

Art and Design (Fine Art)

Advanced Level

Overview

Our approach to Art and Design will stimulate your curiosity and knowledge and extend your skills in visual language. Students should be genuinely interested in using and manipulating two and three dimensional materials and evaluating the work of other artists to develop critical thinking.

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 4+ in Art/ Art Graphics/ Photography, or portfolio of evidence

More information:
Miss E Garner

Curriculum and Assessment

YEAR 12

The first year is a time of learning new skills and building on knowledge already gained. You will experiment with materials and techniques, skills and methods to help you develop your own ideas. You will be supported by your teachers, who will be preparing you for the challenge of the Personal Investigation, which you will start in the Summer Term and continue with in Year 13.

During this year you are required to work in two or more areas of art and design, such as painting, drawing, mixed media, graphics, sculpture, photography and printmaking.

Projects will consist of research, development, investigation, experimentation and final outcomes.

YEAR 13

This year is split into two units of work; a coursework portfolio and an externally set assignment which culminates in a 15 hour examination at the end of the course.

During this year you will produce a Personal Investigation which is practical by nature, leading to a finished piece or pieces and is supported by a compulsory written element that links the work of other artists to the project. In this unit you are in charge and with our support you will produce a portfolio of work that reflects your strengths and interests. You will be encouraged to work in a variety of ways, exploring fully the subject you have chosen and utilising the skills you have learnt over the course.

Post 18 Opportunities

Many of our students go on to study art and design at a higher level. Students can also continue on a Foundation Course in Art and Design. Students can continue their Graphic studies on a Foundation Course or do a degree course in areas such as Animation, Illustration, Advertising or a more general Graphic Design degree.

Destinations of students in recent years:

Leicester University – Fine Art

Solent University – Animation

Southampton Solent – Hair and Make Up for TV and Media

Buckinghamshire University – Graphic Design

Middlesex University – Film and Set Design

Reading College – Foundation in Art and Design

Expenses

Portfolio, sketchbooks and some material costs. Visits to museums and galleries in the UK.



Highdown Sixth Form

Art and Design - Textile Design

Advanced Level

Overview

You will be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of textile media, processes and techniques, looking at both traditional and new media. You will be required to demonstrate skills in all of the following:

- Awareness of the elements of textile design
- Awareness of intended audience or purpose
- Appreciation of the relationship of form and function
- Understanding a variety of textile methods

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 4+ in Textiles or Art, or portfolio of evidence

More information:
Miss C Lobo

Curriculum and Assessment

YEAR 12

In component 1, you will produce an extended collection of work that exemplifies aspects of developing knowledge, skills and understanding. You should provide evidence of research, the development of ideas, making skills and critical/contextual understanding. You should demonstrate your ability to sustain work from an initial starting point to a realisation.

In component 2, you will respond to stimulus, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of your ability to research and develop ideas and to make clear the link between your own and others' work within specific time constraints.

YEAR 13

In component 1, you will develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Practical elements should make connections with some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artist(s), designer(s), photographers or craftspeople and include written work of no less than 1000 and no more than 3000 words which supports the practical work.

In component 2, you will respond to a stimulus, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of your ability to work independently within specified time constraints, developing a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

Post 18 Opportunities

Textile Design goes well with other subjects. If you want a career in design you might also consider Art & Design, Business Studies, or Computing as companion A Levels. Students with an Art Fashion (Textile Design) qualification go on to be Interior Designers, Costume Designers, Fashion Designers, Fashion/Textile Buyers, design window displays or work in Fashion merchandising.

Destinations of students in recent years:

Bournemouth University – Surface Pattern Design
Cardiff University – Fashion Design
Swansea University – Surface Pattern Design

Expenses

A sketchbook for each component and material costs.



Highdown Sixth Form

Art Photography

Advanced Level

Overview

During the course you will develop creative and practical skills for communicating and expressing ideas, feelings and meanings through photography. You will use investigative and critical skills to research and analyse. Through looking at the work of others and developing your own ideas, you will build up a solid understanding of photography in contemporary society and in other times and cultures.

You will be introduced to a range of photographic media, techniques and processes. You will be made aware of both traditional and new technologies. Your responses to these examples will be shown through practical and critical activities which will demonstrate an understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 4+ in Art/ Art Graphics/ Photography or portfolio of evidence

More information:
Miss E Garner

Curriculum and Assessment

YEAR 12

During this year you will explore a range of photographic techniques to manipulate imagery and consider presenting work in an innovative way.

Projects are assessed on research, development and quality of final outcome(s).

YEAR 13

During this year you will work on a self-initiated personal study. For this project you will develop a theme, issue, idea or concept of your choosing. The project will consist of practical work and a 1000-3000 word essay.

You will also complete an externally set assignment, culminating in a 15 hour practical examination.

Post 18 Opportunities

Students can continue with their studies on an Art Foundation Course or progress straight to University or find employment in the Photography area.

Destinations of students in recent years:

University of South Wales – Documentary Photography

Reading College - BTEC Foundation Course

Expenses

You will need to have access to a digital camera with a suitable amount of storage. You will need to provide your own sketchbooks or files in which to present your work.



Highdown Sixth Form

Overview

Biology is a fascinating and diverse area of study. You will deepen your knowledge of familiar topics such as cells, disease, and body systems and be introduced to advanced topics such as biochemistry and genetics.

Biology is a practical subject and you will quickly learn how to work carefully and accurately. By using a wide range of sources, you will hone your skills in research, note taking and presentation.

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 6-6+ in Science or 6+ in Biology and 5+ in Mathematics.

Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is recommended if not taking A Level Maths

More information:
Ms M Elliot

Curriculum and Assessment

YEAR 12

Students will gain an excellent basis for future study. You begin by studying how cells function at a molecular level and how substances are transported around organisms. You will then look at the functions of different body systems and how they are affected by disease and the role played by mammalian blood in the defence against pathogens. The second unit takes you off to look at adaptations, diversity and habitats.

ASSESSMENT

Three 2 hour examinations
Compulsory Practical Endorsement

YEAR 13

Students will develop many of the themes encountered in Year 12. You will begin by studying more advanced cell functions such as the role of ATP in respiration and photosynthesis. Towards the end of the course, you will further your knowledge of the control of body systems and deepen your knowledge of genetics and apply your knowledge to understand gene therapy and genetic fingerprinting.

Post 18 Opportunities

Biologists observe the environment and the behaviour of organisms within it. They may choose to become specialists with a focus on a particular aspect of Biology. Their analytical skills and ability to make connections between complex ideas is of interest to many employers. Academic research, work in the Department of Health, Conservation, Dietician, Food Industry and Production, Laboratory Technician, Journalism, Teaching, Nursing and Midwifery, Pharmacy, the Police Service, Sales or Tutoring are just a few of the careers that Biology qualifications can give access to.

Destinations of students in recent years:

Anglia Ruskin University – Biomedical Science
Bangor University – Marine Biology
University of East Anglia – Environmental Science

Kingston University – Biomedical Science
Warwick University – Biomedical Science

Expenses

You will need to purchase text books. We will endeavour to attend at least one series of lectures to supplement the course.

Business Studies

Advanced Level

Overview

Business Studies aims to provide an understanding of the internal workings of organisations, their business behaviour and the environment in which they operate.

Business Studies is a subject which incorporates a variety of different styles including both numeracy and literacy.

Awarding Organisation:

AQA

Minimum course requirements: 4+ in Business Studies

If Business not studied, 5+ in Maths. Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is recommended if not taking A Level Maths

More information:

Mrs N Barnett

Curriculum and Assessment

YEAR 12

FOCUS AREA: *What is business, managing marketing and finance*

Business and objectives
Forms of business and stakeholders
Marketing management
Financial management

FOCUS AREA: *Managing operations and people*

Operations management
People management
Managing business culture

YEAR 13

FOCUS AREA: *Business and society, business and the external environment, and business strategy*

Business and society
Business and the external environment
Strategy
Change

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Business 1

This paper covers topics 1-4 above; 2 hours examination
Two case studies. Each case study will be followed by five compulsory questions worth 90 marks in total.

Paper 2: Business 2

This paper covers topics 5-7 above; 2 hours examination
Two case studies. Each case study will be followed by five compulsory questions worth 90 marks in total.

Paper 3: Business 3

This paper covers topics 8-10; 2 hours examination
Two case studies. Each case study will be followed by five compulsory questions worth 90 marks in total.

Post 18 Opportunities

This course will provide a foundation for students looking to move into the workplace or aiming to continue their studies with a business related degree or many other subjects at university.

Destinations of students in recent years:

University of Liverpool – Business Management with year in industry
University of Reading – Business Management with placement year
University of Nottingham – American and Canadian Literature, History and Culture
University of Plymouth – Biomedical Science

Expenses

Students are required to purchase their own text books and need a calculator. There may also be periodic trips which will incur additional costs to help develop their understanding.



Highdown Sixth Form

Overview

A Level Chemistry is a rigorous and highly-regarded academic challenge. You will delve deeply into familiar topics such as atomic structure, carbon chemistry and energetics and be introduced to new areas such as redox chemistry and spectroscopy.

Chemistry is a practical subject and you will quickly learn how to use Quickfit apparatus and how to perform a successful titration. Your numeracy skills will be finely honed and it is expected that you will develop a real appreciation of the meaning of the numbers you are using and applying. You will be required to solve practical and theoretical problems so it is important that you are ready to try out different solutions and be ready to think flexibly.

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 6-6+ in Science or 6+ in Biology and 5+ in Mathematics.
Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is recommended if not taking A Level Maths.

More information:
Ms M Elliot

Curriculum and Assessment

YEAR 12

During this year you will cover the following key areas:

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Organic chemistry
- Energetics and kinetics
- Quantitative chemistry
- Spectroscopy
- Structure and bonding

ASSESSMENT

Three 2 hour examinations
Compulsory Practical Endorsement

YEAR 13

During this year you will develop many of the themes encountered in Year 12.

- You will widen your appreciation of organic chemistry through study of benzene and organic nitrogen compounds
- You will enjoy the intellectual challenge of entropy and equilibrium
- You will gain some appreciation of chemistry in the real world in your studies of NMR and other analytical techniques

Post 18 Opportunities

Chemists are excellent problem solvers who are highly numerate so they have a range of skills that are attractive to a very broad range of future employers. The specific technical skills directly relevant to chemistry-related careers include fine practical skills, collecting and collating data, research and report writing, sophisticated quantitative processing and thorough evaluation of experimental methods, published papers and data collected from a range of sources. Chemists are highly sought-after in the worlds of Finance and Law. An A Level in Chemistry is required for most degrees in Medicine.

Destinations of students in recent years:

Cardiff University – Biochemistry
Oxford University – Law
Cambridge University – Law

Oxford University – Chemistry
Manchester University – Paramedic Science
Nottingham University – Chemical Engineering

Expenses

You will need to purchase a textbook and a required practical book. There will be the opportunity to take place in events such as the Chemistry Olympiad or Royal Society of Chemistry competitions.

Computer Studies

Advanced Level

Overview

Computer Science is not about learning to use tools or just training in a programming language (though you will do both). Instead the emphasis is on computational thinking which is a kind of reasoning used by both humans and machines. Computer Science involves questions that have the potential to change how we view the world e.g. we may be computing with DNA in the future, with computer circuits made of genes. This leads to the question, does the natural world compute?

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements: GCSE Grade 6+ in Computer Science and Grade 5+ in Mathematics. GCSE Grade 6+ in Mathematics if Computing not studied at GCSE.

More information:
Mr D Stephenson

Curriculum and Assessment

YEAR 12

- Problem solving and Boolean logic
- Programming and data representation
- Machine level architecture
- The stored program concept
- The structure of the internet
- Relational database design and implementation (SQL, DDL, Normalisation)

YEAR 13

- Finite state and Turing machines
- Comparison of algorithmic complexity
- What you cannot compute and why
- Programming paradigms and concepts
- Complex networking theory
- Operating Systems

ASSESSMENT

Students sit two examinations worth 80% at the end of Year 13. In addition to a thesis like research project into a computing topic or the development of a programmed solution for a real world client worth 20%.

Post 18 Opportunities

This course, with its emphasis on abstract thinking, general problem solving, algorithmic and mathematical reasoning, scientific and engineering-based thinking, is a good foundation for those who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where knowledge of computing would be beneficial. You can study computing and go onto a career in medicine, law, business, politics or any type of science.

Destinations of students in recent years:

Cardiff University – Computer Science
Newcastle University – Computer Science
Nottingham University – Computing Science with Artificial Intelligence

Oxford University – Physics
University of Reading – Cybernetics, Computer Science

Expenses

Students are required to purchase text books but we will provide all the software needed for the course.



Highdown Sixth Form

Digital Media

Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate

Overview

This creative and hands-on course gives you an in-depth understanding of how media products are planned, produced, and distributed across platforms. You'll develop practical skills using industry-standard tools while learning how media engages with audiences. Perfect for students interested in careers or further study in media, journalism, advertising, or digital content creation.

Awarding Organisation:
OCR

Minimum course requirements:
5+ GCSEs graded 4-9 including
4+ in both Maths and English

More information:
Mr D Stephenson

Curriculum and Assessment

YEAR 12

- **Unit 1: Media Products and Audiences** (Exam – 1 hour 30 mins) In this unit, you'll study different types of media (TV, film, magazines, games, etc.) and how they're made to appeal to specific audiences. You'll learn how to break down media products and understand how things like camera angles, colour, sound, and language create meaning. You'll also explore how media companies are owned and how they advertise and distribute their content.
- **Unit 2: Pre-Production and Planning** (Exam – 2 hours) This unit focuses on everything that happens before a media product is made. You'll learn how to research your audience, budget a project, plan resources, and manage time effectively. You'll also explore important legal and ethical issues (like copyright, data protection, and health & safety). This unit sets you up with the organisational and professional skills needed to manage a media production.
- **Unit 3: Create a Media Product** (Coursework – NEA) In this practical unit, you'll plan, create, and edit your own original media product — such as a magazine, podcast, or short video — in response to a client brief. You'll apply your pre-production skills from Unit 2 and use Adobe software like Photoshop, Premiere Pro, or Audition. You'll also develop your editing, time management, and design skills through each

ASSESSMENT

40% Exams (Units 1 & 2)

60% Coursework / NEA (Units 3, 6, 7 & 20)

You'll be assessed through a mix of written exams, practical projects, and coursework portfolios.

production stage.

- **YEAR 13**
- **Unit 6: Social Media and Globalisation** (NEA) Here, you'll examine how social media has transformed global communication and the way media is produced and consumed. You'll explore how platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and X (Twitter) are used by companies and influencers to connect with audiences. You'll also learn about censorship, regulation, and the impact of social media on society and business. Your coursework will involve creating content and evaluating global media strategies.
- **Unit 7: Journalism and the News Industry** (NEA) In this unit, you'll look at how news is created in the digital age — from traditional newspapers to online blogs and citizen journalism. You'll learn how to research stories, fact-check, structure news articles, and sub-edit your own work. You'll investigate how news is regulated and how audiences interact with news content today. You'll write your own original news piece and reflect on the process.
- **Unit 20: Advertising Media** (NEA) You'll learn how advertising campaigns are developed using different media forms (video, print, social media). You'll explore real-world campaigns and understand how they're designed to meet audience needs and business goals. Then, you'll plan your own campaign and produce advertising materials such as posters, videos, or social content, making sure they meet professional standards and follow legal guidelines.

Post 18 Opportunities

This qualification prepares you for:

- University courses in Media, Journalism, Film, Marketing, or Communications
- Apprenticeships in digital marketing, content creation, or broadcasting
- Careers in the creative industries – including advertising, journalism, TV production, podcasting, and social media management.

Expenses

Students are required to purchase text books but we will provide all the software needed for the course.



Highdown Sixth Form

Drama & Theatre

Advanced Level

Overview

Drama students are dynamic, creative, outgoing and confident people. These qualities are highly valued by employers and university tutors. Drama and Theatre can be combined with dozens of other higher education and university courses. The course combines practical and written work, it is designed to develop your knowledge and enjoyment of drama and theatre.

Awarding Organisation:
Pearson/Edexcel

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 4+ in Drama or
Grade 5+ English if Drama not
studied at GCSE

More information:
Mrs S Lake

Curriculum and Assessment

2 YEAR OVERVIEW

Component 1: Devising (Practical)

Devise an original performance piece. Use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli.

Non-examination assessment

40% of the qualification

80 marks

Component 2: Text in Performance (Practical)

A group performance/design realisation of one key extract from a performance text. A monologue or duologue performance/design realisation from one key extract from a different performance text.

Non-examination assessment

20% of the qualification

60 marks

ASSESSMENT

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (Written Exam)

Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation (20 marks)

Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text (36 marks)

Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text (24 marks)

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

40% of the qualification

80 marks

Skills that will be developed

Drama students at this level are not only excellent team players with advanced communication and negotiation skills but also creative and original thinkers who push the boundaries of their imaginations. Timing, risk taking, vocal variation, characterisation and the skills of 'devising' are all covered on the course.

Post 18 Opportunities

Whether you go on to study at University taking courses in drama, theatre studies, set design, performing arts, apply and attend drama school or take a more vocational route there is a wide range of opportunities out there for you to explore. Industries now values a qualification in drama as it gives an excellent training in problem solving, creativity, presentation skills and general confidence. Drama and theatre form part of Britain's largest industry.

Drama and Theatre can lead to a career in journalism, teaching, television broadcasting, the radio and music industry, social work and the theatre profession both as a performer and technician.

Destinations of students in recent years:

Tiffany Theatre College – Performing Arts

Delamar Academy – Make up and Special Effects

University of Surrey – Theatre and Performance Studies

Bath Spa University – Acting and Technical Theatre Practice

Expenses

Students may be required to purchase set texts or subject related books. During the course there are regular trips to the theatre which will incur costs, but we will support students with financial difficulties.



Highdown Sixth Form

Overview

The aim of studying Economics is to apply economic theory to support an analysis of current economic problems and issues. Our aim is to introduce students to the concepts of both micro and macroeconomic theory and discuss the relationships between them.

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements: GCSE Grade 5+ in Mathematics and 5+ in English, 5+ in Economics (if studied). Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is recommended if you are not studying A Level Maths.

More information:
Mr R Schweitzer

Curriculum and Assessment

YEAR 12

The operation of markets and market failure:

- Economic methodology and the economic problem
- Price determination in a competitive market
- Production, costs and revenue
- Competitive and concentrated markets
- The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets

The national economy in a global context:

- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- How the macroeconomy works; the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis and related concepts
- Economic performance
- Macroeconomic policy

YEAR 13

Individuals, firms, markets and market failure:

- Perfect completion, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly
- The labour market
- The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality

The national and international economy:

- Financial markets and monetary policy
- Fiscal policy and supply-side policies
- The International Economy

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Markets and Market Failure – 2 hour paper

Paper 2: National and International Economy – 2 hour paper

Paper 3: Economic Principles and Issues – 2 hour paper

Post 18 Opportunities

Students who study Economics are able to move onto university to read subjects such as Accountancy, Economics, Politics, International Relations and Mathematics. In addition, employers regard Economics highly as the subject incorporates many employability skills such as data analysis, evaluation of concepts and graphical annotation. The course also emphasises the application of economic theory to the real world environment, enabling students to gain a grasp of current affairs and the impact this has upon the economy as a whole.

Destinations of students in recent years:

University of Kent – International Business with a year abroad

Loughborough University – Business Economics and Finance (with placement year)

University of Nottingham – Law with French and French Law

UCL – Arts and Sciences with Study Abroad

Expenses

Students are required to purchase their own text books. There will also be periodic trips to help develop their understanding, which will incur additional costs.

English Language & Literature *Advanced Level*

Overview

Do you enjoy creative writing, as well as reading and analysing a range of different text types? Do you want an element of choice with the texts you choose to study? The OCR English Language and Literature specification provides you with the opportunity to both read and write a wide variety of different texts, including non-fiction, narrative, novels, plays and poetry. This course is ideal for anyone who is creative, analytical and motivated by the prospect of studying a breadth of texts in a variety of different ways.

Awarding Organisation:
OCR

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 5+ in both English Language and Literature

More information:
Ms N Salmon

Curriculum and Assessment

COMPONENT 1

Exploring Non-Fiction and Spoken Texts (16%)

Students will study an anthology of twenty different spoken and written texts from different time periods and contexts.

Students will be assessed for this component through a 1 hour examination at the end of the two year course.

COMPONENT 2

The Language of Poetry and Plays (32%)

Students will study a poetry collection by one poet from a choice of six. Students will also study one drama text from a choice of six.

Students will be assessed for this component through a 2 hour examination at the end of the two year course.

COMPONENT 3

Reading as a Writer, Writing as a Reader (32%)

Students will study one novel from a choice of six. Students will also study narrative writing.

Students will be assessed for this component through a 2 hour examination at the end of the two year course.

COMPONENT 4

Independent Study – Analysing and Producing Texts (20%)

Students will study one post-2000 text in conjunction with another text of their choice. Students will also study non-fiction writing.

Students will be assessed for this component through coursework during the second year of the course.

Post 18 Opportunities

Language and Literature students have gone on to careers in Journalism, Advertising, Broadcasting, Law, Social Science and Teaching.

Destinations of students in recent years:

Exeter University – English

Bath Spa University – Publishing and Creative Writing

University of East Anglia – Medicine

Expenses

Students will be required to purchase their own copies of the set texts. The department also runs optional theatre trips and external study days that students may wish to attend. These visits will incur additional costs.



English Literature

Advanced Level

Overview

Do you enjoy novels, plays and poetry? Are you keen to explore texts written in the 21st Century, as well as literary heritage texts that have influenced generations? The OCR English Literature specification allows you to build on and develop the skills acquired during GCSE English Literature by approaching a range of more sophisticated texts. Current students studying the course particularly enjoy the opportunity afforded by the specification to engage in a piece of coursework in an area of personal interest.

Awarding Organisation:
OCR

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 5+ in both English Language and Literature

More information:
Ms N Salmon

Curriculum and Assessment

COMPONENT 1 Drama and Poetry pre-1900 (40%)

Students will study a Shakespeare play, drama and poetry pre-1900.

Students will be assessed for this component through a 2 hour 30 minute examination at the end of the two year course.

COMPONENT 2 Comparative and Contextual Study (40%)

Students will study a collection of texts from one of the following topics:

- American Literature 1880–1940
- The Gothic
- Dystopia
- Women in Literature
- The Immigrant Experience

Students will be assessed for this component through a 2 hour 30 minute examination at the end of the two year course.

COMPONENT 3 Independent Study (20%)

Students will undertake a coursework project of their choosing focussing on modern literature

Students will be assessed for this component through coursework which is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Post 18 Opportunities

A Level English Literature can complement many other subjects and can be a valuable contrast for students studying scientific subjects who wish to demonstrate a range of interests.

Destinations of students in recent years:

Cambridge University – English Literature

Durham University – Politics, Philosophy and Economics

University of East Anglia – Culture, Literature and Politics

Expenses

Optional theatre trips and university lectures are organised by the department. Students may be required to purchase key texts.



Highdown Sixth Form

Overview

An EPQ is an opportunity to showcase your skills and interests. It is an invaluable opportunity to demonstrate to a university that you can achieve at the very highest level.

Awarding Organisation:
Edexcel

Minimum course requirements:
This is taken in addition to your A level programme

More information:
Mrs S Chamberlain

Curriculum and Assessment

The initial part of the course in Y12 is a theory course in how to construct an EPQ: we teach you how to construct a question, select a structure, research through more than just Google and construct a bibliography. All of which will help you at university and beyond. Along the way, we check your academic written style and round off with lessons and practice for your presentation.

P301 – Dissertation

This is on the subject of your choice and you would create between a 6,000- 10,000 word extended essay

P302 – Field Study/Investigation

This would be an opportunity for you to come up with your own hypothesis, collect data, analyse it and then submit your findings and research.

P303 – Performance

This could be a dance piece, a music composition, a play or a short story performance and your creation is assessed, alongside a shorter extended project detailing your research and reasoning.

P304 – Artefact

This could be a 3D animation or a self-made guitar or an art installation or photography exhibition alongside a much shorter extended project which showcases your design brief, research and reasoning behind your project.

Assessment is through the timely admission of preparation work near the beginning of the course, plus your chosen option from the above and, in all cases, a presentation in which you showcase your project and take questions.

Skills

This course facilitates students with strong planning and management of their time, academic research, writing and presentation skills.

Post 18 Opportunities

Current students are looking at a range of university options: computer science to geography and history to medicine and fashion marketing. They are applying to a range of Russell Group/Oxbridge universities.

Some universities may lower their offers if you have a strong EPQ grade alongside your A level grades.

Expenses

If undertaking an artefact or performance EPQ there may be expenses involved in materials. Students should be prepared for these and budget accordingly. For some research, publications may charge unless the school can obtain access for free. In most cases, students source their material from other internet sites or modify their requirements.

Overview

Having continued to build on your reading, listening, speaking, writing and grammar expertise at GCSE level, A level French will enable you to master these skills and communicate with people across the world. Learning French at A Level not only means you will be able to converse more fluently in French but also gives you deep knowledge and understanding of the history and culture of a wide range of French-speaking countries; from our European neighbours – France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, to Northern Africa, Canada, the Caribbean and beyond! Building on the topics studied at KS4, A level French will give you the opportunity to explore a wide range of themes and develop skills from across the A level spectrum: sociology, media, history, politics, literature, business and more.

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 5+ in French (Higher Tier)

More information:
Mrs L Guianvarch

Curriculum and Assessment

TOPICS

- Aspects of French-speaking society
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in French-speaking society
- One French language text
- One French language film
- Grammar

There is also an individual research project.

ASSESSMENT

Students are assessed in listening, reading and writing (as one paper), another writing paper (film/literature essay) and speaking (which includes an individual research project) at the end of Year 13.

AIMS

French A Level aims to encourage students:

- To develop the ability to comprehend French in a wide range of contexts
- To enable the student to communicate confidently and clearly in French for a variety of purposes
- To form a sound base of skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure
- To develop useful knowledge of, and insights into, past and contemporary French-speaking culture
- To encourage positive attitudes to, and a lasting appreciation of, language learning
- To further intellectual and personal development by promoting learning and social skills
- To gain valuable skills for foreign travel, further education and employment

Post 18 Opportunities

As well as allowing candidates to develop their language skills, the course will foster an awareness of French culture and history. In addition to providing a secure foundation for study in higher education, the course equips candidates with a range of skills for careers in business, education and the arts.

Destinations of students in recent years:

Oxford University – French

UCL – French and Spanish

Expenses

Students will be expected to purchase their own textbook and grammar book. It is also expected that they will purchase a good quality French to English dictionary

Further Mathematics

Advanced Level

Overview

A Level Further Mathematics is a rigorous and challenging area of study. You will build on the topics covered in A Level Mathematics as well as having the opportunity to study areas of Mathematics that may not otherwise be met until University.

You will develop your problem solving skills and learn to communicate solutions in an efficient and concise way for both Pure and Applied modules

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 8+ in Mathematics
[to be studied with A Level Mathematics]

More information:
Mr W Dineley

Curriculum and Assessment

In addition to further study of some of the topics covered at A Level, you will also study:

- Complex Numbers
- Matrices
- Calculus
- Polar Coordinates
- Hyperbolic Functions
- Differential Equations

You will also study one of the following areas of Mathematics:

- Mechanics
- Statistics

ASSESSMENT

Three 2 hour papers to be taken at the end of Year 13.

Post 18 Opportunities

Students with a Further Mathematics qualification go on to study many courses at university from Engineering and operational research to Pure Science and Mathematics.

Destinations of students in recent years:

University of Oxford – Mathematics

Exeter University – Mathematics

Nottingham University – Mathematics

Expenses

Students will be expected to purchase their own textbooks. An appropriate scientific or graphical calculator is essential and there is also the possibility of a trip. Further details will follow on the Induction Days



Highdown Sixth Form

Overview

The aim of this course is to allow students to develop and apply their understanding of geographical concepts and processes and to understand and interpret our changing world. Students will develop their awareness of the complexity of interactions within and between societies, economies, cultures and environments at both the local and global scale.

Awarding Organisation:
Edexcel

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 5+ in Geography, 5+ in English. Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is recommended if not taking A Level Maths

More information:
Mrs R Eaton

Curriculum and Assessment

TOPICS

- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- Coastal Landscapes and Change
- Globalisation
- Superpowers
- Regenerating Places
- Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Synoptic themes include:

- Players
- Attitudes and Actions
- Futures and Uncertainties

ASSESSMENT

Unit 1 – Physical Geography

2 hour 15 mins written examination (*worth 30%*)

Unit 2 – Human Geography

2 hour 15 mins written examination (*worth 30%*)

Unit 3 – Synoptic Unit

Based on a resource booklet focusing on a geographical issue (*worth 20%*)

Unit 4 – Independent Geographical Investigation

Coursework report of 3000 – 4000 words (*worth 20%*)

Post 18 Opportunities

Geographers look at issues from a wide perspective and develop a range of skills that are attractive to a very broad range of future employers. The specific technical skills directly relevant to geography-related careers include field work, research and report writing, preparing maps and diagrams, and using social survey and interpretative methods.

Destinations of students in recent years:

University of Reading – Geography
Manchester University – Geography
University of York – Environmental Geography

Sussex University – Geography
Cardiff University – Environmental Geography

Expenses

One week residential field work. Students will investigate coastal landscapes and change, regenerating places and be required to produce a coursework report for Unit 4. Please note that the approximate cost of the field trip is **£600**. Students will need to purchase their text books:

Pearson Edexcel A Level Geography Book 1 Fourth Edition – ISBN: 978-1398312555 (c.£28)

Overview

The History A Level course focuses on history from the end of the medieval period to the end of the twentieth century, and includes new elements as well as content students will be familiar with from their GCSE studies. The A Level builds on the historical thinking skills developed from Key Stage 3, for example causation, evaluating primary evidence and evaluating interpretations.

Awarding Organisation:
OCR

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 5+ in History and
5+ in English

More information:
Ms A Duncan

Curriculum and Assessment

YEAR 12

- England, 1445-1509: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII
- International Relations 1890-1941

YEAR 13

- Investigation/topic based essay
- Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992

ASSESSMENT

Students will take three written examinations:

- British Paper – 25%
- International Relations in the 20th Century – 15%
- Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992 – 40%

Coursework – 20%

Skills that will be developed

- Knowledge and understanding
- Research skills
- Critical thinking
- Extended writing
- Source work
- Empathy

Post 18 Opportunities

History is a subject which is highly regarded by universities, not only for its content and ability to develop a student's capacity for knowledge but also the skills required to study it at an advanced level. Students who successfully complete the subject at A Level demonstrate enhanced understanding of causal and consequential factors and show a higher ability of independent research skills as well as increased empathy. These are all assets when universities are completing their selection process.

Destinations of students in recent years:

Oxford University – History

Birmingham University – History

Bristol University – History

Cardiff University – History

Sussex University – Law

Expenses

Students will be expected to purchase their own course textbooks. Some students also purchase additional reference material for the coursework unit and are given an extended reading list in their course guide. We have our library as well as links to Reading University Library.

Mathematics

Advanced Level

Overview

A Level Mathematics is a rigorous and challenging area of study. You will build on the topics of algebra and geometry met at GCSE as well as being introduced to calculus, exponentials and logarithms.

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 7+ in Mathematics
(strong 6 will be considered).

More information:
Mr W Dineley

Curriculum and Assessment

TOPICS

- Proof
- Algebra and Functions
- Coordinate Geometry
- Sequences and Series
- Trigonometry
- Exponentials and Logarithms
- Differentiation
- Integration
- Numerical Methods
- Vectors
- Quantities and Units in Mechanics
- Kinematics
- Forces and Newton's Law
- Moments
- Statistical Sampling
- Data Presentation and Interpretation
- Probability
- Statistical Distributions
- Statistical Hypothesis Testing

ASSESSMENT

Three 2 hour papers to be taken at the end of Year 13.

Post 18 Opportunities

Mathematics is one of the biggest facilitating subjects and it is essential for many higher education courses and careers, including Mathematics, Engineering, Accountancy, Computing, Medicine and the Sciences.

Destinations of students in recent years:

University of Oxford – Mathematics

Nottingham University – Mathematics

Swansea University – Mechanical Engineering

Expenses

Students will be expected to purchase their own textbooks and may be required to purchase and complete a transition workbook in the first term of Year 12 to aid the step up to A Level study. An appropriate scientific or graphical calculator is essential and there is also the possibility of a trip. Further details will follow on the Induction Days.



Highdown Sixth Form

Mathematical Studies (Core Maths)

AS Level
(2 Year)

Overview

Core Mathematics is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destinations, whatever that may be.

This course will particularly suit students who are also studying Business Studies, Psychology, Sciences, Economics and / or Geography but will help all students develop the real life mathematical skills needed in the workplace.

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 4+ in Mathematics

More information:
Mr W Dineley

Curriculum and Assessment

YEAR 12 and YEAR 13

You will follow either teaching route to explore:

- Statistical Techniques
- Critical Path and Risk Analysis
- Graphical Techniques

ASSESSMENT

Two written examinations at the end of the study period leading to a Level 3 Qualification equivalent to an AS Level.

Post 18 Opportunities

Mathematical Studies aims to prepare students for the demands of higher education and work where there is a distinct mathematical or statistical elements. This is an ever growing field with many careers now requiring high level budgeting skills and the ability to quickly and effectively analyse large amounts of data.

The Level 3 Certificate qualification will be graded on a five-point scale: A, B, C, D and E with the following UCAS points 60, 50, 40, 30 and 20 respectively

Expenses

Students will be required to purchase textbooks and course materials.



Highdown Sixth Form

Overview

The A Level Music qualification offers exciting opportunities for the study of music through both practical and academic disciplines. The three core elements of performance, composition and developing musical understanding are taught and assessed across the two years. The course not only provides a structured way of achieving proficiency in the three basic skills but also allows the students to pursue their individual specialisms.

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements:
Either GCSE Grade 5+ in Music and 5+ on an instrument/voice
OR 5+ in Music Theory and 5+ on an instrument/voice

More information:
Mr H Santer

Curriculum and Assessment

PERFORMING

Students will develop their skills in both solo and ensemble performing. There are many opportunities for students to take part in extra curricular activities.

Students may run ensembles such as orchestras, bands and choirs if this is of interest.

ASSESSMENT

Coursework is 60% of the course and is assessed through an 10 minute performance on the students chosen instrument/s, and 2 compositions lasting a minimum of 4½ minutes. The remaining 40% of the course is assessed via a 2½ hour exam in the summer term of Year 13.

COMPOSING

Students will produce two compositions – one to a brief set by the exam board and also a free composition. Students will also learn the basic principles of harmony.

APPRAISING

This unit of the course allows students to develop their knowledge of music theory and the socio historic context of works chosen by AQA. In doing so, links will be made with the styles of music we listen to today.

Post 18 Opportunities

The music courses provide an excellent basis for lifelong learning and for Higher Educations in Music, and many students continue to study Music at university. Studies in Music can lead to Performance, Composition, Musicology, Ethnomusicology, Sound Engineering, Conducting, Popular Music and Jazz, Artist Management and Public Relations, Music Therapy and Music Education.

Destinations of students in recent years

Birmingham University – Music

Nottingham University – Music

University of Gloucester – Creative Music Technology

Expenses

Students need to purchase scores of the set works. AS/A Level music student conferences.

Music Technology

Advanced Level

Overview

Music Technology A Level offers a range of exciting opportunities to learn about sequencing, sampling, studio recording and production, composing, and the history of recorded music.

There are three areas of study which underpin the course.

1. Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
2. Principles of sound and audio technology
3. The development of recording and production technology

Awarding Organisation:
Edexcel

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 4+ in Music/Music Technology (if studied) or portfolio of evidence

More information:
Mr H Santer

Curriculum and Assessment

As described above there are three areas of study which are then assessed over a series of four components:

Recording – students will develop skills in capturing, editing, and mixing sounds to produce an audio recording.

Technology-based composition – students develop skills in creating, editing and structuring sounds to develop a technology-based composition.

Listening and Analysing – students develop listening and analysing skills through the study of a range of production techniques. These are then assessed in a listening exam which covers music from 1910 up to the current day.

Producing and analysing – students study the techniques and principles of music technology through a series of written and practical tasks, in the context of audio and MIDI materials provided by Edexcel Pearson.

ASSESSMENT

Coursework is 40% of the course and takes the form of a multi-track recording and a technology based composition. The remaining 60% of the course is assessed through a listening and analysing exam and practical producing and analysing exam.

Skills that will be developed

- understand the principles of sound and audio technology and how they are used in creative and professional practice
- understand a wide range of recording and production techniques
- develop the skills to create and manipulate sound in imaginative and creative ways
- develop skills in critical and analytical listening to evaluate the use of sound and audio technology in students' own and others' work
- understand the interdependence of sound engineering knowledge, understanding and skills
- understand the basic principles of acoustics, psycho-acoustics, and the digitalisation of sound
- understand the latest developments in music technology and the impact they have on technology-based composition, performance and the tonal qualities of recordings
- develop and extend the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to create recordings and technology-based compositions which communicate effectively to the listener

Post 18 Opportunities

Our students go on to study a wide range of music technology based courses which lead to careers in studio engineering, live sound, sound design, sound technician, DJ-ing, stage and set design, PA operation and acoustic design.

Destinations of students in recent years:

Birmingham University – Music
Nottingham University – Music

University of Gloucester – Creative Music Technology

Expenses

Students need to purchase scores of the set works. AS/A Level music student conferences.



Highdown Sixth Form

Philosophy

Advanced Level

Overview

Welcome to AQA A Level Philosophy! This course offers an engaging exploration of fundamental questions that shape our understanding of the world, ourselves, and our ethical frameworks. Philosophy encourages critical thinking, analytical skills, and the ability to articulate complex ideas, making it an invaluable subject for any student.

Awarding Organisation:

AQA

Minimum course requirements:

5+ GCSEs graded 4-9
including 4+ in both Maths
and English

More information:

Mr M Hampson

Curriculum and Assessment

The AQA A Level Philosophy syllabus is divided into four key sections:

1. Epistemology: This section delves into the nature and scope of knowledge. Students will explore questions such as: What is knowledge? How do we acquire it? What are the limits of what we can know? By examining various theories of knowledge, including empiricism, rationalism, and scepticism, students will engage with philosophical texts and debates that challenge their understanding of certainty and belief.

2. Moral Philosophy: Here, students will investigate the foundations of ethical theory. This section covers significant moral frameworks, including utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics, and relativism. Students will critically assess the implications of these theories in real-world contexts, discussing topics such as justice, rights, and moral dilemmas. This exploration not only enhances ethical reasoning but also prepares students to navigate complex moral landscapes in their personal and professional lives.

3. Metaphysics of God: In this section, students will explore the existence and nature of God through philosophical inquiry. They will examine classical arguments such as the Cosmological, Teleological, and Ontological arguments, as well as contemporary challenges to theism, including the problem of evil. This

exploration encourages students to reflect on their beliefs and the impact of religious thought on society and culture.

4. Metaphysics of Mind: This section focuses on the relationship between the mind and the body, exploring questions about consciousness, identity, and free will. Students will engage with various philosophical positions, including dualism, physicalism, and functionalism. By examining issues such as the nature of personal identity and the implications of artificial intelligence, students will gain insights into what it means to be human.

ASSESSMENT

The AQA A Level Philosophy course is assessed through two written examinations at the end of the course. Each paper will consist of a range of essay questions that require students to demonstrate their understanding of the material, apply philosophical concepts, and engage in critical analysis. This assessment format not only tests students' knowledge but also their ability to articulate complex ideas clearly and coherently. Through this course, students will develop essential skills in argumentation and critical thinking, preparing them for further study in philosophy, humanities, or any field that values analytical reasoning.

Post 18 Opportunities

Philosophy is a highly recognised and respected A Level. Those studying it are very well placed for any degree involving in-depth critical thinking and analysis. However, it could be of special interest for students going on to degrees in Humanities, Social Sciences, and especially courses involving Philosophy such as a PPE (Politics, Philosophy, and Economics) degree. For those students ambitious to reach high, this subject can help expand opportunities.

Expenses

You will need to purchase your own textbooks. We will endeavour to invite speakers, for which there may be a small fee.



Highdown Sixth Form

Physics

Advanced Level

Overview

A Level Physics is a fascinating and challenging area of study. You will develop and deepen your knowledge of familiar topics such as electricity, light and motion and be introduced to new areas such as particle physics and quantum world.

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 6-6+ in Science or 6+ in Physics and 6+ in Mathematics. Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is recommended if not taking A Level Maths.

More information:
Ms M Elliot

Curriculum and Assessment

YEAR 12

During this year of study, students will gain an excellent basis for future study. We begin by studying all the recent and exciting developments in particle physics and the quantum nature of light. You will then delve deeper into more familiar topics such as electricity, mechanics, materials and waves.

ASSESSMENT

Three 2 hour examinations
Compulsory Practical Endorsement

YEAR 13

During this year of study, students will develop many of the themes encountered in Year 12. You will begin by studying more advanced mechanics such as circular motion and compare gravitational, electric and magnetic fields. Towards the end of the course, you will further your knowledge of nuclear physics and thermal physics.

Skills that will be developed

Physics is a practical subject and you will quickly learn how to use a wide range of electrical equipment and how to make accurate and precise measurements. Your numeracy skills will be finely honed and it is expected that you will develop a real appreciation of the meaning of the numbers you are using and applying. You will be required to solve practical and theoretical problems so it is important that you are ready to try out different solutions and be ready to think.

Post 18 Opportunities

Our physicists go on to study a whole variety of courses at university from pure science to applied areas such as Engineering, Telecommunications and Meteorology.

Destinations of students in recent years:

Imperial College – Electrical Engineering
Oxford University – Physics
Cambridge University – Materials Science
Lancaster University – Physics

Leicester University – Medicine
Manchester University – Mechanical Engineering
Sussex University – Physics with Astrophysics

Expenses

You will need to purchase text books. We will endeavour to attend at least one series of lectures to supplement the course.



Overview

A Politics A level is a great way to immerse yourself in the current affairs of the UK and US political systems. You would be starting your A level study just before the November midterms in America. The UK had its own general election in 2024, but the date of UK elections is less certain. Why? The answer lies in the differences in the US and UK political systems. Examine the two systems: through their voting and party systems, their constitutional frameworks, the roles of their legislatures and their heads of government. All of this is underpinned by the political ideas of key thinkers from different ideologies. We try to do this through questioning, listening to podcasts, debates, news and, of course, essays.

Awarding Organisation:
Edexcel

Minimum course requirements:
5+ GCSEs graded 4-9 including
4+ in both Maths and English

More information:
Mrs S Chamberlain

Curriculum and Assessment

Topics include:

- Assessing whether referendums offer value for the UK
- Assessing the role and influence of pressure groups, lobbyists and think tanks
- Assessing whether we need a more codified and entrenched constitution.
- Assessing whether we need to reform the House of Lords.
- Examining the ideas of liberal, conservative and socialist political thinkers and how they have affected our systems.
- Assessing the role of the US judiciary in creating quasi-legal decisions
- Assessing whether the US electoral system is fit for purpose.
- Assessing the powers of American Presidents in a system of 'checks and balances'.
- Final assessment is through 3 examination papers which are all 2 hours long covering UK Government and Politics, Political Ideologies and US Government and Politics.

Skills that will be developed

Critical analysis and evaluation are key to the subject. This is encouraged through developing sufficient knowledge and understanding of core concepts, through questioning, class presentation and debate. If this sounds scary, don't worry – this is a two year course that develops your skills as we go.

Post 18 Opportunities

Students go on to study at Russell Group universities in a full range of subjects: from continuing with Politics to broader subjects such as Law, International Relations, PPE, Journalism or Philosophy or connected subjects such as Geography, History, Psychology, Sociology, English... the combinations are extensive.

Other A level Politics students continue to business apprenticeships or work in the Police Force. Politics can only open doors, rather than close them.

Expenses

Students will need to purchase their own textbooks. There are additional revision booklets available, should students wish to purchase them and there is an educational visit to London to go to the Houses of Parliament, the UK Supreme Court and No. 10 Downing Street.

Psychology

Advanced Level

Overview

Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour. Alongside topics like Memory, Social influence and Biopsychology the course has a strong focus on research methods, data analysis and mathematical skills, giving you both insight into human behaviour and a solid scientific foundation.

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements: GCSE Grade 5+ in English and Mathematics. Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is recommended if not taking A Level Maths

More information:
Ms M Elliot

Curriculum and Assessment

YEAR 12

During this year you will develop strong critical thinking and writing skills while gaining a broad understanding of key areas of psychology. You will study memory, attachment and social influence, as well as explore clinical psychology and mental health. There is a big emphasis placed on research methods, where you will learn how psychologists design studies, collect and analyse data, and apply statistical and mathematical skills to interpret findings. You will also examine the biological basis of behaviour in biopsychology and compare the different approaches in psychology to explain human thought and action.

YEAR 13

During this year you will study key issues and debates in psychology, such as nature versus nurture, and free will versus determinism. You will also explore optional topics such as schizophrenia, relationships, and addiction, gaining deeper insight into how psychological theories are applied in real-world contexts.

ASSESSMENT

Three 2-hour examinations

Skills that will be developed

- Analyse, interpret, and evaluate psychological theories, concepts, and research
- Apply critical thinking to assess evidence and arguments
- Construct coherent, well-structured written explanations of complex psychological ideas
- Use mathematical and statistical skills to analyse and interpret data

Post 18 Opportunities

Studying A Level Psychology develops highly transferable skills, particularly critical writing and analysis to a range of career opportunities. These skills are invaluable for further academic study at university in any subject, enabling you to construct coherent arguments, evaluate evidence, and communicate complex ideas clearly. Graduates go on to careers in clinical psychology, criminology, education, counselling, advertising, and many more, making this qualification both versatile and highly respected.

Destinations of students in recent years:

- Psychology at University of Sussex
- Criminology at University of Liverpool
- Forensic Psychology at University of Portsmouth
- Marketing at University of Leicester

Expenses

You will need to purchase the course textbook.



Highdown Sixth Form

Overview

"Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both." (C Wright Mills)

Sociology can be described as the scientific study of society. It is about the social relationships that people share with each other; in their families, in their schools and in work. Sociology teaches that there are no right or wrong answers when it comes to studying the way that people live together. What is important for a sociologist is the ability to evaluate evidence and choose between possible explanations.

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements:
5+ GCSEs graded 4-9 including
4+ in both Maths and English

More information:
Miss E Dodge

Curriculum and Assessment

YEAR 12

During this year students begin by studying 'An introduction to Sociology'. In this part of the course they are introduced to some of the major sociological theories and concepts that frequently occur throughout the course. They then study 'Families and Households', as well as 'Education' and 'Theory and Methods'.

ASSESSMENT – Students will have three 2 hour written examinations on:

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology – Families and Households – Beliefs in Society

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

YEAR 13

During this year students study 'Beliefs in Society'. Finally they undertake the study of 'Crime and Deviance', together with 'Theory and Methods'.

Skills that will be developed

- How to research and evaluate complex arguments
- How to use evidence to support your arguments, both orally and in written work
- How to investigate facts and use deduction
- How to put over your point of view fluently
- How to use, interpret and evaluate a wide range of research techniques
- How to work as a team to achieve results
- How to take responsibility for your own learning
- How to organise your work and meet deadlines

Post 18 Opportunities

Many students of Sociology go on to study not only Sociology at university, but also a range of other courses such as law, journalism, and social policy. The subject helps develop a range of excellent academic skills, from independent research to detailed analysis of evidence, that will prepare you for many university courses and careers.

Expenses

Students are expected to purchase the following key textbooks:

AQA A Level Sociology: Book One and Book Two by Webb, Westergaard, Trobe and Townend (Napier Press)

Overview

Having continued to build on your reading, listening, speaking, writing and grammar expertise at GCSE level, A Level Spanish will enable you to master these skills and communicate with people across the world. Learning Spanish at A Level not only means you will be able to converse more fluently in Spanish but also gives you deep knowledge and understanding of the history and culture of a wide range of Spanish-speaking countries; from Spain to South and Central America, Africa and beyond! Building on the topics studied at KS4, A Level Spanish will give you the opportunity to explore a wide range of themes and develop skills from across the A Level spectrum: sociology, media, history, politics, literature, business and more.

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 5+ in Spanish
(Higher Tier)

More information:
Mrs L Guianvarch

Curriculum and Assessment

TOPICS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR STUDY

- Aspects of Hispanic society
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Aspects of political life in Hispanic society
- One Spanish language text
- One Spanish language film
- Grammar

There is also an individual research project.

AIMS

Spanish A Level aims to encourage students:

- To develop the ability to comprehend Spanish in a wide range of contexts
- To enable the student to communicate confidently and clearly in Spanish for a variety of purposes
- To form a sound base of skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure
- To develop useful knowledge of, and insights into, past and contemporary Spanish-speaking culture
- To encourage positive attitudes to, and a lasting appreciation of, language learning
- To further intellectual and personal development by promoting learning and social skills
- To gain valuable skills for foreign travel, further education and employment

ASSESSMENT

Students are assessed in listening, reading and writing (as one paper), another writing paper (film/literature essay) and speaking (which includes an individual research project) at the end of Year 13.

Post 18 Opportunities

As well as allowing candidates to develop their language skills, the course will foster an awareness of Spanish culture and history. In addition to providing a secure foundation for study in higher education, the course equips candidates with a range of skills for careers in business, education and the arts.

Destinations of students in recent years:

UCL – French and Spanish

Expenses

Students will be expected to purchase their own textbook and grammar book. It is also expected that they will purchase a good quality Spanish to English dictionary

Overview

Sport is a growing multi-billion pound industry with many diverse careers in performance, coaching and leadership, development and use of science and the media. This applied qualification will give learners the opportunity to study many of these areas at an advanced level in preparation for further education or the workplace.

Awarding Organisation:
Pearson

Minimum course requirements: GCSE Grade 4+ in Biology or 4-4+ in Trilogy Science. Should have a keen interest and involvement in sport.

More information:
Miss V Clark

Curriculum and Assessment

YEAR 12

Students begin learning the content for both Unit 1 and Unit 2 and complete their first piece of coursework for Unit 3.

YEAR 13

Students sit both their Unit 1 and Unit 2 exam in the January exam series, with the option to resit if needed in the June exam series. Students complete their second piece of coursework for Unit 3.

ASSESSMENT

Unit 1 - Anatomy and Physiology

In this unit learners explore how the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems function and the fundamentals of the energy systems.

Assessment is a written examination set and marked by Pearson, which is a 1.5 hour exam worth 80 marks.

Unit 2 - Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being

In this unit learners explore client screening and lifestyle assessment, fitness training methods and fitness programming to support improvements in a client's health and well-being.

Assessment is a task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions.

In Part A, learners are given a case study before a supervised 4 hour assessment period in order to carry out preparation notes.

In Part B, students use their preparation notes to answer questions related to the case study in an exam which lasts 2.5 hours and is worth 60 marks.

Unit 3 - Professional Development in the Sports Industry

In this unit learners explore the knowledge and skills required for different career pathways in the sports industry. Learners will take part in, and reflect on, a personal skills audit, career action plan and practical interview assessment activities.

This unit is assessed via coursework.

Unit 4 - Application of Fitness Testing

In this unit learners gain an understanding of the requirements of fitness testing and learn how to safely conduct a range of fitness tests for different components of fitness.

This unit is assessed via coursework.

Post 18 Opportunities

The course is aimed at learners who want academic experience and who are aspiring to university. Students will finish the course with a solid foundation to take up work in the sport sector.

Expenses

Students are required to purchase text books.