any open book examination. It is the policy of the Department to enhance the study of the texts with theatre visits, conferences and other relevant trips, and therefore there may be additional costs levied when it is deemed to be necessary and desirable. However, we are always conscious to keep these as minimal as possible where we can.

"The discussions and debating of different interpretations make English Literature a fascinating and engaging subject to study at A-Level. It has allowed me to develop analytical and literacy skills that will be beneficial for any future degree or pathway that I choose to take. I particularly enjoyed studying the poet Christina Rossetti and the prose literature for coursework."

French

Examination Board: AQA
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

This exciting and thought-provoking course aims to enable students to develop and build on the knowledge and skills they acquired at GCSE French, and use the language learned in a variety of contexts that will be useful in the wider world of cultural dialogue, travel and work. They will gain an insight into French culture and reflect on aspects of contemporary society. The course provides them with the opportunity to enhance their employment prospects in a post-Brexit world, facilitate foreign travel and experience the enjoyment and motivation of improving their linguistic level.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include both English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics, with three of the passes at grade 6 or above in French and in two further subjects.

Course Content

Throughout the course, teachers and students use French for discussions as well as some English when working on grammatical concepts and translations. Work draws on authentic materials taken from a range of media sources.

Core content

- Current Trends & Issues in French-speaking society
- Artistic Culture & Music in French-speaking society
- Multiculturalism in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of Political life in the French-speaking world
- Grammar and translation skills
- Literature and film (1 book and 1 film)

During the course, students will have a dedicated session with the French Language Assistant each week, during which time they will develop their ability to engage in structured discussions on the themes above and specifically to prepare them for the discussion elements of the speaking exam at the end of year 13.

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening, Reading & Writing
50% of total A Level
Assesses knowledge of current trends & issues, political life and artistic culture in French-speaking society and grammatical knowledge.

Paper 2: Writing
20% of total A Level
Assesses understanding of literary works studied and grammatical knowledge.

Exam 3: Speaking
30% of total A Level
Conducted by one of the St George's A level French teachers. The student is given a "stimulus card" relating to the main themes of the course and they then have a discussion based on the issues raised. Students then present for 2 minutes on the subject of their individual research project, followed by a discussion on it with their teacher.

Who is this course suited to?

You will be well-suited to this course if you have a keen interest in trends in society, social justice, politics, artistic culture and heritage as well as literature and film as a reflection of society. You should also be interested in the mechanics and nuance of language. You should ideally be someone who likes to communicate, exchange and discuss ideas.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

French sits well with any other subject at A Level and offers a different experience in the classroom to other subject choices giving you breadth and variety in your studies. It works very well alongside the arts, social sciences and science and maths. It also opens up many other opportunities post-18.

- Maths / economics for students considering a future in international banking or finance
- English / drama for students who are particularly interested in literature and exploring nuance and manipulation of language
- Music / art for students interested in exploring the artistic heritage and Francophone culture and perhaps wanting to go on and study liberal arts.
- Politics / history for students considering a future in government, law or the diplomatic service
- Business studies / economics for anyone hoping for an international career in commerce
- Sciences for students considering a future using science in an international context such as working for multinational pharmaceutical or aerospace companies or even looking to take a degree in medicine.
- Geography for students interested in studying trends in society or considering a career in international development or tourism.

Career Opportunities

A degree in French provides a fantastic platform from which to enter a range of exciting sectors. French is an official language in 29 countries and is widely spoken in North and West Africa as well as the Province of Quebec in Canada and much of the West Indies. It is one of the official working languages of many international organisations such as the UN, UNESCO, NATO, the WTO, the International Olympic Committee and the International Red Cross as well as the EU and Not-for-Profit organisations such as Médecins Sans Frontières.

France is at the centre of many aeronautical and technological advances such as the Airbus and the TGV.

Speaking a second language can make you more employable and flexible in your career and surveys regularly show that the ability to speak another language can add significantly (up to 35%) to your earning potential over the course of your career, depending on what sector you go into.

Other Information

Students are encouraged to buy their own copy of the AQA French A Level grammar book and the vocabulary book. They will also need to have their own copy of the text studied and access to the film studied.
When considering work experience in Year 12, if possible, it is beneficial to find a placement that will allow you to use your French language skills and the MFL Department can give guidance on this if required.

"Studying this course has really enabled me to develop my confidence at speaking French. The learning curve is big in the first term, but the improvement has been huge!"

Geography

Examination Board: AQA
Qualification: A Level 7037
Specification website click here

Introduction

This is an exciting course being offered to all students with an interest in and enthusiasm for the world around them, including the study of traditional landforms and contemporary issues. Students will of course be proactive in lessons and will be expected to work in groups and individually to present information and lead discussions. The range of academic skills covered will ensure that studying Geography at A Level will not be dull as it combines literary skills, mathematical techniques (all the easy ones!), fieldwork and research. The course aims:

- To prepare students to be observant, analytical and thorough individuals.
- To help students appreciate the formation of natural and man-made landscapes and how humans react to their environment.
- To enhance students' use of hypothesis testing and the application of scientific techniques that will pave the way for any university courses and future processing of information skills.

Entry Requirements

- A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics, with three of the passes at grade 6 or above in Geography* and in two further subjects.
- *If Geography has not been studied, then students must have a minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9-–5, with three of the passes at grade 6 or above in English (Language or Literature), Mathematics and Science.
- Students are expected to be observant, interested in their landscape and have an interest in current affairs.

Course Content

Unit 1 – Physical Geography

1 – Water and Carbon cycles: students will study the water and carbon cycles, the relationship between these and climate change and will research case studies on rainforest and river systems.
2 – Coastal systems and landscapes: students will learn about coastal systems and processes, coastal landscapes of erosion and depositions, and how coastal areas are managed.
3 – Hazards: students will study a range of volcanic, seismic and storm hazards to understand their causes, impacts and how they can be managed.

Unit 2 – Human Geography

1 – Global systems and global governance: students will study globalisation, international trade and access to markets, global governance and the global commons (Antarctica and the Arctic Ocean).
2 – Changing places: students will learn about the nature of places and will study two contrasting places.
3 – Population and the environment: students will study population change, structure, health and well-being, global population futures and will research case studies on specific population changes.

Unit 3 – Geographical Investigations

A 4000-word individual investigation written up in school following fieldwork in Dorset. This individual project will be based on data collected in groups and can be based on either human or physical fieldwork undertaken.

Assessment

Exam and NEA

2 exam papers sat at the end of Year 13 (Unit 1 and Unit 2).

Non-examined assessment (NEA) individual investigation written in Year 12 and the first term of Year 13 following the fieldtrip to Dorset. This unit makes up 20% of the overall A Level grade and is marked by teachers but externally moderated by the exam board.

Who is this course suited to?

Geography is a popular A Level appealing to students of both a scientific and a more communicative background. There is a clear crossover with analytical subjects, so Geography is often a good 'real-world' supplement to scientific A Levels where the need to analyse data and draw conclusions will make use of techniques learned there. Similarly, the need to summarise conclusions in written form will demand a degree of communicative skill, so ability to express ideas fluently is also valuable. Above all, we want students to be curious about the world, interested in current affairs so as to place the geographical issues into a modern context, and willing to work independently.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

Geography is more of a science than an art. It dovetails particularly well with A Level Mathematics and Biology because it shares similar statistics teaching. It goes well with Economics because of the development and current affairs issues, and it complements English because of the analytical and essay skills in Year 13. It is a popular choice for university degrees and the skills gained in terms of being able to synthesize information and analyse data are looked upon very favourably in industry.

To enhance your studies you may also like to consider taking Core Maths as an extra qualification in Yr12

Career Opportunities

The skills you use in your geographical studies make you of potential interest to a wide range of employers. The close link between the subject and the world around us makes for a long and varied list of related careers, For example, working with development or aid agencies, careers in the Armed Services, the local council, the police and property development to name but a few. Statistics show that compared with other subjects, Geographers are among the most employable students. This is because geographers possess the abilities and wide range of skills that employers look for.

Other Information

We provide all of the text books but students are urged to subscribe to Geography Review Magazine (5 issues per year specifically for A Level Geographers for around £15).

Students need to learn fieldwork skills which are taught during a day trip to London and a field trip to the coast in March of Year 12 costing around £400 for 4 days.

A visit to Iceland is also likely to take place every two years during October half term. This is optional and places on the trip will be offered to both Year 12 and Year 13 Geographers before being offered to other interested Sixth Formers. The cost of this is likely to be in the order of £1000 for 5 days.

"Geography is the subject of the future. It gives us a better understanding of geo-politics, macro-economics and environmental issues. It's sooo relevant!!!"

History

Examination Board: AQA
Qualification: A Level 7042
Specification website click here

Introduction

We are privileged to be able to offer A Level History in its intended 2-year linear form. This allows us the time and space to properly approach the exacting demands of the A Level course and examination with sufficient rigour, vigour and depth. We prepare students, from the outset, for the intellectual demands of the synoptic questions they will ultimately face. The new A Level allows our teachers and students the opportunity to delve into the study of history in all of its breadth and richness: to draw trends across broad periods of time, and expose the stories and quirks of human nature.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics, with three of the passes at grade 6 or above in History and in two further subjects.

This course is aimed at those students who have studied History at GCSE Level and have obtained a grade 6 or above. However, the Department would consider applications from those students who had not taken History at GCSE but had gained a grade 7 in GCSE English Literature or English Language and a grade 6 or above in two further subjects.

Course Content

Unit 1: The British Empire: 1857–1957
This breadth unit will examine the changes and continuities of British rule across the 19th and 20th centuries from Australia to Africa. The course contrasts the impact of the British in different countries – notably India, and in Africa. With a long timeframe, it looks at the origins of imperialism, the development and broadening of British control, and how the coming of two world wars first weakened, and then ended it. It will look at the impact on indigenous culture, and on its meaning and importance.

Unit 2: The Birth of the USA: 1760–1801
The Depth Unit component studies the British relationship with its American colonies in the forty-one-year period from 1760 until 1801. It traces the decline in relationships from one of unity to strain and then war. In doing so, we examine the motivation for the Revolution –liberty, sovereignty and self-determination – and follow the course of the war of independence with a survey of how unexpected victory brought the challenge of creating a new Republic.

Unit 3: Historical Investigation (NEA) ***(Non-Examined Assessment)***
A major attraction of the course is the opportunity to do some real historical research around a topic the student feels passionate about and interested in. This is a great opportunity to use original source material and become immersed in historical debate. Students can choose an enquiry from the fascinating taught course on:

"Race relations in the USA 1865–1968", from the end of the American Civil War to the memorable events of the 1960s. The actions of Martin Luther King and the legacy of Black radicalism of the 1970s are contrasted with the impact of grass-roots protest groups of women, students and intellectuals. The changes and continuities of the lives of African-Americans are brought alive through this dynamic taught unit.

Assessment

Unit 1: The British Empire: 1857–1957
Written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes. Worth 40% of A Level.

Unit 2: The Birth of the USA: 1760–1801
Written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes, based on sources and own knowledge. Worth 40% of A Level.

Unit 3: Historical Investigation
Historical Enquiry (NEA) of 4,500 words analysing a historical issue relating to the Civil Rights movement, which will be chosen from a variety of approved questions, set by the department. This is marked out of 40 and is worth 20% of A Level.

Who is this course suited to?

History students who thrive best tend to be intellectually curious, able to argue, form judgements and evaluate ideas for themselves. Clearly the best preparation for this comes from good GCSE History students, but success in English is also a good indicator of students with the relevant skills. A willingness to find out more about the past, and to work independently are important qualities because a great deal of the work will involve reading and independent study. We also value the willingness to participate in debate and articulate arguments.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

Academically, History has much in common with other essay-based subjects and the most obvious synergy comes with Politics, where many concepts overlap, with English, where the essay-writing component has similar features, and to some extent with the evaluative and reflective aspects of RE. Increasingly, though, History is being seen as a foil to more analytical and scientific subjects, so there is growing diversity among our other students who feel able to devote time to one reading-and content-heavy A Level but do not feel they wish to do only essay-based topics.

Career Opportunities

History is all around us: many students of History will go on to dedicate their lives to academia, teaching or museum education. However, History also provides a good grounding for many careers from the world of business to law, journalism, politics, advertising, the civil service and any profession which values the ability to think creatively and analytically, use information critically, and to be able to argue with confidence and control.

Other Information

Costs
Key text books are provided by the Department but there may be occasions when contributions are asked to pay for additional resources and trips.

"Studying History not only aids your understanding of the past, but enables your hand in the present, providing you with invaluable skills applicable to everyday life. And where better to garner these skills than at St George's, where the teachers refine milk into cheese and find your true value!"

Mathematics

Examination Board: Edexcel
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

A Level Mathematics is one of the most widely accepted and respected subject choices by universities and is likely to enhance your options. Mathematics is offered as a single subject, part of a joint degree or is a vital part of 422 degree-level courses in Great Britain. It encompasses a wide spread of subjects and careers. In general, Mathematics aims to enable students to:

- Understand mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence, fosters enjoyment and provides a strong foundation for progress to further study.
- Analyse multi step problems, decide on logical solution paths and communicate logically and with mathematical rationale.
- Take increasing responsibility for their own learning.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, including English (Language or Literature), with a minimum **grade 7 in Mathematics** and two other passes at grade 6 or above.

Course Content

Initially, students must attain a solid level of competence in the fundamentals of Pure mathematics, number and algebraic manipulation. This will include expanding brackets, simplifying terms, index notation, surds, solving quadratics and sketching polynomials. The pure course then progresses to cover: Proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate geometry, Sequences and series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and Logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical methods and Vectors.

The Mechanics modules cover some of the essentials of:

- Kinematics including travel graphs, constant and variable acceleration, vertical movement and projectile problems.
- Resolving forces including bodies in equilibrium, connected bodies such as pulleys, friction, moments, and particles on slopes.

The major study areas of the Statistics modules cover:

- Working with a large data set calculating statistical diagrams, measures of spread, standard deviation and correlation, outliers and cleaning data.
- Probability including modelling probabilities, set notation, two-way tables, tree diagrams, analysing and modelling with Binomial and Normal distributions.
- Conducting hypothesis tests for both Normal and Binomial distributions testing mean, sample mean, and correlation coefficients.

Students can gain a variety of different skills from Mathematics including problem solving, data analysis, attention to detail and communication skills.

Assessment

Assessment for A Level is by three 2 hour written papers.

- Paper 1 assesses content from Pure Mathematics
- Paper 2 assesses content from Pure Mathematics
- Paper 3 assesses content from Statistics and Mechanics

All papers will be sat during the June sessions at the end of Year 13.

Who is this course suited to?

To succeed at A Level Mathematics, you must love the subject, have an analytical mind, an eye for detail and thrive on the challenge of algebra, looking for patterns, applying theory to abstract problems and having the determination to find the solution. Characteristics of the most successful mathematicians include Persistence, Communication, Resilience, Critical thinking, Logic, Curiosity, Creativity, Organization.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

The A Level is split into three major sections – Pure, Mechanics and Statistics. Physics particularly compliments the Mechanics modules. Biology, Geography, Psychology, Economics and Business-related subjects compliment the Statistics modules.

Career Opportunities

A Level Mathematics is a mandatory requirement for degree courses such as Engineering, Physics, Statistics, and often Economics. Although not a requirement, A Level Mathematics is a typical subject taken by students on courses as wide ranging as Architecture, Law, Medicine, Psychology, Geography, Finance, Oceanography, Astronomy and Ecology. It opens doorways to careers from being an Accountant to a Zoologist. As a consequence, it can be considered as one of the most useful, diverse and powerful subjects that can be taken at this level and that is contained and used in a wide variety of careers.

Additionally, A Level Mathematics is useful for those interested in apprenticeships in Accounting, Engineering, Teaching and Technology.

Other Information

Students must obtain a Casio CG20 or Casio CG50 graphical calculator; it is essential for all papers. Students may have the possibility of loaning this calculator from the school.

Students have the option to participate in the Senior Maths Challenge and the Maths Team Challenge.

"A level Maths has been a challenging step up from GCSE, but I have enjoyed every lesson. With all the great teachers and interactive lessons, A level Maths feels fun and even enjoyable! I always feel able to ask questions if I don't understand, and feel the teachers push me to reach my full potential"

Mathematics and Further Mathematics

Examination Board: Edexcel
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

This is a combination of Mathematics (see previous page) and Further Mathematics A Level. Mathematics is studied during Year 12 and Further Mathematics during year 13.

Further Mathematics is designed to stretch and challenge the skills and knowledge of the more able mathematicians, to encourage them to think, act and communicate mathematically, and to prepare them for university courses in mathematics and related quantitative and scientific subjects.

Nationally, a number of students are capable of studying Further Mathematics. However, only a select few actually have the facilities to do so – which means that those who study it are in very high demand by universities. This is an ideal avenue for high flying maths students who love the subject, wish to pursue a mathematically based path after Sixth Form and be among the very first applicants considered for mathematical courses.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, including English (Language or Literature), with a minimum **grade 8 in Mathematics** and two other passes at grade 6 or above.

Mathematics and Further Mathematics can only be studied if you are taking two other A Level subjects.

Course Content

Note: Students will have completed the Mathematics A Level course before they embark on Further Mathematics.

In Pure, students will extend and deepen their knowledge of proof, algebra, functions, calculus, vectors and differential equations. They will also study other areas of pure mathematics including complex numbers, matrices, polar coordinates and hyperbolic functions.

I**n Mechanics**, students extend their knowledge of particles, kinematics and forces, exploring more complex physical systems. The area covers dimensional analysis, work, energy, power, impulse, momentum, centres of mass, circular motion and variable force.

Statistics extends students' toolbox of statistical concepts and techniques. It covers combinatorics, probability distributions for discrete and continuous random variables, hypothesis tests and confidence intervals for a population mean, chi-squared tests, non-parametric tests, correlation and regression.

In Decision, many of the problems involve Optimisation – finding an efficient solution – and hence methods are applicable to many real-world situations. Areas studied include sorting, graphs and networks, algorithms, critical path analysis, linear programming, and game theory.

Assessment

Pupils are entered for five 1.5 hour written papers as follows:

Pure Core 1
Pure Core 2
Decision
Mechanics
Statistics

The Core Pure papers, along with the best two results from Decision, Mechanics and Statistics, will count towards the final awarded grade.

If you opt to sit Mathematics and Further Mathematics you will take all your Mathematics A Level papers in the June sessions at the end of Year 12 and all Further Mathematics papers at the end of Year 13.

Who is this course suited to?

Further Mathematics provides a great opportunity for enthusiastic mathematicians to broaden and deepen their subject knowledge. If you plan to apply for a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) degree you should consider taking Further Mathematics. Further Mathematics is also a fantastic qualification for those students who relish the thought of:

- approaching problems in an analytical and rigorous way, formulating theories and applying them to solve problems
- dealing with abstract concepts
- presenting mathematical arguments and conclusions with accuracy and clarity.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

The A Level is split into Pure, Decision and Mechanics or Statistics. Computing and Economics complement Decision, and Physics particularly compliments mechanics. Biology, Geography, Psychology, Economics and Business-related subjects are complemented by the Statistics modules.

Career Opportunities

Further Mathematics is considered very useful for those wishing to go on to study:

Actuarial Science/Studies; Aeronautical Engineering; Biochemistry; Biomedical Sciences (including Medical Science); Chemical Engineering; Chemistry; Computing; Electrical/Electronic Engineering; Engineering (General); Mechanical engineering, Mathematics and Physics.

Further Mathematics is listed as essential for those wishing to study Mathematics at many leading universities.

Statement by AMSP: *"If you are intending applying for a STEM degree and have the opportunity of studying A level Further Mathematics... then we recommend that you do. Having covered some of these new topics before meeting them in your first mathematics courses will give you confidence and help you succeed at university."*

Other Information

See Mathematics. At the end of Year 13, students wishing to study Mathematics at university can take the Advanced Extension Award and/or STEP papers (required for Warwick and Cambridge Mathematics degrees).

"I found Further Maths to be very challenging, fast paced and requiring a lot of hard work. But with dedication, determination and discipline you can do it, and it has pushed me to do more than I ever thought I could"

Core Maths (Supplementary Qualification)

Core Maths: Supplementary Mathematics Qualification
Exam board: AQA
Qualification: AQA Certificate Level 3 Mathematical Studies
Specification click here

Introduction

Certificate in Mathematical Studies, or "Core Maths" as it is more commonly known, is designed to support students who wish to continue with their mathematical studies, but do not wish to take A Level Maths. Real life political, economical, environmental and statistical problems will be considered and students will be given the confidence, skills and tools to further their mathematical skills which may enhance their allied A Level studies. This course is suited to students who are motivated and willing to gain Level 3 examination experience a year earlier than their peers.

Entry Requirements

Any student who has met the minimum entry requirements for Sixth Form at St George's will be considered for this course.

Course Content

There are seven main themes of the course: analysis of data, personal finance, estimation, critical analysis, normal distribution, probability, correlation and regression. Please see the specification link above for further information on the content.

Assessment

The course will be taught as two extra hours per week throughout Year 12 (compulsory to attend) and students will sit two 90 minute examinations at the end of Year 12 and receive their qualification on A Level Results Day 2025, giving students the following UCAS points: 20 A, 16 B, 12 C, 8 D, 4 E. *Students will therefore be obliged to declare their Core Maths result on their UCAS forms (or equivalent).*

What other subjects complement this qualification?

Core Maths particularly complements the maths elements of Geography, Psychology, Biology, Business and Economics A Levels. However, throughout this course we will be exploring all manner of real-world examples, learning spreadsheet and financial management skills, and Core Maths will enhance students' problem solving skills and give experience in communicating mathematical ideas.

Career Opportunities

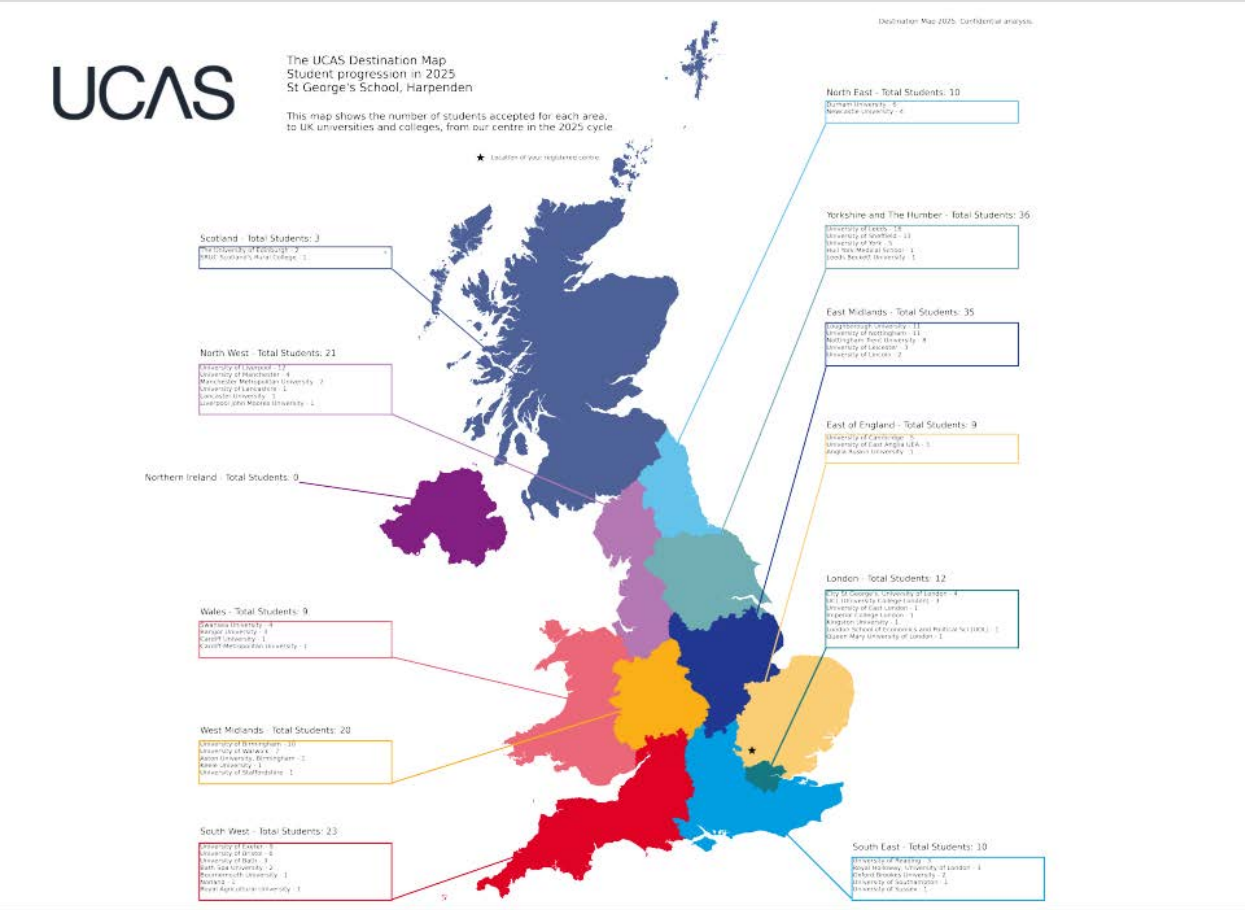
It is no secret that employers look very favourably on potential candidates who have strong mathematical skills, and we have a national shortage of students who are mathematically competent. Studying Core Maths will provide students with a Level 3 qualification in maths, as well as supporting any future study or employment/apprenticeship opportunities.

Other Information

What will students get out of studying Core Maths? Universities and employers are recognising the value of Core Maths, please click here for more information.
Most importantly, students will be gaining skills that employers and universities are looking for, a better understanding of headlines and the world around them, and the mathematical skills to better engage, communicate and question the world around them.
Students will be advised that once enrolled on the course they are committed to completing the year and taking the examination, and so students will need to consider carefully the additional study work required.

Destination Map

Student progression in 2025
St George's Harpenden



Music

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel (Eduqas from September 2025*)
Qualification: A Level Music
Specification website click here

Introduction

A-level music is a vibrant, thoroughly enjoyable and a stealthily rigorous academic subject which sets students up well for university study, and universities are aware of this. It is accepted by Russell Group Universities, and can contribute to scholarship opportunities (regardless of subject) at Oxbridge. A Level, students experience all three musical disciplines of performing, composing and listening & understanding. Students will develop performance skills, compose music and build up their aural and analytical skills through studying the music of composers and genres. Students are free to be creative, especially in composition where briefs are optional and composers are free to explore any style / concept. A level music will broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity.

Entry Requirements

- A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include both English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics, with three of the passes at grade 6 or above.
- It is advisable to have taken GCSE Music and it would be an advantage
- An ability to play an instrument, or to sing, is essential. Students should be on course to perform 2 pieces at a Grade 6 Standard by the end of Year 13. They do not need to have sat external music exams.
- It is expected that students will have instrumental/vocal lessons.
- It is advisable that students take part in House Music and/or a weekly school ensemble.

Course Content

- Develop performing skills to demonstrate an understanding of musical elements, style, sense of continuity, interpretation, and expression
- Develop composing skills to demonstrate the manipulation of musical ideas and the use of musical devices and conventions
- Develop awareness of music technologies and their use in the creation and presentation of music
- Appraise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and develop understanding of musical contexts and a coherent awareness of musical chronology
- Engage with, and extend appreciation of, the diverse heritage of music to promote personal, social, intellectual, and cultural development.

Component 1: Performing (30%)
This unit gives students the opportunities to perform as soloists. Students can choose music from any style/genre. The students will perform a recital with a total time of 8 minutes. Performance can be solo and/or ensemble. The expected standard is Grade 6, but more credit (12 marks) will be available for playing pieces of Grade 7 and Grade 8 level.

Component 2: Composing (30%)
Students complete 2 compositions totalling a time of at least 6 minutes. 4 minutes: A free choice composition or the option to respond to an exam set brief. 2 minutes: A timed arrangement task, which takes place at the end of Year 13. Students complete this work in school only, with access to an iMac and notation software.

Component 3: Appraising (40%)
There is an engaging range of set works to nurture in-depth musical understanding. These will be examined in a two-hour written exam at the end of Year 13.
The purpose of this component is for students to develop their listening and appraising skills through the study of music across a variety of styles and genres. The content is grouped into six areas of study, each of which contains two set works, with the exception of Popular Music and Jazz, which has three set works. This component gives students the opportunity to reflect on, analyse and evaluate music in aural and/or written form. Students will learn the content of musical elements, context and language through six compulsory areas of study:
Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Film Music, Popular & Jazz, Fusion and New Directions

Assessment

NEA Extended Performance (30%)
NEA Composition (30%)
Further Musical Understanding written examination (40%)

Who is this course suited to?

This course is suited to a person who loves to perform, create and listen to music. You must be self-disciplined to practise your instrument/singing outside of class time. Home-learning at A Level centres around personal practice, which can be suited to students who find managing workloads more challenging.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

Music is considered a challenging and highly academic art, and complements any subject or future studies well. More recently links have been made to music and computer science, coding and engineering – due to the use of complex technology and software. As the study of advanced music has been linked to greater working and long-term memory function, students of medicine, maths and science will find music aids them in the recall of larger levels of content matter.
Music has a rich history of cultural, religious and political context, so would provide a deeper knowledge in these written humanities. Music and literature also share a wealth of links – poems and great stories have been set to music, which again help with revision as well as deepening knowledge.

Career Opportunities

Music A Level is highly regarded by universities, trainers and employers as it shows the students are creative, confident communicators and collaborators, are able to work independently and have skills of analysis as well as knowledge of a variety of cultures and genres. Composition and private practice require patience and resilience.

With unique skills and a broad range of graduate jobs on offer, music students have better prospects than people imagine. People with music degrees or skills in music can work as performing musicians, private music teachers, secondary school teachers, sound technicians in editing for broadcasting, advertising, TV, film, radio or media production. They could become an arts administrator or a community arts worker. They could work in marketing. They could become a theatre stage manager or a music therapist. They could join the military in the corps of army music.

Other Information

- At St George's, there are many opportunities to join in musical ensembles. The School run an orchestra, jazz band, wind band and various choirs. The Sixth Form also have the opportunities to lead groups and arrange music for the annual House Music Competition.
- Sixth Form students regularly set up and perform in small chamber groups. Opportunities are given throughout the year for students to perform as soloists in our concerts and chapel services.
- Students are expected to listen to music beyond the prescribed specification and to take part in a variety of School and outside musical events.

"Music A level has been a thoroughly enriching and enjoyable experience. With a truly exceptional standard of teaching, the wide range of pieces we study offer fascinating and exciting lessons which cover Film Music, Impressionism, Ballet, Baroque Music and so much more - even the Beatles! This, combined with the opportunity to compose your own music of any genre and the chance to perform to peers, ensures that students not only leave St George's with a very respected and desired qualification, but also finish Year 13 with fond memories of a highly rewarding journey"

* Proposed change to Eduqas (September 2025)
https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/bwjls2p4/eduqas-a-level-music-spec-from-2016-d.pdf
The Eduqas A Level Music course is very similar in content and design, but does allow for more student-centred options. For example – students can 'play to their strengths' by opting for either an extended performance, or an extended composition. This is then reflected in the NEA weighted percentages.

Physical Education

Examination Board: OCR
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

This fascinating and varied qualification gives students the opportunity to broaden their theoretical knowledge and gain confidence to succeed in a number of careers within the sport, science, fitness and leisure industries. Students will study the physiological, psychological and social cultural aspects of sport and physical activity. They will gain a real understanding of the development of sport through the ages, explore how skills are learned and research the physiological processes of the body and demands placed on it during physical activity. Alongside this, students will acquire the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

Entry Requirements

- A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include Mathematics, English (Language or Literature) grade 6 or above and Combined Science: Trilogy grade 6/6 (a double award) or above.

Or:

- A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include Mathematics, English (Language or Literature) grade 6 or above and Biology grade 6 or above (if studying separate sciences) and a further subject at grade 6 or above.

And:

- Although the study of PE at GCSE is not imperative, **if studied**, it is expected that at least a grade 6 has been achieved.
- **You must be participating in your sport at a good to high level. If you undertook GCSE PE, then this would be equivalent to a practical mark in band 4 or above.**

Course Content

Throughout the A Level PE course, students will explore the physiological factors affecting performance through applied anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology and biomechanics. You will learn how to interpret data and graphs, and develop an understanding of the use of energy systems during different types of physical activity and the recovery process. You will gain an insight into how quantitative methods for planning, monitoring and evaluating physical training and performance are used. You will develop biomechanical knowledge, use of definitions, equations, formulae and units of measurement. The psychological factors affecting performance encompass skill acquisition and sports psychology. Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the principles required to optimise the learning of new and the development of existing skills. You will explore the importance of being able to classify skills in order to select the most suitable approach to the learning of motor skills. An understanding of the different approaches and theories to teaching new skills and how guidance and feedback are utilised to support this will be explored. Students will focus on socio-cultural issues relating to physical activity and sport. This includes the emergence and evolution of modern sport and how social and cultural factors have shaped the characteristics of sports and pastimes. The impact of the modern Olympic Games as well as the impact on society of hosting global sporting events, ever-evolving modern technology, and its influence on sport performers and spectators will also be analysed. You will also have the opportunity to perform or coach in one chosen sport and complete an evaluation and analysis of performance for improvement as part of the NEA. Experienced staff will guide you through an exciting course that requires you to have an enquiring mind, be proactive and engage in thought provoking discussion.

Assessment

Physical factors affecting performance (01) Written exam
90 marks 2 hours 30% of the total A Level

Psychological issues affecting performance (02) Written Exam
60 marks 1 hour 20% of the total A Level

Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport (03) Written Exam
60 marks 1 hour 20% of total A-Level

Performance in physical education (04) Non-Exam Assessment
Assessed in the role of either performer or coach in one practical activity over 2 years
Assessed in the Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI)
60* marks 30% of the total A Level

*Examination is weighted up to 90 marks to equal the total marks combined for the two tasks.

Who is this course suited to?

You will be well suited to this course if you have a passion and keen interest in sport, take an active interest in current events relating to sport by listening to podcasts, watching documentaries and reading articles, want to enhance your knowledge of how physiology, psychology and social cultural issues relate to sport, and are actively engaged in playing or coaching sport.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

Biology, Psychology and some aspects of History compliment the study of Physical Education.

Career Opportunities

Graduating with a sports related degree will allow graduates to enter a range of job roles or with the right entrepreneurial foresight set up their own business in any of the following areas:

Sports Science, Nutrition, Sports Psychology, Physiotherapy, Sports Coaching, Sports Marketing, Broadcasting, Journalism, Sports Development, Facilities Management/Operations, National Governing Body Roles, Academic Lecturing, Teaching, Events Management, Strength and Conditioning and the Fitness Industry.

"I chose A level PE because I love sport and I really wanted to find out more about the processes behind performance. I also really enjoyed the GCSE course. The best thing about A level PE is the range of topics you study. I like the psychology parts of the course looking at the cognitive processes behind performance and how arousal and different psychological processes affect our performance"

Physics

Examination Board: AQA
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

Physics, the subject that gave us space flight, microwave ovens, the Internet and the Thermos flask! It is the key that unlocks many careers and professions, from architecture to aeronautics and radiography to physiotherapy. Physics tries to explain the rules that govern the whole of the universe, from tiny quarks to huge galaxies. The course covers the work of some of the truly great historical figures that have changed the world; Galileo, Newton, Curie, Einstein and Bohr, whilst providing the chance to apply their discoveries watching films such as "Apollo 13", visiting CERN near Geneva or taking part in the Physics Olympiad.

Entry Requirements

- A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include English (Language or Literature), Mathematics grade 6 or above and **Combined Science: Trilogy grade 6/6 (a double award)** or above.

Or:

- A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include English (Language or Literature, Mathematics grade 6 or above, Physics grade 6 or above (if studying separate sciences) and a further subject at grade 6 or above.

It is not essential that students take A Level Mathematics, but it is strongly recommended due to the highly mathematical nature of the subject, especially in the latter parts of the two-year course.

Course Content

The A Level course builds on knowledge learnt in GCSE Physics before extending into brand new areas of Physics. Year 12 consists of Mechanics, Electricity, Quantum Physics, Waves and Materials; each chapter beginning with some GCSE revision and extending beyond into more complex, exciting new phenomena. Year 13 covers Fields, Advanced Mechanics, Thermal Physics and Nuclear Physics, with our chosen option of "Turning Points in Physics".

All topics have a mathematical component and strong mathematical skills are often key in answering questions competently throughout both Year 12 and 13.

Students are required to complete a number of assessed practical experiments either individually or in pairs which cover a range of practical techniques and require a formal write up of results. These are marked by teachers and are the base of the 'practical assessment' students receive at the end of the course.

Assessment

100% examination (3 exam papers) at the end of the two-year course.

Practical assessment (pass/fail) – teacher assessed. A pass is essential for most science-based degree courses, but this does not directly contribute to the overall A Level grade. Students are assessed on both specific practical techniques and general scientific skills.

Who is this course suited to?

You will be well suited to this course if you enjoyed GCSE Physics, have an interest in engineering, have strong mathematical skills, have a keen interest in how the world works, enjoy problem solving, and want to develop your scientific practical skills.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

Due to the mathematical requirements, Maths strongly supports the study of Physics at A Level.

Subjects which require good problem solving or mathematical skills also complement Physics well – e.g., Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, Geography, Economics.

Many students also pursue it as a means of broadening their curriculum when studying other subjects not normally associated with science such as Art, Business Studies and the Humanities generally.

Career Opportunities

There are a number of physics-based careers which would require a degree in Physics – medical physicist, research scientist, scientific laboratory technician, radiation protection adviser, the armed forces and defence industry.

Physics graduates also find employment in academic institutions, and government research organisations as well as industries such as aerospace, engineering, manufacturing, oil and gas, space exploration and telecommunications.

Physics graduates have been recruited by the financial services sector and for IT roles.

Physics would be a pre-requisite for anyone hoping to study any form of Engineering.

Other Information

Textbooks are provided by the school, to be returned at the completion of the A Level course.

The Physics Olympiad is run for all interested students during Year 12 and strong students in Year 13 who may wish to stretch themselves and test their problem-solving skills."

84% of students achieved A* - C in 2025

Politics

Examination Board: AQA
Qualification: A Level course code 7152
Specification website click here

Introduction

This course offers exciting opportunities for lively debate and demands clear thinking and analysis. The course aims:

- To provide students with knowledge of the processes and practices of Government in the UK and put it into context by comparison with the Government of the USA.
- To explain the roles of the Prime Minister, cabinet and Parliament and allow students to understand the way that law-making is carried out.
- To root current political ideas within a tradition of ideological debate.
- To develop students' skills of argument and explanation in areas where debate and communication are important.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include English Language, English Literature and Mathematics, with passes at grade 6 or above in at least TWO of English Language, English Literature or History.

Course Content

Paper 1 – UK Government and Politics

This module studies how elections are held, and alternatives to the UK system. It evaluates the role and impact of political parties and pressure groups.

It examines the UK constitution and Parliament, studying how laws are made and implemented. We study government at different levels, including local government and the impact of leaving the EU.

This module looks in depth at the role and function of the Prime Minister, cabinet and elections.

Paper 2 – US and Comparative Government and Politics

This module follows a similar pattern to the first in examining the nature and set-up of the constitution of the USA. It looks at the different elements of the federal government – the Presidency, Congress, and the Supreme Court, considering their roles and effectiveness. The issue of Civil Rights is studied in some depth. Major issues in US politics are considered in detail, including how money influences the decisions made.

This part of the course then compares these institutions with those in the UK.

Paper 3 – Ideologies

This paper covers political movements: Socialism, Liberalism and Conservatism. The ideas of these movements and key thinkers will be considered. Students also study the ideology of Feminism: studying key writers and the debates around the topic.

Assessment

There is no NEA component – but students will sit three 2-hour exam papers:

1. ***UK Politics***
2. ***US and Comparative Politics***
3. ***Political Ideas***

Who is this course suited to?

Students with a keen interest in current affairs thrive on this course, along with those who are independent-minded and prepared, within reason, to argue their point in debate. Above all, this course is well-suited to independent learners because it is uniquely dependent on having a knowledge of events as they unfold, meaning that to some extent, the content of what will be relevant has not happened at the start of the course. A background in essay-writing is a benefit but not a prerequisite to do well.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

Students of Politics come from diverse backgrounds, and there is no particular "ideal" mix with other subjects, though obvious similarities exist with the essay-based subjects such as English, History and Religious Studies. There are also overlaps and natural links with A Level Economics. We have found that all sorts of students enjoy the course and do well, so we tend to have an eclectic mix in our classes. Over the last few years, we have seen an increasing number of students combine Politics with STEM subjects (including Further Maths).

Career Opportunities

Politics is a well-respected degree and opens many doors. The study of political science leads naturally into a career in lobbying, Parliamentary service and political campaigning. The study of Politics also enables students to understand the political objectives and barriers behind Government decision making – vital to working in any public or private field. The analytical and evaluative skills developed through the study of Politics are valuable to a successful career in many professional fields from Law to Accountancy.

Other Information

All students will be asked to keep their own political record of the year. It will be expected that they keep up to date with current affairs and take an interest in news items relevant to the course.

We offer a number of opportunities outside of the classroom, including outside speakers such as local MPs, journalists and other relevant political figures. We hope to be able to offer a House of Commons and Supreme Court trip, which provides an enriching and immersive experience for Politics students.

61% of students achieved an A* or A (2025 results)

"Politics has given me a lens in which I can see the world in ways I never thought I could, and inspired me to pursue the subject at university."

Psychology

Examination Board: AQA
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

Psychology is a stimulating and deeply interesting subject that nurtures scientific, critical, and investigative skills in those who bring enthusiasm to the subject and have an interest in explaining human behaviour.

Entry Requirements

- A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include English (Language or Literature) grade 6 or above, Mathematics grade 6 or above and Combined Science: Trilogy grade 6/6 (a double award) or above.

Or:

- A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include English (Language or Literature) grade 6 or above, Mathematics grade 6 or above and Biology grade 6 or above (if studying separate sciences).

Course Content

A Level Psychology on the AQA specification is a broad and diverse course consisting of 11 topics. One paper consists of the underlying principles in Psychology, including the perspectives to explain human behaviour, a look at the influence of neuropsychology on behaviour, and developing knowledge of the research process in Psychology. The other topics across two papers consist of applying psychological explanations to answer questions such as why do we forget; how do we form social bonds in childhood; why do we obey; and how do we define normality and abnormality. Some of the second year topics are taken from Option blocks that all take an applied area of psychology. We investigate an aspect of "normal" development, an aspect of health psychology, and an aspect of applied "abnormal" psychology. Another key topic in second year Psychology is issues and debates, where we discuss issues in Psychological research including gender and culture bias and the nature-nurture debate, as well as ethical implications of research studies and theories.

Assessment

100% examination based.

Who is this course suited to?

Anyone interested in human nature and how our behaviour is influenced, particularly those with an interest in understanding theories and learning about the scientific process to studying human behaviour. 10% of the exam is Mathematics so an ability to use and interpret statistics and graphs to describe and analyse data is essential. Some exam questions require "extended writing" answers so an ability to structure a coherent answer and follow an argument through is essential.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

Psychology is a social science, so links well with multiple subjects due to the diversity of content and skills required in the course. The study of research methodology and data analysis links well to Maths and Economics, while the topic of biopsychology links well to Biology and Sport Science. Furthermore, the essay component in the course links well to Geography, History and English.

To enhance your studies you may also like to consider taking Core Maths as an extra qualification in Yr12

Career Opportunities

Psychology is a subject that can be studied in its own right in pursuit of worthwhile careers – such careers may be in a direct research setting in academia or in other more business-related roles in related businesses, such as the Government's Behaviour Insights team (also known as the "nudge unit"). For further information click here.

Psychology also has direct application in a very wide range of areas from medicine and other health care roles due to the scientific elements of biopsychology, to social work and business management due to the applications of research regarding human behavioural changes. The underlying focus on explaining and understanding human behaviour means Psychology can be utilised in any occupational setting to some extent.

Psychology is regarded as a strong academic A Level and as such is also highly regarded by universities or companies for both scientific and non-scientific subjects due to the multiple facilitating skills developed and the wide range of concepts covered, developing wider interest in other subjects.

Other Information

- Students are provided with a physical copy of the textbook, and also have access to an on-line copy of the text book which has supplementary web links and activities for extension. However, some students may prefer to buy their own copy to write on.
- Recommended text book **"AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1, Second Edition"** Illuminate publishing. Cost £26.99 available via Illuminate publishing or Amazon websites and good bookstores.

To enhance your studies you may also like to consider taking Core Maths as an extra qualification in Yr12

"Psychology is real life. It's taking an interest and learning about the world and those around you."

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

Examination Board: OCR
Qualification: A Level H573
Specification website click [here]

Introduction

Would you do something bad to achieve something good? Are humans born with an orientation towards good or evil? Are there some actions that are always wrong? How would you respond to a friend who tells you that she/he had a vision of God? Do humans have a soul? Is there such a thing as 'sin'? Is gender still relevant in today's society? Can a male saviour save women? These are some of the questions you will wrestle with at A Level in RS. The study of Philosophy and Ethics is an exciting and inspiring academic subject, rooted in the ancient Greek philosophy which arguably formed the basis of western thought.

Entry Requirements

This A Level is highly demanding in terms of reading and essay writing. Consequently, we require:

- A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include Mathematics, with three of the passes at a grade 6 or above to include English Language and (if taken) Religious Studies.

Course Content

Component 1: Philosophy of Religion

- Ancient philosophical influences
- Arguments about the existence of God
- Religious experiences
- The problem of evil
- The nature of the soul, mind and body
- Life after death
- Issues in religious language

Component 2: Religion and Ethics

- Normative ethical theory
- The application of ethical theories to two contemporary issues of importance
- Ethical language and thought
- Conscience and free will
- The influence in ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs and the philosophy of religion

Component 3: Development in religious thought (you will study ONE religion)

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority
- Practices which shape and express religious identity
- Social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
- Relationship between religion and society

Assessment

Exams are sat at the end of the two-year course. Each of the components has a 2-hour examination at the end of Year 13. The papers carry equal weight, 33% of the marks. Questions are essay-style and worth 40 marks each. Each paper is out of 120 marks.

Who is this course suited to?

This course invites reflection and consideration of moral and ethical issues. It is well-suited to students who have a strong background in written communication and who enjoy debate and consideration of such issues. There is no need to be religious to join or to enjoy this course!

What other subjects complement this A level?

Students of Religious Studies come from all academic disciplines and there is always a mix of diverse complementary subjects in any class. In terms of similarity to other disciplines, the essay-based courses such as History, Politics and English have much in common, and there is also a shared dimension with Psychology, which make these good complementary subjects.

Career Opportunities

The list is endless! This is because the skills you learn in Religious Studies will help you in any job, but here are the top 10:

- Law – what is right and wrong?
- Medicine – should we legalise euthanasia?
- Science – is genetic engineering good or bad?
- Journalism – can you weigh up two sides of a story?
- Social care – how do people's beliefs affect their lives?
- Counselling – can you understand other people?
- Education – can you be objective?
- Politics – can you put a good argument together?
- Art – how much is art influenced by religion and spirituality?
- Management – can you understand the bigger picture?

Other Information

Study skills
Learning at A Level is different from GCSEs. It is important that you are always thinking! Instead of just learning about what different people believe or argue, you need to learn to evaluate these ideas – are they good or bad, weak or strong? You will need to draw links between ideas and try to see the bigger picture or implications of ideas. You will need to back your arguments up and also be able to argue points of view that you totally disagree with.

"Truly mind bending…changes the way you see the world."

Spanish

Examination Board: AQA
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

This exciting and thought-provoking course aims to enable students to develop and build on the knowledge and skills they acquired at GCSE Level Spanish, and use the language learned in a variety of contexts that will be useful in the wider world of cultural dialogue, travel and work. They will gain an insight into Hispanic culture and reflect on aspects of contemporary society. The course provides them with the opportunity to enhance their employment prospects in a post-Brexit world, facilitate foreign travel and experience the enjoyment and motivation of improving their linguistic level.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include both English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics, with three of the passes at grade 6 or above in Spanish and in two further subjects.

Course Content

Throughout the course, teachers and students use Spanish for discussions and some English when working on grammatical concepts and translations. Work draws on authentic materials taken from a range of media sources.
Core content

- Aspects of Hispanic society
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Aspects of political life in Hispanic society
- Grammar and translation skills
- Literature and film (1 book and 1 film)

During the course, students will have a dedicated session with a Spanish Language Assistant each week, during which time they will develop their ability to engage in structured discussions in Spanish on the themes above and specifically to prepare them for the discussion elements of the speaking exam at the end of year 13.

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening, Reading & Writing
50% of total A Level
Assesses knowledge of current trends & issues, political life and artistic culture in Hispanic society and grammatical knowledge.

Paper 2: Writing
20% of total A Level
Assesses understanding of the book and the film studied as well as grammatical knowledge.

Exam 3: Speaking
30% of total A Level
Conducted by one of the St George's A level Spanish teachers. The student is given a "stimulus card" relating to the main themes of the course and they then have a discussion based around the issues raised. Students then present for 2 minutes on the subject of their individual research project, followed by a discussion on it with their teacher.

Who is this course suited to?

You will be well-suited to this course if you have a keen interest in trends in society, social justice, politics, artistic culture and heritage as well as literature and film as a reflection of society. You should also be interested in the mechanics and nuance of language. You should ideally be someone who likes to communicate, exchange and discuss ideas.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

Spanish sits well with any other subject at A Level and offers a different experience in the classroom to other subject choices giving you breadth and variety in your studies. It works very well alongside the arts, social sciences and science and maths. It also opens up many other opportunities post-18.

- **Maths / economics** for students considering a future in international banking or finance
- **English / drama** for students who are particularly interested in literature and exploring nuance and manipulation of language
- **Music / art** for students interested in exploring the artistic heritage and Hispanic culture and perhaps wanting to go on and study liberal arts.
- **Politics / history** for students considering a future in government, law or the diplomatic service
- **Business studies / economics** for anyone hoping for an international career in commerce
- **Sciences** for students considering a future using science in an international context such as working for multinational pharmaceutical or aerospace companies or even looking to take a degree in medicine.
- **Geography** for students interested in studying trends in society or considering a career in international development or tourism.

Career Opportunities

A degree in Hispanic studies or a degree with Spanish as a subsidiary subject provides a fantastic platform from which to enter a range of exciting sectors, with Spanish speakers in demand in the world of football, tourism, marketing international development and banking and finance. Spanish is a truly global language being an official language in 20 countries, including Mexico, Spain, and Colombia, and in the U.S. Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. A large Spanish-speaking population also exists in countries where it is not an official language, such as the United States.

Speaking a second language can make you more employable and flexible in your career and surveys regularly show that the ability to speak another language can add significantly (up to 35%) to your earning potential over the course of your career, depending on what sector you go into.

Other Information

Students are encouraged to buy their own copy of the AQA Spanish A Level grammar book and the vocabulary book. They will also need to have their own copy of the text studied and access to the film studied.

When considering work experience in Year 12, if possible, it is beneficial to find a placement that will allow you to use your Spanish language skills and the MFL Department can give guidance on this if required.

The Harpenden Schools Consortium

In order to increase the opportunities available to all students in Harpenden, there is collaboration between the four local secondary schools: St George's, Roundwood Park, Sir John Lawes and Katherine Warington. This means that students are able to study an increased range of subjects by attending another school for **one** of their choices.

Students are expected to make their own way to the consortium School from St George's. A minimum movement time of 10 minutes is built into our arrangements to allow students travel time between the different school sites. Subjects are usually timetabled to be the first lesson in the morning or after a break. We will look at the student's timetable to see if moving a class (where possible) provides more time to get to their consortium lesson. If a student believes there is too short a time span to make the journey, then they must make other arrangements to ensure they arrive on time, and accept any cost this may incur, or choose another course.

Please be aware that the timings of lessons do not match exactly.

All students who elect to study a consortium subject are expected to commit to the academic standards and discipline policies set by their consortium school. In addition, it should be noted that consortium students agree to the following;

- Students are required to attend the consortium school's lessons even if their home school has a different arrangement (such as an inset day, early closure, different term dates etc).
- Students are required to register their attendance by signing in and out at the consortium school
- Students must catch up on any missed work.
- Students are expected to ensure that they attend a parental consultation at the consortium school's parents' evening.
- Students must comply with the policy, Acceptable Use of the Computer System at the Harpenden consortium schools.
- Students are expected to maintain a smart appearance, in accordance with the consortium school dress code/uniform rules.
- Students should ensure that they make themselves aware of the fire evacuation, lockdown and other relevant emergency procedures at the consortium school.
- Whilst the consortium schools exchange key data, parents should ensure that they contact the data manager at the consortium school with special and/or medical requirements to be recorded on the student's record.

Consortium students and parents must comply with Harpenden Consortium Schools General Expectations Agreement.

Food Science & Nutrition Diploma

Taught at Roundwood Park School

Specification: WJEC
Subject Lead: Miss Jackson
Specification website click here

Introduction

Students will gain an understanding of the science of food safety, nutrition and nutritional needs in a wide range of contexts, through on-going practical sessions. They will gain practical skills to produce quality food items to meet the needs of individuals. The course is designed to offer exciting, interesting experiences that focus on the learning through applied learning i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful, work related contexts, linked to the food production industry.
This course explores the relationship between food, nutrition and health, and offers the opportunity for creative, investigative and analytical study. Food is one of the fastest growing industries, with many varied jobs on offer. Food Science & Nutrition offers further study on many food related degree programs: BSC Human Nutrition, BSC Public Health & Nutrition, BSC Food & Consumer Management. Please speak to Miss O'Coy for more details.

Entry Requirements

GCSE Grade 5 or above in either: Design & Technology, Food Preparation & Nutrition, or Science. The Applied Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition complements other A Level courses such as Biology, Physical Education and Health & Social Care. It is not a prerequisite to have a GCSE in a food related subject. An enquiring mind and a genuine interest in looking in depth at where food comes from, food choices and the science behind nutrition is a distinct advantage.

Course content

Year 12
Unit 1: Meeting nutritional needs of specific groups
Part 1: Theory exam. 90minutes. Looks at nutrition in detail and developing practical skills. Exam marked externally. There will be a mixture of short and long response questions on hygiene and nutrition and a section analysing a person's diet.
Part 2: Coursework. 9.5 hours. This includes a practical exam based on a scenario given by the exam board. It will need to be planned for creating a time plan and justifying choice of dishes and why they are suitable to the task, showing a detailed understanding of nutrition and hygiene.

Year 13
Unit 2: Ensuring food is safe to eat (external assessment) This is assessed by a written assignment which has eight hours for completion. It will include a risk assessment/ HACCP charts for a set of given recipes and training materials for staff at a food-based event for example a food festival or a burger van.
Unit 3: Experimenting to solve food production problems (12 hours) Internally assessed. The aim of this unit is to understand the properties of food in order to plan and carry out experiments.

Assessment

Year 12 -Unit 1 has 50% controlled assessment plus 50% exam.
Year 13- Unit 2 &3 are controlled assessments.
Students will be graded as Level 3 Pass, Level 3 Merit and Level 3 Distinction

Visits/costs

Students are expected to provide their own ingredients on a weekly basis. Textbook £30 Revision guide £20 Trip (TBC)
Food is one of the fastest growing industries, with many varied jobs on offer. Food Science & Nutrition offers further study on many food related degree programs: BSC Human Nutrition, BSC Public Health & Nutrition, BSC Food & Consumer Management. Please come and talk to Miss O'Coy for more details.

German

Taught at Sir John Lawes School

Examination Board: AQA
Qualification: A Level
Specification website click here

Introduction

This exciting and thought-provoking course aims to enable students to develop and build on the knowledge and skills they acquired at GCSE Level German, and use the language learned in a variety of contexts that will be useful in the wider world of travel and work. They will gain an insight into the German culture and reflect on aspects of contemporary society. The course provides them with the opportunity to enhance their employment prospects in a post-Brexit world, facilitate foreign travel and experience the enjoyment and motivation of improving their linguistic level.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include both English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics, with three of the passes at grade 6 or above in German and in two further subjects.

Course Content

Throughout the course, teachers and students use as much target language as is feasible. Work draws on authentic materials taken from a range of media sources and cultural works such as the press, the internet, literature and the arts.

Core content
1. Current Trends & Issues in German-speaking society
2. Artistic Culture & Music in German-speaking society
3. Aspects of Political life in the German-speaking world
4. Grammar
5. Works: Literary texts and films

During the course, students will have a dedicated session with the German Language Assistant each week, during which time they will develop their ability to have active discussions on various topics in German and work to prepare their individual research project on a topic of their choice for assessment in the speaking element of the exam.

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening, Reading & Writing
50% of total A Level
Assesses knowledge of current trends & issues, political life and artistic culture in German-speaking society and grammatical knowledge.

Paper 2: Writing
20% of total A Level
Assesses understanding of literary works studied and grammatical knowledge.

Exam 3: Speaking
30% of total A Level
Students make a short presentation of their individual research project, followed by a discussion about it.
Students then have a discussion based around a stimulus card from one of the sub-themes of the course.

Who is this course suited to?

You will be well-suited to this course if you have a keen interest in the international world and travel. If you are hoping to enter into the global marketplace or learn new languages in further education, then this course will give you an invaluable head start.

What other subjects complement this A Level?

German would pair well with any other subject at A Level and offer a different experience in the classroom to your other subject choices to break up your week and give you variety in your studies. It works very well alongside physics and maths, particularly if you are thinking of a career in engineering, pharmaceuticals or finance.

Career Opportunities

A degree in German provides a fantastic platform from which to enter a range of exciting sectors. German is the first language of about 95 million people worldwide and is the most widely spoken mother tongue language in the European Union. It is also widely spoken as a second language in many countries in Eastern Europe and is the second most commonly used scientific language. It is the language of some of the world's greatest composers, philosophers and theologians and would be an ideal language for any pupil with these interests to study.

Germany has one of the world's most important economies and is one of Britain's main trading partners in Europe, so British companies need German language speakers in order to do business effectively in Europe. According to recruitment surveys of top businesses, German features as the most desired language for graduates to have and even provides graduates with an edge over other candidates in the London banking sector, due to the international nature of the work.

Other information

Students are strongly urged to purchase a reputable A Level grammar book (approx. £15) and an A Level specific vocabulary book (approx. £10). When studying literature and film we advise students to purchase a copy of the chosen texts/films.

During your period of work experience in Year 12, it is advisable to try to get some work experience that will allow you to use your German language and the Languages Department can give guidance on this if required.

Health & Social Care
Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate
Taught at Roundwood Park School

Specification: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate
Subject Lead: Mrs Glennie
Specification website click here
Entry requirement - Grade 4 in English Language and Grade 4 in Science (Combined or one Science). It is not a requirement to have studied Level 2 BTEC HSC, although if taken a Pass L2 or above must be achieved.

Introduction

BTEC Nationals in Health & Social Care offer up-to-date, vocational content, a more practical approach to assessment and have high credibility with higher education and employers.
Students will develop an understanding of physical, intellectual, emotional and social development of individuals and how the health & social care sector provide for a wide range of needs.
They will develop skills and knowledge of working in the sector through visits and external speakers, research tasks and case studies. They will consider the implications of health education, organisations and legislations on the current and future health of the nation.

BTEC Nationals require applied learning that brings together knowledge and understanding with practical and technical skills. This is achieved through learners performing vocational tasks that encourage the development of appropriate vocational behaviours and transferable skills. Transferable skills are those such as communication, teamwork, research and analysis, which are valued in both higher education and the workplace.

This course uses a combination of assessment styles to give students confidence to apply their knowledge to succeed in the workplace and have the study skills to continue learning on higher education courses and throughout their career. This range of vocational assessments – both practical and written – mean students can showcase their learning and achievements to best effect when they take their next steps.

Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in English Language and Grade 4 in Science (Combined or one Science). It is not a requirement to have studied Level 2 BTEC Health and Social Care.

Course content

- Human Lifespan Development
- Principles of Health and Social Care Practice
- Human Biology and Health
- Promoting Health Education

Assessment

3 Core Mandatory units of which:
- 2 Core units: Written exam set and marked by Pearson
- 1 Core unit: Assignment set and marked internally
- 1 Additional unit: Assignment set and marked internally

The styles of assessment used for qualifications in Health & Social Care are:
Examinations - learners take the same written assessment in exam conditions
Assignment - internally set assignment brief where students carry out set tasks, creating evidence to support a work-related scenario

Visits/costs

Students are encouraged to take part in minimum 50 hours work experience. In addition, during the course all will take part in trips to a wide range of health & social care settings from local primary schools to hospitals and care homes.

Information Technology
Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate
Taught at Roundwood Park School

Exam Board: Pearson
Subject lead : Mr Hamilton
Qualification: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate
Specification website click here
Entry Requirement: Grade 4 in Maths and English Language. It is not a requirement to have studied Level 2 BTEC DIT, althoughif taken a Pass L2 or above must be achieved

Introduction

The Pearson Level 3 BTEC National (Alternative Academic Qualification) in Information Technology (Extended Certificate) allows students to study the fundamental knowledge of Information Technology covering the role and implications of using Information Technology systems and cyber-security threats and how to manage attacks. Students will also develop important skills for creating websites to meet a specific purpose and to manage data through the development of a relational database solution.

There are two examined units and two internally assessed units where students will engage in practical tasks to develop their Information Technology skills and knowledge.

Course Content & Assessment

The objective of this qualification is to give learners the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in IT systems, Cyber Security and Incident Management, Website Development and Relational Database Development. This will enable students to progress into higher education as a pathway to employment. Learners will study four mandatory units:

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems
External unit assessed by a 2-hour exam with 90 marks available You will explore the relationships between the hardware and software that form an IT system, how systems work individually and together, and the relationship between the user and the system. You will examine issues related to the use of IT systems and the impact that they have on organisations and individuals. This unit will give you a fundamental understanding of all areas of IT, supporting your progression to an IT-related higher education course.

Unit 2: Cyber Security and Incident Management
External unit assessed by a 2-hour exam with 90 marks available In this unit, you will examine the many types of cyber security attacks, the vulnerabilities in networked systems and the techniques that can be used to defend an organisation's networked systems. You will examine scenarios and explain appropriate protection measures for networked systems. You will also look at the forensic methods used to investigate cyber security incidents and analyse the suitability of those methods for a given scenario.

Unit 3: Website Development
Internal assessed assignment In this unit, you will explore how existing websites use the principles of website development to appeal to their intended audience and meet their specific purpose. You will plan, design and develop a website in response to a client brief by applying website development tools, techniques and processes. You will also reflect on the usability, functionality and fitness for purpose of the website using a testing and review process. Many software developers, database experts and systems managers need web-client development skills as an integral part of their overall portfolio of expertise.

Unit 4: Relational Database Development
Internal assessed assignment In this unit, you will examine the structure of data and how an efficient data design follows through into an effective, useful database. You will investigate database management systems (DBMS) and apply practical skills in designing and developing a database within a given DBMS

Media Studies

Taught at Sir John Lawes School

Exam Board: Eduqas (A680QS)
Qualification: A Level
Subject lead Mrs R Kench
Specification website click here

Introduction

To choose Media Studies A Level, you do not need to have studied Media Studies at GCSE Level. Therefore, no previous experience is required as everyone starts at the same point, although obviously an interest in the media and its construction and influence, is essential.

Entry Requirements

St George's minimum Sixth Form Entry Requirements of five full GCSEs or equivalent at grades 9–5, which would include English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics, with three of the passes at grade 6 or above including a grade 6 or above in GCSE Media or Film Studies or (if Media or Film Studies have not previously been studied) a grade 6 or above in GCSE English. All students must have an APS of 4.5 or above.

Course Content

Component 1

Students will study towards a 2-hour 15-minute exam that will test them on how media texts use media language, construction of representations, audience readings and responses, institutional influences and the contexts of texts. Students will cover the semiotic construction of and key representation issues in advertising, music videos, newspapers, and film marketing, as well as understanding key institutional and audience issues from advertising, film marketing, newspapers, computer games and radio. Students will also be tested on their analytical and evaluative skills based on an unseen text in the exam.

Component 2

Students will learn about three areas of the media in depth; TV in the global Age, Magazines (Mainstream vs. alternative) and Media in the Online Age. They will be required to study two texts in depth and comparatively, which are set by the exam board. The exam is 2 hours 30 minutes long in which students need to write 3 extended answers.

Both exams are sat at the end of the 2-year course.

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)

Individually, students will need to respond to a brief set by the board. They will need to produce a cross-media response. For example, the brief may ask students to produce a sequence of 2½–3 minutes from a new TV programme as well as producing accompanying print media (such as pages from a magazine, or poster/DVVD cover) or digital media such as a fully functioning website.

Students will also have full access to our facilities: Film/TV studio, industry standard cameras (moving image and DSLRs) and Apple Macs with Adobe Premier Pro and Photoshop.

Assessment

30% individually assessed Non-Exam Assessed (NEA) work. This will consist of a cross-platform production (i.e. a moving image and print piece).

70% externally assessed exam work: Paper 1 = 35%; Paper 2 = 35%.

Performing Arts
BTEC
Taught at Katherine Warington School

Exam Board: Pearson
Qualification: BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Performing Arts (601/7232/0)
Specification website click here

Introduction

This course is designed to complement a choice of two other A Levels or BTECs and offers a rounded education in the Performing Arts with a focus on working in the industry, the creation of new works alongside developing your own discipline from a choice of Musical Theatre, Acting and Dance.

Entry Requirements

GCSE English Grade 4 or above
APS of 3.85
Evidence of commitment to performing through involvement in shows, productions

Course content

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved and consulted in order to confirm that the content is also appropriate and consistent with current practice. Students will study six mandatory units, covering the following:

- Investigating Practitioners' Work
- Group Performance Workshop
- Individual Performance Commission
- Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance
- Performing Arts in the Community
- Final Live Performance to an Audience.

Students choose two optional units, which have been designed to support progression to the range of sector related courses in HE, and also to link with relevant occupational areas. The optional units cover content areas such as:

- acting
- dance
- musical theatre.

This qualification enables students to acquire substantial crosssector knowledge, as well as practical skills.

Future opportunities

This course can lead on to further training in either the performing arts or University courses related to other course choices.

Who to speak to for more information:

James Bullock, Director of Performing Arts, j.bullock@kwschool.co.uk

Spanish

Taught as part of the consortium at Roundwood Park School*

Exam Board: AQA
Qualification: A Level
Subject Lead – Miss Harris
Specification website click here

Introduction

The importance of Modern Languages in our society cannot be overstated, especially in view of the increasingly globalised economy and workplace. There is a wide variety of career opportunities available to students of a foreign language, either in the category of those directly using languages or, increasingly, where a foreign language is an additional required skill – for example in accountancy, law, insurance, marketing, banking, tourism and PA work.

Entry Requirements

St George's Sixth Form Entry Requirement of five full GCSEs at grades 9–5, including English (Language and Literature) and Mathematics, and with three of the passes at grade 6 or above in GCSE Spanish and a further two subjects.

Course Content

The course aims to:

- Develop your understanding of written and spoken forms of Spanish in a variety of styles.
- Encourage you to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in Spanish, using increasingly accurate and complex language.
- Help you to develop critical insights into, and contact with, the contemporary society, cultural background and other countries where Spanish is spoken.
- Provide a suitable foundation for further study of Spanish as well as a highly regarded course for those not wishing to continue to University level.

Assessment

Paper 1 – Listening and Reading – based on topics covered (50% of A Level)
Paper 2 – Writing – analysis of a Spanish film & novel studied (20% of A Level)
Paper 3 – Speaking exam – discussion and conversation(30% of A Level)

Other Information

Costs (including off-site visits, textbooks, courses).

Grammar book approximately £8 and course book approximately £25.
Literature for Cultural Topic at A Level approximately £10
A visit to a Spanish speaking country or taking part in an exchange during your study is advisable.
Students can also organise work experience abroad.

***Please note, we intend to run this at St George's from September 2025, provided we have sufficient student numbers. This will be confirmed when offers are issued.**

Contact Details

Please be aware that due to teaching and other commitments, staff will not be able to respond immediately and that it may take at least a couple of working days for an initial response.

St George's School

Mr B Cullis
Director of Learning, Sixth Form Education

Mr J Ellis
Deputy Director of Learning, Sixth Form Education

Mrs Anderson Beaman
Sixth Form Operational Support Coordinator

Tel: 01582 765477
Email: 6thformadmin@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Roundwood Park School

Mrs T Tweeddale
Assistant Head KS5

Tel: 01582 765344
Email: sixthform@roundwoodpark.co.uk

Sir John Lawes School

Ms S Calverley
Head of Sixth Form

Mr D Thompson
Assistant Head of Sixth Form

Tel: 01582 760043
6thformadmin@sjl.herts.sch.uk

Katherine Warington School

Mr Laing
Head of Sixth Form

Miss Gardner
Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Tel: 01582 314777
Email: kwsixth@kwschool.co.uk

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

HARPENDEN ACADEMY TRUST

Sun Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 4TD

Telephone: 01582 765477

6thformadmin@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk
Boarding Admissions Enquiries: boarding@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk